



Northern Advisory Council Meeting Agenda

November 18, 2025

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

60 E South Temple, Suite 850

Salt Lake City, UT 84111

(food will be provided)

[Zoom Link](#)

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/9598070519?omn=88998454680>

1. Welcome (Chris Robinson)

- a. Approval of May 5, 2025 meeting minutes
- b. Introduce Emma Epperson

2. Member Roundtable/Feedback (All)

- a. Two-minute round-robin of individual council member updates

3. Update on Colorado River Negotiations

4. Cody Stewart - Curtailment Threats Discussion

5. Housekeeping and Administrative Items (Cody and Emma)

- a. 2026 Recommendations
- b. Next meeting date

6. Wrap-Up and Meeting Conclusion (Chris Robinson)

2025 RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE BOARD

1. Balance Utah's Interests

The Board should continue to keep the stability and ecological health of the Colorado River basin system in mind, while balancing the protection of the interests of Utah and the sovereign tribes, as they engage in interstate and federal negotiations.

2. Conservation

Conservation continues to be the best and most achievable option for the state to address hydrological changes. We encourage the Board to identify, support, and promote incentives and programs that will result in M&I agricultural water conservation and optimization to reduce water consumption. These incentives could also include identifying, targeting, and promoting the best croplands – those that can produce crops in water-efficient ways. The state of Utah and all Basin states should continue to commit resources and funding to promote meaningful and measurable agricultural and M&I conservation and optimization projects.

3. Curtailment and Scenario Planning

We suggest the Board publicly utilize scenario planning of potential implications of curtailment of Colorado River water. The purposes of this scenario planning would be to inform the general public and policymakers and to produce forecasts that consider the anticipated worst-case hydrology and potential curtailment. Everyone would greatly benefit if the Authority modeled and publicized possible curtailment scenarios so that the public could plan accordingly. This could include publicizing the specific calculations used to quantify the state's entitlement, including the supporting information and data and the assumptions used to reach this calculation.

4. Utilize the “Best Science” and most recent data to inform policy decisions

We encourage the Board to continue incorporating the best available science and measurement data available for management and policy recommendations and future annual management plan development.

5. Operation of Lake Powell and Lake Mead

Several members of the NAC believe Lake Powell and Lake Mead need to operate independently so Lake Mead can serve Lower Basin uses and Lake Powell can provide Upper Basin storage to meet compact requirements. Utah should advocate for doing away with the balancing tiers. Many of us believe that the Lower Basin should take cuts commensurate with hydrology in a similar manner as the Upper Basin.

6. Demand Management

Utah should work to either make Demand Management happen or another scenario similar to Lower Basin ICS for Upper Basin in CRSP reservoirs. Users should be able to bank water under a Utah account in Lake Powell. This will allow water users to shepherd water to Lake Powell and bank it for another day. Any Demand Management program needs to be transparent and durable.

7. Promote Resiliency

Protecting the health and resiliency of the Colorado River ecosystem is fundamental to ensuring the river system's continued viability and its ability to provide for people and nature. The post-2026 guidelines should factor in the need to assess the full extent of impacts across a range of ecosystems, habitats, tribal water rights, and communities in evaluating water supply options, including steps to avoid or mitigate negative impacts. This is particularly necessary in light of changing hydrologic conditions and the need for resiliency. The new guidelines should focus on stabilizing the system in relation to climate change impacts.

8. Tribal Involvement

We support continued and enhanced tribal involvement in all key water discussions related to the Colorado River.

ADVISORY COUNCIL GOVERNING RULE

On December 2, 2021, the Authority Board adopted the following advisory council rule to help guide council operations:

ADVISORY COUNCIL GOVERNING RULE

This rule is established under the authority of the Colorado River Authority of Utah Act, Section 63M-14-209, to provide the general standards and procedures for the operation of the Colorado River Authority of Utah (“Authority”) Advisory Councils.

Advisory Council Membership

- 1. There is created one or more Advisory Councils that shall consist of members representing a variety of Colorado River interests in the state of Utah.*
- 2. Advisory Councils will serve as a forum for civic engagement on the use, development, conservation, and protection of Utah’s Colorado River entitlement.*
- 3. Advisory Council Members may serve by appointment or by application. a. Each Advisory Council shall be governed by co-chairs, one selected by its membership and one selected by the Authority Board. The co-chairs will conduct meetings and present council recommendations to the Authority Board. (b) Authority staff shall provide administrative support to all Advisory Councils.*

Advisory Council Meetings

- 1. Advisory Councils shall meet on dates and times as jointly determined by the co-chairs.*
- 2. Each Advisory Council shall:*
 - a. hear broad input, including recommendations, data and information regarding all matters affecting Utah’s Colorado River system water; and*
 - a. make recommendations to the Authority Board in an advisory capacity.*