



MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

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.

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 2

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

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 3

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

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.

Yeas - 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

Nays - 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.

Yeas - 10

Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 4

Rep. C. Albrecht
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp

Absent - 5

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

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.

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. C. Watkins

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

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. G. Bennion
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. C. Watkins

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