

**MINUTES OF THE
NATIVE AMERICAN LEGISLATIVE LIAISON COMMITTEE**
Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 9:00 a.m. – Room W025, House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Kevin T. VanTassell, Senate Chair
Rep. DeMar “Bud” Bowman, House Chair
Sen. Fred Fife
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Dennis E. Stowell
Rep. Douglas C. Aagard
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Kay L. McIff

Staff Present:

Mr. John Q. Cannon, Policy Analyst
Ms. Patricia Owen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

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

1. Committee Business

Chair VanTassell called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2007 and September 24, 2008 meetings. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund Annual Report

Mr. Keith Heaton, Staff Administrator, Department of Community and Culture and Mr. John Harja, Assistant Director, Planning and Policy, Office of the Governor, presented the Uintah Basin Revitalization Fund Annual Report previously distributed to the Committee. Mr. Heaton explained that the majority of the projects approved were for housing and noted that housing is a significant concern throughout the state. Committee discussion followed.

3. Navajo Revitalization Fund Annual Report

Mr. Harja presented the Navajo Revitalization Fund Annual Report. Mr. Heaton explained the changes in the Navajo Revitalization Fund board because of the changes in the Navajo Trust Fund. He noted that the majority of the project funds went toward housing assistance. Committee discussion followed.

4. Utah Division of Indian Affairs Annual Reports

Mr. Forrest Cuch, Director, Utah Division of Indian Affairs (UDIA), reviewed the annual report of the UDIA previously distributed to the Committee. He reported on the Native American Summit (Summit) held in Vernal in September and the progress made in various areas since the summit. He stated that the governor has agreed to add public safety as a focus for 2009. He expressed appreciation to the Legislature for its support.

Mr. Cuch reviewed the Native American Remains Review Committee report previously distributed to the Committee. He emphasized the progress made and the successes realized in the past year.

5. Follow-Up on Meeting at the Native American Summit

Mr. Cannon reviewed issues that were raised during the committee meeting at the Native American Summit and followup from those issues.

Ms. Owen presented a draft letter from the committee chairs to the Commissioner of Public Safety requesting that the Department of Public Safety take action related to public safety concerns. She also discussed the sales tax issue raised at the Summit. She distributed a sample tax exemption certificate form and noted that the fiscal impact of the exemptions is being reviewed.

MOTION: Rep. King moved to approve the letter from the chairs to Mr. Scott Duncan, Commissioner of Public Safety, regarding public safety issues. The motion passed unanimously.

6. 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council (Council) Amendments"

Chair VanTassell introduced 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council Amendments."

Ms. Mary Lou Emerson, Director, Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council, explained the legislation and emphasized the importance of having tribal representation on the Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council (Council). An organizational chart showing the Council was distributed.

Mr. Cuch explained what can be done to educate tribal members, especially the youth, against substance abuse and alcohol. He emphasized the need to give young people hope, the feeling that they are socially accepted, and that they have the ability to learn.

Ms. Melissa Zito, Indian Health Liaison, Utah Department of Health, explained the complex levels of the Indian Health Care system.

MOTION: Chair VanTassell moved to adopt 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Utah Substance Abuse and Anti-Violence Coordinating Council Amendments" as a committee bill. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stowell was absent for the vote. Sen. Jones agreed to be a cosponsor of the bill and Rep. Wheatley agreed to be a house sponsor.

7. Other Items / Adjourn

Chair VanTassell recognized the service of those legislators not returning in 2009, as well as the efforts made by staff in behalf of the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Bowman moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Stowell was absent for the vote.

Chair VanTassell adjourned the meeting at 10:25 a.m.