



# 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](http://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.

Yea - 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.