

**MINUTES OF THE  
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**  
Wednesday, October 15, 2008 • 2:00 p.m. • W020 House Building

**Members Present:**

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair  
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker, House Chair  
Sen. Fred J. Fife  
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups  
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen  
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove  
Rep. Gage Froerer  
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood  
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod  
Rep. Christine A. Johnson  
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig  
Rep. R. Curt Webb  
Rep. Carl Wimmer

**Members Absent:**

Sen. Sheldon Killpack  
Rep. Bradley M. Daw  
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson  
Rep. Brad King

**Staff Present:**

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst  
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel  
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

**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](http://www.le.utah.gov).

**1. Committee Business**

Chair Stowell called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

**MOTION:** Rep. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Waddoups, Rep. Johnson, Rep. Webb, and Rep. Wimmer were absent for the vote.

**2. Quality Growth Commission Report**

Mr. Jaren Davis, Chair, Quality Growth Commission, introduced himself and Mr. John Bennett, Executive Director, Quality Growth Commission.

Mr. Bennett distributed "Quality Growth Commission - 2008 Report" and gave a slide presentation reporting on the state of quality growth in Utah. He reviewed the local government planning issues of concern according to an informal survey covering several jurisdictions. He explained "Super Tool," which is a website to bring together local resources and tools to help in all types of planning.

**3. Reporting Local Government Boundary Changes**

Rep. Kory Holdaway explained the legislative history of this topic. He introduced 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Local Government Entity Changes."

Mr. Wade gave a slide presentation that reviewed the scope of the draft legislation and the different ways a boundary might be changed. He referred to current and proposed "Flow of Information for Reporting Government Boundary Changes," previously distributed in the committee packet to illustrate his explanation of the proposals in the draft legislation.

Mr. Rees explained changes that have taken place over the years to identify entities of the state. He explained how this proposed legislation modifies provisions relating to the process of certifying local government actions affecting the name or boundary of a local entity.

Mr. Arie VanDeGraaff, Utah Association of Counties, spoke in favor of the proposed legislation.

Mr. Richard Maughn, President, Utah Association of County Recorders, and Davis County Recorder, expressed the concerns of the association.

The Committee discussed the recording/certifying process.

Mr. James Kaiserman, President, Utah Association of County Surveyors, and Wasatch County Surveyor, also spoke in favor of the proposal.

Mr. Allan Spriggs, Summit County Recorder, listed the parts of the draft legislation the county recorders agree with and how it will help simplify the process for them. He asked for some technical amendments.

A final bill will be presented to the Committee at the November 19, 2008 meeting.

#### **4. Followup Legislation on Local Health Department Funding**

During the August meeting, the Committee requested information regarding state and federal mandates and associated costs. In response to the request, "Local Health Department Duties" was distributed to the Committee.

2009 General Session draft legislation, "State and Local Health Authorities - Distribution of Federal Monies" was distributed and discussed.

Mr. Lloyd Berentzen, Director, Bear River Health Department, commented on the legislation.

Dr. Richard Melton, Deputy Director, Utah Department Health (UDH), expressed the UDH's agreement with the intent of the bill. However, he spoke in opposition to it and explained UDH's concerns. He suggested that the local health departments be required to work together and develop a rule, which would be easier to change than statute as the process continues to develop.

Mr. Bill Sinclair, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Quality, agreed that a statutory fix may not be necessary and believes the proposed legislation deserves further discussion.

Chair Stowell introduced 2009 General Session draft legislation, "Local Public Health Funding," which would require UDH to establish a local health emergency assistance program.

Mr. Berentzen, Mr. VanDeGraaff, Ms. Kathy Froerer, Utah Association of Local Health Departments, and Mr. Gary Edwards, Salt Lake Valley Health, participated in the discussion with the Committee.

#### **5. Creation of an Assessment Area**

Sen. Mark Madsen discussed the current statutory process for designating an assessment area. He described the assessment area that brought about the concerns with the current process. He made recommendations for statutory changes to the process for designating an assessment area and changes to when a local entity is allowed to assess property owners.

Mr. Scott and Ms. Lynn Jennings, property owners impacted by the recent designation, explained how the increased tax impacted them personally. They also made recommendations for statutory changes.

Committee members discussed the issue.

#### **6. Other Items / Adjourn**

**MOTION:** Rep. Webb moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Cosgrove, Rep. Froerer, Rep. Gibson, Rep. Greenwood, Rep. Herrod, and Rep. Johnson were absent for the vote.

Chair Stowell adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.