

# Board Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Title:** Utah Energy Research Board **Date:** August 13th, 2025 **Location:** Capitol Preservation Board, 350 N. State Street, Salt Lake City UT **Meeting Start Time:** 10:00am  
**Meeting End Time:** 10:35am

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## 1. Attendance and Quorum

The meeting was called to order by **Emy Leskofski**, who asked **Summer Clark** to conduct a roll call to confirm attendance and establish a quorum. Introductions were made with all the board members present.

- **Board Members Present:**

- Emy Leskofski
- Larry Howell
- Steve Ellis
- Dennis Warwood
- John O'Neil
- Todd Combs
- Prerna Jain

- **Other Attendees:**

- Joe Finley, Assistant Attorney General
  - Jeremy Pearson, Utah Advanced Nuclear and Energy Institute
  - Jaren Wallace, Utah San Rafael Energy Lab
  - Summer Clark, Utah San Rafael Energy Lab
  - Laren Huntsman, PacifiCorp
  - Mike Squires, UAMPS
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## 2. Oath of Office and Appointments

Joe Finley, the Assistant Attorney General, administered the **Oath of Office** to all present board members. Following this, a motion was made and passed to officially appoint **Jeremy Pearson** as the Director of the Utah Advanced Nuclear and Energy Institute and **Jaren Wallace** as the Director of the Utah San Rafael Energy Lab.

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### 3. Institute Overviews

**Jaren Wallace** provided an overview of the **Utah San Rafael Energy Lab**, noting its three years of operation, focus on state energy projects, and existing nuclear labs with low-level radioactive material licenses. **Jeremy Pearson** then introduced the **Utah Advanced Nuclear and Energy Institute**, describing its legislative purpose as a coordinating hub for universities and research, particularly with the Idaho National Lab.

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### 4. Adopting Roberts Rules

Emy spoke about adopting Roberts Rules for the board in the absence of other procedures that we would adopt as a board later on.

- **Motion:** Dennis Worwood motions to approve the adoption of Roberts Rules and Steve Ellis seconds the motion. All in favor of motion, Emy L., Larry H., Steve E., Dennis W., John O., Todd C., and Perna J.
  - **Decision:** Motion Passes.
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### 5. Appointing Dr. Jeremy Person and Dr. Jaron Wallace

Emy Lesofski spoke on how Dr. Jeremy Pearson and Dr. Jaron Wallace has been acting directors for the Institute and the Research Lab. We would like to make it official that they are not just the acting but the actual directors of their respective bodies.

- **Motion:** Steven Ellis motions to approve Dr. Jeremy Pearson and Dr. Jaron Wallace as acting directors. Larry Howell seconds the motion. All in favor of motion, Emy L., Larry H., Steve E., Dennis W., John O., Todd C., and Perna J.
  - **Decision:** Motion Passes.
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### 5. Project Valar Discussion and Approval

Jaren Wallace presented **Project Valar**, a nuclear startup seeking to establish a 250-kilowatt microreactor test site. The project recently received approval from the Department of Energy (DOE). The board discussed details including the project's private funding, the plan for returning the site to its natural state ("Greenfield"), and financial assurance for liability. Dennis Warwood noted strong public support for the project in Emery County.

- **Motion:** Larry Howell motions to approve the Valar Project and Dennis Worewood seconds the motion. All in favor of motion, Emy L., Larry H., Steve E., Dennis W., John O., Todd C., and Perna J.
- **Decision:** Motion Passes to move forward with the Valar Project.

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## 6. Natura Project Discussion and Approval

Jaren Wallace introduced the **Natura project**, an established company with a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) construction permit for a molten salt reactor. The company plans to expand to the lab's nuclear campus for medical isotope production. The discussion focused on the project's long-term, privately funded plan for a test reactor and commercial isotope enrichment, as well as reactor safety.

- **Motion:** Prerna Jain motions to approve the Natura Project and John O'Neil seconds the motion. All in favor of motion, Emy L., Larry H., Steve E., Dennis W., John O., Todd C., and Prerna J.
- **Decision:** Motion Passes to move forward with the Natura Project.

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## 7. Board Meeting Schedule/Electronic Meetings

The board discussed and agreed upon the schedule for future meetings.

- **Decision:** The board approved holding **quarterly meetings** with the option for additional virtual meetings to address urgent projects or grants. A motion was also approved to allow for **remote voting** during these virtual meetings.
- **Motion:** John O'Neil motions for remote voting and Steve Ellis seconds the motion. All in favor of motion, Emy L., Larry H., Steve E., Dennis W., John O., Todd ., and Prerna J.
- **Action Item:** Emy Leskofski informed all members that annual ethics and GRAMA training is mandatory. Contact information for inquiries was provided.

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## 8. Public Comment and Adjournment

The meeting included a public comment period where attendees expressed appreciation for the board's formation and its anticipated positive impact. The meeting was officially adjourned by Emy Leskofski, who thanked everyone for their attendance.

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**Next Meeting:** November 12th, 2025