

**MINUTES OF THE
WATER ISSUES TASK FORCE**

Wednesday, October 25, 2006 – 1:00 p.m. – Room W125 House Building

Members Present:

Rep. David Ure, House Chair
Sen. Patrice Arent
Sen. Mike Dmitrich
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Patrick L. Painter

Rep. David N. Cox
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Ben C. Ferry
Rep. Michael T. Morley

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson, Senate Chair
Sen. Beverly Ann Evans
Sen. Thomas V. Hatch

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Mr. Mark Steinagel, Policy Analyst
Mr. Chris Parker, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Emily Brown, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy Miller, 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. Task Force Business

Chair Ure called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. All members absent were excused from the meeting.

2. Water Conservation

Mr. Mark Danenhauer, Utah Rivers Council, distributed a copy of his presentation "Water Conservation in Utah." He commented that water conservation is currently underfunded in relation to the contribution it will make to future water needs. He discussed demand management measures that have been taken to reduce municipal and industrial per capita water use. Mr. Danenhauer distributed and read from a Deseret News article "*Conserve water, no excuses.*" He noted that water conservation will supply 450,000 acre feet of water by the year 2050 if the state's 25 percent reduction goal is met. He distributed a Dan Jones survey which indicates that Utahns strongly support water conservation. He also distributed a list of Water Conservation Proposals that include establishing local landscaping ordinances, a State Office of Water Conservation, a State Facilities Water Conservation Program, and a Water Conservation Matching Grant Fund.

Mr. Todd Adams, Assistant Director, Division (Division of Water Resources), distributed "State Municipal and Industrial Water Conservation Program." He outlined the Division's current M&I conservation plan strategies, current water conservation programs, and proposed water conservation programs. Mr. Adams noted that many of the concepts and programs listed on the handout coincide with the suggestions of the Utah Rivers Council.

Mr. Eric Klotz, Conservation Section Chief, Division, addressed the issue of state facilities. He noted recommendations were developed for many of the state parks that have experienced water issues. He said that additional funding is needed to adequately address the needs.

Mr. Warren Peterson, Board of Water Resources, said the board has adopted regulations and for many years has required water conservation as a component of proposed projects. He asked that the Task Force not overlook what is already in place.

Mr. Danenhauer reviewed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "Local Landscaping Ordinances." He stated that the bill would prohibit a municipality or county from adopting an ordinance prohibiting the use of xeriscape.

Mr. Arie Van De Graff, Association of Counties, stated that preliminary calls to counties most affected by the legislation indicate support for the proposal.

Ms. Stephanie Duer, Water Conservation Coordinator, Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, pointed out that drought tolerant is not the same as low water demanding. She asked that rather than trying to define xeriscape, the Task Force consider inserting language indicating that a municipality is not allowed to require turf in landscape.

Rep. Ure requested that the concepts suggested by Ms. Duer be implemented into the legislation.

Mr. Todd Bingham, Utah Farm Bureau, suggested that the public be better educated on the appropriate amount of water required for turf.

Mr. Danenhauer discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, "State Facility Water Conservation Program." The bill creates the program to encourage water conservation at state facilities and directs the DFCM (Division of Facilities Construction and Management) to collaborate with the Division to improve water conservation.

Mr. Curtis Clark, State Energy Manager, DFCM, indicated that in order for DFCM to monitor the program, it would have to hire a water expert. He suggested that the responsibility for monitoring the program be given to the Division rather than DFCM.

Mr. Klotz expressed support for the concept of the legislation but indicated the need to study the details of the proposal. He noted that many of the conservation retrofits would cost more than would be saved in water bills.

Mr. Danenhauer discussed 2007 General Session draft legislation, " Water Conservation Office." The bill establishes the Water Conservation Office within the Division and authorizes the office to conduct education and outreach activities, implement the water conservation policies adopted by the Board of Water Resources, research water conservation practices and technology, promote and implement water conservation programs, collaborate with DFCM to improve water conservation at state facilities, assist with water conservation plans, and lead the state's efforts in achieving a 30 percent reduction in per capita water use by the year 2050. The bill would require an ongoing appropriation of \$320,000 from the General Fund. Mr. Danenhauer said the Council is working on an amendment to the Water Conservation Resources Development Fund so that the fund would start appropriating money toward water conservation.

Mr. Adams stated the creation of the Water Conservation Office would be a duplication of current efforts.

Mr. Peterson stated the proposed concepts are already taking place in the Division under the auspices of the Board of Water Resources. He spoke in opposition to the legislation. He suggested emphasizing

water conservation as a part of the legislative oversight process rather than creating a separate office.

3. Water Week

Ms. Duer distributed an example of a proclamation by Governor Huntsman celebrating June 2, 2006 as Water Conservation Day and "Declaration for Water Conservation Day." She proposed that the state adopt an annual water week devoted to water conservation, water quality, source protection, and other issues regarding water. Ms Duer stated Rep. Ralph Becker has offered to sponsor the legislation. She asked that the Task Force give its support for the concept of a state water week.

Chair Ure suggested the Task Force continue its review of the issue at the next meeting.

4. Other Items / Adjourn

The next meeting of the Task Force was scheduled for November 2 at 9:00 a.m.

Rep. Gowans requested that the Task Force discuss beneficial use and how it relates to instream flow, agriculture, and other concepts that have been studied by the Task Force.

Rep. Ure requested Rep. Gowans to meet with staff and the state engineer to develop the issues that should be discussed.

MOTION: Rep. Gowans moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Ure adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.