



LEGISLATURE

DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, January 26, 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. Jerry W. Stevenson
Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. John Arthur

Rep. Michael L. Kohler
Rep. Logan J. Monson
Rep. Hoang Nguyen
Rep. Troy Shelley
Rep. Rex P. Shipp

Members Absent:

Rep. Casey Snider

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 Chew called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 22nd

No minutes were voted on.

3. Marketing and Development

[3. - 9. Department of Agriculture and Food Presentation](#)

Kelly Pehrson, Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), presented with the assistance of Caroline Hargraves, Director, Division of Marketing and Economic Development, UDAF.

4. Animal Industry

John Keller, Director, Division of Animal Industry, UDAF, presented.

Amanda Price, State Veterinarian, UDAF, presented.

Chair Chew requested clarification. John Keller and Amanda Price responded.

John Keller continued presenting.

Rep. Albrecht asked about chronic wasting disease. Amanda Price and John Keller responded.

Rep. Shelley requested additional details about an elk ranch and an update on the poultry industry. John Keller and Amanda Price responded.

Sen. Musselman inquired regarding chronic wasting disease in humans. Amanda Price responded.

5. Grazing Improvement Program

Tom Tippetts, Deputy Director, Grazing Improvement Program (GIP), UDAF, presented.

Chair Chew commented on funding for the program,

Rep. Albrecht emphasized the importance of GIP.

Sen. Sandall commended Tom Tippetts and GIP.

Rep. Arthur requested information regarding cost differences between virtual and physical fencing. Tom Tippetts responded.

Chair Chew provided additional clarification on virtual fencing.

Phil Crowther, Deputy Director, Predator Program Division, UDAF, presented.

Chair Chew commented on the value of the predator program.

Sen. Sandall asked about wolf population management. Phil Crowther responded.

6. Resource Conservation

[6. Resource Conservation Handout](#)

Jim Bowcutt, Director, Division of Conservation, UDAF, presented.

Sen. Sandall emphasized the amount of water saved by the Agricultural Water Optimization Program.

Rep. Shelley asked about conservation easements. Jim Bowcutt responded.

7. Plant Industry

Robert Hougaard, Director, Division of Plant Industry, UDAF, presented.

Chair Chew inquired regarding disposing of excess or expired pesticides. Robert Hougaard responded.

8. Regulatory Services

Travis Waller, Director, Division of Regulatory Services, UDAF, presented.

Chair Chew asked about radioactive shrimp. Travis Waller responded.

Chair Chew inquired regarding weights and measures inspections. Travis Waller responded.

Chair Chew asked about cricket hatches. Robert Hougaard responded.

9. Specialized Products and Analytical Laboratory

Cody James, Deputy Director, Division of Specialized Products, UDAF, presented.

Chair Chew requested additional information on lab testing. Cody James responded.



Brandon Forsyth, State Chemist and Director, Division of Specialized Products and Analytical Laboratory, UDAF, provided additional information.

Cody James continued presenting.

Chair Chew asked a clarifying question about odor complaint reports. Cody James responded.

Rep. Nguyen requested information on cannabis regulation and change requests. Cody James responded.

Rep. Kohler asked about regulating cannabinoid products. Cody James and Brandon Forsyth responded.

Cody James continued presenting.

Sen. Stevenson asked about tracking specialized products. Brandon Forsyth responded.

Sen. Hinkins commented on program funding and law enforcement. Brandon Forsyth and Cody James responded.

Rep. Albrecht inquired regarding cooperation with law enforcement. Cody James responded.

Brandon Forsyth presented.

Sen. Musselman requested clarification on drug analogues. Brandon Forsyth responded.

Rep. Shelley asked about DNA testing. Brandon Forsyth responded.

10. RFA: Statewide R.S. 2477 Legal Services (Rep. Monson)

[10. RFA Form: R.S. 2477 Legal Services](#)

[10. RFA Presentation: Statewide R.S. 2477 Legal Services](#)

Rep. Monson presented the request with the assistance of Taylor Glover, Government Affairs Director, Kane County.

Redge Johnson, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, provided additional information on the request.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 12 - 0 - 5.



Yeas - 12

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. McCay
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. R. Winterton

Chair Chew adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.