

**MINUTES OF THE
NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Room 25 House Office Building

February 2, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sen. David Hinkins, Co-Chair
Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-Chair
Rep. Keith Grover, Vice-Chair
Sen. Casey Anderson
Sen. Gene Davis
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Kevin T. Van Tassell
Rep. Roger E. Barrus
Rep. Susan Duckworth
Rep. Brad J. Galvez
Rep. Michael E. Noel
Rep. Lee Perry
Rep. Dixon M. Pitcher
Rep. Christine Watkins

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sen. Margaret Dayton

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rep. Stephen E. Sandstrom

STAFF: Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst
Ms. Angela Oh, Economist
Ms. Linda Service, Committee Secretary

Note: A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Rep. Mathis called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Rep. Galvez moved to approve the minutes of January 24, 2012. The motion passed unanimously. Sen. Davis, Rep. Grover, Rep. Noel, and Rep. Sandstrom were absent for the vote.

2. UTAH STATE FAIR CORPORATION

Analyst Presentation

Mr. Ivan Djambov, Fiscal Analyst, presented the Budget Brief, "Utah State Fair Corporation." State Fair is an independent public nonprofit corporation that operates the fair and fairgrounds year round. Based on the recommendations of a study committee directed to find a way to help the Fairpark become self-sufficient, the Legislature privatized the Fairpark in 1995. The new corporation was allowed to receive annual appropriations from the state until it could become self-sufficient. For FY 2013, the Analyst recommends for the Utah State Fair Corporation line item a total budget of \$4,028,000.

Agency Presentation

Mr. Clark Caras, Executive Director, Utah State Fairpark, along with Ms. Judy Duncombe, Associate

Director, thanked the Legislature for the support the Utah State Fair Corporation has received in the past and explained that they are working hard to become self-sufficient. Mr. Caras noted other activities taking place on the fairgrounds which stimulate income for the fairpark and expressed appreciation to the Department of Agriculture and Utah's Own for their partnerships.

3. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Analyst Presentation

Mr. Djambov discussed the Budget Brief, "Agriculture and Food Administration." The Department of Agriculture and Food is responsible for the administration of Utah's agricultural laws which mandate a wide variety of activities, including inspection, regulation, information, rulemaking, loan issuance, marketing and development, pest and disease control, improving the economic position of agriculture, and consumer protection. The department is requesting \$122,200 for additional food compliance officers to inspect food processing operations, retail food outlets, and cottage industry facilities. The Analyst recommends the Legislature approve this request.

Mr. Djambov presented a brief overview of the Issue Briefs, "Agriculture and Food - Federal Funds" and "Agriculture and Food Fees," along with the Budget Briefs, "Predatory Animal Control," "Agriculture Loan Programs," "Rangeland Improvement," and "Resource Conservation."

Agency Presentation

Mr. Leonard Blackham, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food, assisted by Mr. Larry Lewis, discussed a PowerPoint presentation. Mr. Blackham commented on the "Organizational Chart" and "Financials," including the Governor's/UDAF Recommendation, and the Agriculture Sustainability Task Force Recommendation. Mr. Blackham then invited the following to participate in the presentation: Mr. Robert Hougaard, Director, Plant Industry; Dr. Bruce L. King, Director of Animal Industries and State Veterinarian; Mr. Richard Clark, Division of Meat Inspection; Mr. Jed Christensen, Director of Marketing, Utah's Own; Mr. William Goring and Mr. Tom Tippets, Utah Grazing Improvement Program; and Mr. Ron Davidson, Director of the Division of Resource Conservation.

MOTION: Sen. Davis moved to draft a letter to the Department of Transportation expressing concern and encouraging them to support invasive species weed control along the highways and railroads. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. Noel was absent for the vote.

4. UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Mr. Wendell Stembridge from the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) distributed the handouts "Utah Resource Assessment" and "Zone Coordinator Reports for 2011 and 2012." He addressed subcommittee members stating that UACD's commitment to farmers at the grass roots level is a desire to protect the lands for future generations. Mr. Gordon Yonkers, Executive Vice President, UACD, introduced members of UACD attending the subcommittee meeting. He touched upon the programs delivered at the local district level to farmers and ranchers and commented on two requests: (1) to increase consolidation of districts from 38 down to 11, and (2) to keep the status of employees of the association the same. Mr. Stembridge and Mr. Yonkers responded to questions from subcommittee members.

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MOTION: Sen. Okerlund moved to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously. Co-Chair Mathis adjourned the meeting at 9:57 a.m.

Sen. David Hinkins, Co-chair

Rep. John G. Mathis, Co-chair