

April 16, 2009 UGS Board Meeting
Utah Geological Survey, Room 3000
Salt Lake City, Utah

Approval of Minutes

Jack Hamilton moved to approve minutes with corrections mentioned. Mark Bunnell seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried unanimously.

Introduction

We introduced Bill Loughlin, Don Harris, Tom Tripp and the reappointment of Jack Hamilton to a second term on the UGS Board. Each member gave a brief description of their background.

Financial Report

UGS Revenue Sources

The UGS has traditionally had three main sources of revenue: General Funds awarded by the legislature, Mineral Lease funds from oil, gas, and coal extraction activity on federal lands (about 2.25% of the share returned to Utah), and contract revenue from both federal and local government sources. Total revenue in recent years has been in the \$7 million - \$10 million range. The director discussed recent trends.

Expenditure Trends for FY09

The UGS is closely following budgeted expenditure for the year. The Director discussed the supporting financial information in the board packet, which includes the following:

- Expense summary for March 2009
- Year-to-Date expenditure trend compared to budget
- Mineral Lease receipts to date
- Proposal history table

Revenue Trends for FY09

The Director discussed recent trends. Contracts are invoiced quarterly, so after the most recent cycle of billings (50% of year) the revenue is 33% of budget. The UGS is normally below budget until the end of year billings, as work gets completed towards the end of the FY. For the same reason, pass-through payments to contractors often are below budget until the end of the year.

Snake Valley drilling and groundwater monitoring has been a major strain on the Groundwater Section for the last three years. By summer, the remaining task will be writing up a final report. One concern is the long term costs of maintaining the monitoring network. At the moment these are unfunded.

Legislative Update

The Director and Kimm Harty reviewed the FY09 legislative session. The major item for the UGS leading up to and during this year's legislative session was the potential size of cuts in General Funds to agencies. The bottom line was that ongoing General Funds to the UGS were trimmed by 15%, or \$467k. About 4% of this is retrospective to this FY. The plan for the UGS is to cut about \$300k out of next year's operating budget and use Mineral Lease carry forward as a temporary buffer against both General Fund cuts and likely Mineral Lease shortfalls in FY10. No staffing cutbacks are planned.

Personnel Changes

Richard Austin, Jay Hill and Meghan Golden were introduced to the Board

Other Item

Bill Loughlin volunteered to chair the State Mapping Advisory Committee.

Brief Program Reviews

Each program manager gave a brief overview of their program. Presentations were given by David Tabet (Energy and Minerals), Grant Willis (Mapping Geology), Sandy Eldregde (Geologic Information and Outreach), Mike Lowe (Ground Water and Paleontology), Steven Bowman (Geologic Hazards), and Jason Berry (State Energy Program; by phone).

101st AASG Conference, Park City

As has been discussed at previous Board meetings, the UGS is hosting the 101st Annual Conference of the Association of American State Geologists at Park City, June 21 – 24, 2009. The USGS is helping out with a major sponsorship offer. The USGS will be staying in Park City for one extra day to have a (closed) strategic planning meeting with the top 20 – 25 in their organization. They should have a new Director appointed by then.

Registrations have been opened up, and we expect a slightly smaller turnout than normal because of the tough financial situation facing many state budget (and restrictions on out-of-state travel).

Utah Core Research Center Modifications

After many delays getting the plans finalized, the informal opening of the expansion will occur with the May staff meeting. The Board toured the facility immediately after adjourning the meeting.

Action Item

2009 Meeting dates were voted on and approved unanimously. The dates decided upon are: June 11th, August 6th, October 16th – 18th, and January 7th, 2010.

Adjournment

At 11:20 a.m., Mark Bunnell motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Don Harris seconded the motion. A vote was taken and it carried unanimously.