

**MINUTES OF THE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

Thursday, September 20, 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. Jim Bird
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Brad G. Last
Rep. Patrice Arent
Rep. Rebecca Chavez Houck
Mr. Todd Bingham
Mr. Rob Despain
Mayor Tom Dolan

Mr. Spencer Eccles
Mr. J. Steven Price
Mr. Wesley Smith

Members Absent:

Mr. Scott Hirschi

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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Reid called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Mr. Christensen introduced and explained the DropBox system and referenced the document "le.utah.gov vs. DropBox" which was previously emailed to committee members.

MOTION: Rep. Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2012 meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Jones absent for the vote.

2. Air Quality and Utah Economic Development

Rep. Arent introduced the topic and the presenters.

Mr. Jeff Edwards, President and Chief Executive Officer, Economic Development Corporation of Utah, spoke about bringing business to and developing business in Utah. He said that we have an advanced natural gas program and have reason to consider becoming a natural gas corridor. He responded to questions from the committee by saying that some people have left Utah because of the poor air quality. Mr. Edwards stated that the work force is the biggest factor that draws companies and businesses to Utah but one issue is the quality of life.

Mr. Ryan Evans, Vice President of Business and Community Relations, Salt Lake Chamber, said that clean air is a top priority for the chamber and that Utah's air is cleaner than it has been in decades but still has a long way to go. He explained that the business community will be a big part of the solution and that where there are challenges there are also opportunities. Mr. Evans gave some ideas to improve air quality including fleet incentives, idle management systems, manufacturing tax credit for clean air technology production, natural gas infrastructure assistance, and providing vouchers or rebates toward the purchase of low emissions lawn and garden equipment. He responded to questions from the committee and said that idle management is easier to enforce when a tracking system is in place. He explained how manufacturing credits improve emissions by encouraging the installation of new equipment.

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, distributed and presented "Utah's Air Quality Program" and said that the greatest challenges to improving our air quality are our topography and our emissions. He explained that our compliance rate is high on the implementation of the Clean Air Act, the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, and the Utah Air Conservation Act. He discussed how Utah has historically complied

with the Federal Health Standards for air quality. Mr. Bird responded to questions from the committee stating that, in the Salt Lake Valley, 52% of emissions come from transportation, 30% from general industrial sources, and 18% from major industrial sources.

Dr. Michelle Hofmann, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, University of Utah, gave the presentation "A Change for the Better: Advancing Utah's Public and Economic Health by Improving Air Quality" and discussed the significant impact poor air quality has on health. She said that potential solutions could be to site schools a certain distance away from high emission areas. Ms. Hoffmann explained the effects of air pollution exposure before birth including premature birth, low birth weight, heart defects, autism, depression, anxiety, and learning disabilities. She spoke about the increase in medical care and the costs as air pollutants increase. Ms. Hofmann responded to questions from the committee stating that we still see increases in health problems on days that are not red air days which indicates that there are segments of our population who are disproportionately impacted. She referenced a study done in the Bronx that showed a direct correlation to the rise in health problems and the proximity to roadway sources.

Mr. Andrew Gruber, Executive Director, Wasatch Front Regional Council, discussed the relationship between economic development and air quality and said that incentives, capital projects, and continued investment in our transit system are very important. He responded to questions from the committee and said that the Wasatch Front Regional Council works very hard to engage people in the solution to our air quality issue and that spreading the word is one of the most effective ways to get people involved.

Sen. Reid requested that the presenters get together to come up with some ideas on how everyone can pool their efforts to find a solution to the air quality issue and submit it for the committee to consider.

Mr. Alan Matheson, Environmental Advisor, Governor's Office, stated that air quality factors into all of the values that Utahns rank as their highest priority. He explained that everyone is adding to the problem and therefore everyone needs to take part in the solution. Mr. Matheson stated that the challenge is how to allow economic development in an area without raising emissions. He responded to questions from the committee and said that the Governor's Office would be willing to come up with some solution ideas for the committee to consider.

Committee discussion followed.

3. Other Business / Adjourn

MOTION: Mr. Eccles moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Dee and Mr. Smith absent for the vote.

Chair Reid adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.