

**MINUTES OF THE
UTAH WATERWAYS TASK FORCE**

Thursday, September 30, 2010 – 11:00 a.m. – Duchesne County Administrative Offices

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair
Rep. Melvin R. Brown, House Chair
Sen. Curtis S. Bramble
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Karen W. Morgan
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Kay L. McIff

Members Absent:

Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Benjamin M. McAdams
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Bill Wright

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Mr. Christopher R. Parker Associate General Counsel
Ms. Joy L. 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.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stowell called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. Sen. Knudson, Sen. McAdams, and Rep. Draxler were excused from the meeting.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2010 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Funding Walk-In Access

Mr. Jim Karpowitz, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), distributed and reviewed "Funding the Expansion of the Walk-in Access Program." He explained that in FY 2011, DWR will use existing restricted dollars, new federal grant dollars, and part of the current \$300,000 appropriation to expand the Walk-in Access (WIA) program. Mr. Karpowitz noted that DWR employees will start aggressively pursuing landowners to sign up for the program. Positive endorsements from the Farm Bureau and other agriculture groups are critical to landowner participation and the success of this program. He stated that DWR will not propose an increase in general fishing license fees or any new user fees in FY 2011. He responded to questions from the Task Force.

Mr. Karpowitz indicated that in the 2012 legislative session, the DWR will request a general fishing fee increase and possibly a new user fee. The revenue from increased fees would cover the actual costs of the expanded WIA program and other fishing program needs. He explained that the expense of funding WIA for anglers will fall primarily to the user and not to the 80 percent of fishermen that never fish those streams that are on private land. Mr. Karpowitz pointed out that depending on the success of expansion efforts, the DWR may request ongoing appropriations for the WIA program in FY 2014 and beyond.

Mr. Sterling Brown, Utah Farm Bureau, explained the bureau's efforts to promote the WIA program. He stressed the need to establish good relationships between the anglers and landowners, which he believed would eventually lead to more access being granted.

Mr. Chris Barkey, fisherman, commented that fishermen bring economic benefits year round to rural areas. He noted that he has lost many fishing opportunities to development, and stated that he did not want to see

agriculture lands diminish. He stated that passage of H.B. 141 has limited where he can fish. Mr. Barkey said that it is troubling to anglers how fishing some areas has been made more difficult. He asked that the Task Force consider anglers as a viable source of positive economic impact. Mr. Barkey responded to questions from the Task Force.

Mr. James O'Neal, private citizen, expressed his frustration with H.B. 141 and said that it is strictly a benefit to those who float the rivers. He said there is much irritation among the regular fishermen about the Provo River and not being able to fish below Deer Creek Dam. Mr. O'Neal stated that the WIA program would be acceptable for places that have always been private. However, he does not advocate it across the board where it would prevent fishermen from accessing some areas where they are already able to fish.

3. Cooperative Fish Management Units Proposal

Chair Stowell reviewed proposed Utah Code Title 23, Chapter 30, Cooperative Fishery Management Agreements, which was distributed to the Task Force.

Rep. Ben Ferry responded to questions from the Task Force via telephone. He stated that the proposal would allow landowners to maintain control. He said it is important that cooperative members are able to decide how they want to manage the cooperative unit. He explained that the landowner has the right to give permission on only the landowner's property. Rep. Ferry stated that the cooperative agreement will resolve access issues. He noted that members of each cooperative would be responsible for addressing potential problems. Rep. Ferry said that the cooperative or a board could set the fees and each cooperative unit would have to agree internally how the money collected should be divided.

Mr. O'Neal expressed concern that the proposal appears to be too complex. He noted that if the public access issue can't be solved below Deer Creek Dam, it can't be solved anywhere.

Mr. Barkey indicated that any land that contains a dam that was publicly funded should be open to the public.

Mr. Brown pointed out that the WIA program requires more money from the state. However, the proposed cooperative units would be self-funded.

Mr. Karpowitz explained that the differences between the two program are the incentive. He expressed concern with the complexity of the proposed cooperative units.

4. Task Force Discussion of Future Meetings

Mr. Walt Donaldson, DWR, distributed a map of a portion of the Duchesne River and outlined the areas where the Task Force would be making its site visits.

MOTION: Sen. Bramble moved that the Task Force hold two more meetings, one in Utah County and one in Salt Lake City. The motion passed unanimously.

The Task Force adjourned at 1:45 p.m. to the site visits along the Duchesne River.