



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, May 21, 2025 | 1:15 p.m. | 110 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Keven J. Stratton, Chair
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. 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:

Rep. Walt Brooks
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.

1. Committee Business

Chair Albrecht called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

2. Committee Business

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2024, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, gave a brief introduction of committee resources available on the committee website.

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to authorize the chairs to open committee bill files. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

3. Adoption of Study Items

Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, gave a brief explanation of committee study items.

[2 - 2025 Interim Study Items](#)

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to amend the study item list to include Farm Name Registration, modify the "Water Issues" study item description to read "Study water related issues, including issues recommended by the Legislative Water Development Commission," and approve the final study item list. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

4. Utah Miners Hospital

[3 - Miners Hospital Presentation \(Utah Miners Hospital\)](#)

Dr. Meredith Ehn, Medical Director, Utah Miners Hospital, and Shawn Shipley, RN, Clinical Outreach and Development Coordinator, Utah Miners Hospital, gave a report on the Utah Miners Hospital.

The committee asked questions of Dr. Meredith Ehn and Shawn Shipley.

Brian Somers, Utah Mining Association, commented on the report.

Mark Ward, University of Utah Health and Finance, responded to a question from the committee.

5. Water Update

[4 - Water Supply Presentation \(Division of Water Resources\)](#)

4 - Water Supply Presentation (Division of Water Resources)

Joel Williams, Deputy Director, Division of Water Resources, Department of Natural Resources, provided an update on water conditions in the state.

The committee asked questions of Joel Williams.

6. Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

[5 - Planning and Developing Infrastructure in Rural Utah \(Seven County Infrastructure Coalition\)](#)

Keith Heaton, Executive Director, Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, and Brian Barton, President/CEO, Jones and DeMille Engineering, Inc., provided an update from the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition.

The committee asked questions of Keith Heaton and Brian Barton.

Noxious Weeds

Rob Hougaard, Director, Division of Plant Industry, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, gave a presentation on the impact of waterwise landscaping on noxious weeds and the licensing requirements for a person treating noxious weeds.

The committee asked questions of Rob Hougaard.

7. Predator Control

[6 - Predator Management \(Division of Wildlife Resources\)](#)

Justin Shannon, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, Department of Natural Resources, provided an update on the impact of predators on big game populations and Utah's agreement with Colorado related to wolves.

The committee asked questions of Justin Shannon.

8. Sunset Review: Utah Soil Health Program

[7 - 2025 Sunset Interim Sunset Reviews \(OLRGC\)](#)

[7 - Sunset Review: Utah Soil Health Program \(OLRGC\)](#)

Charley Hart, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, gave a brief introduction of the sunset review process and the Utah Soil Health Program.

Jim Bowcutt, Director, Conservation Division, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, presented on the Utah Soil Health Program.

The committee asked questions of Jim Bowcutt.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date of the Soil Health Program to July 1, 2036. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

9. Sunset Review: State Weed Committee

[8 - Sunset Review: State Weed Committee \(OLRGC\)](#)

Ryan Williams, Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, gave a brief introduction to the State Weed Committee.

Rob Hougaard, Director, Division of Plant Industry, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, presented on the State Weed Committee.

The committee asked questions of Rob Hougaard.

Kevin Bailey, President, Utah Weed Supervisor Association, commented on the State Weed Committee's future membership.

MOTION: Sen. Owens moved to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date of the State Weed Committee to July 1, 2036. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
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
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

10. Sunset Review: Lead Acid Battery Disposal

[9 - Sunset Review: Lead Acid Battery Disposal \(OLRGC\)](#)

Patricia Owen, Senior Associate General Counsel, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, gave a brief introduction to Lead Acid Battery Disposal.

Doug Hansen, Director, Division of Waste Management and Radiation Control, Department of Environmental Quality, presented on Lead Acid Battery Disposal.

The committee asked questions of Doug Hansen.

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to open a committee bill to repeal the sunset date for Lead Acid Battery Disposal.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to open a committee bill file to extend the sunset date of Lead Acid Battery Disposal to July 1, 2036. The substitute motion failed with a vote of 8 - 7 - 4.

Yeas - 8

Rep. C. Albrecht
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 7

Rep. G. Bennion
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. L. Monson
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. C. Watkins

Absent - 4

Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

No vote was taken on Rep. Peterson's original motion to open a committee bill file to repeal the sunset date for Lead Acid battery disposal.

MOTION: Rep. Shipp moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

Chair Albrecht adjourned the meeting at 3:59 p.m.