

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Colorado River Authority of Utah
November 18, 2025 -- 1:00 p.m. MT

1. Call to Order – Gene Shawcroft, Chair

Mr. Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm stating there was a quorum. A list of all attendees is included in Attachment I. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes of August 19, 2025, Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting – Gene Shawcroft

Mr. Humphrey motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Hasenyager seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person) – Gene Shawcroft

There was no public comment.

4. Report of the Chair – Gene Shawcroft

Mr. Shawcroft stated it has been a long time since we met and there has been a lot of water under the bridge in those months. Mr. Shawcroft explained the Department of Interior had a deadline for a consensus framework by the 11th of November and there was sufficient information provided to the Department that they concluded we had met that deadline, acknowledging there is still an awful lot of work to do. Mr. Shawcroft explained there will be some interim deadlines with some items discussed, with the final version of the agreement needing to be signed by the middle of February. Mr. Shawcroft explained that part of what we have recommended is that we look at a phased approach with the first phase being a 5-year period of time and the second phase being 6 years plus. Mr. Shawcroft stated in order for phase 1 to really work we need to have some idea of what is going to happen in Phase 2. Mr. Shawcroft explained more emphasis has been put on Phase 1 than Phase 2 but there needs to be more understanding of what might happen in Phase 2. Mr. Shawcroft explained all of the states desire to reach an agreement, and nobody wants anything imposed by the Federal Government.

Mr. Shawcroft explained the schedule continues to be a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the end of the year with the final EIS in August 2026, and in order for this to happen, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) needs to be in a position where they can move forward with an Alternative, and as late as they can wait is the middle of February.

Mr. Shawcroft discussed the Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) Special Meeting on September 17th where Provisional Accounting was discussed, and explained the Commission approved all projects that were submitted by the four Upper Division states. Mr. Shawcroft stated Mr. Stilson will discuss our Demand Management Pilot Program (DMPP) later in the agenda.

5. Report of the Executive Director – Amy Haas, Executive Director

Ms. Haas discussed the Department of Interior and Bureau of Reclamation tour that occurred on September 29-30. Ms. Haas explained that Utah and Wyoming hosted **Acting** Reclamation Commissioner Scott Cameron, David Palumbo, Deputy Reclamation Commissioner and other Department of Interior/Bureau of Reclamation leadership on a two-day, two state tour. Ms. Haas explained that Utah showcased various conservation activities, including the DMPP, and invited farmers on the Price River participating in the Pilot Program to share their experiences. Ms. Haas

explained the tour was joined by Troy Forrest, Deputy Commission of the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAf), who spoke to the importance of agriculture for Utah, and Dr. Burdette Barker of Utah State University (USU), who described an innovative subsurface drip conservation project in the Uinta Basin. Ms. Haas thanked Dan Larsen for speaking during the tour and also thanked Marc Stilson from the Authority and Jared Hansen from Central Utah Water Conservancy District for bringing the Utah piece of the tour together.

Ms. Haas discussed staffing changes and explained that Lily Bosworth and Holly McCall are no longer with us and that we are thrilled to welcome Emma Epperson as our new Operations Coordinator and we will have a new Senior Project Engineer joining us next month whom will be introduced at our January meeting.

Ms. Haas reminded the Board that in January 2026, per HB 80 adopted in 2024, all board members are required to make Conflict of Interest Disclosures. Betsy Coleman stated these disclosures will be sent out in January by Logan Anderson and are due no later than January 31st.

6. Approval of 2026 Authority Board Meeting Schedule – Chair Shawcroft

Mr. Shawcroft asked if there were any questions or concerns about the 2026 board meeting dates. There being none, a motion to approve the schedule was made by Mr. Humphrey, seconded by Mr. Ferry, and unanimously approved by the board.

7. Hydrology and System Status Update – Betsy Morgan, Staff Engineer

Ms. Morgan provided a hydrology and system status update and stated that October was a favorable month for precipitation across the Upper Colorado region, and that so far, November is much drier than October. Ms. Morgan explained that water year to date precipitation is slightly above average, with precipitation accumulation across the Upper Colorado region at 108% of median. Ms. Morgan noted that despite near average precipitation conditions, snow water equivalent (SWE) was below normal across the region at 33% of median. Ms. Morgan discussed the upcoming temperature and precipitation outlook for Utah, which appears cooler and wetter in the 8-14 day outlook, but warmer with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation at the monthly outlook.

Ms. Morgan discussed reservoir storage in the Colorado River system, where Lake Powell is 29% full and Lake Mead is 31% full with a total system content of 37%. Ms. Morgan discussed the Lake Powell Water Year 2026 unregulated inflow forecast and explained the November most probable forecast is 8.06 million acre-feet (maf), with a minimum and maximum probable range of 4.86 maf to 14.81 maf, respectively. Compared to the September most probable unregulated inflow forecast, Ms. Morgan noted that the November forecast is showing an upward trend in both the April – July and Water Year 2026 forecasted unregulated inflow volume. Ms. Morgan discussed Lake Powell and Lake Mead projected end-of-year elevations, where she explained the most probable projection for Lake Powell is 3540.1' and the most probable projection for Lake Mead is 1059.6'.

8. Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan Update – Betsy Morgan

Ms. Morgan discussed the Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP), which she explained provides a framework for adaptively managing Glen Canyon Dam operations consistent with the Grand Canyon Protection Act. Ms. Morgan explained that a LTEMP Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was signed last year, which added the

ability to conduct experimental flows to prevent the establishment of non-native fish, particularly smallmouth bass, and amended the existing High Flow Experiment (HFE) protocol. Ms. Morgan provided an overview of relevant experiments and management actions that took place below Glen Canyon Dam in 2025. Ms. Morgan first discussed the 2025 smallmouth bass experimental flow, or cool mix flow, and explained that cool mix flows blend penstock releases with river outlet releases to maintain downstream temperatures below 15.5 degrees Celsius, which is a spawning trigger for smallmouth bass. Ms. Morgan then discussed the -12 mile slough, which is a backwater habitat ~3 miles below Glen Canyon Dam that is known to be a “hot-spot” for nonnative fish, and explained that modifications occurred in 2025 to reshape/channelize the slough to increase water flow and decrease temperatures. Finally, Ms. Morgan discussed HFEs, which she explained are short duration, high magnitude releases that are designed to rebuild sandbars in the Grand Canyon, and explained the process that took place over the last year to consider implementation of HFEs at Glen Canyon Dam.

In terms of upcoming actions, Ms. Morgan explained that there is uncertainty surrounding the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) budget for experimental and management actions, but that a potential Spring HFE and smallmouth experimental flow will be considered in early 2026.

9. Demand Management Pilot Program Status – Marc Stilson, Principal Engineer

Mr. Stilson provided an update on the 2026 DMPP Applications. Mr. Stilson explained the pilot program is 2 years and collaboration is needed to meet each objective. Mr. Stilson introduced the various team members involved and explained most of the participation has been in the northern part of the state. Mr. Stilson explained the program is voluntary and allows input from water users, allows for greater participation from both junior and senior water right holders, and allows water users to get creative and find innovative ways to conserve. Mr. Stilson discussed the outreach which included over a dozen meetings across the Basin, and lessons learned which include being more educational, smaller group focused, assistance from Advisory Councils, and sharing other water users’ experiences. Mr. Stilson provided a recap of 2025 stating most users signed up for 2 years and the depletion reduction estimation for 2025 and 2026 is approximately 17,417 acre-feet and we have approximately \$1M remaining in the 2026 budget. Mr. Stilson discussed the three different project types including partial or full season temporary lease, irrigation system conversion and storage forbearance. Mr. Stilson discussed fixed-time change applications which had to be filed with DWR by October 10th and will be approved by March 1, 2026. Mr. Stilson explained there were 10 full season lease applicants and one storage applicant that will provide an estimated depletion reduction of 2,784 acre-feet, and the remaining budget from the original \$5M is \$20,939. Mr. Stilson discussed next steps which include application evaluations, board review at a special December meeting, notice to applicants by December 18th, and metering and measurement.

10. Quarterly Budget Report and Accountable Budget Process Update – Logan Anderson, Manager of Finance and Administration

Mr. Anderson provided a brief update of the Authority’s budget and explained we are approximately 30% expended to date and the remaining balance after expenditures is \$11,555,040. Mr. Anderson explained the Authority did go through the accountable budget process and explained the two recommendations by the legislature.

11. Resolution Honoring Candice Hasenyager’s service on the Authority Board – Chair Shawcroft

Mr. Shawcroft announced Ms. Hasenyager was leaving the Board and read a resolution honoring

Candice. A motion to approve the motion was made by Mr. Renstrom, seconded by Mr. Humphrey and unanimously approved by the Board.

12. Remarks from the Board

The board thanked Mr. Shawcroft and Ms. Haas for their efforts with the Basin States meetings and negotiations. Mr. Ferry stated the Governor's Office completely supports the Authority and their efforts. Ms. Hasenyager thanked everyone as well and stated she was often complimented on Utah's efforts with the negotiations.

13. Other Business

14. Next Meeting: January 13, 2026 1:00 pm World Trade Center 1st Floor Conference Room, 60 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

15. Closed Session as needed to discuss interstate claims to the use of water from the Colorado River system and to protect classified records, legal strategy, or the ability of the state to carry out negotiations (UCA 52-4-205(2)(e)).

A motion was made by Mr. Ferry to close the meeting pursuant to Utah Code section 52-4-205 to discuss interstate claims to the use of water from the Colorado River system and to protect classified records, legal strategy, or the ability of the state to carry out negotiations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hasenyager. Ms. Coleman took a roll call vote from each Board Member; the motion to enter a Closed Session passed unanimously.

16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm.

November 18, 2025
Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting

Board Member Attendees:

Gene Shawcroft, Chair
Joel Ferry, Vice Chair
Candice Hasenyager
Dan Larsen (virtual)
Jay Mark Humphrey
Zach Renstrom (virtual)

Attendees:

Betsy Coleman
Wendy Crowther
Marc Stilson
Logan Anderson
Betsy Morgan
Cody Stewart
Bart Leeflang, CUWCD
Ed Mueller, DNR
Scott McGettigan, DWRe
Richard Salas, DWRe
Mike Drake, Water Rights
Blake Buehler, CUWCD
Brett Behling, WSP

Virtual Attendees:

Amy Haas
Emma Epperson
Sarah Schechter
Cody Allred
Adam Jones
Dex Winterton
Rachel Anderson
Evan Curtis
Nicole Nielson