

DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Colorado River Authority of Utah
December 8, 2025 --9:00 a.m. MT

1. **Call to Order—Gene Shawcroft, Chair**
Chair Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 9:00 am stating there was a quorum. Ms. Epperson announced the names of all attendees.
2. **Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person) – Joel Ferry, Vice Chair**
There was no public comment.
3. **Consideration of approval of UT Demand Management Pilot Program Projects for 2026 –Marc Stilson, Principal Engineer**
Mr. Stilson thanked the team for their efforts, Jacobs Engineering, with their sub-consultants, along with counsel from our Advisory Councils, and several of our state agency partners, UDAF and Water Right, water Resources and UGS. Mr. Stilson provided a summary of the projects for 2026 and announced there were 10 full-season lease applications and 1 storage forbearance application. Mr. Stilson explained the highest application received a total score of 57, and the top three applications scored high. Mr. Stilson reviewed each application and discussed locations, strengths and weaknesses.

Mr. Stilson explained for 2026 all applicants were required to file change applications along with their application to the program, and all fixed-time change applications for full season lease applications have been filed and the fixed-time change application for storage forbearance application is waiting on a signature from a federal agency.

Mr. Stilson stated the total acreage proposed for full season lease is just under 1400 acres and the conserved consumptive use in acre feet is just less than 2800 acre-feet for all of the projects. Mr. Stilson explained that if all of the projects were selected it would be just over a million dollars, and the remaining budget, from the original \$5M appropriation, would be \$1,028,782. Mr. Stilson recommended accepting all of the proposed full-season leased projects except 26_2, which he explained has the dry stretch and water can't be moved down to the Green River, and also the proposed storage forbearance project. Mr. Stilson explained if the one project is removed the acreage is dropped down to 1189 and conserved consumptive use to just over 2,500 acre-feet, and the cost reduced to \$895,129 which would give us a reserve of 133,653 left in the program.

Mr. Stilson explained there will be some additional administrative costs if we take all of the projects on, and restated the purpose which is maintain viable agricultural communities by facilitating temporary, voluntary, compensated and protected conservation of water use by reduction of water depletion by water users with the goal of ensuring continued Colorado River Compact compliance. Mr. Stilson explained the whole reason this program is being conducted is to prepare the State of Utah and our water users for potential changes that we must make to stay in compliance with our compact obligations and whatever comes out of the post-2026 negotiations.

Mr. Stilson explained this is a two-year pilot program which will end at the end of irrigation season 2026, and depending on the outcome of the post-2026 negotiations, we will look at

whether we need to stand up a full-scale program going forward.

Ms. Haas discussed the forbearance project on the Duchesne, and explained the reason we saw less than 25% yield on that project was because of hydrologic shortage, as it was a particularly difficult year on the Duchesne River this year.

Chair Shawcroft asked whether the source of this money is all State of Utah money and Mr. Stilson confirmed that it was correct, it is the original \$5M State appropriation for 2023.

Ms. Hasenyager asked whether the funding was contingent on having an approved change application and Mr. Stilson replied yes, that was correct, and explained the Division of Water Rights is working through all of the issues related to these change application but we wanted to stress to the applicants that this program works only if we can have those types of protections in place.

Mr. Ferry asked several questions about the project and discussion ensued. Mr. Renstrom explained that last time he voted against this as he had some concerns about the change applications but expressed his appreciation to the staff working with water rights and Teresa Wilhelmsen on getting these change applications done.

Ms. Hasenyager motioned to approve the list, which was seconded by Mr. Humphrey and unanimously approved by the board.

Ms. Haas recognized Mr. Stilson for his efforts and explained he attended 13 public outreach meetings in one month's time. Chair Shawcroft thanked Mr. Stilson for treading on new territory and thanked the Authority for their work.

4. **Adjourn**

Ms. Hasenyager motioned for the meeting to adjourn which was seconded by Mr. Larsen and unanimously agreed to by the board members. The meeting was adjourned at 9:31am.

December 8, 2025
Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting

Board Member Attendees:

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

Attendees:

Amy Haas
Betsy Coleman
Betsy Morgan
Amanda Daniels
Emma Epperson
Wendy Crowther
Marc Stilson
Cody Stewart
Bart Leeflang, CUWCD
Ed Mueller, DNR
Scott McGettigan, DWRe
Richard Salas, DWRe
Teresa Wilhemsen
Nicole
Ben Winslow
David Condos
Eric Holmstead
Cody Allred

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Please contact the Authority at bcoleman@utah.gov or (801) 759-0188.

General public attendees will be able to join this meeting in person or via Zoom:

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

<https://utah-gov.zoom.us/j/89471565320?pwd=3nMh85WyZ8qQq5E9pPoWVrCSe1cfWm.1>

