

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT
INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Michael E. Noel, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Jim Dabakis
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Rep. Jerry B. Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Stephen G. Handy
Rep. Ken Ivory
Rep. John G. Mathis
Rep. Mike K. McKell

Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers

Members Absent:

Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Brad L. Dee
Rep. Merrill F. Nelson
Rep. R. Curt Webb
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

Staff Present:

Mr. J Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. RuthAnne Frost, Associate General Counsel
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.leg.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Jenkins called the meeting to order at 4:21 p.m.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2013, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Handy and Rep. Noel absent for the vote.

2. Energy Producer States' Agreement

Rep. Barrus discussed "2013 EPSC Update," which discussed the background of an energy producer states' agreement that a coalition of legislators from several states has worked on in the past year. He also discussed other action items that the coalition plans to address in the coming year. Rep. Barrus responded to questions from the committee.

3. Energy Advisor / Committee Review of State Energy Policy

The committee did not discuss this agenda item.

4. Humane Treatment, Slaughter, and Disposal of Domestic Animals

Dr. Bruce King, State Veterinarian, Department of Agriculture and Food, presented "Equine Slaughter in the USA—Yesterday, Today, and the Future??" Dr. King discussed the history and current status of equine slaughter in the United States and responded to questions from the committee.

Rep. Jake Anderegg recommended that the committee study the issue in more depth to develop positive solutions to the question of the humane treatment, slaughter, and disposal of horses.

Ms. Collette Gillian, member of the public, stated that she agreed with committee members that the issue of how to humanely and properly dispose of horses poses a problem. She discussed the health concern raised by contaminated horse meat from horse processing plants as well as the environmental concern regarding the plants themselves. She also emphasized the importance of responsible horse breeding according to the demand for horses. Ms. Gillian recommended further study into this issue to ensure the humaneness of horse slaughter and to prevent or address any negative environmental impact. Ms. Gillian responded to questions from the committee.

Chair Jenkins relinquished the chair to Rep. Noel.

5. Sunset Review – Air Conservation Act

Mr. Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, distributed and discussed "Air Conservation Act Oversight and Sunset Act Review," "Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality," "PM2.5 State Implementation Plan Update," and "Utah Division of Air Quality 2012 Annual Report." Mr. Bird discussed the purpose of Utah Code Title 19, Chapter 2, Air Conservation Act, its effectiveness, the potential negative impact if the act sunsets, and additional challenges regarding air quality. Mr. Bird responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Mike McKee, Commissioner, Uintah County, expressed concern that standards for clean air are becoming unattainable. He encouraged the committee to exercise caution regarding this issue and to do more research if the committee feels it is necessary.

MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to reauthorize Utah Code Title 19, Chapter 2, Air Conservation Act, for a period of five years. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen, Rep. Draxler, and Rep. Ivory absent for the vote.

6. Water Pollution Reduction

The committee did not discuss this agenda item.

7. Other Items/Adjourn

The committee discussed committee member availability for a south central / eastern Utah site visit on September 10-11, 2013.

MOTION: Rep. Handy moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen, Rep. Draxler, and Rep. Ivory absent for the vote.

Chair Noel adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.