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## Utah Population Estimates Committee

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**MINUTES**  
**December 10, 1998**  
**3:00-5:00 p.m.**

### *Committee Members*

#### *Present:*

**Natalie Gochnour, Chair**  
**Brad Barber, GOPB**  
**Patty Bowles, Utah Office of Education**  
**Walter Busse, LDS Church**  
**Ron Durtschi, Mountain Fuel**  
**Frank Hachman, Bureau of Econ. & Bus. Res.**  
**Ken Jensen, Dept. of Workforce Services**  
**Barry Nangle, Utah Dept. of Health**  
**Ross Reeve, GOPB**  
**Jim Robson, Utah Foundation**  
**Courtney White, Utah Board of Regents**  
**Tom Williams, Utah Tax Commission**

#### *Staff:*

**Sally Allen, GOPB**  
**Peter Donner, GOPB**  
**Jamie Jensen, GOPB**  
**Lance Rovig, GOPB**

#### *Absent:*

**Mike Toney, Utah State University**

**Welcome - Natalie Gochnour, Committee Chair**

### **I. Approval of December 18, 1997 Minutes**

**A motion was made by Ken Jensen to approve the December 18, 1997 minutes. The motion was seconded by Frank Hachman. The motion carried.**

## **II. Recap of 1997-1998 UPEC Activities**

### **Natalie Gochnour**

Natalie provided a summary of committee activities of the past year.

Something new and exciting for the Committee is that we have recently launched a web interface ([www.governor.state.ut.us/dea/demographics/popest.htm](http://www.governor.state.ut.us/dea/demographics/popest.htm)). This sight will provide information and disclosure about who is in UPEC and what the committee does.

## **III. Background of Forecasting Using Past Estimates**

### **Lance Rovig**

Lance prepares economic and revenue forecasts for GOPB. Population change (with an emphasis on migration) is a critical input variable for Lance's work. He has found that the Bureau of the Census migration series tracks better with some of the macroeconomic data that he forecasts. Lance presented examples of his analysis for committee review. Of particular interest is the migration for 1997. The committee discussed the relative strengths and weaknesses of UPEC and Census methods. No motions were made to adjust past estimates. The committee took Lance's work under advisement. Lance shared a packet of graphs with each member of the Committee.

## **IV. Overview of Past Census Bureau and UPEC Estimates**

### **Peter Donner**

Peter provided the Committee with a population estimates-by-county packet. Peter discussed 1997 estimates, and the analysis of outliers. The Committee was asked whether or not they would like to revisit last year's estimates or move right into 1998's estimates. Discussion ensued about the Committee's methodologies, and the possibility of revising the 1997 estimates. A decision was made to wait for the 2000 Census data before making any changes to the 1997 estimates.

## **V. Consideration and Approval of 1998 State and County Estimates**

The Committee looked at school enrollment, LDS membership, and IRS tax exemptions for each county and for the state. A handout of this information was provided by the staff. The Committee reviewed employment growth and utility data in counties where a significant divergence appeared among methods. Estimates were agreed upon by committee members.

**A motion was made by Jim Robson to approve the proposed 1998 population estimates for each county in Utah and for the state, providing that the Bureau of the Census estimates (to be released later in the month) don't alter Committee opinion. The agreed upon July 1, 1998 state estimate is 2,083,238. The motion was seconded by Walter Busse. The motion carried.**

## **VI. Other Business**

The staff will provide Bureau of the Census estimates to each Committee member later in the month. All members will be given the option to reconvene.

Another meeting will be held if necessary upon arrival of the Census data.

**The Meeting was Adjourned**