



State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

## 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

January 6, 2026 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

Justin Maughan, called the Drinking Water Board (Board, DWB) meeting to order at 1:24 PM.

#### 2. Roll Call – Nathan Lunstad

Board Members present at Roll Call: Justin Maughan, Corinna Harris, Shazelle Terry, Jason Luettinger, Tim Davis, Phil Bondurant, and Hollie McKinney.

Division of Drinking Water (DDW, Division) Staff Present: Nathan Lunstad, Steph Alpizar, Chris Ledding, Jessica Fitzgerald, Kcris Hunter, Michelle Deras, Michael Grange, Allyson Spevak, Russell Seeley, Sarah Page, Brian Pattee, Ryan Dearing, Terri Lancaster, Rebecca Springer, Heather Pattee, Aaron Holloway, Dani Zebelean, Mike Newberry, Andrea Thurlow, Mark Berger, and Kjori Shelley.

Other Attendees: Dale Pierson, Jake Wood, Shannon Rasmussen, Ron Mortensen, Jake Ferguson, Brian Naylor, Vern Steel, Janelle Braithwaite, Jake Ferguson, Abby Ritz, and Nate.

#### 3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2025

- Jason Luettinger moved to approve the Drinking Water Board meeting minutes on November 18, 2025. Corinna Harris seconded. Jason Luettinger and Phil Bondurant abstained as they were absent. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

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#### **4. Disclosure for Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest.

#### **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.

##### New Employee, Terri Lancaster

Nathan introduced the new Division of Drinking Water staff member, Terri Lancaster.

##### Office of Legislative Auditor General (OLAG)

Nathan explained that there was a recent cybersecurity audit reported. DDW will be meeting with the OLAG staff soon to go through the report findings.

##### House Bill 19

Nathan explained that this bill pertains to cybersecurity. If there is a breach or threat to a water system, they will be required to report it within two hours to the Cybersecurity Center. The goal is to have proper authorities involved as soon as possible, such as the Department of Technology Services, the FBI, or Homeland Security; in order to retain as much data, money, or other resources as possible.

##### House Bill 69

Nathan explained that this bill pertains to restructuring, consolidation, and regionalization of water systems. They plan to have it be a rule rather than just a statute in order to give more opportunity for stakeholder engagement and public input. The statute will give the Division some authority to go through district court to assist with negotiations if a water system needs the support.

##### Fee Bill

Nathan presented the update that they were able to cut the fees in half and were able to extend the implementation out to 2027. This was submitted to the Governor's office and it was approved in the budget. This will allow the Division to be more independent and rely less on external funding.

Tim Davis expressed appreciation for Nathan and his team for taking into consideration all of the public comments and making changes to the bill where they could accommodate stakeholders and move forward with the fee.

##### Sanitary Surveys

Nathan explained that the Division has been supporting local health departments (LHD) by taking sanitary surveys and actively communicating with the LHDs so they can collaborate in the future.

##### DDW's New District Engineers (DE)

Nathan explained that the Division has added two new DEs to cover the Bear River area in Northern Utah and the Wasatch Back area covering Morgan, Summit, and Wasatch counties. Cameron Draney and Julie Cobleigh will be the DEs of these regions respectively. If the Division receives enough Federal funding, they hope to continue to expand their DE staff to provide more support for communities.

## **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. Dale explained that with Curt Ludvigson's retirement, Janelle Braithwaite has a full work load and as a result, some water systems may not be able to receive the same amount of support as in the past.

## **7. Rule Changes**

### **A. Consolidation: R309-524: Chemical Addition - Sarah Page**

Sarah Page presented the proposed changes to consolidate some rules to clarify the guidelines on how to install chemicals that will apply to disinfection. They are in the process of updating rules pertaining to regular conventional surface water treatment, alternative treatment, and miscellaneous treatment.

Justin Maughan asked for an explanation of the rule changing process. Michelle Deras explained that staff looks at existing rules and sees what could be updated to further support water systems. They hold informal stakeholder meetings to ask them how the existing rules impact them and how they could be improved. Then staff determines if the rule needs to be reevaluated by the EPA, OAR or others to ensure the version they present to the Board is ready for questions and evaluation. Once the proposed rule changes are approved by the board, the Division holds a formal stakeholder meeting to allow for public comment. Once these comments have been taken into consideration and further changes made to the rule, the Division then presents to the Board again to approve the new rule. This process is repeated until it is approved by the Board, stakeholders, and federal entities.

Tim Davis expanded that any proposed rule changes also pass by him for economic and business impact before being finalized. Nathan Lunstad emphasized that the Division staff has many informal meetings to ensure that the proposed rule changes and any concerns are evaluated and addressed before it is presented to the Board. He also mentioned that some changes take a year or more to be finalized.

Justin Maughan asked how many rules would be impacted by this proposed change and if a full report of what is being changed and impacted would be presented to the Board. Sarah Page responded that there are a few rules that they are trying to complete quickly due to the upcoming PFAS regulation changes and therefore they may not be able to present a full report of all of the impacted rules. They plan to start with rule 524, then 525, 530, and then rule 535. Nathan Lunstad added that some of the other rules that Sarah Page mentioned have already been presented to the Board at previous meetings.

**B. R540: Pumps and Hydropneumatic facilities - Russell Seeley**

Russell Seeley presented the proposed rules changes to rule 540 and clarified that this rule is ready for formal approval by the Board. The rule pertains to making a modification to pump stations that provide pressure. For transient or, non-transient, non-community public water systems they can still only have one pump in service but for community system, they can have two pumps operating. The other change to the rule pertains to Home Booster Pumps.

The Division is proposing that these pumps be approved at the discretion of the water system instead of the Division making an exception to the rule. There are three conditions that will have be met including; the water system has adequate pressure in their distribution system, the home booster pump needs to be approved by the local public water system, and the home booster pump needs to be installed by the requirements for the International Plumbing Code to ensure backflow prevention.

Seeley elaborated that this will reduce permit requirements and exceptions as well as make things easier for homeowners, developers, and water systems. Phil Bondurant asked who would be responsible for ensuring the pumps are installed according to the International Plumbing Code. Russell replied that it would be the public water system. Nathan Lunstad added that this solves the previous issues of jurisdiction conflicts.

- Phil Bondurant motioned that the Board authorize Division staff to begin the rulemaking process. Jason Luettinger 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 funds remaining is about \$13.5 million. This amount includes current awards plus expected future funding.

The ARPA Funds remaining that need to be used by Dec 31, 2026 is about \$128 thousand for Rural Projects. School funding is fully obligated. Since the last meeting, about \$114 thousand has been committed. About \$11 million is the current unspent balance.

The Federal Lead Funds availability is at about -\$22 million. However, after the 2025 EPA grant of about \$28 million has been utilized, the remaining funds should be about \$6.5 million.

The Federal Emerging Contaminants Funds availability is at about \$10.5 million.

The State SRF availability is at about \$36 million.

## B. Project Priority List – Michael Grange

Michael Grange reported there is one (1) new project being added to the Project Priority list:

1. **South Davis Water District** - scored 4.5 points on the project priority list. Install a transmission line to transport water from a PFAS-contaminated well to a non-contaminated well line.

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

- Jason Luettinger moved that the Board approve the updated Project Priority List. Corinna Harris seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

## Zions Public Finance Report on House Bill 280

Michael Grange presented on the Zions Public Finance Report on House Bill 280. Grange gave background information regarding Water Affordability Thresholds. He explained the differences between Median Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) and Median Household Income (MHI) and what they are used for today, specifically in regards to loan repayment as pertains to the Drinking Water Board and its decision making.

Grange stated that the Zions report switches back and forth between using MAGI and MHI and therefore it is difficult and misleading to compare the two in this context. The report also states that the MAGI tends to track lower than MHI which was used to justify their evaluation that Utah has more space to raise rates closer to the 4.5% threshold.

Justin Maughan clarified that he wanted to be aware of the results of the report in order for the Board to be properly informed if this evaluation would have an impact on how funding is dispersed to the state and how grants and loans are going to be approved moving forward. Grange confirmed that there is no legislation yet regarding a change to funding. Justin asked for confirmation that the Division had staff involved in meetings related to Zions report. Grange confirmed that they were in the meeting that this report was presented at but was not involved in the preparation of the report itself.

Nathan Lunstad stated that the Utah Watersheds Council meeting next week may discuss the report. Justin Maughan asked if there will be a presentation on what to do given the information in the report. Tim Davis requested that Nathan ask that the Utah Watersheds Council attend the next DWB Meeting to present on next steps given the Zions report's findings.

Grange concluded stating the Board could choose to change their use of MAGI to MHI when evaluating what loans to approve in the future. Justin Maughan clarified that his interest in this report's findings are due to the possibility of changing policy that could financially impact the residents of Utah. He asked if the Board or the Division staff would recommend they create a sub committee to be informed and involved in any changing legislature that may be to come. Grange

stated that he's happy to continue expressing the Boards concerns with the Council and sharing updates from the Council to the Board.

Justin asked if there is anyone else who has interest or concerns regarding this. Hollie McKinney asked for clarification on the background of this topic. Justin explained the proposed state fee and Tim Davis clarified further. Hollie shared that this proposed increase in expense on the residents would impact her community greatly. Justin asked again if the Board should be more involved or just wait to hear the results. Grange expressed from a staff perspective that it may just be an additional hoop that water systems need to navigate but this would increase the amount of effort for all boards. Grange suggested having a work session where they can present to the Board and bring any feedback the Board may have to the Council.

Nathan Lunstad added that some positives to the Unified Water Infrastructure Plan include reducing the number of systems that try to go directly to the legislature before asking the Board for financial assistance, as well as a possible increase in funding for the Board to authorize for drinking water projects. Justin Maughan clarified that his intention is to be as informed as possible, especially how it will impact the State's communities and what impacts it could have on the Board. Nathan Lunstad reassured the Board that the Department of Environmental Quality does have representatives from Water Quality and Drinking Water attending these meetings and does not believe anything would be passed during this legislative session as it is such a difficult topic.

Jason Luettinger asked for clarification on whether the community concerns are based on the affordability aspect or the process for requesting funding. Justin stated that he believed it started with the affordability aspect and how it was different as well as in general the overall process and how it could change. Nathan Lunstad added that the next Water Development Coordinating Council meeting is on January 26, 2026 and offered to propose a next step in the process being bringing all of the boards together for training or an update. Jason Luettinger shared that on January 13, 2026 at 1:30pm there is an AWRA meeting regarding Unified Water infrastructure projects.

### **C. SRF Applications**

#### **i. Federal**

##### **a. Emerging Contaminants**

###### **i. South Davis Water District - Allyson Spevak**

Representing South Davis Water District was Ron Mortensen, Jake Ferguson, and Brian Naylor.

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

Jake Ferguson expanded to say their reason for asking for the funds is due to PFAS emerging contamination that occurred during a well rehabilitation.

### **Board Discussion**

Justin Maughan asked for clarification from staff as to why the after-project water bill is less than the current water bill. Allyson Spevak explained that the water system is already charging enough to cover the cost of the loan being requested.

Nathan Lunstad added a comment regarding a newer requirement for PFAS testing.

- Phil Bondurant moved that the Board authorize a construction loan of \$335,000 with \$335,000 in principal forgiveness to South Davis Water District from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Emerging Contaminants funds. Conditions include that they resolve all points on their IPS report. Jason Luettinger seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

## **9. Public Comment Period**

None.

## **10. Open Board Discussion**

- A. Ethics and General Training - Steph Alpizar

Steph Alpizar stated that this topic will have to be postponed until the next board meeting as staff from OLAG were not able to attend today's meeting.

## **11. Other**

## **12. Next Board Meeting**

Date: February 26, 2026  
Time: 9:00am - 12:00pm MST  
Place: Dixie Convention Center  
1835 S Convention Center Dr  
St. George, UT 84790

## **13. Adjourn**

- Justin Maughan moved to adjourn the meeting. Phil Bondurant seconded. The motion was carried unanimously by the Board.

The Meeting adjourned at 3:02 pm MST.