



LEGISLATURE

DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Friday, January 30, 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. 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:

Sen. Daniel McCay
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 Hinkins called the meeting to order at 8:11 a.m.

2. Colorado River Authority

[2. Colorado River Authority Presentation](#)

Amy Haas, Director, Colorado River Authority of Utah (CRAU), presented.

Rep. Albrecht spoke about Blue Mesa Reservoir water levels and energy production. Chair Hinkins responded.

Amy Haas continued presenting.

3. Water Quality

[3. Water Quality Presentation](#)

Candice Hasenyager, Director, Division of Water Quality, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), presented.

4. Drinking Water

[4. Drinking Water Presentation](#)

Nathan Lunstad, Director, Division of Drinking Water, DEQ, presented.

5. Approval of Minutes from January 22nd and January 26th

MOTION: Rep. Barlow moved to approve the January 22 and January 26, 2026 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 7.

Yeas - 10

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. J. Stevenson

Nays - 0

Absent - 7

Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. McCay
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. R. Winterton

6. Utah Water Agent

Joel Ferry, Utah Water Agent, presented.

Sen. Musselman asked for an update on cloud seeding. Joel Ferry responded.

Sen. Musselman spoke about deep water aquifers. Joel Ferry responded.

Sen. Sandall emphasized the rate of water evaporation in conifer forests. Joel Ferry responded.

Rep. Barlow expressed appreciation for Joel Ferry and the work being done.

Rep. Albrecht made a comment about the high water needs of conifer trees. Joel Ferry responded.

7. Water Rights

[7. Water Rights Presentation](#)

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer, and Director, Division of Water Rights, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), presented.

Rep. Shipp inquired regarding ground water rights. Teresa Wilhelmsen responded.

Rep. Arthur asked about water rights and over appropriation. Teresa Wilhelmsen and Chair Hinkins responded.

Rep. Shelley expressed appreciation and asked about well drilling. Teresa Wilhelmsen responded.

8. Water Resources

[8. Division of Water Resources handout](#)

[8. Water Resources Presentation](#)

Joel Williams, Interim Director, Division of Water Resources, DNR, presented.

Chair Hinkins requested clarification about equipment costs. Joel Williams responded.

9. Great Salt Lake Commissioner

[9. Great Salt Commissioner Presentation](#)

Brian Steed, Great Salt Lake Commissioner, presented with the assistance of Hannah Freeze, Great Salt Lake Deputy Commissioner.

Chair Hinkins asked about boat launching and lake levels. Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Chew asked about per capita water use. Brian Steed responded.

Rep. Albrecht asked how the \$50 million grant from the Bureau of Reclamation will be used. Hannah Freeze responded.

Rep. Shipp commended the Commissioners.

Rep. Arthur thanked the commissioners and asked about salinity management of the north and south arms of the Great Salt Lake. Brian Steed responded.

Chair Hinkins inquired regarding wildlife on Antelope Island. Brian Steed responded.

10. RFA: Utah FFA Association (Sen. Owens)

[10. RFA Form: Utah FFA Association](#)

[10. RFA Handout: Utah FFA Association](#)

Sen. Derrin Owens presented the request with the assistance of William "Buddy" Deimler, former Education Specialist, Utah State Office of Education.

Chair Hinkins asked for clarification on funding. Sen. Owens responded.

Rep. Shelley emphasized the importance of educating youth about agriculture and expressed support for the funding request.

Rep. Shipp expressed support for the Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Rep. Albrecht spoke about the importance of having the youth learn about agriculture.

Sen. Owens commended Terry Camp and the Farm Bureau for the support of FFA. Chair Hinkins responded.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Shipp moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 10.



Yeas - 7

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Barlow
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp

Nays - 0

Absent - 10

Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. McCay
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. R. Winterton

Chair Hinkins adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.