

BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft – Minutes Of The Meeting Held on **February 4th, 2025, at 4:00PM**
Hybrid

Topic: Boating Advisory Council Introductory Meeting

Date: February 4th, 2025 – **Time:** 4:00–6:00 PM – **Location:** Virtual/Soldier Hollow

Meeting Point:

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/ygr-vdwa-tcz>

Or dial: (US) +1 530-481-6113 PIN: 921 188 258#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/ygr-vdwa-tcz?pin=1158899299294>

Meeting Attendees: Dewitt Smith, Jenny Knudsen, Jason Taylor, Jeffery Salt, Zachary Williams, George Sommer, Adam Eakle, John Laursen, Tim Herzog

Department Staff: Jason Curry, Patrick Morrison, Ty Hunter, Craig Walker, Shane Stroud, Jorge Vazquez

Agenda – Meeting Minutes

1. **Information (4:00PM) – Welcome**
 - a. **Introduction of the Attendees**
 - i. **Members – Respective Positions**
 - ii. **Department Staff**
 - iii. **Members of the Public**

(09:50) - Jeff Salt, Chairman of the Voting Advisory Council, welcomed all attendees to the meeting on February 4, 2025. The meeting began with introductions, where council members and department staff shared their names, roles, and areas of representation.

Jeff Salt, chairman of the Boating Advisory Council, leading the meeting. Jorge Vazquez, Motorized Recreation Grant Analyst with the Division of Outdoor Recreation, assisting the council. Jason Taylor, Outfitter representative from Moab, Utah. Zach Williams, representative for personal watercraft users, based in Eden, Utah. Jenny Knudsen, council member representing boating sports activities, from West Jordan, Utah. Dewitt Smith, representing sailing, based in Heber, Utah. Adam Eakle, representative for motorboat users, based in Salt Lake City, also with an interest in fishing. John Laursen, representing boating safety and education, with prior experience as a former boating ranger and current commissioner for Utah County. Ty Hunter, boating Program Manager with the Division of Outdoor Recreation. Jason Curry, Director of the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation. Patrick Morrison, Recreation Program Director at the Division of Outdoor Recreation. Shane Stout, Assistant Attorney General assisting the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Chair Salt provided an overview of the meeting's goals, emphasizing that it would focus on brainstorming, sharing ideas, and setting the foundation for future council operations. Key areas of discussion include defining the council's bylaws, strategic planning for the next 3-5 years, media outreach, interacting with the legislature, and reviewing and approving grants for funding projects. Jeff stressed the importance of creating a functional structure that works for everyone, ensuring it is not overbearing and allows the council to enjoy the process while doing important work for the state. The meeting is intended to lay the groundwork for more concrete action items in future sessions.

2. Information (4:10PM) - Approval of meeting minutes

(16:40) - Chair Salt entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 18, 2024.

JASON TAYLOR MADE THE MOTION, AND ZACK WILLIAMS SECONDED IT. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT ANY DISCUSSION OR OBJECTIONS.

3. Information (4:15PM) - Old Business

(18:48) - The next agenda item addressed any old business. Chair Salt noted there were no actionable items from the last meeting unless anyone remembered something not listed in the minutes. He mentioned the recent boat show, where the Division put on a great

display, and shared his experience interacting with attendees, especially regarding the AIS sticker and law enforcement's role in enforcement and regulation interpretation. Some members, including Chair Salt, attended the show and expressed appreciation for the booth and staff.

Tim Herzog introduced himself as being with the Boat Shack, expressing his gratitude for being part of the meeting.

4. Information (4:20PM) - Updates and Announcements

a. Legislative Update

(20:50) - Chair Salt moved to the next item on the agenda which is a legislative updates and invited Mr. Hunter to give an overview. Mr. Hunter provided a legislative update, covering key bills and their impact on boating regulations and insurance requirements.

- **Legislative Session Status:**
 - Currently on day 15 or 16 of the legislative session.
- **House Bill 147 (Aquatic Invasive Species Amendments):**
 - Removes paddle sports and paddle craft from the requirement to take an education course.
 - Updates on who will be issuing decals and the authority of issuing them, shifting from the Division of Wildlife Resources to the Division of Law Enforcement.
- **Senate Bill 27:**
 - Changes in boat insurance reporting: Insurance companies will now report liability insurance to InsureRight, which will provide that info to local dispatches and officers.
 - If a citation is issued for lack of insurance, there will be a mandatory court appearance.
 - New policy for sending insurance-related letters: Letters will be sent from April to October, and if uninsured, the registration could be revoked after two letters, with a reinstatement fee.
 - Aim: Ensure boats are insured, especially in the case of accidents.
- **Senate Bill 52 (Vehicle Registration Modifications):**
 - InsureRight will report to the Tax Commission on whether vehicles, vessels, and other registered items are owned by Utah residents.

- If a Utah resident has a vehicle registered in another state but insured in Utah, they will receive a notice to correct this and register the vehicle in Utah.
- **Senate Bill 200 (Watercraft Amendments):**
 - House Bill 299 cleanup from 2023: Adjustments to how Utah Boating Grant funds are split.
 - Personal watercraft definition change: Now includes other propulsion devices beyond jet propulsion (e-foils).
 - New definition of "water jet device": This includes items like JetLev and flyboards, which were previously undefined.
 - Collaboration with the Division of Motor Vehicles to define "water jet device" and its category under watercraft laws.

Ty opened the floor for questions but continued with updates, providing more details on each bill.

Chair Salt asked Ty if there was anything needed from the council members, such as letters of support or attending committee hearings, or if the bills were on track with their intended goals. Ty confirmed the bills are on track and encouraged council members to get involved in the legislative process, using the Utah legislative tracking system for updates and reaching out to legislators if they feel strongly about the bills.

b. Statewide Boating Updates

(31:45) - Chair Salt moved Statewide Boating Updates and there was various updates that were provided to the council such as:

- **North Wash Project:** Mr. Hunter provided an update on the division securing funding through the Outdoor Adventure Commission to support research and initial setup for improving the North Wash area. This is a crucial access point for both private and commercial boaters in Cataract Canyon.
- **Pine View Reservoir Projects:** Chair Salt mentioned that the Forest Service has earmarked money for boating access projects at Pine View, including a \$27 million rebuild of the west-side port launch facility. He also provided insights, noting that this project will impact the traffic and boat ramp areas for a few years.
- **State Fleet and Shop Improvements:** Mr. Curry highlighted the effort to secure funding for rebuilding the 50-year-old shop facility that supports maintenance for 68 watercraft used by rangers and state parks. This request was included in the

division's initial budget request and has been presented in both the transportation and natural resources appropriations subcommittees.

- **Funding Projects and Outdoor Recreation Initiative:** Mr. Morrison brought up funding for work at Strawberry Reservoir and Flaming Gorge. He emphasized the importance of collaboration with the council as larger-scale projects continue, particularly in the years to come. He expressed a desire to bounce ideas off the Boating Advisory Council as the Forest Service works on projects like those at Flaming Gorge and others.
- **Collaboration with Fishing Community:** Chair Salt added the importance of coordinating with the fishing community, which is also a significant user of boating facilities, to address both groups' concerns. He suggested potentially holding a meeting with the Utah Anglers Coalition to discuss these larger-scale boating projects.

c. Announcements, Events, etc.

(40:50) - Chair Salt moved Statewide Boating Updates and there was various updates that were provided to the council such as:

Fishing Day on the Hill: The Boating Advisory Council will have a table at **Fishing Day on the Hill** on **Monday, February 10th**, from **7 AM to 10 AM** at the **State Capitol Rotunda**. Council members are encouraged to attend, meet the public, and share information about their roles. It's primarily a fishing-focused event, but it's a great opportunity to connect with the fishing community.

ISE Show: Chair Salt asked if there was an opportunity for council members to assist with the International Sportsmen's Expo (ISE) Show, Mr Hunter mentioned that the division was looking at the possibility of attending the show and more information would be provided as they move forward.

5. Information (4:35PM) - Public Comments

During this time members of the public will be given 3 minutes to inform the Council about boating issues or topics not listed on the meeting agenda. No actions can be taken by the Council. Rules of decorum and respect will be adhered to.

(44:01) - Chair Salt invited any members of the public who might be attending to speak on any boating-related topics not yet covered in the agenda. Not seeing or hearing from any public attendees, he moved on to the next agenda item.

6. Information (4:40PM) - BAC Roles and Responsibilities

a. Review:

- i. Statutory authorities, roles, and responsibilities of the Council**
- ii. Current and comparable By-laws**
- iii. Past functions and activities of Council**

(44:01) - Chair Salt introduced a discussion on the Council's roles and responsibilities, asking Mr. Stroud for more details beyond the December meeting. Shane explained that the Council is established by statute and administrative rule, with the statute allowing for its creation and the rules defining its makeup. The Council's primary role is to recommend state boating policies, not grants. Mr. Hunter clarified that the Council represents nine boating interests, including safety, sailing, marine dealers, and more. He also noted that the Council is tasked with reviewing boating grants, as mentioned by Mr. Stroud its required by Section 73-18-22 of the Boating Act, which mandates the Division of Outdoor Recreation consult with the Council before issuing grants.

Chair Salt proposed creating both electronic and physical binders for each council member containing relevant documents like statutes, rules, and the council's roles. These binders would serve as references for the council's work plan.

Mr. Stroud mentioned the potential adoption of bylaws, similar to other advisory councils, and noted the Governor's Office publishes an annual guidebook for boards and commissions.

Chair Salt clarified that today's meeting was for introducing topics, not making decisions. He emphasized the need for flexible, amendable bylaws to allow the council to adapt and take action when necessary, inviting feedback from members.

Mr. Smith agreed with this approach, emphasizing the keeping things simple and flexible to achieve long-term goals. Mr. Williams echoed this, stating that bylaws should strike a balance between being specific enough to provide purpose but general enough to allow flexibility.

Chair Salt asked Mr. Hunter and Mr. Sommer to provide a summary of the previous council's functions. Mr Hunter explained that the council oversaw rule reviews, took public comments, and helped draft administrative rules. One of the key responsibilities was reviewing Boating Access Grants, which had been renamed from Motorboat Access Grants.

The council played a major role in deciding which applications would move forward and often conducted site visits to evaluate the projects firsthand.

George added that the council also did a lot of outreach with constituents, bringing in projects and ideas from the boating community. They discussed these during funding cycles to ensure the most impactful projects received support. He emphasized that despite disruptions from COVID, the council's work, particularly around reviewing applications and ensuring projects benefited the community, was vital.

Vice Chair Taylor, another returning member, echoed George's comments, noting that the focus was on reviewing applications and ensuring that funding went to projects with the most potential. Though he missed the site visits, he agreed with the importance of the council's role in making impactful decisions.

Vice Chair Taylor said the advisory board mainly provided feedback on state proposals, particularly how they would impact different areas of the boating community. The board wasn't involved in creating regulations but offered advice, especially on issues like aquatic invasive species (AIS). The state often appreciated the board's input, acknowledging overlooked considerations.

Chair Salt emphasized the importance of the public driving discussions and working together with agencies as partners, even when disagreements arise. He hopes the council will facilitate two-way communication, sharing information between agencies and constituents. This approach, similar to the previous council, would involve gathering public feedback, sharing ideas with the agency, and ensuring a close loop of communication.

Mr. Smith observed an event recently, emphasizing the value of sharing information and interacting with the public. He suggested that the council should aim to attend more events statewide to raise awareness about boating issues, with goals such as attending five festivals a year.

Mr. Hunter outlined the division's mission to promote safe, enjoyable outdoor recreation in Utah, focusing on health, safety, and economic benefits. He emphasized the council's role in ensuring safe water recreation, reviewing rules, and addressing ongoing issues like Quail Creek. He also encouraged the council to adapt to new technologies and prioritize the broader needs of Utah's residents and visitors.

He stressed the importance of guiding citizen initiatives and evaluating state boating policies. Lastly, he mentioned the need to review bylaws and term limits to ensure they align with the council's goals. He thanked everyone for their participation, reinforcing that the council is part of a larger team working for Utah's boating community.

7. Information (5:00PM) - Strategic Planning

a. Discussion about:

- i. Mission Statement**
- ii. Future goals and objectives**
- iii. Annual and multi-year work plan**
- iv. Boating Advisory Council evaluation**

(1:21:16) - Chair Salt moved forward to the next stage of strategic planning, asking if council members had experience with it. After confirming everyone was familiar, he stressed its importance for keeping the group focused and on track. He emphasized that the plan should be simple and practical, guiding the council's work without becoming too difficult.

Mr. Vazquez mentioned Emily Meadows, the Statewide Strategic Planner for the Division of Outdoor Recreation. She had briefly joined the call and expressed her willingness to assist with the strategic plan, helping to streamline the process and clarify any aspects to make it easier for the council.

Mr. Hunter stressed the need for clear goals in the strategic plan, focusing on governance and bylaws. He suggested setting quarterly and meeting-specific objectives to keep the process manageable without overwhelming council members.

Mr. Curry emphasized the importance of using the group's time wisely, ensuring that strategic planning doesn't overburden members. While a strategic plan is crucial for guidance, he warned against letting it dominate the group's focus, as there's a lot of work to do. The goal is to stay motivated and on track without overwhelming anyone.

Chair Salt outlined that a strategic plan includes a mission statement, a vision for the future, and clear goals and measurable objectives. Goals are long-term targets, while objectives are specific, measurable outcomes. The plan should be realistic to avoid overwhelming the group, and progress should be evaluated to adjust strategies as needed. Emily, the strategic planner, can assist with this process.

Mr. Curry emphasized that the advisory council should focus on supporting the division's goals rather than creating separate, detailed plans. The council's role is to act as a conduit between the public and the division. He suggested reviewing the division's existing strategic plan to ensure alignment and avoid duplication or conflict with the division's efforts.

Chair Salt encouraged members to brainstorm a mission statement, goals, and objectives between meetings, using a shared cloud folder for collaboration.

Mr. Williams agreed with the idea of working through a mission statement by having one person draft it and then circulate it among the group for feedback, which can help streamline the process.

Mr. Hunter emphasized that the vision and mission of the advisory council should align with the division's mission. He suggested that the council's goals and objectives should support the division's overall mission, focusing on safety, health, and education for outdoor activities. He also mentioned goals like having people engage in outdoor education and reducing search and rescue efforts to zero, aligning the council's actions with the division's priorities.

8. Information (5:20PM) - Organization Structure

a. Discussion about:

- i. Duties of Council members**
- ii. Committees**
- iii. Council budget**
- iv. Website, social media, outreach (tradeshows, and special events)**

b. Council Member Binders

(1:39:50) - Chair Salt moved forward, discussing the duties of council members, including the possibility of forming committees, the existence of a council budget, and having a website. Mr. Hunter mentioned that there are descriptions of council member duties, which Mr. Vazquez has been working on. He noted that there's never been a specific budget for the council, but expenses like travel are usually covered. Regarding the website, there is a page for the advisory council, but it requires more development, and Mr. Vazquez is working on improving it.

It was clarified that the council is currently operating under the 2018 bylaws, which outline the duties of council members. Vice Chair Taylor mentioned that any changes or expansions to these duties would require feedback from the state to ensure they align with

the council's intended scope. Chair Salt mentioned that responsibilities are summarized in the bylaws and encouraged council members to consider their role as a conduit for their constituents, their responsibility to attend meetings, and their willingness to participate in committees or activities. He highlighted the importance of clearly defining expectations to keep members engaged and accountable, without overburdening them. He opened the floor for discussion on whether the existing duties in the bylaws need tweaking.

Mr. Stroud added that while advisory councils like this don't have the legal authority to pass bylaws, having some guidance for continuity, such as meeting procedures, terms, and attendance requirements, is useful. He cautioned against expanding the bylaws too much, like a private organization might, as the statute, rule, and division guidance already outline most of the council's duties. He recommended keeping the bylaws focused on how meetings are conducted and how the council operates, rather than overcomplicating them with details better suited to independent organizations. Ultimately, the council's primary role is to assist the division in fulfilling its mission.

Mr. Smith asked about hard deadlines for submitting information. Mr. Hunter clarified that there is a deadline for reviewing Boating Access grants, and the next meeting will focus on that. Mr. Vazquez will share dates for the next meeting, which will also include forming a subcommittee for carrying passengers for hire. There's also a mid-March meeting to help Craig Walker meet grant milestones.

9. Action (5:40PM) – Meetings and Annual Schedule

a. Discussion about:

- i. Regular meetings**
- ii. Project site visits**
- iii. Boating activities**

(1:49:15) - Chair Salt moved on to discuss regular meetings, emphasizing the importance of planning ahead. He mentioned site visits and voting activities but focused on gathering thoughts from everyone regarding the meeting schedule for the upcoming year. He asked whether the group should meet monthly, meet for a couple of months and then stagger meetings further apart, or if there were other suggestions for the schedule.

Mr. Hunter clarified that the March meeting will focus on the Boating Access Grant. He also mentioned a potential April or May grant cycle, but the main immediate focus is the March meeting for reviewing applications. The Boating Access Grant is overseen by the Division of

Wildlife Resources, while the Clean Vessel Act grant is managed by the Division of Outdoor Recreation. They work together with the federal grant coordinator.

Chair Salt asked if a May meeting would work, given the upcoming grants.

The council discussed potential dates and wrapped up with the group agreeing on scheduling their next meeting. After discussing availability, they settled on the first Tuesday of May, May 6th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. It was decided to plan for a mixed-format meeting (both in-person and virtual), but they would adjust depending on public participation.

Chair Salt entertained a motion to adjourn.

**GEORGE SOMMER MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN,
AND ZACH WILLIAMS SECONDED IT. THE MOTION
PASSED UNANIMOUSLY, AND THE MEETING WAS
ADJOURNED.**

10. Adjourn – Close (6:00PM)