



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](#)

March 26, 2025
8:30 AM

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jim Webb
Jill Jones
Trevor Heaton
Joe Havasi
Michelle Kaufusi
Michela Harris
Rob Fehr

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

John Mackey	Alex Heppner	Jenifer Robinson
Emily Canton	Judy Etherington	Porter Henze
James Harris	Skyler Davies	
Leanna Littler-Woolf	Dan Griffin	
Clanci Hawks	Benj Morris	
Eric Castrejon	Lindsay Cowels	
Haley Sousa	Jeff Studenka	
Ken Hoffman	Jordan Bryant	
Samantha Heusser	Paul Burnett	
Tessa Scheuer	Harry Campbell	
Ben Holcomb	Jake Vanderlaan	
Katie Garth	Danielle Lenz	
John Schwarz	Dave Pierson	

OTHERS PRESENT & ONLINE

Melissa Reynolds Soren Simonson
Rob Dubuc Mike Chandler
Steve Jackson

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 February 26, 2025 Meeting

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

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT

Mr. Mackey addressed the Board with the following updates:

- Mr. Mackey introduced two new staff members in the Compliance and Enforcement section. Katie Garth and John Schwartz introduced themselves to the Board.
- Federal Update: With the new Administration, we have changes coming through as we will revisit Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) This term is used by states to define the waterbodies they regulate.
- The Supreme Court ruled on San Francisco versus EPA. *“This decision upholds the Clean Water Act’s critical role in protecting water quality and simply requires the EPA to fulfill its obligations under the Clean Water Act, as intended by Congress. This ruling makes clear that permitholders like San Francisco are responsible for what they discharge, and the EPA has the tools at its disposal to ensure water quality. But it’s not lawful to punish permitholders for things outside of their control, such as the end-result water quality of a shared body of water, where many other factors affect water quality. This is a good government decision that assures certainty in water quality permitting and that every permittee has predictable, knowable standards to protect water quality.”*
- State Update: Technology Based Effluent Phosphorus Limits come into effect this year. Nearly all mechanical plants are required to meet the one milligram phosphorus effluent limit. There were a couple of variances that extended into the year and there will be a couple larger projects that will come into compliance in 2026.
- Mr. Mackey noted that one of the three performance metrics reported to the legislature is Oxygen Consumption Potential. The metric is an attempt to have a unified understanding of how well wastewater treatment plants are performing. For a detailed explanation of this metric please reference the Zoom recording link [March 26, 2025 Meeting Recording](#).

- Mr. Mackey and the Board discussed that April's board meeting will fall during the Water Environment Association of Utah Annual Conference (WEAU). The Board decided to cancel April's meeting since a large number of Water Quality's staff and Board members attend this conference.
- Mr. Mackey informed the Board that the new Board Member Jeannie Simmons has been approved through the Governor's Office and her Confirmation Hearing is on April 14, 2025 at 1:00 pm. She will be joining us for the May 28, 2025 meeting.

FUNDING:

Financial Status Report: Presented by Emily Canton.

Ash Creek SSD Virgin Design Advance: Mr. Lischeske presented a funding request in the amount of \$230,400 for the design of a regional sewer lift station and force main connecting Virgin to Ash Creek's collection system in La Verkin.

Motion: Mr. Heaton moved to approve the \$230,400 Hardship Grant according to staff recommendations made in the packet including the special conditions.
Ms. Jones seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

RULE MAKING:

Request to initiate rulemaking: R317-17 Great Salt Lake Mineral

Extraction Salinity Discharge Limits: Mr. Harris & Mr. Holcomb addressed the Board to formally approve the rulemaking.

Motion: Ms. Kaufusi moved to initiate the rulemaking for R317-17.
Ms. Jones seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

COMPLIANCE & ENFORCEMENT:

Request for Approval of Settlement Docket No. I23-14 for Claude H. Nix Construction Co.: Mr. Castrejon asked the Board to seek approval of the penalty in the amount of \$25,000 for Claude H. Nix Construction.

Motion: Ms. Jones motioned to approve the Administrative Settlement Docket No. I23-14 for Claude H. Nix Construction Co. in the amount of \$25,000.
Ms. Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

WASTEWATER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM:

Recommendation for Interim Appointment to the Utah Wastewater

Certification Council for April 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027: Ms. Scheuer asked for approval of Kyle Dean, Manager for the Wastewater Collection Division at Granger Hunter Improvement

District, to be appointed to serve the interim term representing Certified Wastewater Collection Operators.

Motion: Ms. Jones motioned to approve the staff recommendation to approve Kyle Dean to serve the interim term on the Wastewater Certification Council.
Ms. Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Soren Simonson, Jordan River Commission: Mr. Simonson gave a huge thank you to the Division of Water Quality staff that has been working to organize a program series with the Utah County Stormwater Coalition. He noted that they just had the second of a three-part series yesterday March 25, 2025 and the next one will be held on Tuesday April 1, 2025. There has been some amazing information that has been shared by DWQ, great insights on data and ideas and best practices around low impact development and stormwater improvements. Mr. Simonson informed the Board there will be a cleanup activity around the Jordan River coming up around Earth Day and everyone is invited to join in.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

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

To view the full recording click here [March 26, 2025 Meeting Recording](#)

Next Meeting
May 28, 2025
MASOB & Via Zoom
195 North 1950 West
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Via [Zoom](#)

James Webb, Chair
Utah Water Quality Board