

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Colorado River Authority of Utah**  
**April 21, 2026 -- 1:00 p.m. MT**

**1. Call to Order – Gene Shawcroft, Chair**

Mr. Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm stating there was a quorum. A list of all attendees is included in Attachment I. Attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Approval of the Minutes of March 24, 2026, Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting – Gene Shawcroft**

Mr. Humphrey motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Ferry seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

**3. Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person) – Gene Shawcroft**

Kael Weston asked how many of our Upper Basin States are actually where we are or ahead of us on conservation, and how much federal funding is hung up right now regarding conservation efforts along the Colorado River.

**4. Report of the Chair – Gene Shawcroft**

Mr. Shawcroft discussed the Drought Response Operations Agreement (DROA) Plan that he explained is a top priority right now. Mr. Shawcroft discussed Lake Powell end-of-month elevations where he explained the minimum and most probable for September 2026 is below 3490' and that for December 2026 the minimum and most probable are both significantly below 3490'. Mr. Shawcroft discussed DROA & SEIS Section 6E model results which he explained include up to a 1 maf release from Upper Initial Units and 6.0 maf release from Powell in WY 2026, which are the actions Reclamation is proposing. Mr. Shawcroft explained that things could change so nothing is concrete and that adjustments could be made that include releases from Blue Mesa and Navajo after the 2026 irrigation season. Mr. Shawcroft explained the UCRC meeting at 4pm today will discuss approval of the draft plan.

Mr. Shawcroft discussed public outreach and explained there was a meeting with Daggett County Commission, Uinta Basin water users and CRAU Advisory Councils on April 14th at Flaming Gorge where the information from Reclamation was shared with them. Mr. Shawcroft explained it was a good meeting where there was a good exchange of information. Mr. Shawcroft explained the drought is absolutely crippling across the state and the economics of such a dry year are huge.

Mr. Shawcroft discussed the tour of the evaporation station at Flaming Gorge which he explained was a great opportunity to learn about the work going into managing our water situation.

Mr. Shawcroft explained that the Secretary of Interior invited the Governors and Commissioners to a virtual call last week where they spent about an hour meeting and all agreed that a 7 states agreement would be best but did not reach such an agreement.

**5. Report of the Executive Director – Amy Haas, Executive Director**

Ms. Haas announced Roger Pearson will be replacing Bart LeeFlang handling most of the technical work on the interstate level for the Authority under a local agreement between the Authority and Central Utah Water Conservancy District.

Mr. Stilson provided a Demand Management Pilot Program (DMPP) update and explained that three projects have withdrawn from the program, one as recently as last week, because of the extreme drought conditions and their need to put what water they do have to use growing feed for their livestock operations. Mr. Stilson explained that a supplemental solicitation for additional storage forbearance project participants will be offered to help fill the space vacated in the program by the three projects that withdrew.

**6. Hydrology and System Status Update – Amanda Daniels, Senior Project Engineer**

Ms. Daniels provided a hydrology and system status update and discussed month and water year to date precipitation which she explained showed large areas below average. Ms. Daniels discussed precipitation accumulation and explained we were at 52% of median. Ms. Daniels discussed snow water equivalent where she explained we peaked at 8.9” on March 9th and are setting all sorts of drought records. Ms. Daniels explained the March average temperature was over 50 degrees and that it was the hottest March ever. Ms. Daniels discussed drought status and explained that over the last 30 days the percent of the Upper Colorado River Basin experiencing extreme drought increased from 12.42% to 62.87%.

**7. Utah Flux Network / Groundtruthing OpenET Update - Paul Inkenbrant, Senior Geologist, Utah Geological Survey**

Mr. Inkenbrandt discussed the Utah Flux Network and discussed measuring evapotranspiration and consumptive use. Mr. Inkenbrandt explained the value of measuring consumptive use to better manage water loss. Mr. Inkenbrandt explained how we get consumptive use and discussed empirical equations, direct measurements, and satellite estimates (OpenET). Mr. Inkenbrandt explained the history of the Utah Flux Network development which began in 2021 and how it evolved to where it is today, discussing the 11 different sites throughout Utah. Mr. Inkenbrandt discussed several case studies in detail as well as the process of validating OpenET with EC tower observations. Mr. Inkenbrandt stated that the Utah Flux Network can help Utah build a strong observation base for consumptive use, ET validation, and better water decisions and discussed future plans for the project.

**8. Remarks from the Board**

Mr. Humphrey explained the Emery County April forecast is 20% of normal and they are not going to be able to store any water and are planning on using what’s left this year. Mr. Humphrey explained that in early February Electric Lake lost a lot of water and that the Skyline Mine was Flooded and had to be shut down.

Mr. Ferry explained a report from the USGS shows the lowest inflows of all time and that record high temperatures are driving drought and wildfires are going to be a huge concern this year. Mr. Ferry explained that the US Forest Service headquarters is moving to Salt Lake City so they can be closer to the lands they manage. Mr. Ferry commended the work of the Colorado River Authority of Utah and Executive Director Haas during this difficult time.

Mr. Larsen explained that he was in the same boat and explained he believes he has already seen the high water flow for the season in March. Mr. Larsen explained lots of cattle are being dispersed as farmers are not going to be able to feed them.

Mr. Renstrom explained their overall precipitation is pretty close to average but their snowpack is the lowest ever reported and that farmers have never seen a winter like this before.

**9. Other Business**

There was no other business.

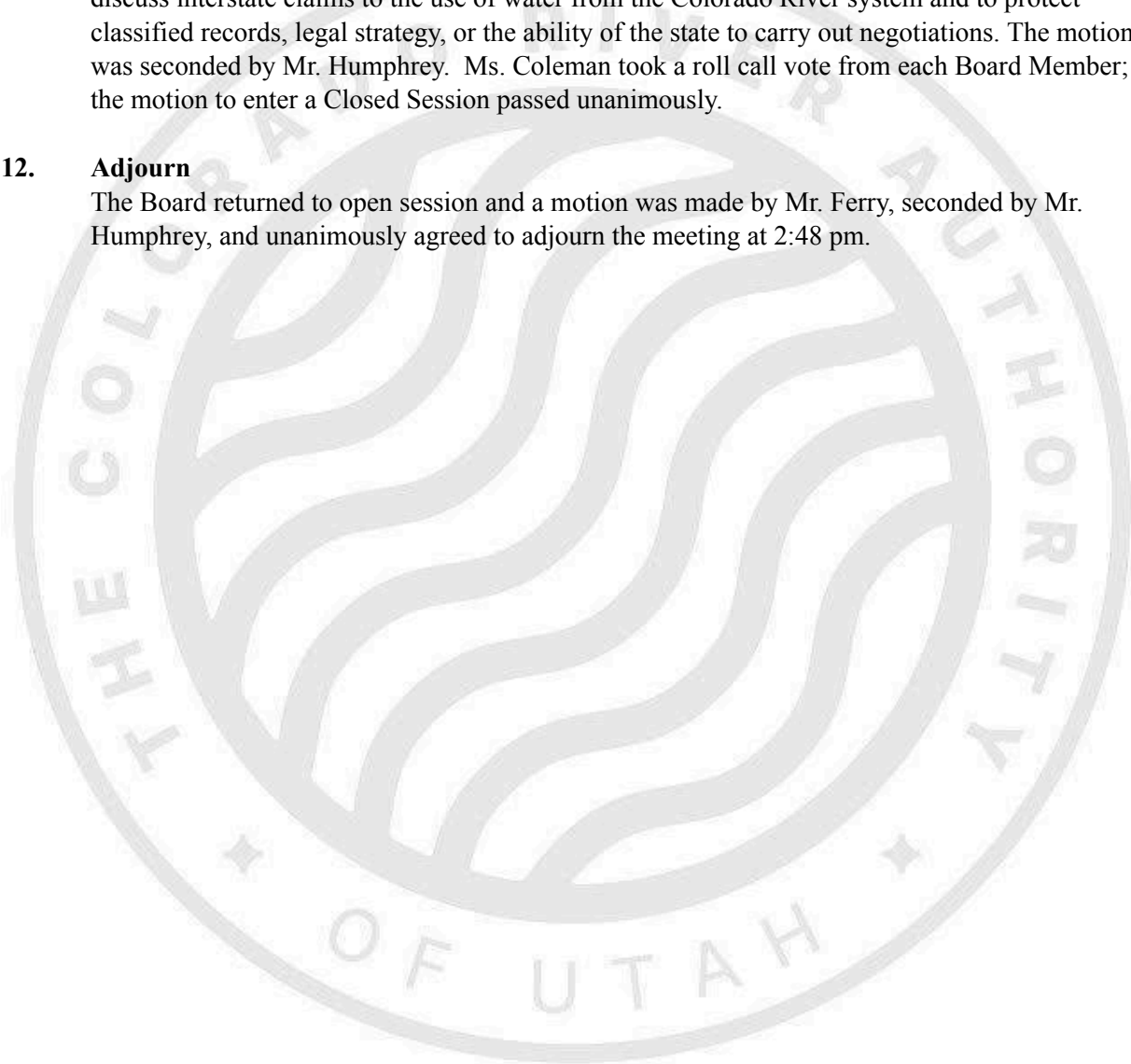
**10. Next Meeting: May 12, 2026 1:00 pm World Trade Center 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 60 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

**11. Closed Session as needed to discuss interstate claims to the use of water from the Colorado River system and to protect classified records, legal strategy, or the ability of the state to carry out negotiations (UCA 52-4-205(2)(e)).**

A motion was made by Mr. Ferry to close the meeting pursuant to Utah Code section 52-4-205 to discuss interstate claims to the use of water from the Colorado River system and to protect classified records, legal strategy, or the ability of the state to carry out negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Humphrey. Ms. Coleman took a roll call vote from each Board Member; the motion to enter a Closed Session passed unanimously.

**12. Adjourn**

The Board returned to open session and a motion was made by Mr. Ferry, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, and unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 2:48 pm.



April 21, 2026

Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting – VIRTUAL ONLY

**Board Member Attendees:**

Gene Shawcroft, Chair  
Joel Ferry  
Dan Larsen (Virtual)  
Jay Mark Humphrey  
Zach Renstrom (Virtual)

**Attendees:**

Amy Haas  
Betsy Coleman  
Emma Epperson  
Wendy Crowther  
Marc Stilson  
Logan Anderson  
Amanda Daniels  
Cody Stewart  
Bart Leeftang, CUWCD  
Paul Inkerbrandt, UGS  
Kathryn Ladig, UGS  
Brooke Larsen, The Salt Lake Tribune  
Ben Winslow, Fox 13 News  
Emanuel Rodriguez, Fox 13 News

**Virtual Attendees:**

Elaine York  
Cody Allred  
Kate Baustian  
John Berggren  
Lily Bosworth  
Joel Brown  
Tom Bruton  
Ric Cantrell  
Evan Curtis  
Thomas DeHart  
Mike Drake  
Simone Griffin  
Duane Houston  
Dustin Jansen  
John Laursen  
Willis LeFebre  
Tony Mancuso  
Brian Martinez  
Scott McGettigan  
Diane Menuz  
William Merkley  
Thomas Moore

Ben Musselman  
Annalise Porter  
Gordon Rowe  
Jon Schutz  
Amanda Strack  
Danny Swasey  
Phil Triolo  
Kael Weston  
Kevin Wheeler  
Dex Winterton

