

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
January 10, 2007
Room W130, West Office, Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. Dennis Stowell, Co-Chair
 Rep. Ben Ferry, Co-Chair
 Sen. Margaret Dayton
 Rep. Roger Barrus
 Rep. Jack Draxler
 Rep. Carl Duckworth
 Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
 Rep. James R. Gowans
 Rep. John G. Mathis
 Rep. Michael E. Noel
 Rep. Steve Sandstrom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Mike Dmitrich, Sen. John Valentine, and Rep. Kerry W. Gibson.

STAFF: Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
 Cindy Hopkin, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

SPEAKERS: Deputy Director Robin Pearson, Dept of Natural Resources, Administration; Director Mary Tullius, Parks & Recreation; Director Jim Karpowitz, Division of Wildlife Resources; Director John Baza, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining; Director Rick Allis, Utah Geological Survey; Director Jerry Olds, Division of Water Rights; Director Dennis Strong, Division of Water Resources; Deputy Director Dick Buehler, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; Lynn Stevens, Coordinator of Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office; Director Kevin Carter, School Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA); Chairman of the Board Loren Moench, Jr., Utah State Fair; and Commissioner Leonard Blackham, Department of Agriculture and Food.

Representative Ben Ferry called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and had the members and staff of the Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee introduce themselves. Representative Ferry also provided the committee with a handout titled Compendium of Budget Information Glossary to aid new members of the committee.

Representative Ferry welcomed the representatives of the various Natural Resource Agencies.

Deputy Director Robin Pearson, assisted by Dennis Carver presented an overview of the mission, services and plan of action for the Natural Resources Administration. The administration

provides human resource services, information technology support, public relations, accounting and finance support, endangered species mitigation, watershed development, safety, and division coordination.

Director Mary Tullius, assisted by Mark Forbes gave a presentation for the Division of State Parks and Recreation. Their mission is to enhance the quality of life in Utah by preserving natural, cultural and recreational resources in the state park system for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations. The services provided by the division include camping, picnicking, golfing, trails for hiking and biking, education opportunities, boating, and water recreation, exploring of natural wonders, off highway vehicle recreation, safety enforcement, and protection of natural and cultural resources.

Director Jim Karpowitz, assisted by Greg Sheehan presented the programs and goals of the Division of Wildlife Resources. The division's mission is to serve the people of Utah as trustee and guardian of the state's wildlife and to ensure its future through management, protection, conservation and education.

Director John Baza, assisted by Paula Dupin-Zahn gave a presentation for the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (OGM) regarding the development of Utah's mineral resources in an environmentally responsible manner. OGM benefits the citizens of Utah by supporting activity that generates taxes, royalties, and economic revenue that drives local and state economies; ensuring minimized environmental impact during development and maintaining a healthy extra active mineral industry that responsibly develops energy and mineral commodities. They also work to increase public safety by securing abandoned mine hazards.

Director Rick Allis, assisted by Kimm Harty presented the mission statement for the Utah Geological Survey (UGS). UGS is an applied scientific agency that creates, interprets, and provides information about Utah's geologic environment, resources, and hazards to promote safe, beneficial and wise use of land.

Director Jerry Olds, State Engineer; assisted by Dennis Carrol gave a presentation for the Division of Water Rights and the Office of the State Engineer. The division's mission is to provide order and certainty in the use of Utah's water resources by processing water rights applications in a timely manner and by adjudicating any problems that arise. The division also provides an annual inspection program and minimum standards upgrades to ensure the safety of Utah's dams.

Director Dennis Strong, assisted by Terri Jackson presented for the Division of Water Resources. The division's mission statement is to plan, conserve, develop and protect Utah's water resources through the construction of water projects and by providing leadership and programs that encourage wise municipal, industrial, agricultural and environmental water use. The division assists citizens, local, state and federal water entities in developing specific strategies, and

implementing needed projects to meet their future water demands.

Deputy Director Dick Buehler assisted by Roger Lewis gave a presentation for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. The division provides unique protection to the State's critical watershed and other non federal lands to ensure sustainability and protection of Utah's valuable renewable resources. They accomplish this mission through technical forestry assistance to private land owners, communities, and other state agencies; coordination of fire suppression efforts with federal agencies; and optimizing the benefit of sovereign land resources held in Public Trust.

Representative Jack Draxler moved to recess the meeting until 2:00 p.m. for lunch.

The committee reconvened at 2:15 p.m.

Coordinator Lynn Stevens, assisted by Lori Hunsaker gave a presentation for the Public Lands Coordinating Office. Representative Mike Noel also gave the committee a handout from the Kane County Commission regarding public land issues.

Director Kevin Carter, assisted by Lisa Schneider presented a brief history of SITLA as well as providing information to the committee regarding the division's mission, services and goals for the future.

Mr. Loren Moench, Jr., Chairman of State Fair's Board, assisted by Rick Frenette gave a presentation for the Utah State Fair Corporation. Their goal is to provide modern facilities for the public to lease for public and private events and a fair and reasonable price, to continually increase their educational opportunities, product choices, entertainment, guest services, and overall experience at the State Fair. Financially their goal is to profit so that they can replenish a cash reserve to meet emergency repair needs and allow them to recover if a fair experiences bad weather or an unexpected event that negatively affects attendance.

Commissioner Leonard Blackham, assisted by Kyle Stevens and Larry Lewis presented the mission and goals for the Department of Agriculture and Food. The department has 8 divisions, 27 boards and committees, 78 programs and 200+ services. Their mission is to protect and promote Utah agriculture by protecting the safety of the state's food supply and promoting the industry that supplies that food.

MOTION: Representative Noel moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously with Senator Dmitrich, Senator Valentine, Senator Dayton and Representative Gibson absent for the vote.

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Rep. Ben Ferry, Co Chairman

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