



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Tim Davis
Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
John K. Mackey, P.E.
Director

Water Quality Board
James Webb, Chair
Michelle Kaufusi, Vice Chair
Michela Harris
Joseph Havasi
Trevor Heaton
Robert Fehr
Jill Jones
Tim Davis
John K. Mackey
Executive Secretary

MINUTES

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MASOB OR VIA Zoom

February 26, 2025
8:30 AM

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

James Webb
Jill Jones
Joe Havasi
Trevor Heaton
Michela Harris

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

John Mackey	James Harris	Porter Henze
Clanci Hawks	Ben Holcomb	Lonnie Shull
Allie Rockhill	Tessa Scheuer	Austin Miller
Emily Canton	Jodi Gardberg	Danielle Lenz
Brendon Quirk	Dan Griffin	Eric Castrejon
Samantha Heusser	Deidre Beck	Alex Hepner
Judy Etherington	Jeff Komel	Alan Ochoa Rodriguez
Paul Burnett	Jeff Studenka	Benj Morris
Leanna Little-Wolf	Toby Hooker	Jen Robinson
Sam Taylor	Linsey Shafer	Sandy Wingert
Jake Vander Lan	Skyler Davies	Jen Berjikian

OTHERS PRESENT & ONLINE

Ty Howard
Rob Dubuc
Erka Naran
Haley Sousa
Liz Harris
Elliot (no last name)

Mr. Webb, Chair, called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Webb took roll call for the members of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2024 MEETING

Motion: Jill Jones motioned to approve the meeting minutes.
Michaela Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Mackey addressed the Board with the following updates:

- Mr. Mackey informed the Board that DEQ's Executive Director, Kim Shelley resigned her position and the Governor and the Senate have moved quickly to get the position filled. Tim Davis has been approved through the first committee after accepting the position. There is a 30-day waiting period before he can be approved by the full Senate and then, assuming confirmation, Tim Davis will become DEQ's new Executive Director. Most recently Mr. Davis served as the Deputy Great Salt Lake Commissioner and prior to that he was the Division Director of Drinking Water, so we know him well and he brings broad experience that we like to see in Water Quality.
- Mr. Mackey noted that there has been a lot in the news regarding changes in priorities with the federal government. We have spent a fair amount of time looking at funding and grants, including the funding that comes to the Water Quality Board in the form of SRF Grants. Mr. Mackey explained that there are different buckets of money that those funds come from. We have the conventional Capitalization Grant, supplemental funds awarded under Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) or the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). In addition, an appropriation comes from the State for match. For a while there were holds on our ability to draw on those funds, but we are happy to report all the awards are open and we are able to draw funding which is really important for our mission to meet our commitments for our funding projects.
- Mr. Mackey noted that on the state level, the Governor has issued Executive Order 2025-01. The purposes of this executive order are to: 1) identify ways to expand and improve the use of permitting by rule and general permitting at DEQ and the Division of Oil Gas and Mining (DOGM) at Utah Department of Natural Resources, and 2) Improve permitting processes at DEQ. The full order may be viewed via this link- [Executive Order 2025-01](#)

- Mr. Mackey noted that the Great Salt Lake Mineral Extraction Operator Certification rule (R317-16) within the Utah Administrative Code specifically addresses the certification process of operators of mineral extraction facilities on the Great Salt Lake. The rule may be viewed via this link-[Water-quality-laws-and-rules-proposed-rule-changes](#)
- Mr. Mackey introduced two new Water Quality employees. Deidre Beck is the new Groundwater Protection Section Manager and Austin Miller has also joined the GW Protection Section.
- You may listen to Mr. Mackey's full Executive Secretary Report via this Zoom Meeting Recording Link-[February 2025 WQ Board Meeting Recording](#)

COMPLIACNE & ENFORCEMENT:

Request Approval of Administrative Settlement Docket Nos. I22-08, I22-06 & GW23-01 for Kennecott Utah Copper LLC: Mr. Quirk requested approval of the administrative settlement dockets as indicated in the packet. Trevor Heaton, a WQ Board Member, recused himself from this discussion and from the approval process as he is an employee of Kennecott.

Motion: Mr. Havasi moved to approve the settlement as presented.
Ms. Jones seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

WATERSHED PROTECTION:

Presentation of Prioritization 2.0: Restoration & Protection Planning of Utah's Waters:
Ms. Gardberg's presented information regarding Prioritization 2.0. The full plan may be reviewed at <https://deq.utah.gov/water-quality/utahs-prioritization-2-0-approach-for-restoration-and-protection-of-utahs-waters>

WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:

Recommendations for appointment to the Utah Wastewater Operator Certification Council for February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2028: Ms. Scheuer requested approval from the Board to appoint three (3) new members to the Wastewater Certification Council.

Motion: Ms. Jones motioned to approve the staff recommendation to approve Spencer Parkinson, Jonathan Gubler & Matt Goodrich to serve on the Wastewater Certification Council.
Ms. Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

RULE MAKING:

Informational: Rulemaking to Address HB 453 GSL Revisions: Mr. Harris provided the Board information on the scheduled rulemaking pursuant to House Bill 453, GSL Amendments. The deadline to have this rule completed and approved by the Board is June 1, 2025. To meet the deadline, the formal public comment period will need to begin on April 1, 2025. The Division will submit the draft rule and the economic impact form to the In order to accomplish this, we need to give the Draft Rule and the Economic Impact to the Office of Administrative Rules (OAR) by March 14, 2025, which is prior to the next Board Meeting on March 26, 2025. The Division will request for approval for the official rulemaking process to begin at that meeting. This schedule is different than standard procedure, which is why the Division wants to make the Board award of the schedule. Mr. Harris and the Board discussed upcoming deadlines and procedures.

No motion was required.

Request to Initiate Rulemaking for Proposed Amendments to R317-2 Standards of Water Quality of the State & Invitation for a Board Member to Serve as a Hearing Officer for Rulemaking: Mr. Vander Laan requested approval for the Division to proceed to rulemaking to recommend three substantial changes to Utah's Water Quality Standards as indicated in the packet. In addition, he requested a Board Member to serve as the Public Hearing Officer at the end of the Public Comment period.

Motion: Mr. Havasi motioned to initiate rulemaking and volunteered to be the Hearing Office at the end of the Public Comment Period.
Mr. Heaton seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

N/A

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Jones motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Mr. Heaton seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

To view the full recording of the February 26, 2025 meeting please click this link- [Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

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Water Quality Board
Minutes

Next Meeting
March 26, 2025
MASOB & Via Zoom
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Via Zoom

James Webb, Chair
Utah Water Quality Board

DWQ- 2025-002664

PENDING