



MINUTES

SENATE NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 4, 2026 | 3:40 p.m. | 215 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Derrin R. Owens, Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Keven J. Stratton

Sen. Keith Grover
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Sen. Jerry W Stevenson

Staff Present:

Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst
Cassie Sudekum, Committee Secretary

Members Absent:

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Owens called the meeting to order.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to approve the minutes from the January 30, 2026 meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 3

Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens

Nays - 0

Absent - 4

Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Stratton

Sen. Hinkins assumed the chair.

1. S.B. 209 Gooseberry Narrows State Park Designation(Owens, D.R.)

Sen. Owens presented the bill.

Jeff Salt, Secretary, Utah Anglers Coalition, spoke in opposition to the bill.

[Jeff Salt Handout](#)

[Herbert Ley Gooseberry Creek Photos](#)

Herbert Lay, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jay Olsen, Chair, Sanpete Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Nate Broadhurst, Attorney, Sanpete Water Conservancy District, spoke in favor of the bill.

Rep. Troy Shelley spoke in favor of the bill.

Zach Frankel, Executive Director, Utah Rivers Council, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Jeff Richens, General Manager, Price River Water Improvement District, spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Owens moved to replace SB0209 with SB0209S01. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 3
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens

Nays - 0

Absent - 4
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Stratton

MOTION: Sen. Owens moved to amend SB0209S01 with Amendment #1. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 0 - 4.

Amendment 1

1. Line 84 through 89:

84 (C)constructing and developing a dam in the gooseberry narrows; and
85 (iii)a recommendation for the Legislature to appropriate funds for Gooseberry
86 Narrows State Park.

(b)The division may coordinate with the Division of Water Resources, created in Section 73-10-18, to study the requirements and costs of constructing and developing a dam, as described in Subsection (6)(a).

87 {(b)}(c)The division shall report the results of the study described in Subsection (6)(a) to the
88 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee before
89 November 30, 2026.

Yeas - 3
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens

Nays - 0

Absent - 4
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Stratton

MOTION: Sen. Owens moved to pass SB0209S01 as amended out favorably. The motion failed with a vote of 1 - 2 - 4.

Yeas - 1
Sen. D. Owens

Nays - 2
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins

Absent - 4
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Stratton

Chair Owens resumed the chair.

2. S.B. 21 Geothermal Amendments(McKell, M.)

Sen. Michael McKell presented the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to replace SB0021 with SB0021S02. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 3
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens

Nays - 0

Absent - 4
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Stratton

Terry Camp, Vice President of Public Policy, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, spoke in favor of the bill.

Mike Johnson, General Council, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), spoke in favor of the bill.

Sam Hermany, Regional Governmental Affairs Manager, Zanskar Geothermal and Minerals, spoke to the bill.

Kim Christy, Director, Land Trusts Protection and Advocacy Office (LTRAO), spoke in favor of the bill.

Brandon Yardley, Commissioner, Beaver County, spoke in favor of the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass SB0021S02 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 2 - 1 - 4.

Yeas - 2
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens

Nays - 1
Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 4
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson
Sen. K. Stratton

3. S.B. 234 Rulemaking Amendments(*Brammer, B.*)

Sen. Brady Brammer presented the bill with the assistance of Mark Behrens, Co-Chair, Public Policy Practice Group.

Carmen ValDez, Senior Policy Associate, Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah (HEAL Utah), spoke in opposition to the bill.

Joan Entwistle, resident, Summit County, spoke in opposition to the bill.

Abbie Nistler, Legislative Committee Volunteer, Utah Sierra Club, spoke in opposition to the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to pass SB0234 out favorably. The motion passed with a vote of 3 - 1 - 3.

Yeas - 3
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 1
Sen. N. Blouin

Absent - 3
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 4 - 0 - 3.

Yeas - 4
Sen. N. Blouin
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 0

Absent - 3
Sen. K. Grover
Sen. S. Sandall
Sen. J. Stevenson

Chair Owens adjourned the meeting.