

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

Wednesday, July 16, 2003 – 2:30 p.m. – Room 303 State Capitol

Members Present:

Sen. Beverly Evans, Senate Chair
Rep. Craig W. Buttars, House Chair
Sen. Thomas Hatch
Sen. Bill Wright
Rep. Eli Anderson
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Jackie Biskupski
Rep. Margaret Dayton
Rep. Glenn A. Donnelson
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Loraine T. Pace
Rep. Darin G. Peterson

Rep. Michael R. Styler
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Parley G. Hellewell
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. David Ure

Staff Present:

Mr. Brian Allred, Policy Analyst
Ms. Jeanenne B. Larson, Associate General
Counsel
Ms. Joy L. Miller, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present and a copy of materials can be found at <http://www.image.le.state.ut.us/imaging/history.asp> or by contacting the committee secretary, Joy Miller, at 538-1032.

1. Committee Business

Chair Buttars called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m. Rep. Gowans and Rep. Ure were excused from the meeting.

2. Update on Drought Conditions

Mr. Larry Anderson, Division of Water Resources, explained that due to the extreme drought conditions in the state, some water rights are having to be cut back. He reviewed the water conservation efforts being taken.

Mr. Hugh Thompson, DNR (Department of Natural Resources), discussed the problems facing the watersheds. He stressed the need for the Legislature to consider a resolution asking the forest service to give due consideration for managing for water yield along with other multiple uses.

3. Solitude Landfill

Sen. Hatch distributed a copy of draft legislation "Joint Resolution Approving Solid Waste Permit" which would give approval for the operation of a Class V landfill to receive specified nonhazardous solid waste. He discussed the booklet "Solitude Landfill" which was distributed to the Committee.

Mr. Brad Studer, Solitude Landfill, indicated that the site has been permitted for 320 acres with a projected life span of approximately 20 years. Additional land can be acquired if they choose to expand.

Commissioner Drew Sitterud, Emery County, indicated the proposal was brought before the Public Lands Council and was unanimously supported by the Emery County Commission.

Mayer Glen Johnson, Green River City, indicated that 70 percent of their residents live at poverty level or below. He said that the majority of the city council and Green River citizens support the proposal.

Ms. Debbie Goodman, Utah Audubon Council, asked about the normal sequence of events and if that process has been followed regarding the proposal.

Ms. Dianne Nielson, Department of Environmental Quality, responded that the approval process has been followed as it should be. She stated that some technical changes to the resolution may be needed.

MOTION: Rep. Styler moved to adopt draft resolution "Joint Resolution Approving Solid Waste Permit" with the necessary technical changes. The motion passed with Rep. Anderson voting in opposition. Rep. Urquhart was absent for the vote.

MOTION: Rep. Dayton moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2003 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Urquhart was absent for the vote.

4. Wolves

Mr. Kevin Conway, Division of Wildlife Resources, distributed a folder of information concerning Wolf Management Planning. He discussed the requirements of H.J.R. 12, "Resolution Providing Management of Wolves in Utah." He said they will be able to produce a wolf management plan by 2005.

Sen. Evans asked that staff be provided a list of those who will be developing the plan.

MOTION: Sen. Hatch moved to reiterate the Committee's support for the principles outlined in H.J.R. 12. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Urquhart was absent for the vote.

5. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Mr. Val Payne, DNR, reported on the Memorandum of Understanding between the state of Utah, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service dealing with the wild and scenic rivers determination process. He said they have been encouraged to ensure county participation.

Commissioner Mike McKee, Uintah County, indicated that every potential river in Uintah County has been nominated and expressed concern with how that would affect the county.

Commissioner Ira Hatch, Emery County, questioned how the designations would affect power and other projects. He requested help from the Legislature to ensure county involvement.

Commissioner Lynn Stevens, San Juan County, supported involvement of the Legislature and the governor in contacting Utah's congressional delegation. He indicated that watersheds will be affected in the process.

Mr. Bob Morgan, DNR, said although their resources are few, they are putting forth their best efforts to carry out the responsibilities delegated to them by the Legislature and to look out for the people of Utah.

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Rep. Pace suggested that more time be devoted to the issue and asked that it be placed on the next agenda. Representatives of Utah's congressional delegation should be invited to address the issue.

MOTION: Rep. Donnelson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Buttars adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.