

**MINUTES OF THE  
TRANSPORTATION, ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & NATIONAL GUARD  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Room 25, House Office Building, State Capitol Complex**

**Wednesday, January 21, 2009**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell, Co-Chair  
Rep. Wayne Harper, Co-Chair  
Sen. Scott K. Jenkins  
Sen. Peter C. Knudson  
Sen. Mark B. Madsen  
Sen. Luz Robles  
Rep. Rebecca P. Edwards  
Rep. Neil Hansen  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Don L. Ipson  
Rep. F. Jay Seegmiller  
Rep. Kenneth Sumsion  
Rep. Carl Wimmer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rep. Patrick Painter

**STAFF PRESENT:** Mark C. Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst  
Rosemary Young, Committee Secretary

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

Sen. Van Tassell called the meeting to order at 10:13 A.M.

**MOTION:** Sen. Knudson moved to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2009 meeting.  
The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst distributed a chart enumerating the savings to DEQ, National Guard and Veterans Affairs presuming reductions in hours to 37- hour, 35- hour, and 32- hour work weeks. To achieve a 15% reduction in FY2010 DEQ would have to eliminate 54 8-hour work days; National Guard - 98 8-hour work days; and VA - 53 8-hour work days. The analyst also discussed proposed budget adjustments for FY 2009 and FY 2010 showing % change from the FY 09 Base Budget as shown in Appendix A.

**National Guard**

General Brian Tarbet, Adjutant General of the National Guard, assisted by Todd Valline distributed a handout answering the questions which had been asked by the committee chairs. He reminded the committee that only 15% of the 218 National Guard FTEs are fully state funded. The new North Salt Lake armory will be opening this year, and maintenance funding

will be a necessity. Gen. Tarbet reemphasized the importance of tuition assistance in maintaining unit strength and referred the committee to a sheet detailing the history and use of the assistance by about 650 guard members yearly. In response to a specific question he said they would prefer taking a reduction in hours to a cut in FTEs.

The National Guard’s prioritization of FY 2009 Budget Cuts in order of those items which could be cut first is as follows:

	<b>Legislative Cut - 7.5%</b>	<b>Percent of Original Program</b>
Reduce Armory Supplies & Repairs	(80,800)	(0.33)
DFCM Outlying Armories Support	(45,900)	(0.11)
Armory Maint - Ft. Douglas Display	(10,000)	(0.06)
DCSIM Telecommunications	(33,200)	(0.24)
General Fund portion of util. - \$980,300	(149,000)	(0.15)
Tuition Assistance (JSA)	(21,500)	(0.02)
Administration FTE (JSA)	(64,500)	(0.11)
Armory Maintenance FTE	(19,500)	(0.02)
Air Guard FTE	(11,000)	(0.04)
Logistics Support FTE	(28,000)	(0.16)
<b>Grand Total Funds</b>	<b>(463,400)</b>	<b>(0.075)</b>

**Department of Environmental Quality**

Bill Sinclair, Acting Executive Director, distributed a list of prioritized adjustments that have been identified to date. The items fall into three categories going from those to cut first to those to cut last as follows: operational adjustments, eliminating temporary positions, reduction in force. In follow up to discussion about Out of State Travel expenses Mr. Sinclair explained that the department is using technology instead of travel whenever they can, but they still must go to regional meetings. This department currently has 403 FTEs and does not want to go to a reduction in hours.

**Department of Transportation**

John Njord, Director of the Department of Transportation, and Carlos Braceras, Deputy Director, informed the committee that cuts from the General Fund only impact projects. They are not used in the administration and day-to-day running of the department.

### **Veterans' Affairs**

Terry Schow, Director of Veterans' Affairs, assisted by Dennis McFall, Deputy Director, distributed a handout showing that Federal dollars returned to the state of Utah through outreach was \$7,210,285 which is a return of \$36.35 for each dollar appropriated to the department.

The director pointed out to the committee that the Ogden nursing home which will be opening this year has no startup funds which are necessary to purchase dishes, linens, etc. for which construction funds cannot be used. Without those supplies the nursing home cannot begin to function. Mr. McFall expressed the concern that taking \$100,00 from Veterans' Outreach effectively guts the program as outreach is the most important function of the department. He pointed out that their budget this fiscal year is less than it was three years ago when they were a division under the National Guard, but they now have to cover their own administrative costs. The Outreach funding is used for media ads as well as contract personnel to travel throughout the state to make contacts with veterans. The department has never filled two FTEs which were previously authorized by the legislature. Many veterans are filing for as many as six different health issues. The department would prefer a reduction of FTEs to reduced hours. The department has the following programs going forward in addition to outreach: state approving agency for veterans' education which is fully federally funded; repository for discharge documents; veterans' cemetery; veterans' nursing home in Salt Lake and soon in Ogden; regional briefings at informational fairs to provide links to clergy, mental health agencies, and law enforcement.

**MOTION:** Rep. Sumsion moved to increase DEQ reduction by 2 FTEs representing \$223,000 and transfer that amount to National Guard to use according to their priorities to lessen the 15% cuts that are being considered if there are no backfill funds forthcoming. See Appendix A.

DEQ Acting Director responded to the motion by asking for the opportunity to look back at their budget for possible cuts in operational costs as opposed to workforce cuts. They would try to protect primacy programs.

The motion passed with Sen. Robles, Rep. Hansen, Rep. Hendrickson, and Rep. Seegmiller voting in opposition and Sen. Jenkins and Sen. Madsen absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Harper moved to accept the analyst's recommendation for the budget with a 7.5% reduction for FY 09 and a 15% reduction for FY 10 with the adjustment already made in the previous motion. See Appendix B.

There was some discussion of the whole budgeting process and of the significance of the votes taken by the committee in this meeting and how binding they are. The purpose for the last two committee meetings has been to create a base budget that is 85% of the previous base budget.

The above motion passed with Sen. Robles, Rep. Hansen, Rep. Hendrickson, and Rep. Seegmiller voting in opposition and Sen. Jenkins and Sen. Madsen absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Harper moved to authorize the National Guard in their General Funded positions and the Department of Veterans Affairs to work 37- hour work weeks to effect a reduction of \$162,240 in NG to be used to offset the reductions to Armory Maintenance FTE, Air Guard FTE (part time), and Tuition Assistance in FY 09 and FY10. The reduction of \$46,800 in VA would be used to offset the reduction in Outreach.

The Director of Veterans Affairs requested that the department have the option of reducing work force rather than going to a 37-hour work week. The National Guard requested time to consider how they would rather handle this reduction.

Rep. Harper amended his motion to allow them to do this. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Harper moved to create the following priority list in the event there are additional funds forthcoming:

		<b>7.5%</b>	<b>15%</b>
1.	DFCM Armory Support	(\$ 45,900)	(\$ 96,100)
2.	Veterans Outreach remainder	(52,800)	(104,800)
3.	Energy Savings/Landscaping Equipment (NG)	(70,500)	(194,000)
4.	Armory Supplies & Repairs	(80,800)	(80,800)
5.	Engineering IV Position (DEQ-DW)		(123,500)
6.	X-ray EHS Position (DEQ-RC)		(111,500)

Col. Scott Olsen of the National Guard informed the committee that there is some federal match for funding of armories and it varies from facility to facility

**MOTION:** Sen. Robles moved an amendment to the motion to reverse items 1 and 2. The motion failed with Sen. Robles, Sen. Van Tassell, Rep. Edwards, Rep. Hansen, Rep. Hendrickson, and Rep. Seegmiller voting in favor and Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

The original motion to create a priority list as shown above passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Seegmiller moved that that item 7 on the list be the Fiscal Analyst Position under Emergency Response and Remediation - \$51,200. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote..

**MOTION:** Rep. Edwards moved that item #8 on the list be reinstating the vacant engineering position in Air Quality - \$111,500. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Van Tassell moved that item #9 on the list be reinstating the Part time FTE at the Veterans' Cemetery- \$23,200. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Sen. Madsen moved that item #10 on the list be Museum O & M - \$10,000. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

**MOTION:** Rep. Harper moved that item #11 on the list be reinstating the EHS position under the Director's Office in DEQ - \$111,500. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

### **Department of Transportation**

John Njord and Carlos Braceras distributed additional handouts, one discussing DOT funding through federal and state gas taxes and General Fund. Through a spread sheet they presented a snapshot of various possible scenarios of proposed budgets, particularly showing bonding capacities and needs. If their budget is as recommended by the Fiscal Analyst, most of the projects that have been placed on hold can be brought back on line.

Tracy Conti, Director of Operations, explained the use of the four state fixed-wing aircraft. The largest single user of the aircraft is the Department of Health and the most frequent destination is St. George. The Department charges other agencies for their use of the planes. The rates have recently been raised, but the use is subsidized by about 55%. Commercial flights to St. George would be cheaper, but the state planes are a little cheaper than charter flights. One of the four planes is currently for sale.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hendrickson moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jenkins absent for the vote.

Sen. Van Tassell adjourned the meeting at 12:54 P.M.