



# DRAFT MINUTES

## NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 20, 2025 | 1:15 p.m. | 110 Senate Building

### Members Present:

Rep. Carl R. Albrecht, Chair  
Sen. Nate Blouin  
Sen. David P. Hinkins  
Sen. Derrin R. Owens  
Sen. Scott D. Sandall  
Rep. Gay Lynn Bennion  
Rep. Bridger Bolinder  
Rep. Walt Brooks  
Rep. Scott H. Chew  
Rep. Michael L. Kohler  
Rep. Logan J. Monson  
Rep. Doug Owens  
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson

Rep. Rex P. Shipp  
Rep. Casey Snider  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

### Members Absent:

Sen. Keven J. Stratton, Chair  
Speaker Mike Schultz  
Rep. R. Neil Walter

### Staff Present:

Charley Hart, Policy Analyst  
Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst  
Patricia Owen, Senior Associate General Counsel  
Ryan C. Williams, Associate General Counsel  
Kaelie Mortensen, Administrative Assistant

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at [www.le.utah.gov](http://www.le.utah.gov).

Chair Albrecht called the meeting to order.

Sen. Sandall took a moment to honor the fallen officers from his district, and the committee observed a moment of silence.

## 1. Wildfire Update

### [3 - Fire Season by the Numbers \(Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands\)](#)

Jamie Barnes, State Forester and Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, gave an update on wildfires and wildfire conditions in the state.

The committee provided comments on the presentation.

## 2. H.R. 1 Impacts

Tim Davis, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality gave an update of potential impacts of H.R. 1 on the department.

### [4 - H.R. 1 Impacts to Agriculture in Utah \(Department of Agriculture and Food\)](#)

Kelly Pehrson, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, and Conner Peterson, Director of Legislative and Government Affairs, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, gave a presentation on the potential impacts of H.R. 1 on agriculture in the state.

### [4 - H.R. 1 Impacts on Oil, Gas, and Mining in Utah \(Department of Natural Resources\)](#)

Mick Thomas, Director, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining gave a presentation on the potential impacts of H.R. 1 on oil, gas, and mining in the state.

[4 - H.R. 1 Impacts on Energy \(Utah Office of Energy Development\)](#)

Jake Garfield, Deputy Director, Utah Office of Energy Development, gave a presentation on the potential impacts of H.R. 1 on energy development in the state.

[4 - H.R. 1 Impacts on Public Lands \(Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office\)](#)

Redge Johnson, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, gave a presentation on the potential impacts of H.R. 1 on public lands in the state.

Sen. Owens assumed the chair. Acting Chair Owens introduced the next agenda item.

**3. Committee Business**

**MOTION:** Rep. Shipp moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 15

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. G. Bennion  
Sen. N. Blouin  
Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. S. Chew  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. L. Monson  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. D. Owens  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Rep. B. Bolinder  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. R. Walter

**4. Draft Legislation: Great Salt Lake Amendments**

[2 - Draft Legislation "Great Salt Lake Amendments"](#)

Rep. Jill Koford introduced First Special Session Draft Legislation, "Great Salt Lake Amendments."

The committee discussed the draft legislation and asked questions of Rep. Koford.

Ben Stireman, Deputy Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, answered questions from the committee.

Carmen Valdez, Senior Policy Associate, Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah, Lauren Griffith, Kenneth Gray, resident, South Jordan, Alta Fairbourne, Water Advocate, Utah Rivers Council, and Joan Gregory, resident, Salt Lake City, provided comments on the draft legislation.

**MOTION:** Rep. Snider moved to support the draft legislation, "Great Salt Lake Amendments," for a potential special session.

Discussion to the motion.

Rep. Snider's motion to support the draft legislation, "Great Salt Lake Amendments," for a potential special session passed with a vote of 12 - 1 - 6.

Yeas - 12

Rep. G. Bennion  
Rep. S. Chew  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. L. Monson  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. D. Owens  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Snider  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 1

Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 6

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. B. Bolinder  
Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. R. Walter

## **5. GSL Commissioner Report**

### [5 - Commissioner Report \(Great Salt Lake Commissioner\)](#)

Brian Steed, Commissioner, Great Salt Lake, and Hannah Freeze, Deputy Commissioner, Great Salt Lake, presented an annual report on the Great Salt Lake.

## **6. Institute for Land, Water, and Air**

### [6 - Legislative Report \(Institute for Land, Water, and Air\)](#)

Brian Steed, Executive Director, Institute for Land, Water, and Air, provided an update to the committee.

## **7. Carbon Storage**

Sen. Hinkins introduced the topic of carbon storage in the state.

### [7 - Utah Carbon Sequestration \(Urban Oil and Gas Group\)](#)

Matt Kirby, President, Urban Oil and Gas Group, and Michael Schneider, Director Subsurface, Urban Oil and Gas Group, presented on the potential for carbon capture, utilization, and storage in the state.

Sen. Hinkins provided comments on the issue.

## **8. GSL Distribution Management Plan**

### [8 - GSL Distribution Management Plan \(Utah Division of Water Rights\)](#)

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, and Blake Bingham, Deputy State Engineer, Division of Water Rights, gave a presentation on the Great Salt Lake distribution management plan and model developed by the state engineer.

## **9. Review of Supreme Court Decisions**

### [9 - Summary of Relevant Cases \(OLRGC\)](#)

Ryan Williams provided a summary of three Supreme Court decisions: Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County, Oklahoma v. EPA, and EPA v. Calumet Shreveport Refining.

## **10. Other Items/Adjourn**



**MOTION:** Rep. Monson moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 10

Rep. G. Bennion  
Sen. N. Blouin  
Rep. W. Brooks  
Rep. S. Chew  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. L. Monson  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. B. Bolinder  
Rep. D. Owens  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. S. Sandall  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. C. Snider  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. R. Walter

Acting Chair Owens adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.