



LEGISLATURE

DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, January 22, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Stewart E. Barlow, House Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, Vice Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. Daniel McCay
Sen. Calvin R. Musselman
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. John Arthur
Rep. Logan J. Monson

Rep. Hoang Nguyen

Rep. Troy Shelley
Rep. Rex P. Shipp
Rep. Casey Snider

Members Absent:

Sen. Jerry W Stevenson
Rep. Michael L. Kohler

Staff Present:

Ivan D. Djambov, Finance Manager
Lacey K. Moore, Finance Officer
Tisha Gibby, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Call to Order

Chair Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

2. Subcommittee Overview and Resources

Ivan Djambov presented.

3. Voting Materials Introduction

Lacey Moore presented.

4. 2025 Accountable Budget Process Recommendations Review

[4. 2025 Accountable Budget Process Recommendations Review](#)

Lacey Moore presented.

5. Approval of Minutes from October 14, 2025

MOTION: Sen. Winterton moved to approve the October 14, 2025 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 6.



Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. McCay
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson

6. Statutory Reports

[6. Agency Reporting Page](#)

[6. NRAEQ Statutory Reports](#)

Lacey Moore presented.

7. Welcome and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves.

8. Natural Resources Administration

[8. DNR Administration Presentation](#)

Joel Ferry, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, presented.

Chair Hinkins commented on Utah hosting the upcoming 2034 Winter Olympics. Joel Ferry responded.

Sen. Blouin requested clarification on the process of permitting reform. Joel Ferry responded.

Rep. Albrecht asked about forest management and wildfires. Joel Ferry responded.

Rep. Shelley inquired regarding Lake Powell water levels and power production. Joel Ferry responded.

Rep. Nguyen asked about water required for data centers. Joel Ferry responded.

Rep. Nguyen requested additional information regarding water evaporation from the Great Salt Lake and Utah Lake.
Rep. Chew and Joel Ferry responded.

Chair Hinkins asked about water evaporation from Lake Powell. Joel Ferry responded.

9. Environmental Quality Executive Director's Office

[9. Environmental Quality Executive Director Presentation](#)

Tim Davis, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), presented.

Chair Hinkins commended the DEQ on the work they do.

10. Commissioner of Agriculture and Food

[10. Commissioner of Agriculture and Food Presentation](#)

[10. UDAF Video](#)

Kelly Pehrson, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), presented with the assistance of Troy Forrest, Deputy Commissioner, UDAF.

Chair Hinkins commented on the Grazing Improvement Program and the positive impact it has had. Kelly Pehrson responded.

Amber Brown, Deputy Commissioner, UDAF, presented.

Troy Forrest continued presenting.

Melanie Henderson, Finance Director, UDAF, presented.

Rep. Albrecht inquired regarding funding for virtual fencing. Troy Forrest responded.

Rep. Nguyen commended UDAF on the work being done.

Rep. Shipp expressed gratitude to UDAF.

11. School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration

[11. Trust Lands Administration Presentation](#)

Michelle McConkie, Executive Director, School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), presented.

Rep. Chew thanked SITLA for cutting red tape. Michelle McConkie responded.

Sen. Sandall asked about the Ionic Clay Project. Michelle McConkie responded.

Chair Hinkins shared updates on Fossil Rock Mine.

Deborah Memmott, Finance Director, SITLA, presented.

Chair Hinkins shared a prior experience in Nine Mile Canyon.

12. RFA: Bothwell/Tremonton Water Infrastructure Project (Rep. T. Peterson)

[12. Bothwell/Tremonton Water Infrastructure Project RFA Form](#)

Rep. Thomas Peterson presented the request with the assistance of Chance Baxter, Assistant General Manager, Bear Water Conservancy District, and Lyle Holmgren, mayor, city of Tremonton.

Sen. Sandall provided additional information on the request.

Rep. Albrecht and Chair Hinkins requested clarification. Rep. Peterson responded.

13. Other Business



There was no other business.

14. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Albrecht moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 8

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. McCay
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. R. Winterton

Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at .10:49 a.m.