MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE UTAH ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES COMMISSION HELD THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 MULTI-AGENCY STATE OFFICE BUILDING

Commissioner's Present:
Chair Stephen Handy
Jacquelyn Orton
Christopher Conabee
Tara Thue
Juliette Tennert
Vice Chair Jennifer Tarazon
Falyn Owens

Commissioner's Participating Virtually:
None

Commissioners Absent:
None

Staff Present:
Ericka Evans, Executive Director
Todd Darrington, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration
Brian Swan, Deputy Director, Legal & Regulatory Affairs
Jeremy Sommerlath, Managing Director of Operations
Doug Murakami, Alcohol Education Director
Craig Warr, Compliance Division Administrator

Also Present:
Brook McCarrick, Assistant Attorney General

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

Chair Handy called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jeff Colvin led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Handy introduced the commissioners and staff members that assist the commission. He made the following announcements.

a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule *(subject to change)*
   - Thursday, February 26, 2026 - MASOB
   - Thursday, March 26, 2026 - MASOB

b. Upcoming Holiday Closure
   - Monday, February 16, 2026 *(Washington and Lincoln Day)*

c. Public Comments
- Those present, please complete the form located at the back entrance to the room.
- Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if applicable) to hotline@utah.gov by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 28, 2026.
- Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE: (Doug Murakami)

Doug Murakami, Alcohol Education Director, presented a data review addressing previous inquiries on youth substance use trends, noting that the state of Utah ranks lowest in the nation for youth alcohol use and outperforms neighboring states. He also shared specific local substance abuse data regarding 30-day use rates across the state of Utah counties.

Following the presentation, Commissioner Conabee thanked Doug Murakami for the hard work of his team and commented on the substance use trends for youth.

Commissioner Ortons discussed THC-infused beverages, Ericka Evan, Executive Director clarified that these products are not sold in the state of Utah.

Chair Handy, noted that the legislature directs a portion of state alcohol sales revenue towards the parents empowered public safety campaign.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: (Todd Darrington)

Todd Darrington, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration, provided an update on the December 2025 financial report. In December, retail revenue totaled $27.6 million. He noted that expenses were down this period, and that 51.8 million will be returned to the general fund. This fiscal year the department has contributed $4.8 million to Public Safety, and $3.4 million allocated to the Parents Empowered Campaign.

OPERATIONS UPDATE: (Ericka Evans / Jeremy Sommerlath)

Ericka Evans, Executive Director, announced that the Legislation is underway which ends March 6, 2026. She noted that some of the items being discussed are the 100% identification, and the electronic scanning requirements. Ericka Evans mentioned the Moab state retail store will be open to the public February 2, 2026.

Jeremy Sommerlath, Managing Director of Operations gave an update on the RHDP drawing registration that is currently open for Pappy Van Winkle and Sazerac Antique Collection products through February 1, 2026. Jeremy Sommerlath reported on the department's progress regarding internal control improvements in response to intergovernmental recommendations. He highlighted specific topics aimed at strengthening department operations.

Chair Handy, acknowledged the positive results of the customer service survey and commended the culture that has been fostered within the department.

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE: (Brian Swan) *[action item]*

a. R82-1-105 Label Approvals

Brian Swan, Deputy Director, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, presented on the proposed rule change R82-2-1-105, Label Approvals. The rule was proposed in the October Commission Meeting and underwent a formal public comment period of December and January. He noted that no public comments were made. The primary reason for the rule change was to remove the capital letter requirement on a beer label and clean up the subsections underneath.

MOTION: Vice Chair, Tarazon moved to approve the Administrative Rule change for a. R82-1-105, Label Approvals. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		
Commissioner Orton		
Commissioner Thue		
Commissioner Tennert		
Commissioner Conabee		
Commission Owens		

VIOLATIONS: (Brook McCarrick) *[action item]*

*Referral Sources – Heber Police Department (HEP), Hurricane Police Department (HPD), State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), West Valley Police Department (WPD).

[The following Consent Calendar items include uncontested letters of admonishment (written warnings) and settlement agreements that have been agreed to and accepted by the licensees. They are considered as a block with one vote unless one of the commissioners requests that any item be removed for individual discussion.]

a. Consent Calendar

(1)	Break Sports Grill, South Jordan	*SBI	(LB)
(2)	Huddle Sports Bar & Grill, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(BAR)
(3)	Umi Japanese Shabu Shabu, South Salt Lake	*SBI	(RL)
(4)	7-Elevent Store #26357C, West Valley City and Yashpreet Singh *(employee)*	*WPD	(OP)
(5)	Mi Rancherito 2, South Salt Lake and Daniela Perez Ramirez *(employee)*	*SBI	(RF)
(6)	Taqueria 27, Lehi and Ciera Solomon *(employee)*	*SBI	(RF)
(7)	Hyatt Place Salt Lake City/Lehi, Lehi and Michaela Buckmiller *(employee)*	*SBI	(RF)
(8)	7-Eleven Food Store, Hurricane and Aaron Howard (employee)	*HPD	(OP)
(9)	Lonestar Bar, West Valley City	*SBI	(BAR)
(10)	Thieves Guild, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(BAR)
(11)	Market at Midway, Midway	*HEP	(OP)
(12)	Last Call Sports Bar & Grill, Springville	*SBI	(BAR)
(13)	The Cabin, Park City	*SBI	(BAR)
(14)	Whiptail Grill, Springdale and Cesar Ruiz-Pulido *(employee)*	*SBI	(RF)
(15)	Wing Nutz Orem, Orem and Rodrigo Miloni *(employee)*	*SBI	(RF)
(16)	Sushi Pro, Ogden and Deedee Tehero *(employee)*	*SBI	(RL)

(17) Zion Brewery Station, St. George *SBI (BAR)

Brook McCarrick, Assistant Attorney General, gave an overview of the items on the consent calendar noting they were complete and ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve the settlement agreements for items #1 through #17 on the consent calendar.

SECOND: Commissioner Tennert seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Thue noted that several violations were cited for not offering food and reminded Bar Establishment licensees of the requirements to offer prepared hot food.

VOTE: Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		
Commissioner Orton		
Commissioner Thue		
Commissioner Tennert		
Commissioner Conabee		
Commission Owens		

LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS: (Ericka Evans)

a. Passed Utah Dept. of Public Safety, SBI Covert Underage Buyer (CUB) Inspections

Ericka Evans, Executive Director, reported that since the December meeting, 137 licensees had passed the SBI inspections. She congratulated those that passed and thanked them for following operating safely.

TYPE 2 PACKAGE AGENCY APPLICATION PROCESS: (Jessica Atencio) *[action item]*

a. Discussion with Package Agency Applicant
   (1) Sweetwater Market, Bluff

Jessica Atencio, Package Agency Support Manager, gave an overview of the Type 2 Package Agency applicant (1) Sweetwater Market in Bluff. Chair Handy noted that the town of Bluff has historically not had a package agency agreement issued in the area.

Applicant, Andrea Martin, presented an overview of her business operations, and discussed the need for a type 2 package agency in the area. She highlighted her efforts to support local businesses.

Commissioner Orton noted the proximity to a reservation and discussed appreciation for the applicant's understanding of the sensitivity that surrounds the alcohol sales in this location.

INITIAL MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve the Package Agency applicant agreement for (1) Comb Ridge Coffee LLC. Commissioner Orton second the motion.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Tennert asked for clarification on the name of the package agency applicant for approval of the Type 2 package agency agreement. Chair Handy noted that the correct applicant's name is Sweetwater Market.

AMENDMENT: A formal amendment to the motion was corrected to reflect the accurate Type 2 package agency applicant name, Sweetwater Market.

FINAL MOTION: Commission Conabee moved to approve the Package Agency applicant agreement for (1) Sweetwater Market. Commissioner Orton second the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote 7 - 0 - 0.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		
Commissioner Orton		
Commissioner Thue		
Commissioner Tennert		
Commissioner Conabee		
Commission Owens		

JANUARY 2026 LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER: (Craig Warr)

a. Renewal Period January 1 to January 31, 2026
- Restaurant Beer-Only *(RB)*
- On-Premise Beer Retailer - Beer Recreational *(BE)*
- On-Premise Beer Retailer - Tavern *(TV)*
- Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License *(OP)*

Craig Warr, Compliance Administrator, reminded those in attendance that the January 2026 license renewal applications are open until January 31, 2026, without a late fee.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Brian Swan) *[action item]*

a. Approval of the Minutes
   (1) December 18, 2025 Commission Meeting

b. Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License
   License Changes of Ownership:
   (1) JP & I LLC, Magna *(Purchase agreement January 7, 2026)*
   (2) Puff X, Murray *(conditional) (purchase agreement October 6, 2025)*
   (3) Whammer's, St George *(purchase agreement November 20, 2025)*
   New Applicants:
   (1) Bodega Convenience and Smoke, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*
   (2) Slackline Moab, Outset Collection by Hilton, Moab

c. Hotel
   New Applicant:

(1) Doubletree by Hilton - The Yarrow, Park City

d. Hospitality Amenity

New Applicant:

(1) Embassy Suites, West Valley City *(violation history)*

e. On-Premise Banquet

New Applicants:

(1) Jeremiah's Lodge and Garden, Marriott-Slatersville *(conditional)*
(2) Embassy Suites, West Valley City *(violation history)*
(3) Woodward Park City, Park City

f. Manufacturing

New Applicant:

(1) Kid Curry, Salt Lake City *(Distillery)*

g. Package Agency

Extended Closure:

(1) Under Canvas Moab, Moab *(requesting until March 4, 2026) (Type 1)*

New Applicant:

(1) Kid Curry, Salt Lake City *(Type 5)*

h. Reception Center

Extended Closure:

(1) Sugar Space, Salt Lake City *(requesting until March 26, 2026)*

i. Restaurant Limited-Service

Extended Closure:

(1) Under Canvas At Zion *(requesting until March 12, 2026)*

New Applicants:

(1) Whidbey's a Daytime Eatery, Saratoga Springs *(conditional)*
(2) Magleby's, Pleasant Grove *(conditional)*
(3) Fort Cuisine of India Ogden, Ogden *(conditional)*
(4) Fort Cuisine of India Layton, Layton
(5) Laan Thai Restaurant, Logan *(conditional)*
(6) Shoga Sushi Bar, Orem *(conditional)*
(7) North Creek Escalante, Escalante *(conditional)*

j. On-Premise Beer Retailer - Recreational Amenity

New Applicants:

(1) Woodward Park City, Park City
(2) Utah Mammoth Practice Facility, Sandy *(conditional)*

k. Restaurant Beer Only

New Applicant:

(1) La Unica, Smithfield *(conditional)*

l. Restaurant Full-Service

Extension of Conditional License:

(1) Tip Top Club, Salt Lake City *(requesting until February Commission Meeting)*

Extended Closures:

(1) Eva, Salt Lake City *(requesting until February 28, 2026)*

(2) Sugar Space, Salt Lake City *(requesting until March 26, 2026)*

(3) Hunt & Gather Restaurant, Torrey *(requesting until March 26, 2026)*

New Applicants:

(1) The Brick, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*

(2) Contigo Peru-Utah, West Valley City *(conditional)*

(3) Woodward Park City, Park City

(4) Embassy Suites, West Valley City *(violation history)*

(5) Killa, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*

(6) Gossip Kitchen, Salt Lake City

Brian Swan, Deputy Director, Legal & Regulatory Affairs, gave an overview of the items on the consent agenda. He noted the items were complete and ready for action by the commission. Brian Swan answered commissioner's questions about Under Canvas Moab, and Woodward Park City on the consent agenda.

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve items a. through l on the consent agenda. Commissioner Orton second the motion. Chair Handy called for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

DISCUSSION: Commissioner Thue and Executive Director, Ericka Evans discussed current reception center license types and availability given by legislative population quotas. It was noted that based on population projections the state wouldn't see a new reception license until 2030.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		
Commissioner Orton		
Commissioner Thue		
Commissioner Tennert		
Commissioner Conabee		
Commission Owens		

LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS:

a. Bar Establishment (Rob Hansen) *[action items]*

License Change of Ownership:

(1) The Highlander Pub, Inc. Murray *(purchase agreement October 6, 2025)*

New Applicants:

(1) Wolfdog Brewing, Sandy

(2) Burger Lab, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*

Rob Hansen, Program Manager, gave an overview of License applications consideration items a. Bar Establishment, License Change of Ownership, The Highlander Pub, Inc. in Murray.

MOTION: Commissioner Tarazon moved to approve the license application consideration a. Bar Establishment, License Change of Ownership, (1) The Highlander Pub, Inc in Murray. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		
Commissioner Orton		
Commissioner Thue		
Commissioner Tennert		
Commissioner Conabee		
Commission Owens		

Rob Hanson gave an overview of the Bar Establishment, new applicants, (1) Wolfdog Brewing, in Sandy and a conditional license for (2) Burger Lab, Salt Lake City, noting there are 28 year-round and 2 winter seasonal bar licenses available.

MOTION: Commissioner Tarazon moved to approve the license application consideration items, a. Bar Establishment, new applicants, (1) Wolfdog Brewing in Sandy and a conditional bar establishment license to (2) Burger Lab in Salt Lake City. Commissioner Owens seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote of 7 - 0 - 0.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		
Commissioner Orton		
Commissioner Thue		
Commissioner Tennert		
Commissioner Conabee		
Commission Owens		

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC

Commissioner Thue publicly recognized several state semi-finalists for the 2026 James Beard Awards, Felt, Junah, Arlo, Oquirrh, Felt Bar & Eatery, The Pearl, and Urban Hill.

Commissioner Owens thanked the licensees and front-line staff for their continued efforts assisting tourists with navigating the 100% Identification law.

ADJOURN:

MOTION: Commissioner Tennert moved to adjourn the January Commission Meeting. Commissioner Tarazon seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed with a roll call vote 7 - 0 - 0.

Yea - 7	Nay - 0	Absent - 0
Chair Handy		
Vice Chair Tarazon		

Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Tennert
Commissioner Conabee
Commission Owens

There being no further business, Chair Handy adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.