

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENV'L QUALITY
SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, January 19, 2011
Room 25 House Building, State Capitol Complex**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Chair
 Rep. John Mathis, Chair
 Rep. Keith Grover, Vice-Chair
 Sen. Gene Davis
 Sen. Ralph Okerlund
 Sen. Dennis Stowell
 Sen. Kevin Van Tassell
 Rep. Roger Barrus
 Rep. Susan Duckworth
 Rep. Brad Galvez
 Rep. Mike Noel
 Rep. Lee Perry
 Rep. Dixon Pitcher
 Rep. Stephen Sandstrom
 Rep. Christine Watkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sen. Margaret Dayton, excused

STAFF: Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
 Mark Bleazard, Fiscal Analyst
 Linda Service, Committee Secretary

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

Sen. Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR NRAE AGENCIES

Presentation by Analysts

Mark Bleazard, Analyst, explained to committee members that the Executive Appropriations Committee met in December and determined that this year's base budget bill shall eliminate the structural deficit. The deficit is \$313 million, equating to a 7% adjustment in General Fund and Education Funds. A menu of options was prepared to help policymakers eliminate the deficit structure. He introduced the handout "Options for Eliminating the Structural Deficit" (see Appendix A) which is a list of recommendations given as a point where discussions by the Committee could start. He noted that committee members have the discretion to modify, reject, or replace items on the list.

Ivan Djambov, Analyst, introduced the items from the list for Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Public Lands Office.

Mark Bleazard, in presenting the items from the reduction list for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), noted that the consideration of the analyst was to maintain primacy and the ability of DEQ to continue their programs.

Department Response to Recommendations

Commissioner Blackham, Department of Agriculture, expressed concern over recommendations with particular attention given to the importance of the Grazing Improvement Program (GIP). He responded to questions from committee members and offered budget recommendations.

Judy Duncombe, Acting Executive Director, Utah State Fair Park, accompanied by Mike Porter, Comptroller, commented that the recommended budget cuts would have the effect of reducing or eliminating some programs.

Mike Styler, Director, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) addressed two major concerns relating to the recommended budget cuts - the proposed elimination of the Public Lands Office and transfer of \$736,200 of GIP projects to the Watershed Program.

John Harja, Director, Public Lands Office, spoke against the recommended elimination of the Office. He commented on the roll the Office plays in dealing with federal government policies and regulations. Mike Mower, State Planning Coordinator, spoke in support of the position posed by Director Harja. They responded in depth to questions and concerns of committee members.

Amanda Smith, Executive Director, Office of Environmental Quality, commended the analysts for their efforts in compiling the "Options for Eliminating the Structural Deficit". Director Smith stated the cuts can be accomplished but not without a negative impact on the work accomplished. She requested DEQ be given flexibility in budget management and then responded to committee members' concerns.

MOTION: Sen. Van Tassell moved to adjourn at 9:55 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

Rep. John Mathis, Chair

OPTIONS FOR ELIMINATING THE STRUCTURAL DEFICIT

Natural Resources, Agriculture, & Environmental Quality

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>FTE</u>
Agriculture		
Ag - Reduction in GIP Administration	(\$358,300)	(2)
Ag - Reduction of GIP Projects	(\$610,100)	
Ag - Transfer of GIP Projects Funds to Watershed Program	(\$736,200)	
Reduce Travel to FY 2010 Level	(\$ 55,000)	
Ag - State Fair Seasonal Staff	(\$ 67,500)	
Ag - Replace a Portion of Resource Conservation's GF with Restricted	(\$113,200)	
Natural Resources		
Transfer of GIP Projects to Watershed Program	\$736,200	
Restructuring of Parks Operations	(\$3,000,000)	
Library Elimination	(\$ 70,200)	(1)
Bear Lake Commission	(\$ 50,000)	
Elimination of Payment to Restricted Fund	(\$ 74,800)	
Wildlife Conservation Outreach	(\$ 75,000)	(1)
Regional Offices - Water Rights Distribution Engineers	(\$192,200)	(2)
Planning - Water Resources Stream Gages Reduction	(\$114,000)	
Public Lands Office		
PLPCO - Elimination of Office	(\$332,600)	(9)
Department of Environmental Quality		
Eliminate documentum General Fund	(\$ 84,600)	
Salt Lake County LHD	(\$ 65,500)	
Davis County LHD	(\$ 43,800)	
Utah County LHD	(\$ 48,400)	
Information Specialist	(\$ 48,200)	(1)
Web Development Spec	(\$ 74,500)	(1)
Purchasing Agent	(\$ 49,500)	(1)
Financial Analyst/Accounting Tech	(\$224,200)	(5)
Information Specialist	(\$ 48,200)	(1)
State Air Quality initiatives	(\$206,600)	
Director Consolidation ERR & SHW	(\$142,800)	(1)
Support staff to eliminated director	(\$ 32,100)	(1)
Subcommittee Total	(\$6,181,300)	(26)

