



State of Utah

SPENCER J. COX
Governor

DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Tim Davis
Interim Executive Director

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Candice A. Hasenyager, P.E.
Director

Water Quality Board

James Webb, Chair
Vacant Vice Chair
Jill Jones
Jeannie Simmonds
Michela Harris
Joseph Havasi
Trevor Heaton
Robert Fehr
Tim Davis
Candice A. Hasenyager, P.E.
Executive Secretary

MINUTES

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MASOB and Via [Zoom](#)

December 10, 2025
8:30 am Board Meeting

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

James Webb
Michela Harris
Trevor Heaton
Jill Jones
Joe Havasi
Michelle Kaufusi
Jeannie Simmonds
Rob Fehr

Tim Davis

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF MEMBERS' PRESENT

John Mackey	Ben Holcomb
Clanci Hawks	Adrana Hernandez
Don Hall	Dan Griffin
Ken Hoffmam	Jeanne Riley
Judy Etherington	Jodi Gardberg
Christa Hutchison	Mark Stanger
Skyler Davies	Daniel Lenz

OTHERS PRESENT

Rob Dubuc	Vern Maloy
Candice A. Hasenyager	Jim Bowcutt
Trevor Schlossnagle	Michael
Katie Koplitz	
Calah Worthen	

Mr. Webb called the Meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Webb took roll call for the members of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF October 22, 2025, Meeting

Motion: Ms. Jone moved to approve the meeting minutes.
Ms. Simmonds seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:

Mr. Mackey addressed the Board with the Following updates:

- Regarding Federal updates, a new rule is being proposed for the Waters of the United States (WOTUS). This proposal is currently in the public comment phase. DWQ will be providing comments in conjunction with other State Agencies. The new rule provides several definitions to help clarify the applicability of jurisdictional water determinations. We are hopeful that this tool will provide the necessary support to accurately manage our responsibilities regarding WOTUS, specifically the 401 certifications. Our goal is to ensure these certifications are processed correctly and efficiently.
- Regarding State updates, The Governor's Budget has been released. The Governor has proposed support for staff through several initiatives, including adjustments to how leave time is accounted for and a proposed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). We will monitor the legislature's actions to see how these proposals impact the final budget. Mr. Mackey is confident that the division and department will work closely with leadership to communicate our needs and identify the efficiencies we can rely on moving forward.
- Accomplishments from the past year, one was the Jordan River Flow Studies which focus on managing water resources, analyzing hydrology (precipitation, evapotranspiration), modeling streamflow for flood control (NOAA, USGS), and addressing water quality/scarcity, particularly in the transboundary Middle Eastern basin where diversions have drastically reduced flow, contrasting with Utah's efforts to balance urban/agricultural needs with ecosystem health.

Key studies look at flow impacts from climate change, human activities, and potential solutions like flow experiments for the Great Salt Lake's Jordan River.

- DWQ Conducted several Fish Studies, an important one has been for Utah Lake as it has been listed for PCBs in fish tissue since 2010 due to elevated levels in fish, leading to consumption advisories for species like carp and catfish, with studies showing levels exceeding safe limits, prompting warnings about long-term consumption risks, even as other issues like algae and phosphorus also affect the lake. PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) accumulate in larger fish and persist in the environment, originating from past industrial use, with sources suspected to be nearby industries.
- PFAS are present in fish tissue in Utah, including potential studies in Utah Lake, with recent research showing accumulation in fish like sculpin and trout, though official state advisories currently focus more on mercury/PCBs, but Utah DEQ plans broader PFAS fish tissue monitoring to inform public health guidance. While Utah Lake has PCB advisories, new statewide efforts will assess PFAS levels, which can exceed health limits, impacting fish consumption decisions as these "forever chemicals" don't cook out.
- DWQ has been working on a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study to address *E. coli* impairments in the Moab area, specifically focusing on **Mill Creek, Pack Creek, and Castle Creek**.
- Summary of statistics on Individual Permits. The Permitting Team has been working hard at clearing out permit backlog as well as meeting goals for turnaround time and they have really improved their numbers. There are several permits that are in process and are in the public comment stage.
- Mr. Mackey noted that this was his last Board meeting as he is retiring from DWQ on 12/31/2025. Mr. Mackey was pleased to introduce Candice A. Hasenyager, who will begin her role as the Director of the Division of Water Quality (DWQ) on January 5, 2026. Ms. Hasenyager currently serves as the Director of the Division of Water Resources. Ms. Hasenyager provided a brief introduction of herself, followed by introductions from each member of the Board.
- Mr. Mackey announced to the Board that Ms. Kaufusi, the current WQ Vice Chair, will be resigning from the board. As a result, the seat is now open for applicants who are Non-Federal Government Representatives.

FUNDING:

Kane County Water Conservancy District (Duck Creek), Reauthorization

of Supplemental Funding: Mr. Davies requested that the approved scope be modified to include the purchase of a backhoe and develop their asset management plan, with remaining project funds.

Motion: Ms. Jones moved to authorize an expansion of the scope of work for the previously approved funds to include the completion of the Asset Management Plan, following the special conditions as recommended by staff. Any remaining funds may be used to purchase a backhoe for use of the wastewater system and other necessary use. Ms. Kaufusi seconded the motion.

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The motion passed with 7 ayes and 1 nay.

RULE MAKING ACTION:

Request for Water Quality Board Approval to Adopt Changes to the Section R317-8-10, Animal Feeding Operation (AFO) & Concentrated Animal Feeding

Operation (CAFO) Rule: Mr. Hall of the Division of Water Quality recommended to the Board to approve the Amendment of Section R317-8-10, the State AFO and CAFO Rule, effective immediately.

Motion: Mr. Heaton moved to approve the Amendment of Section R317-8-10 , the State AFO & CAFO Rule to be effective immediately.

Mr. Havasi seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER:

2026 Water Quality Board Meeting Schedule: The Board discussed and voted on the 2026 Water Quality Board Meeting Schedule.

Motion: Ms. Kaufusi moved to approve the 2026 Water Quality Board Meeting Schedule.

Ms. Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Simmonds moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Fehr seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

To view the full recording of the December 10, 2025 Water Quality Board Meeting, you may view it here [Zoom](#)

Next Meeting – January 28, 2026
Meeting begins at 8:30 am

In-Person
MASOB
195 North 1950 West
Board Room 1015

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Salt Lake City, UT 84116

James Webb

James Webb, Chair
Utah Water Quality Board

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