

# **Southwest Utah Board of Health**

Best Western Abbey Inn  
Middle & South Ballrooms  
1129 South Bluff St.  
St. George, UT

**Wednesday, December 10, 2025**  
10:00 a.m.

## **MINUTES**

### **Members Present:**

Mr. Kent Peterson .....	Iron County
Commissioner Paul Cozzens.....	Iron County
Mr. Scott Symond.....	Beaver County
Commissioner Jerry Taylor.....	Garfield County
Mr. Nick Reynolds.....	Garfield County
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead.....	Beaver County
Dr. Kenneth Snow.....	Washington County
Ms. Jerica Bauer .....	Kane County
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres .....	Kane County
Commissioner Gil Almquist (for Commissioner Victor Iverson).....	Washington County

### **Members Not Present:**

### **Others Present:**

Dr. David W. Blodgett, Director/Health Officer.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Cameron Mitchell, Deputy Health Officer.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Logan Wrigley, Business Manager.....	SWUPHD
Ms. RuthAnne Watt, Administrative Liaison .....	SWUPHD
Mr. Brandon Ray, Administrative Services Director.....	SWUPHD
Mr. Jeremy Roberts, Environmental Health Director.....	SWUPHD
Ms. Courtney Singara, Washington County Deputy Attorney.....	Washington County

### **Public in Attendance:**

Michael Kenner.....	Kane County Water Con. District
Cade Holt.....	Deer Springs Ranch
Michael Jordison.....	Deer Springs Ranch
Bartholomew Battista.....	DSR Board Member
Virginia Valcourt.....	Realtor, Kane & Garfield Co.
Cathy Barsness.....	Broker, Duck Creek
Joel Hiatt.....	Property Owner
Michael McNichols.....	Deer Springs Ranch
Larry D. Clarkson.....	Kane/Garfield County Property Owner
Gordie Page.....	Kane County & Iron County
Dirk Clayson.....	Property Owner
Cade Hoff.....	Real Estate Broker, Washington County

Commissioner Celeste Meyeres called the meeting to order at **10:00 a.m.**

<b>Minutes Approval</b>	<p><b>Mr. Scott Symond</b> made a motion to accept the minutes from <b>October 2025</b>. <b>Commissioner Paul Cozzens</b> seconded the motion.</p> <p>Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes. Passed unanimously.</p>
<b>Amendment to non-public drinking water regulation section 6.2</b>	<p>Commissioner Meyers brought up the regulation section 6.2 regarding water hauling as information was presented at the Kane County Commission meeting last month.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No new septic would be possible through the local health department for those hauling water for residential and recreational properties which have access less than 180 days per calendar year.</li><li>• Would like to remove section 6.2</li></ul>
<i>Commissioner Gil Almquist arrived</i>	<p>Clarification was made that subsection 6.2 regarding water hauling as it relates to getting a septic permit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In order to obtain a septic permit a water letter is required from a public water system or drill a well, have a negative bacteria sample and nitrate sample. Water availability is required to issue a septic permit.</li><li>• If the person seeking a septic permit is unable to meet the requirements of a public water system source or drilling a well then section 6.2 under Water Hauling kicks in which states if you have access to the property more than 180 days per year you are not allowed to haul water.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Section 3 General Powers and Duties, 3.1, 3.1.1 &amp; 3.1.2.</li></ul></li><li>• This regulation was intended as a one-off such as a seasonal hunting cabin. It is not intended for subdivisions.</li></ul>
	<p>Regulation 6.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unless prohibited by a local municipality or county, water hauling may be deemed an approved water source for residential and recreational properties which have access less than 180 days per calendar year.</li></ul>
<b>Public Comment: At Chair's Discretion</b>	<p>Chair open to public comment must be civil and address the topic. 2 minute maximum per person to speak. State full name and where they are from. Commissioner Hollingshead will keep time. Address comments to board and specifically the chair. Please no applause.</p> <p>Bartholomew Battista – Deer Springs Ranch, Kane County – Environmental Engineer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Member of the National On-site Wastewater Recycling Association and National Association of Wastewater Technicians Inspector</li><li>• Removing 6.2 is inappropriate. There has been no public impact.</li><li>• Having regulations that limit the proper disposal and treatment of onsite waste completely inappropriate and is not protective of public health. We should be encouraging treatment.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Deer Springs Ranch has the capability of drilling wells and has a source that water can be hauled from. It is an adequate water system.</li><li>○ There are 20 acre lots.</li><li>○ Still have to meet the septic requirements and lot setback requirements.</li></ul></li></ul>

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Dirk Clayson – private property owner

- History of serving for 2 terms as Kane County Commissioner and worked with the Kane County Water Conservancy for 28 years.
- Kane County is riddled with subdivisions that were created in the 1950s. Feels the regulations of today may not be the same standards.
- Trying to have a water system that serves 20 acre lots and can't be accessed all the time it is very difficult to maintain a healthy system. Feels that hauling water from an approved water source is a healthier way to bring in water.
- Concern about the 180 days listed in the regulation. This seems to be the term that is causing the issues.
- In favor, as a property owner, of allowing individuals to make their own choices regarding their water systems. Would like the flexibility of allowing water hauling to those properties that don't have year-round access.

Mike McNichols – Kanab resident

- Bought property in Deer Springs Ranch about 9 years ago
  - First thing after buying the property hired a contractor to put in a well and septic system.
  - We haul water when we go. Have gone out to property about half a dozen times this year.
  - Have children and grandchildren. I don't know what we would do if we didn't have a septic system.
- Hauling water is a perfectly acceptable method of maintaining a recreational lifestyle at Deer Springs Ranch. Don't see a reason why the regulation should be changed.

Virginia Valcourt – Real Estate Agent in the Duck Creek area

- Support being allowed to haul water.
- There are several half-acre lots in the subdivision that didn't come with water rights and don't have the option to drill. If you can find water rights it is the understanding that you still need an acre of ground to drill a well.
- If these subdivisions were created in the 1960s what alternative will they have if they can't haul water

Michael Kenner – Member of the Kane County Water Conservancy District

- Licensed real estate broker, licensed septic sewer drain contractor, and Level 1 & 2 onsite waste specialist. Resident of Kane County for 47 years.
- What I see if we don't work with water hauling is there will be a lot of boot legging of septic systems.
- Cost for septic systems is getting overly expensive and prohibitive for people
- The areas are beautiful and subdivisions were approved back in the 1960s.
- The counties kind of inherited this problem, but trying to work with what we have to make a good situation for disposal of onsite waste.

Cade Hoff – Real Estate Broker Washington County

- Own property in Washington County and Deer Springs Ranch
- Each county is a little bit different and they have different capabilities and/or needs and requirements

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- Washington county is obviously more developed than Kane County and has easier access to public water systems
- Consider ways to make it so the counties have a bit more autonomy regarding water hauling to regulate the requirements
- Not having the ability to add septic systems is drastically impacting property values and tax income

Larry Clarkson – private property owner Garfield County

- Private property owner in Garfield and Kane County
- Licensed general contractor and have installed hundreds of septic systems all over Utah
- Private property owner at Deer Springs Ranch and have been a board member for many years
- Deer springs ranch covers a larger area than St. George with 300 lots. The cost of putting in a system for that large of an area is cost prohibitive. There is also concern that if a well is drilled that they won't be able to hit water.
- Concern about the bootlegged 55-gallon drums being used as the septic systems
- Concern about campers draining their systems along the road because they don't have anywhere to dispose
- Deer springs ranch owns water rights. .45-acre feet of water for the lots.
- Great concerns about the cost of bringing in piping versus the smaller cost to bring hauled water

Public comment period closed

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<b>Amendment to non-public drinking water regulation section 6.2 discussion and vote</b>	Commissioner Meyeres understands that removing the 6.2 regulation would allow for water hauling to be an acceptable water source to install a septic system.
	Question:

- Is there a certain amount of water that is required in a septic system to make it a healthy system?
  - Septic system - Oil greases and slats float to the top. Septic systems require water in order to operate correctly. If water is not added regularly it can dry up and cause bacteria to grow creating an unhealthy environment.

Additional comment:

- There are systems that can use less daily design usage. One of the methods used can be primary and alternate leach field to allow for both to "self-heal".

Commissioner Cozzens:

- Concern with one size fits all regulations
- Seeing issues of lots of septic tanks causing nitrate issues
- Trying to protect the public against themselves in Iron County by not allowing smaller divisions of property and require 5 acre lots for water.

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- Would like to find some sort of a hybrid solution as it doesn't seem like one size fits all in this situation. Commissioner Almquist agrees with this sentiment as more housing is needed, but there are regulations that may make that harder to accomplish.

Commissioner Taylor:

- Feel at Panguitch Lake there are so many septic tanks that it is actually starting to affect the water
- How do we guarantee the safe, clean water hauling? Who is going to monitor the safe water hauling?

Commissioner Meyeres:

- Removing of 6.2 does not prohibit individual counties from deciding their own water hauling regulation
- 6.1 does not allow water hauling for commercial use, including use for short-term rentals

Cade Hoff:

- Private wells don't have regulation either. The owner is in charge of getting their systems tested.
- Water hauling is supposed to be pulled from an approved public water system.

Commissioner Meyeres:

- Jeremy Roberts brought this issue to the attention of the Kane County commission. He stated that with this regulation that no more septic systems would be approved in the Deer Springs Ranch area since it was in an area that was accessed less than 180 days per year.
- The only thing on the table is the potential to remove 6.2

**Commissioner Gil Almquist** made the motion to table this item. Maintain the status quo and have a work meeting in January 2026 along with the county attorney to discuss the ramifications of removing 6.2 from the regulation and pursue the possibility of creating a hybrid solution.

**Dr. Kenneth Snow** seconded the motion.

Discussion to the motion.

- Commissioner Meyers – the experts are here and there was enough notice given that it feels like we should be able to make the decisions on this matter.
- Commissioner Almquist feels that a hybrid solution is needed and that information has not been discussed at this meeting and requires more information as it is a more complicated issue, but it might also help others that are in different situations.

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- Commissioner Cozzens is in favor of a hybrid
- Dr. Kenneth Snow called for the question on the motion.

Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – No, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Dr. Kenneth Snow – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Mr. Scott Symonds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead - Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes. Motion passed.

Request there to be a public comment portion of the January 2026 work meeting.

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<b>Open Meetings Act Training, Ethics signing, other trainings</b> By Washington Co. Attorney's office	Open Meetings Act Training was given by Courtney Sinagra, Washington Co. Attorney's Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All board of health members present completed the required annual training.</li> </ul> Privacy Plans; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State has required all entities to initiate privacy plans by the end of the year. The state has provided a document to help with this plan.</li> <li>• Will put on the agenda for the next board meeting</li> </ul> Ethics statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board members please sign and return to RuthAnne.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Update</b> <i>by Logan Wrigley</i>	Assets have increase since last meeting.  2025 Actuals vs budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92% of the way through the calendar year. The auditor said we need to be compliant with 35% rule. The transfer to the Capital fund is to be compliant with that rule.</li> <li>• Adjusted budget is has been listed for the</li> </ul>
	<b>Mr. Scott Symond</b> made a motion to accept the financial update as presented. <b>Dr. Kenneth Snow</b> seconded the motion  Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Motion passed unanimously.
<b>Budget Discussion: Amending the 2025 Budget</b> <i>by Logan Wrigley &amp; Dr. Blodgett</i>	Amended 2025 public health budget presented.
<b>Public Hearing: Amending the 2025 Budget</b>	Commissioner Meyeres opened for public comment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public present.</li> </ul> Commissioner Meyeres closed public comment.  Last raise given to staff was given in July 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would like to give a one-time 6% salary bonus to employees that has already been included within the adjusted budget presented.</li> </ul>

<b>Vote on Amended 2025 Budget by Dr. Blodgett</b>	<b>Commissioner Jerry Taylor</b> made the motion to approve the amended 2025 public health budget as presented. <b>Commissioner Wade Hollingshead</b> seconded the motion.
	Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Motion passed unanimously.
<b>Budget Discussion: 2026 Budget by Dr. Blodgett</b>	2026 public health budget presented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contracts/grant revenue is slightly lower based on estimates</li> <li>• Introduced a line item for transfer to capital fund to bring to board approval if we have a capital expense we need to transfer from the capital fund</li> <li>• Expenditures comparable to last year</li> <li>• Supply items is higher based on increase in vaccine costs</li> <li>• Southwest Utah Public Health Foundation budget is included in this budget</li> </ul>
<b>Public Hearing: 2026 Budget by Dr. Blodgett</b>	Commissioner Meyeres opened for public comment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No public present.</li> </ul> Commissioner Meyeres closed the public hearing.
<b>Vote on 2026 Budget Approval by Dr. Blodgett</b>	<b>Commissioner Paul Cozzens</b> made the motion to approve the 2026 public health budget as presented. <b>Mr. Kent Peterson</b> seconded the motion.
	Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Passed unanimously.
<b>Board Attestation by Dr. Blodgett</b>	The board certifies annually the local health department follows the guidelines outlined in 26A and R380. Board is asked to certify the guidelines for attestation.  <b>Commissioner Jerry Taylor</b> made the motion that the board certifies the guidelines outlined in 26A and R380. <b>Mr. Nick Reynolds</b> seconded the motion.  Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Passed unanimously. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board certifies and attestation was signed</li> </ul>
<b>Proposed changes to the PTO policy by Dr. Blodgett</b>	Recommendation from Washington County was to mirror their policy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add short term disability coverage policy</li> <li>• Accrue up to maximum of 500 hours...nothing above 500 hours is recognized <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Will pay out employees that are currently more than 500 hours</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Add sell back provision at the end of the year, but must have a set bank already in place</li> <li>• Adding leave donation policy</li> <li>• Upon retirement can cash out leave up to 500 hours</li> </ul>

**Commissioner Wade Hollingshead** made the motion to approve the PTO policy change as presented  
**Mr. Scott Symond** seconded the motion.

Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Passed unanimously.

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**Presentation**  
*by Dr. Blodgett* No time on the agenda for a presentation.

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**Other Business**  
*by Dr. Blodgett* Retirement of Nick Reynolds  

- 32 years on the board
- Thank you for your service

**Closed Session:**  
**Employee performance and yearly evaluation** **Commissioner Wade Hollingshead** made the motion to go into closed session for employee performance and yearly evaluation  
**Mr. Scot Symonds** seconded the motion.

Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Passed unanimously.

Board of Health came out of closed session

**Commissioner Paul Cozzens** made the motion to increase Dr. Blodgett's current annual wage by \$13,000 (~6% increase)  
**Commissioner Jerry Taylor** seconded the motion.

Mr. Kent Peterson – Yes, Commissioner Paul Cozzens – Yes, Mr. Scott Symond – Yes, Commissioner Jerry Taylor – Yes, Mr. Nick Reynolds – Yes, Commissioner Wade Hollingshead – Yes, Ms. Jerica Bauer – Yes, Commissioner Celeste Meyeres – Yes, Commissioner Gil Almquist - Yes. Passed unanimously.

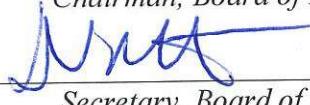
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**Adjournment** **Commissioner Celeste Meyeres** adjourned the meeting at **12:10pm**

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Chairman, Board of Health



Secretary, Board of Health

2.11.26  
Date  
2/11/2026  
Date