



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 | 8:30 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Scott D. Sandall, Chair
Rep. Walt Brooks, Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Derrin R. Owens
Sen. Evan J. Vickers
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion
Rep. Bridger Bolinder
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Tim Jimenez
Rep. Michael L. Kohler
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson

Rep. Rex P. Shipp
Rep. Casey Snider
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

Rep. Steven J. Lund
Rep. Doug Owens
Speaker Mike Schultz

Staff Present:

Charley Hart, Policy Analyst
Julie Humberstone, Senior Policy Analyst
Patricia Owen, Senior Associate General Counsel
Ryan C. Williams, Associate General Counsel
Victoria Garcia, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Brooks called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Bennion moved to approve the minutes of the August 21, 2024 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 10

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. T. Jimenez
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. S. Lund
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. E. Vickers

2. A Performance Audit of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, introduced and provided background on the performance audit of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration.

[2 - Performance Audit of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration](#)

[2 - Audit Review Letter](#)

Brian Dean, Deputy Auditor General, Matthias Boon, Supervisor, and Andrew Poulter, Lead Auditor, Office of the Legislative Auditor General, presented a performance audit of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and answered committee questions.

[2 - SITLA Map](#)

[2 - SITLA Presentation](#)

Michelle McConkie, Director, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, addressed the performance audit of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and answered committee questions.

Warren Peterson, Chair, SITLA Board of Trustees, addressed the performance audit of the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration and answered committee questions.

3. Great Salt Lake Commissioner Report

[4 - Great Salt Lake Commissioner Report](#)

Brian Steed, Great Salt Lake Commissioner, and Tim Davis, Great Salt Lake Deputy Commissioner, presented the Great Salt Lake Commissioner Report and answered committee questions.

Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, answered committee questions regarding the Great Salt Lake Commissioner Report.

4. Draft Legislation: State Water Policy Amendments

[5a - Draft Legislation "State Water Policy Amendments" V02](#)

Patricia Owen, Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, introduced draft legislation, "State Water Policy Amendments."

[5b - Draft Legislation "State Water Policy Amendments" V03](#)

Rep. Chew presented an alternative version of draft legislation, "State Water Policy Amendments," with proposed language changes.

5. Groundwater Levels

[6 - Groundwater Levels Presentation](#)

Teresa Wilhelsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, gave a presentation on ground water levels and answered committee questions.

Bill Keach, State Geologist and Director, and Hugh Hurlow, Groundwater Program Manager, Utah Geological Survey, gave a presentation on groundwater levels and answered committee questions.

6. Financial Assurances for Mining Operators

Mick Thomas, Director, and Dana Dean, Deputy Director, Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, presented on financial assurances for mining operators and answered committee questions.

MOTION: Rep. Albrecht moved to open a committee bill file to direct the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining to conduct a study on bonding modernization. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.



Yeas - 14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. T. Jimenez
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. S. Lund
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. E. Vickers

7. Other Items/Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. T. Jimenez
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. S. Lund
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. E. Vickers

Chair Brooks adjourned the meeting at 10:59 am.