



LEGISLATURE

DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 | 8:30 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, Vice Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. Daniel McCay
Sen. Calvin R. Musselman
Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion
Rep. Michael L. Kohler
Rep. Logan J. Monson

Rep. Hoang Nguyen
Rep. Troy Shelley
Rep. Rex P. Shipp

Members Absent:

Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson
Rep. Casey Snider

Staff Present:

Ivan D. Djambov, Finance Manager
Lacey K. Moore, Finance Officer
Tisha Gibby, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Chair Chew called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Sen. Winterton moved to approve the June 19, 2025 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Sen. D. McCay
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson

3. Accountable Budget Process

[3. Accountable Budget Process Draft Recommendations](#)

[3. Accountable Budget Process Draft Recommendations \(Table Format\)](#)

[3. LFA Accountable Budget Process Presentation](#)

3i. Colorado River Authority of Utah

Lacey Moore presented recommendations for the Colorado River Authority of Utah (CRAU).

Chair Chew commented on a recent site visit by the Colorado River Caucus.

Amy Haas, Executive Director, CRAU, presented and responded to recommendations with the assistance of Marc Stilson, Principal Engineer, CRAU.

Chair Chew commented on concerns of constituents regarding the demand management program. Marc Stilson responded.

Rep. Shipp asked about determining compensation for the demand management program, and Marc Stilson responded.

Sen. Musselman inquired regarding federal compensation for conservation. Amy Haas and Marc Stilson responded.

Rep. Albrecht asked about reservoirs with junior water rights. Marc Stilson responded.

3ii. Dept. of Natural Resources Administration

Lacey Moore presented recommendations for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Administration.

Nathan Schwebach, Deputy Director, DNR, agreed with the recommendations.

3i. Colorado River Authority of Utah

Chair Chew requested CRAU return to the dais and respond to a recommendation. Amy Haas responded.

Sen. Winterton expressed agreement with the direction of the CRAU.

Rep. Albrecht agreed with Sen. Winterton.

Cody Stewart, Director of Strategic Engagement, CRAU, provided additional information.

Sen. Musselman requested clarification on checks and balances, and Amy Haas responded.

3iii. Watershed Restoration Initiative

Lacey Moore presented recommendations for the Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI).

Rep. Bennion thanked staff for their recommendations and also expressed gratitude to the WRI. Rep. Bennion asked about efficiency evaluations, and Lacey Moore responded.

Tyler Thompson, Director, WRI, responded to the recommendations.

Rep. Albrecht thanked Tyler Thompson and the WRI for their work, and Chair Chew responded.

3iv. Forestry, Fire, and State Lands

Lacey Moore presented recommendations for the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.



Jamie Barnes, State Forester, and Director, Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, responded to the recommendations.

Rep. Albrecht thanked Jamie Barnes and the division for their work.

Rep. Bennion also expressed gratitude for the division.

3v. Oil, Gas, and Mining

Ivan Djambov presented recommendations for the Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining.

Mick Thomas, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining, responded.

Sen. Hinkins asked about abandoned mines and expressed gratitude for the division's work, and Mick Thomas responded.

Sen. Winterton asked about permits. Mick Thomas responded.

Sen. Hinkins assumed the chair.

4. Federal Funds Outlook

Tim Davis, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, presented on the federal funds outlook for the department.

Sen. Hinkins inquired regarding tribal lands and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Tim Davis responded.

Rep. Chew resumed the chair.

Sen. Winterton inquired further about Tribal Lands and the EPA, and Tim Davis responded.

Rep. Nguyen expressed concern about budget cuts, and Tim Davis responded.

Nathan Schwebach presented on the DNR federal funds outlook.

5. Office Great Salt Lake Commissioner Update

[5. Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner Presentation](#)

Brian Steed, Great Salt Lake Commissioner, presented with the assistance of Hannah Freeze, Deputy Commissioner.

Chair Chew asked about water optimization, and Hannah Freeze responded.

Rep. Shelley requested additional clarification on lake levels, and Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Nguyen asked about the need for legislative action, and Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Shipp asked about a possible pathway to bring water in from other states, and Brian Steed responded.

Sen. Hinkins commented on consequences of diverting water, and Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Albrecht inquired regarding the causeway berm, and Brian Steed responded.



6. Operation Gigawatt - Nuclear

[6. Operation Gigawatt - Nuclear Presentation](#)

Jake Garfield, Deputy Director, Office of Energy Development, presented information on Operation Gigawatt.

Chair Chew commented on the need for energy related to broadband internet.

Rep. Bennion thanked Jake Garfield and asked about staff turnover, and Jake Garfield responded.

Sen. McCay asked about the energy requirements of fiber vs. satellite internet, and Jake Garfield and Chair Chew responded.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Barlow moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. McCay
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. H. Nguyen
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson

Chair Chew adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.