

Department of Environmental Quality

Tim Davis Executive Director

DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER Nathan Lunstad, Ph.D., P.E. Director

Drinking Water Board

Justin Maughan, Chair
Blake Tullis, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Corinna Harris
Shazelle Terry
Phil Bondurant, Dr.PH, LEHS
Jason Luettinger, P.E
Bryan Cox
Hollie McKinney
Tim Davis
Nathan Lunstad, Ph.D.
Executive Secretary

DRINKING WATER BOARD MEETING November 18, 2025 1:00 - 4:00pm Via Zoom Webinar & In Person: Multi-Agency State Office Building 195 North 1950 West Rm 1015 Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Nathan Lunstad Cell # 385-239-5974

MINUTES - FINAL

1. Call to Order

Shazelle Terry, standing in as Chair, called the Drinking Water Board (Board, DWB) meeting to order at 1:03 PM

2. Roll Call – Nathan Lunstad

Board Members present at Roll Call: Blake Tullis, Corinna Harris, Shazelle Terry, Jason Luettinger, and Hollie McKinney.

Division of Drinking Water (DDW, Division) Staff Present: Nathan Lunstad, Steph Alpizar, Chris Ledding, Jessica Fitzgerald, Heather Pattee, Andrea Thurlow, Kcris Hunter, Michelle Deras, Kjori Shelley, Michael Grange, Allyson Spevak, Chris Bowles, Russell Seeley, and Rebecca Yoo.

Other Attendees: Dale Pierson, Jake Wood, Kyle Gubler, Ryan Christensen, Cole Allen, Derek Imlay, Alex Buxton, Richard Sorensen, Ronald Gault, Brady Herd, Derek Johnson, Michaela Adams, David Lamay, Todd Robinson, Nathan Wallentine, Robert Snyder, Blaine Worrell, Kelly Wilson, Dave Faux, and Jared Anderson.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes October 1, 2025

 Corinna Harris moved to approve the Drinking Water Board meeting minutes on October 1, 2025. Hollie McKinney seconded. <u>The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.</u>

4. Disclosure for Conflict of Interest

Jason Leuttinger and Shazelle Terry disclosed their business connection with the Provo River Water Users Association. However, as it is an unavoidable Deauthorization, this conflict is null.

5. Directors Report - Nathan Lunstad

A. Enforcement Report (Board Packet Item Only)

The Enforcement Report can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet

Nathan Lunstad briefed the Board on several Division updates.

Gayle Smith's Passing

He was the Division of Drinking Water's first Director and played a large role in Drinking Water throughout the state and nation. Nathan recognized his many contributions that have positively impacted the Drinking Water community locally and nation-wide.

New District Engineers (DE)

Congratulations to Cameron Draney as the newly appointed District Engineer for the Northern territory. Cameron comes from the Division of Drinking Water. There will be a Wasatch Back DE appointed soon.

Drinking Water Fee

The Division is waiting on the Governor's budget to be finalized. Once this takes place, he will be able to approve the Bill. The Division proposed some changes to the bill in accordance with public comments and concerns.

House Bill 280

The DWB Members have asked for information and training on the Infrastructure Fees that may be implemented. Michael Grange will present on this at a later date.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

Michael Grange will provide an update on this later in the meeting.

6. Rural Water Association Report – Dale Pierson

Dale Pierson, Executive Director for the Rural Water Association of Utah (RWAU), gave a brief overview of the items RWAU has been working on. He introduced a new staff member, Jake Wood. Jake Wood introduced himself.

7. Adopt Rule 305 Changes - Chris Bowles

Chris Bowles reported that there was one public comment from the ASCC International to recognize and certify their certification program. This would conflict with Utah state plumbing

codes so they do not recommend any changes to the rule. They are requesting that the Board repeal and re-enact R309-305 with the approved changes.

Corinna asked how often the Tester exam is updated. Bowles stated that he is not sure exactly how often it is updated but assumes it is yearly. Nathan Lunstad added that the testing organization has processes in place to be sure that when the test is changed, they utilize a committee and public comment to do so.

• Corinna Harris moved that the Board adopt Rule 309-305 changes that have been made. Jason Luttinger seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

Board Discussion

8. Financial Assistance Committee Report A. Status Report and Cash Flow – Chris Ledding

Chris Ledding, DDW Financial Manager, provided an overview of the Status Report and Cash Flow included in the packet. This report covers various financial aspects such as Federal SRF, ARPA, Authorized Projects, Lead Service Line, Emerging Contaminants, and State SRF.

Chris highlighted the current SRF availability, the current approved projects will be using about \$160 million of approximately \$192 million in federal grants. The Federal SRF funds remaining is about \$32.5 million. This is with the assumption that there will be no additional Federal funding.

The ARPA Funds remaining that need to be used by Dec 31, 2026 is about \$242 thousand for Rural Projects. School funding is fully obligated.

The Federal Lead Funds availability is at about \$12.2 million.

The Federal Emerging Contaminants Funds availability is at about \$12.8 million.

The State SRF availability is at about \$35 million.

Chris Ledding advised that the packet item has some numerical errors but the numbers presented here are correct.

Board Discussion

Shazelle Terry shared her appreciation for Chris' improvement to the financial report presentation and the fact that he has been listening to and implementing changes in accordance with their feedback.

B. Project Priority List – Michael Grange

Michael Grange reported there were seven (7) new projects being added to the Project Priority list:

- 1. **Huntsville Town** scored 51.0 points on the project priority list. Replace transmission pipeline from their treatment plant to the Town.
- 2. **Ogden City Water System** scored 24.2 points on the project priority list. Replacement of galvanized and potential lead service lines and complete lead line inventory.
- 3. **Rockville Pipeline** scored 18.9 points on the project priority list. Meters.
- 4. **Kingston Town** scored 15.1 points on the project priority list. Replacement of galvanized and potential lead service lines and complete lead line inventory.
- 5. **Paragonah Municipal Water System** scored 13.6 points on the project priority list. Replacement of galvanized and potential lead service lines and complete lead line inventory.
- 6. **Hooper WID** scored 8.7 points on the project priority list. Construct buildings for new well and equipment and construct a new tank
- 7. **La Verkin** scored 15.0 points on the project priority list. Replace 101 GRR and 3 LSL as well as meters and mains

The Financial Assistance Committee recommends the Drinking Water Board approve the updated Project Priority List.

• Corinna Harris moved that the Board approve the updated Project Priority List. Hollie McKinney seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

ARPA Funding Updates

Michael Grange presented on the updates to ARPA Funding. Grange gave some background information. It was passed in March of 2021, with funding available in 2022. It was mainly to support urgent COVID-19 responses to replace lost public sector jobs, strengthen support for vital public services, immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses and to address public health and economic challenges during the pandemic. The funds available for water and sewer infrastructure projects. Of the \$2.5 Billion that Utah state was given, \$50 million was given to the Division. \$3.5 million was used for the Lead Free Schools project. \$46.5 million were set to allocate out to small rural disadvantaged communities. There was a cap of \$3.5 million per project. The deadlines stated that funds needed to be obligated by December 31, 2024. Obligation was determined by an agreement to spend the funds as quickly as possible. The other deadline is December 31, 2026 which is the date when the funds need to be spent or it will go back to the Treasury.

Grange explained that they used some funds to swap out the grant / principal forgiveness that the Board had already allocated. The Board then used the returned funds to allocate towards other SRF projects. There is currently \$242 thousand that needs to be spent on rural communities.

C. SRF Applications

- i. Federal
 - a. Hooper Water Improvement District Kjori Shelley

Representing Hooper Water Improvement District was Cole Allen and Alex Buxton.

Kjori Shelley presented the Hooper Water Improvement District's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

None.

• Jason Leuttinger moved that the Board authorize a construction loan of \$12,000,000 at 2.0% interest for 30 years to Hooper Water Improvement District. Additionally, the 2.0% interest accrued will go into the Hardship Grant Assessment fund. Corinna Harris seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

b. Huntsville Town - Allyson Spevak

Representing Huntsville Town was Mayor Richard Sorensen, Jared Andersen, and Ronald Gault.

Allyson Spevak presented the Huntsville Town's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

Ronald Gault stated that they raised the water bill about 82% and had public meetings at which all attendees supported this project. Mayor Sorensen expanded on their community needs and thanked the board for considering their application.

• Corinna Harris moved that the Board The Drinking Water Board authorize a construction loan of \$1,698,000 with \$510,000 in principal forgiveness to Huntsville Town, for a repayable loan amount of \$1,188,000 at 1.5% for 30 years. Huntsville has no points on their IPS report. Shazelle Terry seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

c. Kingston Town - Andrea Thurlow

• Kingston Town withdrew their application.

d. Ogden City - Andrea Thurlow

Representing Ogden City was Brady Herd, Derek Johnson, Michaela Adams, and David Lamay.

Andrea Thurlow presented the Ogden City's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

Michaela Adams from Sunrise Engineering expanded on the project information. Derek Johnson requested a 0% interest option be considered. David Lamay provided the board with an additional packet of information.

Shazelle Terry asked them to confirm that the number of galvanized service lines would remain the same. Corinna Harris asked if the number of connections would take care of the growing population. Derek Johnson clarified that it would only be for the existing population. Shazelle asked Michael Grange if there is any precedent for a situation like this.

Grange reported that the majority of funding for this project would come from the lead service line funding source and the Board needs to use 49% of the funds every year as subsidies on programs which is why this proposal has the subsidy amount that it does. The funds are available and the options are within the boundaries that Congress set in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Shazelle Terry asked how quickly Ogden City could get started with construction. Derek Johnson stated that they could start immediately. Corinna Harris asked if they have tried to find funding elsewhere. Derek Johnson stated that they have not.

Jason Leuttinger asked why the 0% interest was not presented as an option by the Financial Assistance Committee. Andrea Thurlow stated that it was just not considered in time for the packet item due date. Andrea presented the 0% numbers and Jason stated that it would be negligible in comparison to the community's needs.

Blake Tullis asked for clarification on the connection with the interest rate and the disadvantaged community and how one justifies the other. He also feels that if there is no pre-existing precedent, they should choose the 1% interest rate. Michael Grange clarified that offering a 0% loan today would not be setting a precedent that does not already exist.

• Blake Tullis moved that the Board authorize a construction loan of \$27,285,000 with \$13,365,000 in principal forgiveness to Ogden City Water System, for a repayable loan amount of \$13,920,000 at 1.00% Hardship Grant Assessment Fee for 39 years. Hollie McKinney seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

e. Paragonah Town - Andrea Thurlow

Representing Paragonah Town was Mayor Todd Robinson and Nathan Wallentine.

Andrea Thurlow presented the Paragonah Town's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

Nathan Wallentine elaborated on other projects they are working on that are connected to this proposal and hope to have all of the construction done at the same time. Blake Tullis asked if they know the number of connections and how they got the numbers for the budget if the number of connections was unknown. Wallentine clarified that they do know the number of projected connections.

• Jason Leuttinger moved that the Board authorize a construction loan of \$2,925,000, with \$1,430,000 in principal forgiveness, for a repayable loan amount of \$1,495,000 at 1.0%

Hardship Grant Assessment Fee for 39 years to Paragonah Municipal Water System. Shazelle Terry seconded. <u>The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.</u>

f. Rockville Pipeline - Heather Pattee

Representing Rockville Pipeline was Robert Snyder.

Heather Pattee presented the Rockville Pipeline's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

Robert Snyder thanked the Board for considering their application and expressed the importance of the water meters for the pipeline company. Shazelle Terry asked if the digital read would help with water conservation. Snyder stated that would be one of the benefits as the existing meters are over 20 years old and would help determine if there was a leak.

Jason Leuttinger asked if there was any criteria that changed to allow these funds to become available for Rockville Pipeline. Michael Grange clarified that some ARPA funds had been returned and since the funds must be spent by December 31, 2026, they recommend awarding the Grant instead of a loan.

• Corinna Harris moved that the Board authorize an ARPA Grant of \$92,000 to Rockville Pipeline. Jason Leuttinger seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

g. La Verkin - Andrea Thurlow

Representing La Verkin was Derek Imlay, Blaine Worrell, Kyle Gubler, and Mayor Kelly Wilson.

Andrea Thurlow presented La Verkin's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

Andrea Thurlow advised that there were some errors in the packet and clarified that the staff recommendation is that the Board authorize a construction loan of \$2,228,000 with \$1,114,000 in principal forgiveness to the Birkin City Water System. For a repayable loan amount of \$1,114,000 at 2.5% hardship grant assessment fee for 20 years to replace lead and galvanized service lines. Thurlow advised that La Verkin representatives would also like to discuss other financial options.

Mayor Kelly Wilson asked the Board for 80% loan forgiveness and 20% grant. Shazelle Terry asked what the water rates were prior to their raise. Mayor Wilson stated they were previously 36 and some change. City Manager, Kyle Gubler, stated that 90% of the impacted community is low-income. Shazelle Terry asked how quickly they could start construction. Gubler advised they can start immediately.

Corinna Harris asked if it is possible to deauthorize any projects in order to have more funds to distribute. Michael Grange confirmed that the six month moratorium that will begin January 2026

will allow the IFS team to evaluate those projects and possibly advise the DWB to deauthorize some loans.

Andrea Thurlow presented the alternative financial proposal. La Verkin would like the Board to consider a 30% loan and 70% principal forgiveness for 30 years of hardship grant assessment fee at 2%. The monthly water bill would be \$46.79, which would be 1.25% of the local Magi. The amounts would be \$1,550,000 in principal forgiveness, and \$678,000 for the loan.

Shazelle Terry asked how many connections it would be for. Mayor Wilson responded there are 114 connections. Michael Grange advised that the extra principal forgiveness will not harm the fund to an appreciable extent.

- Corinna Harris moved that the Board deauthorize the original motion from the August 27, 2025 DWB meeting to La Verkin Water System. Hollie McKinney seconded. <u>The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.</u>
- Corinna Harris moved that the Board authorize a construction loan of \$2,228,000 with a principal forgiveness of \$1,550,000 and a loan amount of \$678,000 for 30 years at 2% interest. Jason Leuttinger seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

h. Provo River Water User Association: De-Authorization - Allyson Spevak

Representing the Provo River Water User Association was Dave Faux.

Allyson Spevak presented the Provo River Water User Association's financial assistance request. Project details can be found in the Drinking Water Board Packet.

Board Discussion

Dave Faux expressed his appreciation to the Board for the work of the IFS Staff.

• Corrina Harris moved that the Board deauthorize a loan of \$8 million at 2% interest for 30 years to Provo River Water User Association. Hollie McKinney seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

9. Public Comment Period

None.

10. Open Board Discussion

A. 2026 Drinking Water Board Meeting Schedule - Steph Alpizar

Steph Alpizar presented the proposed schedule for the 2026 Drinking Water Board Meetings.

Board Discussion

Alpizar clarified the time and location of each proposed meeting. Alpizar asked the Board to choose between two alternate dates for the September 2 meeting as it would have conflicted with

Page 9

the Air Quality Board Meeting. This conflict would prevent Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director, Tim Davis, from attending the Board meeting.

 Jason Leuttinger moved that the Board approve the proposed 2026 DWB Meeting Schedule and approve August 25 as the alternate date for the September 2 meeting. Shazelle Terry seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

11. Other

12. Next Board Meeting

Date: January 6, 2026 Time: 1:00 - 4:00 pm MST

Place: Multi-Agency State Office Building

195 North 1950 West Rm 1015 Salt Lake City, UT 84116

13. Adjourn

• Corinna Harris moved to adjourn the meeting. Hollie McKinney seconded. <u>The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.</u>

The Meeting adjourned at 2:43 pm MST.