

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, May 18, 2016 – 1:15 p.m. – Room 25 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Daniel W. Thatcher, Senate Chair
Rep. R. Curt Webb, House Chair
Sen. Karen Mayne
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Rep. Joel K. Briscoe
Rep. Kim Coleman
Rep. Rich Cunningham
Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Don L. Ipson
Rep. Kraig Powell
Rep. Earl D. Tanner
Rep. John R. Westwood

Rep. Mark A. Wheatley

Members Absent:

President Wayne L. Niederhauser
Sen. Wayne A. Harper
Rep. Johnny Anderson
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers

Staff Present:

Ms. Megan L. Bolin, Policy Analyst
Ms. Christine R. Gilbert, Associate General Counsel
Mr. Joshua M. Weber, Legislative Assistant

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 Thatcher called the meeting to order at 1:50 p.m.

MOTION: Rep. Westwood moved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2015, meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Mayne absent for the vote.

2. 2016 General Session Highlights – Political Subdivisions Legislation

Ms. Bolin gave an overview of legislation discussed and passed during the 2016 General Session.

3. Long-Term Planning

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Government Affairs Director, Utah Association of Counties, discussed initiatives which the Utah Association of Counties plans to address, such as justice reform as it relates to low-level drug offenders. Mr. Shurtz responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. LeGrand Bitter, Executive Director, Utah Association of Special Districts, discussed issues related to water and sewage infrastructure and maintenance costs that Utah's local and special service districts are facing. Mr. Bitter also briefly discussed emergency preparedness and disaster response and responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Cameron Diehl, Utah League of Cities and Towns, discussed the plans of the Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with its partners to manage the significant population growth that Utah will experience in coming decades. Mr. Diehl responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. Danny Walz, Director, Utah Redevelopment Association, discussed issues facing Utah's Community Reinvestment Agencies, including affordable housing as it relates to recent statutory changes. Mr. Walz also expressed the desire to further study the need for continuous redevelopment efforts in core urban areas, and responded to questions from the committee.

Mr. John Hiskey, Deputy Mayor, Sandy City, answered the committee's questions related to the Mountain Accord and the progress that has been made. Mr. Hiskey responded to questions from the committee.

4. Zoning for Substance Abuse Recovery Residences

Rep. LaVar Christensen provided background information related to substance abuse recovery residences and concerns regarding a municipality's ability to regulate these residences through their local zoning ordinances. Rep. Christensen said he will create a working group that will analyze the legal issues and determine what, if anything, the Legislature can do to resolve the issue.

5. Local Districts and Other Limited Government Local Entities

Chair Webb discussed the plan to study limited purpose local government entities over the interim. He said the objective is to educate committee members about the types of entities and identify any issues that the Legislature may want to address. Committee discussion followed.

6. Short-Term Rentals

Rep. Knotwell discussed short-term rentals and issues regarding the extent to which these rentals are regulated by the state and local governments. Emphasizing the importance of judging each situation on its own merits, Rep. Knotwell explained how the Utah League of Cities and Towns and other stakeholders will meet during the interim to study the issue further and identify potential solutions.

7. Local Historic Districts

Ms. Bolin gave some background by briefly discussing how many local preservation commissions exist throughout the state and the varying degrees of regulatory authority commissions possess. Rep. Wilson went on to discuss the concerns raised surrounding the authority of and appeal processes used by certain historic preservation commissions, which he will explore further during the interim. Committee discussion followed.

8. Mobile Home Park Helpline

Chair Thatcher briefly discussed the complexity of legal issues regarding mobile homes and explained that the mobile home park helpline that was created in 2015 has not, until recently, been properly implemented. He informed the committee that this fall, the University of Utah will present a report on helpline data that has been collected, and the committee is required by statute to determine whether the helpline should continue.

9. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Chair Thatcher moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. Tanner absent for the vote.

Chair Thatcher adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m.