



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
Thursday, April 28, 2011, 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon
Governors Office of Planning and Budget Large Conference Room
Suite 140, Utah State Capitol Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

Members present

Flint Richards, Chair
JT Martin, Vice Chair
Sally Elliott, renominated member
Leonard Blackham
Dave Mansell
Mike Kohler
Larry Ellertson, by phone
Mike Styler, by phone
Justin Allen, Retiring member

Holly Daines, Nominated Member

Staff Present

John Bennett, Executive Director

Visitors Present

Val John Halford, Wasatch Front Regional
Council Staff

- 1. Welcome and Introductions, 5 Minutes**

Chairman Richards invited all those present to introduce themselves. Member, staff and visitors present did so.

- 2. Public Comments, 5 Minutes**

Val John Halford of the Wasatch Front Regional Council Staff took a minute to tell the Commission about the progress of the regional transportation plan. He indicated that, while the formal comment period had ended, if Commissioners had additional comments he would be happy to receive them.

- 3. Approve Minutes from January 2011, and February, 2011, 5 Minutes**

ACTION ITEM: Approve Minutes

The minutes for January 2011, and February 2011, were approved unanimously with Commissioners Richards, Martin, Mansell, Kohler, Blackham, Ellertson and Styler voting in the affirmative. John Bennett indicated that the March meeting minutes were not yet completed and would be considered for approval at the May 2011 meeting.

- 4. Review of the Commission membership and Terms, John Bennett 20 Minutes**
Introduce new members present, discuss elections

John Bennett explained that the terms of six members expired on April 15, 2011. Those members are Laraine Swenson, Brent Tanner, Sally Elliott, Justin Allen, Reed Erickson, and Rob Dubuc.

Brent Tanner, Sally Elliott, and Reed Erickson are being reappointed. Holly Daines will be replacing Laraine Swenson, Roger Wynn will be replacing Rob Dubuc, and Justin Allen is still considering whether to request reappointment. Holly Daines, Reed Erickson, Sally Elliott, Brent Tanner, and Roger Wynn will be confirmed by the Senate at the May interim meeting, and will be eligible to vote at the May meeting giving the Commission twelve confirmed members. Justin Allen, or his replacement will need to be confirmed by the Senate at a future interim meeting.

John Bennett further explained that since seven votes are required to take any action, a unanimous vote of the remaining seven members would be required to complete the business of the April meeting.

5. McAllister Program Report
Outstanding Grants—Status Report
Request for extension—SLC Wasatch Hollow
Request for Emergency Funding for Crawford Spotted Frog Property

John Bennett, 20 Minutes

ACTION ITEM: Act on Emergency Funding and Extension Request

Wasatch Hollow--John Bennett discussed the outstanding grants. He indicated that all were progressing and were within their time frames except for the Salt Lake City Wasatch Hollow Project. This project was supposed to be completed by the end of April 2011, but, because of the high water in the creek, they were unable to complete the project, and were requesting an extension through the summer construction season. Commissioners agreed to extend the Wasatch Hollow grant until October 1, 2011.

Crawford Spotted Frog Emergency Application--John Bennett reminded the Commission that they had originally discussed the Crawford Property at the March meeting. The Crawford property is along the Sanpitch River in Sanpete County immediately adjacent to the Nuttal property that the Commission had worked on earlier. It is important habitat for Spotted Frogs. Together with the Nuttal property, this property provides about 150 acres of excellent riverfront and wetlands habitat for the frogs which are a species of concern in Utah.

Mr. Bennett explained the emergency nature of this application. He reminded Commissioners that the property was under threat of foreclosure, and the chance to preserve the property would be lost if the deal was not closed by May 10, 2011. He also reminded the Commission of the requirement to give thirty percent of the annual allocation to the Department of Natural Resources for wildlife preservation, and indicated that this property was their top priority.

Sally Elliott, John Bennett, and David Mansell visited the site and spoke to its merits. They indicated that its adjacency to Nuttal, and the fact that DWR saw it as their top priority makes it important that the Commission fund this proposal.

Commissioners Richards, Martin, Ellertson, Kohler, Mansell, Blackham and Styler voted to fund this project.

6. Workplan Discussion
Agriculture Sustainability Taskforce
Rich County Easements

John Bennett, 10 minutes

Agricultural Sustainability Taskforce--Commissioner Leonard Blackham explained to the Commission two initiatives of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food that the Quality Growth Commission are being asked to assist with. First, the UDAF and the Lt. Governor are convening an Agricultural Sustainability Taskforce to discuss ways to help and promote the Agricultural industry in Utah and to Conserve Agricultural Land. The Utah Quality Growth Commission has been asked to be one of the

sponsoring entities. John Bennett, and Evan Curtis, Quality Growth Commission Staff will provide staff support to the taskforce, and John Bennett will also serve as a member of the Commission. Commissioner Blackham, who is the Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of Utah, asked that several members of the Quality Growth Commission also serve on the taskforce. Chairman Richards appointed himself, Vice Chairman Martin, David Mansell, and Brent Tanner to serve on the taskforce.

Rich County Easements—Commissioner Blackham also discussed an opportunity that had presented itself to conserve some critical range land in Rich County. He indicated that the UDAF was working with several landowners on a proposal to place large tracts of federal, private and state lands into a consolidated grazing plan that would use time limited grazing with numerous pastures to improve the health of the land. As part of this program, the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture had offered up to \$16 million for conservation easements on the private lands involved in this program. After negotiation, the UDAF was seeking \$2 million to be matched by an additional \$2 million. He indicated that the UDAF will apply for some funds from the LeRay McAllister Program, but might need to have commitment sooner than the September timeframe that we are already working toward. John Bennett indicated that he had been to Rich County twice to assist with this project, and that he would assist them in submitting the necessary pre-application to get into this round of funding. Chairman Richards indicated that he wanted the Commission to consider this project under emergency authority if necessary to ensure that we meet the deadline. John Bennett indicated that we would have the Pre-Applications at the May meeting, and that the Commission could discuss at that time whether to grant an emergency status to this project or move it through the regular process.

7. Marketing Plan Discussion

John, Sally, JT 15 Minutes

In the March meeting, Vice Chairman JT Martin, Sally Elliott, and Mike Kohler were assigned to a special Committee to consider ways to improve marketing for the Commission. On April 5, 2011, John Bennett, Executive Director of the Commission met with Vice Chairman Martin and Sally Elliott to discuss this issue. They presented some marketing ideas for the Commission.

8. **Administrative Matters:** Next meeting scheduled for May 26, 2011, location State Capitol, Suite 140.