

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, August 15, 2012 – 9:00 a.m. – Room 210 Senate Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Ralph Okerlund, Senate Chair  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus, House Chair  
Sen. Casey O. Anderson  
Sen. Allen M. Christensen  
Sen. Gene Davis  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe  
Rep. Melvin R. Brown  
Rep. Brad L. Dee  
Rep. Brad J. Galvez  
Rep. Neal B. Hendrickson  
Rep. Ken Ivory  
Rep. John G. Mathis  
Rep. Michael E. Noel

Rep. Douglas Sagers  
Rep. Evan J. Vickers  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins  
Rep. Ryan D. Wilcox

**Members Absent:**

Sen. David P. Hinkins  
Rep. Jack R. Draxler  
Rep. Bill Wright

**Staff Present:**

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Thomas R. Vaughn, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Kimberly A. Heiner, Legislative Secretary  
Ms. Anna M. Allen, 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 Barrus called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. He excused Rep. Draxler from the meeting. He also welcomed and introduced Anna Allen as the new committee legislative secretary.

**MOTION:** Rep. Hendrickson moved to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2012, committee meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis, Rep. Brown, and Rep. Ivory absent for the vote.

**2. R.S. 2477 Plan Report**

Ms. Kathleen Clarke, Coordinator, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, discussed the purpose of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office. She also introduced Mr. Harry Souvall, Section Chief, Office of the Attorney General. Mr. Souvall presented the legal guidelines required for Utah to claim and challenge public lands ownership under R.S. 2477. He also gave a history of Utah R.S. 2477 Litigation Cases.

Mr. Kevin Carter, Director, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, distributed and discussed "Roads on School and Institutional Trust Lands." He responded to questions from the committee.

**3. Sage Grouse Working Group Update**

Ms. Clarke discussed protecting sage grouse in Utah and the possible ramifications of the sage grouse being placed on the federal endangered species list. She said that Utah has local working groups formed to identify threats to sage grouse. She responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Noel asked how hunting affects the sage grouse population. Mr. Jim Karpowitz, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, said that research shows that other factors such as natural predators impact the population of the sage grouse more than hunting. Mr. Karpowitz said that the Division of Wildlife Resources

does not want the sage grouse to be listed as an endangered species. He said that through intensive management, sponsored primarily by hunters, the sage grouse population has progressed toward recovery in Utah.

#### **4. Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office Activities and Expenditures**

Ms. Clarke gave an overview of the expenditures and activities of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office for Fiscal Year 2012. She said that costs are increasing due to additional issues the office is required to handle. She responded to questions from the committee.

Ms. Sandy Naegle, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, responded to a question from Rep. Briscoe on the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office budget.

#### **5. Children's Land Alliance - Trust Land Issues**

Ms. Margaret Bird, Director, Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools (CLASS), gave an overview of the CLASS non-profit corporation.

Ms. Paula Plant, Director, Children's Land Alliance Supporting Schools, showed a video "A Birthright Forever" which was created to explain the history of school lands to the present day in the United States and Utah. She said that the purpose of the organization is to advocate for education opportunities for children from school trust lands.

Ms. Bird also presented "School Trust Lands - How is UTAH doing?" which indicated how Utah compares to other states in the number of acres of school lands owned. She also discussed and distributed "Utah School Trust Lands," which showed a chart on the gross revenue from school trust lands. She then discussed and distributed "A Magnificent Endowment: America's School Trust Lands, Your Guide to Making a Difference."

Sen. Dayton thanked Ms. Bird and Ms. Plant for their hard work on school trust lands to provide funding to local schools.

Mr. Kevin Carter, Director, State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, responded to a question from Chair Barrus on the lost opportunities of the school trust lands. Mr. Carter said that the dollar figure changes as the value of natural resources fluctuates, however, it is a significant cost.

#### **6. Big Game Hunting**

Mr. Karpowitz gave a presentation on big game hunting. He said that there are eight big game animals that are hunted in Utah. He said that Utah has experienced a trend of increased applications for big game hunting permits and explained the different types of big game permits. He responded to questions from the committee.

#### **7. Other Committee Business / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Sen. Dayton moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Davis, Rep. Dee, and Rep. Watkins absent for the vote.

Chair Barrus adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.