

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

Wednesday, July 13, 2016 – 8:30 a.m. – Room 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Scott K. Jenkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Lee B. Perry, House Chair
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. Margaret Dayton
Sen. Jani Iwamoto
Sen. Peter C. Knudson
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Melvin R. Brown
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Jack R. Draxler
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Stephen G. Handy

Rep. Timothy D. Hawkes
Rep. Lynn N. Hemingway
Rep. Mike K. McKell
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Derrin Owens
Rep. Douglas V. Sagers
Rep. Scott Sandall

Staff Present:

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

1. Committee Business

Chair Perry called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

MOTION: Sen. Jenkins moved to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2016, and June 15, 2016, meetings. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen, Sen. Vickers, Rep. McKell, and Rep. Owens absent for the vote.

2. Unmanned Aircraft Amendments

Rep. Don L. Ipson distributed 2016 Third Special Session H.B. 3003, "Unmanned Aircraft Amendments," and discussed the security threats unmanned aircraft pose to fire suppression aircraft. He explained that H.B. 3003 "Unmanned Aircraft Amendments" raises the penalty classification and allows law enforcement to neutralize the unmanned aircraft and collect restitution.

Rep. Ipson and Mr. Thomas Vaughn, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, responded to questions from the committee. The committee discussed the cost of unmanned aircraft interference in fire suppression.

The committee heard public comment.

Mr. Brian Cottam, Director, Division of Fire, Forestry, and State Lands, explained the Division of Fire, Forestry, and State Lands' efforts to address the increasing risk of unmanned aircraft jeopardizing firefighters. He expressed his appreciation to Rep. Ipson for addressing the issue.

Mr. Doug Pizac, Chapter President, American Society of Media Photographers, explained that unmanned aircraft negatively affect photographers.

MOTION: Rep. Sager moved to approve and recommend H.B. 3003 "Unmanned Aircraft Amendments" for consideration in the 2016 Third Special Session. The motion passed unanimously with Rep. McKell absent for the vote.

3. Sunset Review – Title 19, Chapter 6, Part 10, Mercury Switch Removal Act

Mr. Allred explained the background of the Mercury Switch Removal Act and reviewed policy options.

Mr. Allan Moore, Manager, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, discussed the purpose of the Mercury Switch Removal Act. He explained that vehicles with mercury switches are still in use, and he recommended reauthorizing the act. He responded to questions from the committee.

MOTION: Rep. Sagers moved to reauthorize the "Mercury Switch Removal Act" for 10 years. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Christensen and Rep. McKell absent for the vote.

4. Waste Tire Recycling Fees

Rep. Sandall explained his research on the current use of waste tire recycling fees and the creation of the policy.

Mr. Allan Moore summarized the background of waste tire recycling fees and the purpose of the waste tire recycling statute. He explained that the fees cover the administrative costs and the partial reimbursement of recycling. He reviewed the cost of administration and reimbursement rates.

Ms. Jill Ressler, Division of Finance, Department of Administrative Services, distributed "Waste Tire Recycling." She explained that the Division of Finance is responsible for reimbursing agencies that recycle tires, after the reimbursement request has been processed by the health department.

Mr. Dan Moore, Salt Lake County Health Department, explained that the Salt Lake County Health Department authenticates invoices and information in reimbursement requests submitted by agencies that recycle tires.

The speakers responded to questions from the committee regarding recycling fees and the uses of recycled tires. The committee discussed how to use the tire recycling fees more effectively.

5. Energy Advisor Report and Committee Review of State Energy Policy

Mr. Allred reviewed the responsibilities of the State Energy Advisor.

Ms. Laura Nelson, State Energy Advisor, presented the "Office of Energy Development Presentation." She reported on the status of Utah's energy resources, the activities of the Governor's Office of Energy Development, and the energy advisor's activities, and she recommended policy considerations for the Legislature. She responded to questions from the committee.

The committee discussed coal and state subsidies for renewable energy.

Chair Perry transferred the chair to Sen. Jenkins.

6. Energy Producer States' Agreement Report

Rep. Handy distributed "Energy Producing States Coalition 2016 Report." He shared the background of the Energy Producing States Coalition and reported on Utah's involvement.

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Draxler moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Dayton, Sen. Iwamoto, Sen. Knudson, Rep. Owens, and Rep. Perry absent for the vote.

Chair Jenkins adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.