



Utah Quality Growth Commission  
C/O Governor's Office of Planning and Budget  
150 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, UT 84114  
Telephone (801) 538-1027

## *Utah Quality Growth Commission*

*Jaren Davis, Chair  
Flint Richards, Vice Chair*

*John Bennett, Executive Director*

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**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Friday, October 24, 2008, 2:00 PM**  
**Utah County Commission Offices**  
**100 East Center Street, Suite 2300**  
**Provo, UT 84606**

### **Members Attending**

Jaren Davis, Chairman  
Larry Ellertson  
Sally Elliott  
Reed Erickson  
Laraine Swenson  
Leonard Blackham  
Brent Tanner  
Mike Kohler  
Mike Styler  
Justin Allenn

### **Staff Attending**

John F. Bennett, Executive Director

### **Visitors Attending**

Laura Ault, FFSL  
Mike Roberts, TNC  
Jordi Guth, USU  
Alan Matheson, Envision Utah  
Val John Halford, WFRC

1. Welcome and Introductions, 5 minutes Jaren Davis, Chair  
Chairman Davis welcomed all members and visitors. Each of the visitors and members introduced themselves.
2. Public Comments, 5 Minutes Jaren Davis, Chair  
There were no public comments
3. Approval of Minutes from August Meeting Jaren Davis, Chair,  
The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Presentation on Rural Character Online Tool—10 minutes Jordi Guth, USU  
Jordi Guth was the recipient of a planning grant from the Commission to create a rural character analysis online tool. Ms Guth briefed the commission on here progress in designing and creating this tool.
5. Request for Extension of time to close previous year projects, 10 minutes, John Bennett  
--Santa Clara Arboretum Phase 2  
--OW Ranch, FFSL, TPL,  
--Rainbow Glass Ranch, TPL  
--DWR, San Pitch River Easements

--TNC Virgin River Headwaters Project

All of the projects on the list above have requested additional time to complete their projects. Mr. Bennett indicated that they are making progress, and asked the commission to extend the time for completion of these projects until April 30, 2009. He further asked the commission for permission to convey to the applicants that this is a pretty firm deadline and the further extensions are unlikely without very good reasons.

Commissioner Sally Elliott moved to approve the extensions with the stated conditions, Commissioner Mike Kohler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund—2008 Allocations, 40 minutes—Mike Kohler, Critical lands Subcommittee Chair and John Bennett, Staff  
The commission was presented with a recommended list of projects to be funded from the LeRay McAllister Fund for this year. The list came from the subcommittee. It included a 5% holdback due to the economic downturn. The Commission agreed to fund the list as prepared by the Subcommittee. They also prepared a list of how they would spend the hold back funds if the Legislature does not take them back from the commission to fund other needs.

Both of those lists are attached.

**The hold back:** The subcommittee recommended how the funds from the hold back should be spent if they are available. Those recommendations appear on the attached spreadsheet. The subcommittee recommended that the TreeUtah project be funded with cash rather than interest if funds are available, and that TreeUtah receive its money first and any cuts to the hold back would be made proportionally among the remaining projects.

The commission voted unanimously in favor of the subcommittee's recommendations.

7. Overview of Quality Growth Communities Status and proposed updates—15 minutes, John Bennett, Staff  
John Bennett explained the Quality Growth Communities program. This program was created by the commission as an effort to link state spending with quality growth principles. It has not been a priority for the current administration or for the commission, but there seems to be a renewed interest now among local governments, so the commission will need to revitalize and perhaps redirect it, if they want to make it a viable program going forward.

Commissioners expressed support for the idea of resurrecting the program and making it viable. They directed the planning subcommittee to discuss this issue and come back to the commission with additional recommendations.

8. Discussion of changes to LeRay McAllister Fund necessitated by changes to Government Accounting Standards, Options and opportunities—15 minutes, John Bennett, Staff  
John Bennett explained that changes in Government Accounting rules will likely necessitate a change in the structure of the commission and the fund. Currently, the LeRay McAllister Fund is what is known as a finance mandated fund. It is a segregated account in the General Fund that retains the interest generated on deposits to the fund. The new rules indicate that this type of fund requires a dedicated funding source. Since the McAllister fund does not have a dedicated funding source. It will likely have to

become a line item in the budget.

This will likely mean that the interest on the fund will be retained in the general fund rather than being transferred to the LeRay McAllister Fund.

This is okay, but the interest has allowed the commission to support quality growth conferences, and other initiatives, as well as support the staff without dipping too far into appropriated funds. If the interest is not available, a greater percentage of general funds appropriated will have to go to support staff and commission activities making less available for conservation.

Commissioners suggested two possible sources of ongoing funds. One is a tax on electric power being exported from Utah, and the other is a portion of the severance tax. Staff will evaluate these ideas and give the commission further information.

9. 2008 Baseline Report and Quality Growth Commission Report, 5 Minutes, John Bennett  
Mr. Bennett gave the commissioners a copy of the Baseline Report. He indicated thanked the commission for being a co-author of the report and indicated that it would be widely distributed. The commission's annual report was included as an appendix to the baseline. The baseline report is available online at [www.planning.utah.gov](http://www.planning.utah.gov). Look in the resources section.
10. Administrative Matters—Set date for year end meeting. The commission decided to hold their year end meeting on December 10, 2008 at 2:00 PM in room 140 in the Utah State Capitol.