

UTAH QUALITY GROWTH COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, December 6, 2005, 11:00 a.m.
East Capitol Complex, Olmsted Room
Capitol Hill
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2210

MEMBERS PRESENT

ALLEN, Dave	Summit County Rancher
BARBER, Brad	Member-at-large
BILLINGS, Lewis	Mayor, City of Provo
BLACKHAM, Leonard	Commissioner, Dept Agriculture & Food
CAIN, Camille	Weber County Commissioner
CHRISTENSEN, Carlton	Vice-Chair; Salt Lake City Council
DAVIS, Jaren	Utah Association of Realtors
LOFGREN, Dan	Chair ; Utah Home Builders
PAGE, Carol	Davis County Commissioner
RICHARDS, Flint	Utah Farm Bureau Federation
SMITH, Darrell	Mayor, City of Draper
STYLER, Mike	Director, Dept. of Natural Resources (participating by phone)

MEMBERS EXCUSED

KOHLER, Mike	Wasatch County Council (Available by phone)
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GOPB STAFF

BENNETT, John	Project Manager
BOHN, Laura	Project Manager
CARVER, Brian	Project Manager
NEILSON, Nancy	Administrative Assistant

GUESTS

GILLMAN, Kelly	CRSA
HAMILTON, Kevin	Weber County Planning
HERBERT, Gary R.	Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah
LARSON, Mark E.	Roy City
LEHMAN, Jill	Government Relations, The Nature Conservancy
PRICE, Ann	Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FF&SL)
SCHVAUEVELAT, Kim	UDOT

SLATER, Bruce	Department of Environmental Quality
SMITH, Amanda	The Nature Conservancy
SOMMERKORN, Wilf	Davis County/UAC
STEINAGEL, Mark	OLRGC
TUCKER, Brian	Midvale City

Agenda item #1 – Introductions – Dan Lofgren

Dan Lofgren welcomed those in attendance. Guests in the room introduced themselves.

Agenda item #2 – Public Comments

Ann Price of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FF&SL) reminded the Commission of legislation that was introduced last year entitled “Conservation Easement Endowment – Restricted Account,” sponsored by Beverly Ann Evans. This bill will be reintroduced this year, again by Beverly Ann Evans. This legislation will establish legality and funding for monitoring conservation easements (see handout). This bill cannot include maintenance of such easements because the funds would be readily depleted.

This bill:

- *Creates within the General Fund a restricted account consisting of grants and donations from foundations, the (Utah) Quality Growth Commission, the state and federal governments, and landowners;*
- *and specifies that the fund is to be used to monitor conservation easements held by the Department of Natural Resources.*

A public endorsement for the bill will be given by the Commission since this is legislation is critical for the future of land conservation efforts.

Action taken: The motion to endorse the bill publicly and with the understanding that members of the Commission will assist with the draft was made by Councilman Carlton Christensen. Brad Barber seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Agenda item #3 – Approval of Minutes from the October 26, 2005 meeting

Action taken: With the change noted that Brad Barber was in attendance at the October meeting through teleconference, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Mayor Darrell Smith and Dave Allen seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Agenda item #4 – Report on Meeting with Political Subdivisions Interim Committee

Dan reported that the Commission was admonished to “address education more aggressively” at the meeting. “Education is part of infrastructure,” Dan was told. The question was asked, “What can we do

for education?” It was noted that the Communities program does address cooperation with the education element in their criteria. Local governments are encouraged to communicate with school districts.

The request is a result of research indicating small school districts and smaller schools favor a better education for students, thus encouragement of smaller schools with quality growth. However, the question was asked about funding available for more and smaller districts.

Coordinating school districts with city planning needs more attention. A ‘best practices study’ was encouraged and the Governor’s Office of Planning was asked to make recommendations on how to do this at the next meeting. Another suggestion was to invite legislators to speak to the issue at a Commission meeting to increase understanding.

Another idea was to have teachers teach growth principles in the schools. For example, help students understand how their activities affect water shed in their respective areas. Perhaps the Commission could create and offer something that teachers can utilize.

Agenda item #5 – Planning Grant Subcommittee Report: Approve Subcommittee Recommendation regarding planning grant applications

NAME/DESCRIPTION	REQUEST	ALLOCATION/REASON
Cache County (This is reimbursement for a project.)	\$ 4,000.00	\$1,516.00 (Because Cache County has received funds from the Quality Growth Commission previously, and more than once, it was felt that some follow up was necessary on a previous project before allocating more funds. They are encouraged to apply on the next round.)
Wasatch County An increase in traffic along Heber City’s main street resulted in a child’s death. Therefore, they are conducting a ‘traffic modeling’ study that has already been shared with other local governments.	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
City of Ferron Their General Plan dates back to 1982 and an update is needed.	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00 (This grant will be reserved for 90 days so that assistance for planning can be secured through a graduate student, for example, and with assistance from the State Planning Office - OPB)
Weber County (This grant will provide funding for	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

getting ordinances in place for the Ogden Valley Recreation project.)		
Box Elder County (This project entails flood plain mapping.)	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Monticello (Mapping municipal infrastructure under a single software format because everything is in different formats.)	\$14,500.00	\$10,000.00
Monticello	\$ 9,000.00	(Needs matching funds, etc.)
Washington Terrace City	\$ 5,000.00	(ripeness, not ready)
Fillmore	\$ 5,000.00	(ripeness, not ready)
Wayne County	\$ 7,500.00	(ripeness, not ready)
Washington/Five County	(Request may come in 2006)	n/a
TOTAL	\$87,000.00 (In Requests)	\$53,516.00 (Total funds available)

Action taken: Commissioner Carol Page made the motion to accept the Planning Grant Subcommittee’s recommendations for allocating funds. Flint Richards seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Action taken: Dave Allen made the motion to approve the extensions for the following local governments and Flint Richards seconded the motion.

- St George through May of 2006**
- Salt Lake City through June of 2006**
- Kamas/Oakley through August of 2006**
- Salt Lake County/Bluffdale City through August of 2006**

The motion carried unanimously.

Lunch:

Presentation on proposed Yahoo group for Quality Growth Commission – Brian Carver/Mike Hansen

Even though the idea had merit according to Commission members, there was concern over open meeting laws, having a full quorum if decisions were made, and third party GRAMMA requirements, etc. It was thought that some information could be posted on the State website. Also noted was the fact that it is easier to retrieve an email than to have to find a site. Some felt it may be something to look at in the future.

Agenda item #6 – Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert – Quality Growth Issues (excerpts from his speech)

Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert is a former member of the Utah Quality Growth Commission and he began by saying, “It actually is an honor for me to be here with you. It’s kind of like

old home week. I know all of you here. And it's just good to be back where I think some really good things are happening on behalf of the state. I look at Brad Barber and I was just thinking it seems like only yesterday that we were roaming the halls up there trying to get the Quality Growth Commission statute in place. I believe on the 24th or 25th version we finally got something that people would vote in favor of and that was the creation of the Quality Growth Commission. I had the opportunity to serve on it on behalf of UAC and now look where I'm at!

"The growth of the state has been phenomenal and it certainly goes in cycles but as we saw a couple weeks ago in the paper, the growth is significant throughout the state. There are a lot of reasons for that. The birth rate in Utah is the highest in the nation. So we always have growth! We have also been blessed with a good economy. Dan knows from the home building side that there has never been a better time to build homes than in the last fifteen years in Utah. The Governor and I understand that it is important that continues. That we account for growth pressures, not only internal growth but we're going to have in migration. We're going to have people look at Utah and say that's a great place to live, to raise a family. We want to make sure it's a great place to do that and have business. Growth is clearly in our future. I think our future is very bright.

"There are a couple of issues that we have some significant challenge (with) in my mind and the Governor has recognized and has put me in charge of as the point person for the Executive Branch of Government. And that's transportation and water. We've met with a lot of government folks, the business community, our AOG's talking about transportation and the cost for us to address - is having a functional and comprehensive transportation system in the State. The Governor recognizes that under his platform which is what? Economic Development! You cannot have sustained economic growth and vitality if we don't have appropriate infrastructure. That means transportation and that means a lot of it.

"A lot of the State does not understand the magnitude of the (transportation) problem. There is no place you can go in the State that you don't have a transportation challenge. With the demands from local government and the State on just highways and roads alone we have a need for about 4 ½ billion dollars. Now we get about a billion of that. That means we are about 3 to 3 ½ billion dollars short of building the roads that we believe for the State of Utah we need to have to sustain growth. There is no single solution. We have to work together.

"Secondly, let me just mention to you the water aspect. One thing we cannot do is not have enough water. We sometimes forget that we live in a desert. Because of the drought we've done things to change our lifestyle. Conservation needs to continue to be a part of our way of life. We need to reduce our utilization of water by about 25% between now and 2050 if we're going to survive. That means going from about 421 gallons per person per day in use to about 241 gallons of water per person per day. That still exceeds the national average by a significant amount.

"I've grown up here and I've always turned the faucet and water has always come out. If you talk to my ancestors it's a different story. We have a system of irrigation and utilization of reservoirs that's been pretty phenomenal. But it's time for us to understand that the easy, if that was ever easy, accumulation of water is over.

"And we have a couple of projects that need to be addressed that will help us bring more water on but we also have a need for conservation that will help us make up the difference. We have a need for 900,000 acre feet of water by 2050. We can develop probably about 400,000 of that amount of water by development, whether it is the Lake Powell Pipeline Project or the Bear River Basin Project. The other

500,000 acre feet is going to have to come from conservation and better utilization of our resources. With better education and heightened awareness we can conserve significantly, with better landscaping modes we can do better. (He noted ideas coming from the Jordan Valley Water Conservation District.) And that is what the State is going to be pushing over the next few years to see if we can't in fact enhance the conservation.

“Those are two areas that I am involved with that certainly will impact you as far as quality growth. We have to make sure that we have the right process in place to get the result that we desire. (He gave examples where government has made some serious mistakes.)

“We express our appreciation to those here. You have practical, real experience in life. And so from Governor Huntsman let me just express our appreciation and gratitude for the work that you do in this capacity and many others. We have a couple of our cabinet members here that are doing great work and people from our GOPB office and we just have the highest regard for the service that they're rendering in behalf of not only this committee here but supporting the Huntsman/Herbert Administration too.

“I can tell you without announcing the exact numbers that if you liked what (funding) you had last year you'll probably like what you get the next year. You should get some comfort in realizing that Governor Huntsman has the Quality Growth Commission as a priority in his funding mechanism.”

Agenda item #7 – Critical Lands Subcommittee Report: Review draft score sheet for future McAllister Fund rounds.

Copies of the recommended score sheet for allocating McAllister funds created by the Critical Land Subcommittee were handed out. The two sizes handed out were a legal sheet in landscape orientation and an 8 ½ x 11 sheet in portrait orientation.

Since the Critical Lands Subcommittee will address this score sheet further in their next meeting no action was taken. The question of technical assistance teams on the score sheet was brought up

There needs to be a formal committee established for the Critical Lands Subcommittee otherwise unfair decisions can be made. In other words, whoever shows up could get the vote. It was agreed that the standard for the members needs to be established allowing such to play a formal role.

Agenda item #8 – Review revised proposal for new partnership with Envision Utah on “Governor's Quality Growth Awards”

Three meetings were announced:

Wednesday, January 25th 2006

Wednesday, March 15th

Wednesday, April 15th (all of the above are Committee Meetings)

Friday, March 3rd – Full applications due

Thursday, April 20th – Envision Utah Steering Committee

Wednesday, April 26th – Utah Quality Growth Commission
Mid to Late May – Quality Growth Awards Program

1. *Award for Planning and Design*
2. *Award for Implementation of Quality Developments*
3. *Award for Implementation of Quality Growth Strategies*
4. *Award for Regional Planning or Implementation*
5. *Award for Critical Land Conservation*

Although the Commission has allocated \$5,000.00 in funds to support the awards program there will be further discussion regarding the two entities and their roles. One idea is that the Quality Growth Commission award the public awards whereas Envision would honor the private projects. Even though there are common interests and common goals between Envision and the Utah Quality Growth Commission there is the question of having the Commission tied to a private awards program. Is there a conflict of interest?

By getting the commission involved, the cost of the event has been cut by changing the place and the public notification of the recipients. It was suggested that the State website could be used to honor quality growth projects instead of the expensive newspaper ad that may not be satisfying the desired goal anyway.

Agenda item #9 – Administrative Items.

The next Quality Growth meeting will be held Wednesday, **January 25th offsite** because the Legislature will be in Session (January 16th through March 1, 2006) Staff will find a room and sponsor for the meeting.

Action Items:

- **Commission to revisit the formal role of members of the Critical Lands Subcommittee – who are the members?**
- **Revisit the Quality Growth Awards issue.**
- **Staff to discuss ideas for a ‘best practices study’ at the next Commission meeting**
- **Nancy to schedule an offsite meeting (because of the Session) for January 25th**
- **Nancy to send Thank You note to Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert from Dan**
- **(Title needed on 8 ½ x 11 score sheet)**
- **(Invite Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert back again as requested by him)**

Adjourn:

1:45 p.m.