

**MINUTES OF THE  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**  
Thursday, June 21, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. – Room 445 Capitol Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Stuart C. Reid, Senate Chair  
Rep. Brad R. Wilson, House Cochair  
Sen. Patricia W. Jones  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Rep. Brad L. Dee  
Rep. Brad G. Last  
Rep. Jim Bird  
Rep. Patrice Arent  
Rep. Rebecca Chavez Houck  
Mayor Tom Dolan  
Mr. Spencer Eccles  
Mr. Todd Bingham

Mr. Wesley Smith  
Mr. Rob Despain

**Members Absent:**

Mr. Scott Hirschi  
Mr. J. Steven Price

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel  
Mr. Benjamin N. Christensen, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Nathan W. Brady, Policy Analyst  
Ms. Jennifer Christopherson, 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.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Introduction of committee members.

**2. State of the Utah Economy**

Mr. Scott Schaffer, Professor of Finance and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Kendall D. Garff Chair of Business Administration, David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah, gave the presentation "The Enterprising States Report" and said that economic growth does not necessarily lead to an improvement in the standard of living for residents. Mr. Schaefer suggested that the task force look at how we can invest the right amount in education and infrastructure to support continued economic growth. He responded to questions from the committee stating that, although both are rising, the economic output is rising faster than the median income due in part to the rising cost of commodities.

**3. Facilitating Utah Economic Development**

Mr. Spencer P. Eccles, Executive Director, Governor's Office of Economic Development, gave the presentation "Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development" and explained Governor Herbert's economic development plan.

Mr. Todd Brightwell, Senior Vice President, Business Development Economic Development Corporation of Utah, gave the presentation "EDC Utah" and discussed how the Economic Development Corporation works and what it provides.

Mr. Eccles and Mr. Brightwell responded to questions from the committee and said that Utah is unique in its quality of life and that the question is not if the growth will come, but when and how we prepare for and manage that growth.

**4. Other Business / Adjourn**

Chair Wilson distributed "A Breath of Fresh Air" and urged the committee to read it noting that it framed the discussion around air quality and economic development effectively.

The committee discussed who would be able to attend the Economic Development Task Force meeting on July 19th should one be held. The committee decided that the Economic Development Task Force meeting will take place as scheduled on July 19th, 2012.

Committee discussion followed regarding what they want to see accomplished by the Economic Development Task Force.

Rep. Dee wants to know what the Legislature can do more effectively. He went on to specify that he wants to know what stifles business in Utah and how the Legislature can help to remove those barriers and create an environment to encourage economic development.

Rep. Chavez-Houck expressed concern with the duplication of work with the Economic Development and Workforce Services Interim Committee and then expressed an interest in future discussion of the infrastructure that supports economic development, including the quality of life.

Mr. Smith spoke about business' need for certainty, stability, and long-term plans from government and how the government can provide more long-term certainty for business.

Rep. Arent wants to discuss air quality and ensure that this task force coordinates with other committees and task forces. She said that air quality impacts tourism, business recruitment and retention, and community lifestyle and that these areas and their impact need to be addressed to improve air quality.

Rep. Last wants to discuss education in Utah and its role in developing a workforce to meet the needs of future jobs.

Mayor Dolan indicated that cities and the state are not aligned on the goals of economic development and that something needs to be done to get both on the same track.

Mr. Bingham would like to get education and industry on the same page to produce a quality workforce.

Mr. Eccles expressed an interest in seeing the Governor and the Legislature collaborating more on economic development goals and higher education.

**MOTION:** Rep. Dee moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Reid and Sen. Jones absent for the vote.

Chair Wilson adjourned the meeting at 10:29 a.m.