

**DRAFT** Minutes for the ULCT Legislative Policy Committee  
Meeting  
October 27, 2014  
Zions Bank Founders Room (18<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Prepared by Brandon Smith, ULCT

**1: Welcome-**

Welcome by First Vice President Lynn Pace of Holladay.

**2: Research –**

Nick Jarvis presented research on the \$0.0025 sales tax projections, and briefly touched on benchmarking. He announced that the sales tax projection data as well as gas tax data will be available for every municipality in the state and that ULCT will distribute that information soon.

Mr. Jarvis then introduced Brandon Smith, the League’s new Legislative Research Analyst. Mr. Smith gave a brief background on himself.

**3: Legislative –**

**A: Wildfire- (Cameron Diehl)**

Brian Cottam, the Division Director for the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, shared a brief video presentation about how cities and counties are monetarily affected differently by wildfires. Brian followed the video by explaining that a change was necessary because of conflicting laws that are interpreted differently. This was followed by what he and the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL) recommend those policy changes should be, including the State assuming wildland fire suppression costs on all lands other than federal lands. For the state to cover those suppression costs, the local governments would then maintain the proper equipment, training, and ordinances for the local “match.” Mr. Cottam then explained that FFSL has an internal working group, while the Utah Association of Counties and the Utah League of Cities and Towns also have work groups to help address the details of the proposed policy changes. He also explained that other stakeholders will be involved in these conversations as needed.

There was a question asked about whether or not the details of an actual bill could be finished in time for the 2015 Legislative Session. Mr. Cottam’s response was that they were going to do it right, not fast.

Another question was about the “Local Match” portion, and whether it would be money or man hours. Mr. Cottam explained that they would be mindful of not creating a policy that would be a burden to the municipalities.

**B: Transportation-(Ken Bullock and Cameron Diehl)**

Cameron Diehl discussed the Transportation Coalition and how the League is a part of that coalition. He explained how the chambers are big partners in the Coalition.

Chip from South Jordan talked about the resolution they got passed in their city, and related why it was important for cities and towns to do a resolution of their own to build public and legislative support. He then offered some suggestions on how to craft the resolution, including:

- Speak specifically to what your municipality needs
- Growth is an issue and it needs to be supported by taxes
- Present an expanded view of transportation
- Transportation needs to be tied to healthcare and other relatable issues
- Resolutions need to be distributed to the Governor, senators, representatives, UAC, transportation authorities, and other applicable people, groups, and offices

Mr. Diehl expressed the ULCT desire to use the Local Officials Day event (January 28) to show that all the cities and towns are on board.

Nicole Martin from Sandy discussed the toolkit that will be available to help educate the public on the issue. In educating the public there needs to be present the four problems and four solutions, and addressing the new definition of transportation. The toolkit will be ready on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Abby Albrecht, from the Utah Transportation Coalition, said that there is a sizeable budget for the Coalition's campaign, and that a large portion (60%+) is from the private sector. Ms. Albrecht shared that the kick-off for the campaign was going to be at the Farmington Station at 10:30 on November 17<sup>th</sup>, which will be followed by an event in St. George on the 18<sup>th</sup>, an event in Cache County on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and a final event in Vernal on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The 19<sup>th</sup> is interim meetings and will have a Coalition event as well.

Ms. Albrecht shared how the education has begun its own campaign for more funds, and explained that there is a plan to merge both of those campaigns into a working relationship. Mr. Diehl explained that the chambers are interested in both transportation and education and is helping on both fronts.

After a question, it was pointed out that the sample resolution being sent out to the cities could be passed "as is" if they would like. It was also reiterated the importance of showing a united effort to the legislature.

#### **C: Water-Cameron Diehl**

Mr. Diehl briefly touched on Impairment Protection. It is currently be drafted by the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel. The hope is to a draft back before interim on November 19th.

#### **D: Marketplace/Sales Tax-Cameron Diehl and Roger Tew**

Roger Tew addressed the marketplace and sales tax efforts, explaining that Lynn was heading the task force. Mr. Bullock shared how Sen. Bramble and Gov. Herbert are positioned well to help on this issue. Mr. Tew discussed Congress and the Marketplace Fairness Act and Internet Tax Freedom Act, and the possibility of it passing or not.

#### **E: Referendum- Roger Tew**

Mr. Tew also went through potential changes taking place in regards to referendums, explained this is a long-term process, and said it will need to be addressed systematically.

**F: Interlocal Changes-Roger Tew**

Other issues discussed were campaign disclosures and the need for a common state definition, but still allowing flexibility for local governments.

**G: Land Use Task Force-Jodi Hoffman**

Jodi Hoffman discussed infrastructure and improvements, and reiterated the referendum bill from last year.

**H: Other Issues Raised by LPC**

Mr. Diehl discussed Good Landlord, Salt Lake County Townships, and assessment areas. He invited those who wanted to be more involved with the Good Landlord program to contact him after the meeting.

**4: Plaintiff's Attorneys-**

Lobbyist Paul Rogers brought a proposed idea before the LPC body. His proposal was to create a “clearinghouse” for the purpose of properly identifying which government is the correct government to pursue in legal pursuits. This proposal also suggested that if the wrong government was pursued, there be an extension from the standard 12 months, to 14 months to find the correct government responsible. The suggestion was that the League, or a similar group, be that clearinghouse. The LPC pushed back significantly on the idea with multiple critical questions and there was no effort to support it.