



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

Flint Richards, Chair
JT Martin, Vice Chair

John Bennett, Executive Director

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 27, 2010
Suite 140, Utah State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Commissioners Present

Chairman Flint Richards
Sally Elliott
Laraine Swenson
Reed Erickson by Telephone
Larry Ellertson
JT Martin, Vice Chairman
Leonard Blackham

Staff Present

John Bennett, Executive Director

Visitors Present

Julie Peck Dabling, Salt Lake County
Quinn Card, Salt Lake City Council Staff
Sarah, TNC
Mike Roberts, TNC
La Neice Davenport, WFRC
Kevin Fayles, Envision Utah.
Rep. Jack Draxler, Utah State Legislature

1. Welcome and Introductions, Flint Richards, Chair, 5 Minutes

Chairman Richards invited those in attendance to introduce themselves. Everyone in attendance did so.

2. Public Comments, Flint Richards, Chair, 5 Minutes

Chairman Richards invited public comment. There was none.

3. Approve Minutes from December, 2009 Meetings, Flint Richards, Chair, 5 Minutes
ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes

As a required quorum of nine members was not present, no action was taken on approving the minutes.

4. LeRay McAllister Program Issues. John Bennett, 20 Minutes
Weber River
Baxter Ridge

Salt Lake County
Appropriations

Mr. Bennett explained that the Weber River and Baxter Ridge project are unable to proceed. This frees up an additional \$350,000 to be reallocated or rolled into the next round of funding.

The Weber River project will not proceed because the landowner was disappointed by the appraisal, and wanted to wait to see if the economy would recover so that the land value would increase.

The Baxter Ridge project will not proceed because one of the two brothers involved decided not to go forward. His land had the greatest habitat value, and so the DWR no longer had an interest in holding a easement on the remaining property

Mr. Bennett also discussed the Salt Lake County Rose Canyon Ranch project. He indicated that the county was in negotiations with Kennecott Copper regarding the mineral rights and that they would give a more complete report at the next commission meeting.

He also discussed the appropriations for the McAllister Program for FY 11. He indicated that the fund would take a 5 % cut like every other program, but that we should have about \$400,000 in the fund for the Fiscal Year.

5. Discuss Agricultural Sustainability Act, Leonard Blackham, Rep. Jack Draxler,
30 Minutes

Representative Jack Draxler attended the Commission Meeting to discuss HB 102, the Agricultural Sustainability act with the Commission. Rep. Draxler explained that the basic proposal is to take the funds currently paid as rollback taxes when agricultural lands go out of production, and put those funds back into acquiring conservation easements on productive agricultural lands in the county where the funds were generated.

An agricultural sustainability fund would be established in each county, and a board, made up of conservation district supervisors would be created in each county to oversee the use of the funds in those counties.

There was some discussion about the impact on local governments of losing the rollback tax revenue. Rep. Draxler explained that there would be a onetime tax rate increase based on the about of rollback taxes paid in 2009 that would help to hold the local governments harmless.

The Commission did not have a quorum present, so no vote was taken on the bill, but commissioners were urged to contact the organizations they represent to discuss this bill and get any proposed changes to Rep. Draxler as soon as possible.

6. Other Legislation of Interest John Bennett, 10 Minutes

Commisisoners ran out of time and did not discuss this matter

7. Administrative Matters: Next meeting scheduled for February 24, 2010, Location: Room 140 in the State Capitol.