

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, November 9, 2005 – 9:00 a.m. – W025 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Carlene M. Walker, Senate Chair
Rep. Brad L. Dee, House Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Julie Fisher
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Ann W. Hardy
Rep. Brad King
Rep. M. Susan Lawrence
Rep. Joseph G. Murray
Rep. Peggy Wallace
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Members Absent:

Sen. L. Alma Mansell
Pres. John L. Valentine
Rep. Karen W. Morgan

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph T. Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Sen. Walker called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

MOTION: Rep. Murray moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Gibson absent for the vote.

2. Draft Legislation - Requiring a Density Credit Incentive for Land Donation to School Districts

Rep. Cox explained that after meeting with Payson City officials, draft legislation is being written that would allow developers to buy density credits and the city would have direction for planning their school locations.

3. Update on Local Background Checks

Rep. Dee explained he is waiting for legislation for the issue of local background checks so he is dropping this discussion from the agenda.

4. Draft Legislation - Special District Bonding Provisions

Rep. Brad Dee, Chair, Special Districts Subcommittee, reported on the activities of the Special Districts Subcommittee. He expressed appreciation to those working on the Special Districts Subcommittee to rewrite Title 17A. He introduced draft legislation, "Local Government Amendments" and explained that the legislation makes bonding provisions more uniform.

Mr. Robert H. Rees explained recent changes made to the bill, including the short title. He explained that this legislation would have the Local Government Bonding Act apply to all independent special districts for their bonding needs.

MOTION: Rep. Hardy moved to adopt "Local Government Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Cox, Rep. Gibson, and Rep. Morgan absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Dee moved that the chairs of the Political Subdivisions Interim Committee send a letter to the Legislative Management Committee asking for authorization to continue the Special Districts Subcommittee for the 2006 interim. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Cox absent for the vote.

5. Draft Legislation - Acquisition of Property by Eminent Domain

Rep. David Ure explained he is still working on this issue and has nothing further to report at this time.

6. Water Issues Task Force Report - Eminent Domain Relating to Water Rights

Rep. David Ure, Co-chair, Water Issues Task Force, explained that the issue of eminent domain relating to water rights would be a topic of study for the 2006 interim in the Water Issues Task Force.

7. Draft Legislation - Highway Jurisdictional Transfer Task Force Report

Sen. Carlene Walker, Cochair, Highway Jurisdictional Transfer Task Force, explained the work and recommendations of the Highway Jurisdictional Transfer Task Force. She said the legacy of the Task Force is going to be a process. She reviewed the codified communications process that sets new criteria for the transfer of highways that they hope will alleviate the crisis mode that has arisen periodically in the past. An initial discussion list was distributed, which she indicated will be the beginning point of the Task Force in the 2006 interim. She noted that legislation will be presented to the Transportation Interim Committee.

Ms. Jodi Hoffman, League of Cities and Towns, expressed appreciation for the process and the resulting legislation.

Chair Walker indicated that the counties were also a large part of the process and are in full concurrence with the direction.

8. Townships Created from Census Designated Places

Rep. LaVar Christensen introduced and explained draft legislation, "Township Amendments," that would modify the criteria that an unincorporated area is required to meet in order to be designated as a township so that an area declared to be a census designated place meets township creation requirements. He indicated that the White City/Sandy area would benefit from this legislation.

Mr. Paul Ashton, General Manager for White City Water, explained the White City and Sandy City agreement and how this legislation will positively impact those cities.

MOTION: Rep. Lawrence moved to adopt "Township Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Redevelopment Agencies

Sen. Curtis Bramble, Co-chair, Tax Reform Task Force, gave a report of the Tax Reform Task Force efforts regarding redevelopment agencies. He also reviewed those issues they want to study in future meetings. He explained the bill, which is still in a rough draft and continues to receive input.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, League of Cities and Towns, expressed appreciation and noted that there is consensus between counties, cities, and the school districts in the general sense. He distributed a brochure showing the intent of the proposal.

Students from American Heritage School in American Fork were recognized and welcomed.

10. Quality Growth Commission Annual Report

Mr. John Bennett, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, reviewed "Update to the 2006 Legislature" previously distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Dan Lofgren, Chair, Quality Growth Commission, addressed the need to preserve the opportunities for economic development and come to a balance between economic development and land conservation. He recommended that the Quality Growth Commission continue to receive meaningful funding over time in order for the commission to complete its mission.

Rep. Cox indicated that wherever growth takes place, more schools need to be built in order for the quality of life not to decrease. He requested that the commission incorporate that issue into its discussions.

Chair Walker turned the gavel over to Rep. Dee at 10:30 a.m. to continue chairing the meeting.

11. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Walker absent for the vote.

Chair Dee adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.