



# DRAFT MINUTES

## NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT

### INTERIM COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, October 15, 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. 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. R. Neil Walter  
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

#### Members Absent:

Speaker Mike Schultz

#### 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 Stratton called the meeting to order at 1:23 p.m.

#### 1. Draft Legislation: Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office Amendments

[2 - Draft Legislation "Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office Amendments"](#)

[2 - Bill Review \(Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office\)](#)

[2 - Bill Summary \(Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office\)](#)

[2 - Statement to the NRAE Interim Committee \(Warren Peterson\)](#)

Sen. Owens, Kim Christy, Director, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office, and Liz Mumford, Program Manager, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office, gave a presentation on draft legislation that clarifies the Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office's role.

The committee asked questions of the presenters.

Sherry Maddel, Trust Lands Chair, Utah PTA, and Cade Douglas, Superintendent, Sevier School District, expressed support for the draft legislation.

The committee discussed the draft legislation.

#### 2. Committee Business

**MOTION:** Rep. Albrecht moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 17 - 0 - 2.

Yeas - 17  
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  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 2  
Rep. B. Bolinder  
Rep. M. Schultz

### **3. Draft Legislation: Wildlife Management Area Amendments**

[3 - Draft Legislation "Wildlife Management Area Amendments"](#)

[3 - WMA Amendments Presentation \(Rep. David Shallenberger\)](#)

Representative David Shallenberger, and Justin Shannon, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Resources, gave a presentation on 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Wildlife Management Area Amendments."

The committee asked questions of Rep. Shallenberger.

Josh Cornea, David Hawks, JM Fabrizi, Jenn Gale, and Brandon Sturm, commented on the draft legislation.

**MOTION:** Rep. Chew moved to amend the draft legislation.

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION:** Rep. Chew moved to approve 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Wildlife Management Area Amendments," with an amendment as a committee bill with a favorably recommendation. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 16  
Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. G. Bennion  
Rep. B. Bolinder  
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  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 3  
Sen. N. Blouin  
Rep. M. Schultz  
Rep. R. Walter

### **4. Draft Legislation: Airborne Chemicals Amendments**

[\*\*4 - Cloud Seeding & Geoengineering Presentation \(Utah Division of Water Resources\)\*\*](#)[\*\*4 - Geo Cloud Seeding \(Utah Division of Water Resources\)\*\*](#)

Jonathan Jennings, Meteorologist, Division of Water Resources, gave a presentation on the difference between cloud seeding and geoengineering.

The committee asked questions of Jonathan Jennings.

[\*\*4 - Draft Legislation "Airborne Chemicals Amendments"\*\*](#)[\*\*4 - Airborne Chemicals Amendments Presentation \(Sen. Ron Winterton\)\*\*](#)

Senator Ron Winterton presented draft legislation "Airborne Chemical Amendments."

The committee asked questions of Sen. Winterton and Jonathan Jennings.

Teri Bishop and Eleni Wilding spoke in favor of the draft legislation.

**MOTION:** Rep. Shipp moved to approve 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Airborne Chemicals Amendments," as a committee bill with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 5 - 4.

**Yea - 10**

Rep. C. Albrecht  
Rep. S. Chew  
Sen. D. Hinkins  
Rep. M. Kohler  
Rep. L. Monson  
Sen. D. Owens  
Rep. R. Shipp  
Sen. K. Stratton  
Rep. R. Walter  
Rep. C. Watkins

**Nay - 5**

Rep. G. Bennion  
Sen. N. Blouin  
Rep. D. Owens  
Rep. T. Peterson  
Sen. S. Sandall

**Absent - 4**

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

**5. Draft Legislation: Geothermal Amendments**[\*\*5 - Draft Legislation "Geothermal Amendments"\*\*](#)

Senator Mike McKell introduced draft legislation "Geothermal Amendments."

[\*\*5 - Geothermal in Utah Presentation \(Utah Division of Water Rights\)\*\*](#)

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, and Jim Goddard, Geothermal Program Manager, Division of Water Rights, gave a presentation on geothermal resources.

Chair Albrecht assumed the chair.

The committee asked questions of Sen. McKell, Teresa Wilhelmsen, and Jim Goddard.

**MOTION:** Rep. Walter moved to approve "2026 General Session draft legislation, "Geothermal Amendments," as a committee bill with a favorable recommendation. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 4 - 5.

<u>Yea</u> s - 10	<u>Nay</u> s - 4	<u>Absent</u> - 5
Rep. G. Bennion	Rep. C. Albrecht	Rep. B. Bolinder
Sen. N. Blouin	Sen. D. Owens	Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew	Sen. S. Sandall	Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. D. Hinkins	Rep. R. Shipp	Rep. C. Snider
Rep. M. Kohler		Rep. C. Watkins
Rep. L. Monson		
Rep. D. Owens		
Rep. T. Peterson		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		

Chair Stratton assumed the chair.

## **6. Draft Legislation: Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes**

[8 - Draft Legislation "Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes"](#)

[8 - NRAE Technical Changes Bill Summary \(OLRGC\)](#)

Patricia Owen introduced draft legislation "Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes."

**MOTION:** Rep. Owens moved to approve 2026 General Session draft legislation, "Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Technical Changes," as a committee bill. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

<u>Yea</u> s - 11	<u>Nay</u> s - 0	<u>Absent</u> - 8
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. G. Bennion		Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. N. Blouin		Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. S. Chew		Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. M. Kohler		Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. L. Monson		Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. D. Owens		Rep. C. Snider
Rep. D. Owens		Rep. C. Watkins
Rep. R. Shipp		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		

**MOTION:** Rep. Shipp moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

<u>Yea</u> s - 11	<u>Nay</u> s - 0	<u>Absent</u> - 8
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. G. Bennion		Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. N. Blouin		Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. S. Chew		Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. M. Kohler		Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. L. Monson		Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. D. Owens		Rep. C. Snider
Rep. D. Owens		Rep. C. Watkins
Rep. R. Shipp		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.