

(Draft - Awaiting Formal Approval)  
**MINUTES OF THE  
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**  
Room 210 Senate Building  
February 1, 2016

**Members Present:**

- Sen. David P. Hinkins, Co-Chair
- Rep. Mike McKell, Co-Chair
- Rep. Kay J. Christofferson, House Vice Chair
- Sen. Jim Dabakis
- Sen. Margaret Dayton
- Sen. Scott K. Jenkins
- Sen. Peter C. Knudson
- Sen. Ralph Okerlund
- Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
- Rep. Scott Chew
- Rep. Susan Duckworth
- Rep. Brian M. Greene
- Rep. Stephen G. Handy
- Rep. Timothy Hawkes
- Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
- Rep. Ken Ivory
- Rep. Michael E. Noel
- Rep. Lee B. Perry
- Rep. Marc K. Roberts

**Staff:**

- Mr. Ivan D. Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
- Mr. Brian Wikle, Fiscal Analyst
- 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).

Vice Chair Christofferson called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

### **1. School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Review of Base Budget**

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, directed the committee to the Legislature's webpage ([le.utah.gov](http://le.utah.gov)) and discussed House Bill 5, Base Budget Bill, for the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).

Mr. David Ure, Director, SITLA, was invited to introduce himself as the new director.

Ms. Lisa Schneider, Financial Manager, SITLA, reviewed the budget noting their funding comes from revenue generated by activities on their land. She discussed three budget items: (1) Operating - used for general day-to-day operations, (2) Capital - investment money to make the land more valuable and partner to get the biggest return possible, and (3) Stewardship - money used to maintain the value of the land.

Mr. Kim Christy, Deputy Director, SITLA, responded to a question concerning disclosure of the amount when properties are sold. Mr. Christy explained that some assets in their portfolio do not demonstrate opportunity for future revenue coming through lease. For this reason they may make determinations to sell the property. If there is a strong competitive climate, they have found outcome of their sales has been better if they do not disclose. The committee and others discussed further questions.

## **2. Vote on H.B. 5, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Base Budget.**

**MOTION:** Sen. Hinkins moved to approve H.B. 5, Base Budget Bill, with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Knudson, Sen. Okerlund, and Sen. Van Tassell absent for the vote.

## **3. Summary of Requests for New Legislative Intent**

Mr. Brian Wikle, Fiscal Analyst, reviewed Issue Brief, "Legislative Intent Language." It is a summary of the legislative intent language proposed for the agencies in the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee enabling them to carry forward left over funds from FY 2016 into FY 2017. Without the authorization from the Legislature the agencies would lapse that money back to the funding source.

## **4. Summary of Requests for New Federal Funds**

Mr. Wikle reviewed the document "Summary of Requests for New Federal Funds," which summarizes the federal grants the agencies are requesting. For clarification purposes, he discussed the process by which the agencies can receive authorization to accept a grant if the amounts exceed those approved by the Legislature during the general session. Depending on the amount of the grant, they can either get approval through the Governor's Office or through the Executive Appropriations Committee during the interim.

## **5. Summary of Requests for Building Blocks**

Mr. Wikle discussed the handout "Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee, 2016 General Session," which summarized the new funding requests and recommendations by the Governor and LFA office.

## **6. Division of Parks and Recreation**

Mr. Djambov directed the committee to a tool that can be used online to identify which parks are profitable and which ones are losing money. He introduced "Federal Funds Request Summary for State FY 2017" and briefly mentioned intent language and building blocks for the division.

Mr. Fred Hayes, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation, introduced members of his office and board in attendance. He addressed the improvement in their profitability over the last several years. This last year six parks that had been operating in the red are now operating in the black leaving three golf courses and the heritage parks that still need to be subsidized. The parks have seen phenomenal growth. With that growth the managers have been charged to: (1) maintain the facility, (2) provide the absolute best service, and (3) build the business.

Mr. Scott Strong, Division of Parks and Recreation, reviewed two restricted fund requests: (1) \$500,000 for the Off-Highway Vehicle Program, and (2) \$8,000,000 to meet customers' needs and maintain assets.

Director Hayes introduced one additional request: \$25,000 for Hole-in-the-Rock State Park, to study and plan for development. He responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Ellis Ivory, Chairman and Director, This is the Place Heritage Park, distributed the handout "This is the Place Heritage Park" and addressed the committee. The park management was privatized by the Legislature in 1998. He discussed improvements made to the park and thanked the committee for past support. Mr. Ivory made a request that the Legislature consider increasing the total funding to \$1,200,000 going forward.

## 7. Division of Wildlife Resources

Mr. Djambov reviewed the intent language pertaining to the Division of Wildlife Resources included in the document, Issue Brief, "Legislative Intent Language." He also discussed the division's requests for federal funding and building blocks.

Mr. Greg Sheehan, Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, played a video demonstrating the variety of work involved in the division. He also distributed the handout "Division of Wildlife Resources 2017," highlighting accomplishments of the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, specifically Quagga Mussels, and the management of the Utah prairie dog. Director Sheehan requested the following Building Blocks: (1) \$700,000 - Aquatic Invasive Species Program, (2) \$900,000 - Central Region Office Replacement, and (3) \$350,000 - Utah Prairie Dog Management.

Mr. Henry Maddux, Director of Sensitive Species, Department of Natural Resources, commented on three plant species coming up for listing determination, along with petitions for listing of the Boreal Toad and White Tail Prairie Dog.

Sen. Evan Vickers addressed the committee regarding challenges when dealing with endangered or threatened species. After receiving a ruling giving the State the responsibility of endangered or threatened species management, a collaborative plan on how to manage these species was put together with input from legislators, the Attorney General's office, and organizations of the five counties involved. Prairie dogs are now being transferred to federal sites, relieving the burden on property owners.

Mr. David Miller, County Commissioner, Iron County, noted the importance of the program and the need to carry out the plan as intended.

**MOTION:** Rep. Handy moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Vice Chair Christofferson adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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Sen. David Hinkins, Chair

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Rep. Mike McKell, Chair