

BOATING ADVISORY COUNCIL

DIVISION OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Draft - Minutes Of The Meeting Held on **May 6th, 2025, at 4:00PM**
Hybrid

Topic: Boating Advisory Council Introductory Meeting

Date: May 6th, 2025 - **Time:** 4:00-6:00 PM - **Location:** Virtual/Soldier Hollow

Meeting Point:

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/beb-xqdo-ppp> Or dial: (US) +1 405-357-8369 PIN: 379 595 259 #

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/beb-xqdo-ppp?pin=9686867164865>

Meeting Attendees: Jason Taylor (Co-Chair), Adam Eakle, DeWitt Smith, Jenny Knudsen, Zac Williams, George Sommer

Department Staff: Jason Curry, Patrick Morrison, Ty Hunter, Shane Stroud, Jorge Vazquez

Agenda - Meeting Minutes

1. **Information (4:00PM) - Welcome**
 - a. **Introduction of the Attendees**
 - i. **Members - Respective Positions**
 - ii. **Department Staff**
 - iii. **Members of the Public**

(00:00) - Jason Taylor, Co-Chair, opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees to the Boating Advisory Council meeting. Introductions followed, with each council member and division staff stating their name, role, and area of representation.

Jason Taylor served as Acting Chair on behalf of Jeff Salt, Chairman of the Boating Advisory Council.

Council Members:

- Adam Eakle – Motorboat Representative
- DeWitt Smith – Sailing Representative
- Zac Williams – Personal Watercraft Representative
- Jenny Knudsen – Water Sports Representative

Division Staff:

- Jorge Vazquez – Motorized Recreation Grant Analyst
- Ty Hunter – Boating Program Manager
- Jason Curry – Division Director
- Patrick Morrison – Recreation Program Director
- Shane Stroud – Assistant Attorney General

Members of the Public:

- Kent Singleton
- Herbert Ley

2. Action (4:10PM) – Approval of meeting minutes

(09:50) - Chair Taylor called for a motion to approve the minutes from the March 4th, 2025 meeting.

DEWITT SMITH MADE THE MOTION, AND JENNY KNUDSEN SECONDED IT. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY WITHOUT ANY DISCUSSION OR OBJECTIONS.

3. Information (4:15PM) – Public Comments

During this time members of the public will be given 3 minutes to inform the Council about boating issues or topics not listed on the meeting agenda. No

actions can be taken by the Council. Rules of decorum and respect will be adhered to.

(00:03:30) – Vice Chair Taylor called for public comment, requesting that remarks be limited to three minutes.

(00:03:50) – Kent Singleton, a resident of Taggart, Utah, expressed concerns regarding his riverfront property, including:

- Boundary disputes and lack of enforcement against trespassing
- Accusations of survey marker removal, which he denied
- Misleading and unauthorized signage following the dissolution of a walk-in access agreement
- Disputed navigability claims and prescriptive easements without legal adjudication
- Lack of agency response to his FEMA floodplain permit application

Mr. Singleton requested that the Division provide a comprehensive list of navigable streams and current walk-in access registrations for public reference.

Vice Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Singleton for his comments. And asked if there was anyone else who wanted to submit for public comment.

(00:08:03) – Herbert Ley, Vice President of the Utah Stream Access Coalition, addressed the council regarding the Public Waters Access Act. He emphasized the public's right to float on public waters regardless of bed ownership, referencing legal precedents affirming navigability based on pre-statehood commerce. Mr. Ley urged the state to review and formally declare navigable waterways to protect recreation access.

Vice Chair Taylor thanked Mr. Ley for his comments and requested for additional comments.

No further public comments were offered.

4. Information (4:20PM) – Updates and Announcements

- a. Legislative Update**
- b. Statewide Boating Updates**
- c. SAR Funding Opportunity**

d. Boating Access Grant Applications/Evaluation Updates

(00:12:00) – Vice Chair Jason Taylor transitioned the meeting to the next agenda item and invited Ty Hunter, Boating Program Manager, to provide legislative and program updates.

(00:12:09) – Ty Hunter presented a comprehensive overview of recent legislation:

- Senate Bill 27 – Boating Insurance Clarifications: Clarifies insurance reporting requirements and defines seasonal revocation periods for uninsured boats.
- Senate Bill 52 – Vehicle Registration Modifications: Grants authority to the Utah State Tax Commission to use insurance data to identify out-of-state vessel registrations, addressing “Montana registration” loopholes.
- Senate Bill 200 – Watercraft Amendments: Revises funding distribution for age-based boating fees and establishes the Utah Boating Tax to support the Utah Boating Grant Program (effective January 1, 2026).

Mr. Hunter also noted that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee invited Director Jason Curry and himself to present on a proposed mandatory boating education program, modeled after the state’s off-highway vehicle education system. The initiative would create a NASBLA-accredited course for all Utah boat operators.

(00:17:18) – Mr. Hunter continued with updates on division initiatives:

- Statewide officer training is currently underway.
- A \$60,000 Search and Rescue funding opportunity was created for county sheriffs, allowing up to \$20,000 per award for three recipients.
- Mr. Vazquez provided information on Boating Access Grant approvals are pending federal review and are anticipated by July 1, 2025.

Adam Eakle commended the Division for advancing boating education efforts and emphasized the importance of the initiative for public safety and awareness.

Vice Chair Jason Taylor thanked Mr. Hunter for his presentation and moved the council to the next agenda item.

5. Action (4:40PM) – Boating Advisory Council By-Laws

a. Article I – Legal Authority

(00:21:40) – Jorge Vazquez explained that the 2018 bylaws required revision following the division split between Parks and Outdoor Recreation.

Shane Stroud modernized the document into articles for clarity and consistency.

Mr. Smith asked clarifying questions regarding which version of the bylaws should be considered the most up to date. Mr. Vazquez clarified that two versions currently exist: one from 2018, created before the division split, and a more recent draft that reflects current organizational structure and updated information following the establishment of the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Mr. Hunter noted that the document labeled *“Amended and Restated Bylaws”* represented a modernized draft incorporating updates and structural changes recommended by Assistant Attorney General Shane Stroud. He explained that the revisions reorganized the bylaws into articles for improved clarity and consistency, beginning with *Article 1 – Legal Authority (Section 1.1)* and continuing through subsequent sections.

Mr. Hunter highlighted that certain sections, such as *Article 2, Section 2.1*, were intentionally marked for council discussion. He explained that one discussion point included whether to add a Search and Rescue Representative to the council, emphasizing that the idea was purely exploratory and subject to the council’s discretion.

Vice Chair Taylor suggested that the council focus its review on a single version of the bylaws to maintain consistency and efficiency.

Mr. Smith agreed and noted that it would be helpful to confirm which document contained the most up-to-date language and revisions.

Mr. Stroud explained that the *Amended and Restated Bylaws* include all the necessary updates and corrections discussed by staff and council members.

He noted that the revised version was reorganized into numbered sections to make it easier to reference specific parts and to align with the format used by other advisory councils, such as the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council. The goal, he said, was to make the document clearer and more modern.

Mr. Stroud added that while this structure has worked well for other councils, it is ultimately up to the Boating Advisory Council to decide how they want to move forward.

Vice Chair Taylor recommended that the council review the *Amended and Restated Bylaws* section by section to identify any needed edits or clarifications. He began with *Article 1 – Legal Authority*, noting that it appeared clear and required no major changes.

Mr. George Sommer agreed, stating that he had no concerns with the article as written.

b. Article II – Council Member Qualifications and Tenure

Vice Chair Jason Taylor asked for clarification on whether the highlighted section referring to a Search and Rescue Representative would establish a new council seat.

Mr. Hunter confirmed that such a position could be added if the council desired but explained that it would first require a rule change before being incorporated into the bylaws. Mr. Stroud clarified that the rule establishing the position would need to take effect—typically a 60-day process—before the bylaws could be amended to include it.

Vice Chair Taylor asked whether adding the position would affect the current board composition and if the council would need to increase its membership or remove another seat. Mr. Hunter replied that the council could remain flexible, joking that an even number might require “boxing gloves” to break a tie.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about adding the position, noting that Search and Rescue personnel often represent county government operations rather than the public user groups that make up the council. He suggested the role might not align with the council’s advisory intent.

Vice Chair Taylor asked whether Search and Rescue input was already represented through other partnerships or agencies. Director Jason Curry confirmed that the Division of Law Enforcement and county sheriffs already provide coordination with Search and Rescue, and Mr. Vazquez added that the new Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Program will include Search and Rescue representatives through the sheriffs’ offices.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Vazquez agreed that adding the position could blur the council’s focus by introducing a governmental seat into a body primarily composed of non-governmental recreation representatives.

Director Curry noted that while another advisory council within the Division includes a Search and Rescue representative, the decision ultimately rests with this council. He added that if such a member were appointed in the future, they would likely need to recuse themselves from voting on related grant matters.

Mr. Hunter reiterated that the idea was presented only for discussion and that no immediate action was required.

Vice Chair Taylor suggested that if the council wanted to include a Search and Rescue perspective, it might be better to do so in a non-voting advisory capacity.

Mr. Smith responded that Search and Rescue interests were already represented under the Powerboat Representative category.

Following discussion, Vice Chair Taylor asked for a motion regarding Section 2.1.10 – Search and Rescue Representative.

**ZAC WILLIAMS MOVED TO STRIKE THE ADDITION OF A
SEARCH AND RESCUE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE
BYLAWS.**

GEORGE SOMMER SECONDED.

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice Chair Taylor opened the floor for discussion following the motion.

Zac Williams stated that he supported striking the position, noting that adding a representative who may serve in a law enforcement or other governmental capacity was unnecessary. He added that input from Search and Rescue could still be gathered through advisory participation when needed.

George Sommer agreed, expressing support for maintaining the council's current composition.

Following the vote, Vice Chair Taylor transitioned discussion to *Section 2.2 – Term Length*.

(00:38:08) – Mr. Stroud explained that under the 2018 bylaws, council members serve a four-year term with the option for a four-year renewal. The updated draft proposed reducing the term to three years. He clarified that the decision was entirely up to the council, noting that other advisory councils, such as the Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Council, operate on three-year terms. However, he recommended limiting terms to no more than four years to avoid member fatigue.

Vice Chair Taylor stated that the existing four-year structure had worked well and supported keeping the term length consistent. Mr. Sommer agreed, expressing that the four-year cycle allowed sufficient time for members to contribute effectively. Vice Chair

Taylor also supported allowing members to serve an additional four-year renewal if they wished to continue.

(00:40:05) – With no further discussion, Mr. Sommer made a motion regarding the term length.

**GEORGE SOMMER MOVED TO RETAIN A FOUR-YEAR TERM WITH THE OPTION FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR-YEAR RENEWAL.
ADAM EAKLE SECONDED.
THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sommer noted that the council has used four-year terms since its inception, and the arrangement has worked well given the council's limited meeting schedule.

Mr. Eakle agreed, adding that new members typically need a year to gain experience and familiarity with council operations. He said the four-year term allows adequate time for members to learn and contribute effectively.

With no further discussion, Vice Chair Taylor restated the motion for clarity: that council members be appointed for an initial four-year term with the option to renew for an additional four-year term upon approval by the Division

Vice Chair Taylor then reviewed the remaining portions of Section 2, covering absenteeism, ongoing voting involvement, interests of represented groups, and resignation or release of council members. No additional comments or suggested changes were made.

Articles 3 – 5 (General Revisions)

- c. Article III – Council Duties**
- d. Article IV – Council Operations and Meetings**
- e. Article V – Role of Division Staff**

(00:42:15) – The council proceeded to Article 3 – Council Duties. Members reviewed Articles 3–5 and noted minor edits:

- A numbering error (Section 3.5) was identified for correction.
- Annual election of Chair and Vice Chair was retained as written.
- Twenty-four hour meeting notice was affirmed to remain consistent with the Open Public Meetings Act.

f. Article VI – Amendments of Bylaws

(00:48:30) – Vice Chair Taylor moved to Article 6 Amendment of By-Laws.

Mr. Sommer raised a concern about the draft language under *Article 6 – Amendment of Bylaws*, noting that it stated amendments could be made “by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the council in attendance at a regular meeting.” He pointed out that the wording did not explicitly reference a quorum or specify the required number of members needed to take action.

Vice Chair Taylor asked whether a quorum already implied a majority. Mr. Stroud acknowledged that the language could be clarified, explaining that while a quorum generally equals a majority of active members, the distinction could matter in cases where there were vacant seats. He offered to revise the section to make the quorum requirement explicit.

Vice Chair Taylor added that any amendment to the bylaws must be listed as an action item on the meeting agenda under the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA), ensuring that no bylaw changes could occur without public notice. Mr. Stroud confirmed this requirement, noting that bylaw amendments could only be voted on if properly noticed as an action item.

Mr. Sommer recommended revising the language for clarity to avoid confusion in future councils.

Mr. Stroud proposed the following revised wording:

“These bylaws may be amended, altered, changed, added to, or repealed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the council at any meeting of the council at which a quorum is present.”

He explained that this change removed the phrase “*at a regular meeting*” and clarified that a quorum must be present for any amendments to be valid.

Mr. Sommer stated that the new language addressed his concern, and Vice Chair Taylor confirmed the council’s satisfaction with the revision.

**GEORGE SOMMER MOVED TO ADOPT THE REVISED
ARTICLE 6 LANGUAGE AS PRESENTED.
ZAC WILLIAMS SECONDED.**

THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Following approval of the language revision, Vice Chair Taylor stated that if there were no further changes, the council could move to formally adopt the Amended and Restated Boating Advisory Council Bylaws as a whole.

**GEORGE SOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE
AMENDED AND RESTATED BOATING ADVISORY
COUNCIL BYLAWS AS PRESENTED.
DEWITT SMITH SECONDED.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. Information (5:30PM) - External Communication with Constitutants

- a. Websites**
- b. Other**

(00:58:00) – Vice Chair Jason Taylor transitioned to *Item 6 – External Communication with Constituents*.

Mr. Hunter explained that the Division is updating its website and intends to create a dedicated Boating Advisory Council page featuring council member names and their areas of representation. He asked members how they preferred to handle public contact—either by listing direct contact information or by routing inquiries through a Division email account.

Council members agreed that inquiries should be managed through the Division’s general boating email address rather than publishing personal contact details online. Mr. Hunter confirmed that staff could forward relevant messages to the appropriate representative—for example, to Mrs. Knudsen for water sports or Zac Williams for personal watercraft—depending on the issue raised.

Mr. Smith shared that this process has worked well in the past, referencing an earlier issue regarding the Bear Lake Marina schedule that was effectively coordinated through Division staff.

Mr. Hunter reiterated that the Division could continue using this model and offered to include both a Division email and phone number on the website for public inquiries.

Vice Chair Taylor suggested that the Division could also consider a general “Contact the Boating Advisory Council” email address that automatically distributes messages to all members, similar to systems used by city councils.

Mr. Williams noted that he preferred a contact form over a publicly listed email address to protect personal information, while Director Jason Curry added that such a form could be implemented easily and modeled after the Division’s existing contact system for staff.

Mr. Hunter agreed to explore that option and confirmed that before any council information or photos are published, members will be given the opportunity to review and approve their individual profiles.

The council agreed with the proposed communication approach, expressed satisfaction with the plan, and called the discussion good before moving on to the next agenda item.

7. Action (5:45PM) Next Meeting

(01:06:00) – Vice Chair Jason Taylor introduced Item 7 – Next Meeting Schedule.

Mr. Vazquez stated that the next council meeting would likely coincide with the upcoming Boating Access Grant scoring session, depending on program timelines. He anticipated that the next meeting might occur later in the year once grant applications were ready for review.

Mr. Hunter added that, based on the Division’s workload, the next meeting would most likely take place toward the end of the year. He explained that the Division values council input on grants, rules, and other key boating initiatives and encouraged members to discuss how frequently they wanted to meet throughout the year.

Mr. Hunter suggested that the council establish a consistent meeting cadence—such as quarterly or bi-monthly sessions—to help align with the Division’s project cycles. He noted that flexibility would remain important to allow for additional meetings when specific items, such as rule revisions or grant approvals, require council review.

Vice Chair Taylor agreed, expressing appreciation for the regular engagement of council members. He stated that while he supported meeting less frequently, he preferred longer, more productive meetings to cover all necessary business. He also raised the question of

whether fewer meetings would still allow the council to remain accessible to the public and responsive to new issues that might arise.

"I'm almost for fewer meetings but longer ones," Vice Chair Taylor said. "We've been meeting about every two months, which works, but July tends to be a heavy travel month. Maybe we could skip July and plan for an August or September meeting instead."

Mr. Sommer asked when the Division would notify the council about grant approvals or denials.

Mr. Hunter responded that updates could be sent by email once finalized or shared at the next scheduled meeting. Mr. Vazquez confirmed that either approach could be used, depending on the council's preference.

Mr. Sommer voiced support for holding four meetings per year, with the option to schedule additional meetings as needed.

Mr. Hunter also explained that Division staff may occasionally invite council members to special events or ribbon cuttings for completed grant projects. While these would not be formal meetings, members would be welcome to attend in support of local partners.

Mr. Smith referenced the bylaws, noting that under Council Duties (Sections 3.1–3.4), the council is required to review items such as the Boating Access Program, grant applications, and the Boating Strategic Plan several times per year. He concluded that this likely necessitates at least three to four meetings annually.

Vice Chair Taylor concurred, adding that a quarterly schedule would provide enough time for the Division to prepare materials while ensuring timely council input.

The council discussed potential meeting dates. Mr. Taylor initially proposed September, but after reviewing the Clean Vessel Act grant deadlines, Mr. Hunter clarified that applications would close at the end of September, meaning staff would still be compiling materials during that time.

Mr. Hunter recommended shifting the meeting to October, explaining that this would allow staff time to process applications and prepare evaluation packets.

Mr. Vice Chair proposed October 21, 2025, as the next meeting date, asking whether that would give sufficient time for staff review. Mr. Vazquez confirmed that date would work well, and the rest of the council agreed.

**GEORGE SOMMER MOVED TO SET THE NEXT BOATING
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FOR OCTOBER 21, 2025,
AT THE SAME TIME AND LOCATION.
DEWITT SMITH SECONDED.**

Vice Chair Taylor confirmed the motion carried, noting humorously that “October 21st feels like seven years away.” The council agreed with the proposed schedule and expressed satisfaction with the plan, calling the discussion good before moving on to the next agenda item.

8. Adjourn - Close (6:00PM)

(01:06:00) – **Vice Chair Taylor** then opened the floor for final business or additional comments. Hearing none, he called for a motion to adjourn.

**ZAC WILLIAMS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.
JENNY KNUDSEN SECONDED.
THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**