

**MINUTES OF THE
SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
CONFIRMATION COMMITTEE**

Thursday, January 29, 2009 – 3:00 p.m. – Room C250 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Chair
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Gene Davis

Members Excused:

Sen. Van Tassell

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. Tracey Fredman, 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.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stowell called the meeting to order at 3:27 p.m.

2. Consideration of Appointment of Kent L. Jones as State Engineer

Mr. Mike Styler, Executive Director, Natural Resources, reported on the process of finding a replacement for the retired State Engineer, and recommended Mr. Kent Jones to the Committee.

Mr. Kent L. Jones, Nominee for State Engineer, introduced himself, commented briefly on his background, and answered questions from committee members about several issues including Utah water rights.

Mr. Fred Finlinson, Utah Water Coalition, endorsed the nomination of Kent Jones for State Engineer.

Mr. Art Kimball, Chair, Utah Association of Special Districts, chair, said the Association supports the candidacy of Kent Jones for State Engineer.

Mr. Terry Marasco, Snake Valley Citizen's Alliance, commented on the air pollution issue in the Snake Valley, and the need to keep Utah's water to help the agricultural economy in the state.

Representative Patrick Painter spoke in favor of Mr. Jones' nomination for State Engineer.

MOTION: Sen. Davis to recommend to the Senate that Mr. Kent L. Jones be confirmed as State Engineer. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dayton was absent for the vote.

3. Committee Business/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Dayton was absent for the vote.

Chair Stowell adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.