

**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 25 House Office Building

January 29, 2014

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair  
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair  
Rep. Mike McKell, House Vice Chair  
Sen. Jim Dabakis  
Sen. Margaret Dayton  
Sen. Ralph Okerlund  
Sen. John L. Valentine  
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell  
Rep. Jerry Anderson  
Rep. Roger E. Barrus  
Rep. Jon Cox  
Rep. Susan Duckworth  
Rep. Brian Greene  
Rep. Ken Ivory  
Rep. Michael E. Noel  
Rep. Lee B. Perry  
Rep. Larry B. Wiley

**STAFF:** Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst  
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist  
Ms. Linda Service, Committee Secretary

**Note:** 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).

Co-Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

**1. Utah Geological Survey - Continued from January 28, 2014**

Director Rick Allis, UGS, continued his presentation accompanied by Jodi Patterson, Financial Manager. He directed his comments to a question regarding mineral lease royalties. After looking back over five years of royalty trends, Mr. Allis concluded there could be some accounting discrepancies needing further investigation.

Mr. Allis discussed the Energy and Minerals Program, commenting on recent projects and programs, along with management realities, assessing performance, and hazard maps.

**2. Division of Water Rights**

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, LFA, pointed out the resources for this division can be accessed online by going to this committee on the Legislature website and clicking on "meeting materials." The mission statement, past intent language, performance measures, among others, can be found in the Compendium of Budget Information (COBI). He mentioned the document "Water Rights, Budget Details Over Time," which shows the trend analysis.

Mr. Kent Jones, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, along with Mr. Boyd Clayton, Deputy State Engineer, distributed the handout "Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Rights." Water Rights puts use of water in the hands of people. The mission of the division is to

promote order, certainty, and safety in the beneficial use of Utah's water. Mr. Jones discussed primary services and customers ( including enforcement), activities, and issues and challenges. He mentioned the growing competition for water and the need for improved management to stretch supplies. He asked that the Legislature provide the state engineer with authority to make decisions regarding beneficial use of water that can be followed under clear legislative direction.

### **3. Division of Water Resources**

Mr. Djambov directed the subcommittee to the Water Resources section of COBI. The Water Resources section identifies the mission, goals, and performance measures. He then briefly touched upon the document "Water Resources, Budget Details Over Time."

Mr. Eric Millis, Director, and Mr. Jim Egbert, Budget Officer, distributed the handout "Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Resources," and provided a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Millis explored the history of the division referring to its predecessor, the Water and Power Board, established in 1947. The board developed a state water plan, "Water for Utah," which was an effort to identify available water supplies and projected uses at that time. Today, the Division of Water Resources plans, conserves, develops and protects Utah's water resources and, in addition, develops and publishes a state water plan.

### **4. Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands**

Mr. Djambov reviewed information in COBI for the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. He briefly mentioned the restricted fund and showed projections on the fund balance, based on certain assumptions. Mr. Djambov suggested a discussion take place on what is a reasonable balance. He commented on performance measures and intent language, along with the document "Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, Budget Details Over Time."

Mr. Brian Cottam, Director and State Forester, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, together with Mr. Roger Lewis, Administrative Services Director, distributed the handout "Utah Department of Natural Resources, Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands." Through a slide presentation, Mr. Cottam outlined the division's mission, objectives, program overuse, performance measures, planning, and budget. He touched upon the issue of fire suppression and related costs, suggesting the total cost of wildfires - rehabilitation, life and property, air quality, water sheds and systems - is far beyond the initial cost of suppression. Mr. Cottam briefly reviewed the publication "Catastrophic Wildfire Reduction Strategy," which details the mission to "develop a collaborative process to protect the health and welfare of Utahns and our lands by reducing the size and frequency of catastrophic fires."

### **5. Division of Wildlife Resources**

Mr. Djambov pointed out information in H.B. 5, Item 7, with links to COBI, showing several charts with fund activities and balances for the major restricted funds and suggested there could be a possible over-appropriation in the Wildlife Habitat Account. He briefly introduced the "Wildlife Resources, Budget Details Over Time" document.

Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, along with Mr. Mike Fowlks, Deputy Director, introduced members of the division. Director Sheehan presented a video and reviewed a PowerPoint presentation, noting that as the mission of the division is to serve the people as trustee and guardian of the state's wildlife, he has endeavored to listen to employees and the public, those in all

levels of government, agricultural partners, and other constituent groups. He mentioned development of guiding principles to move the division in the right direction and provided clarification of the organizational chart, budget distributions, and balances.

**MOTION:** Rep. Perry moved to adjourn. Co-Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

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Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair

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Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair