

MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 20, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Keven J. Stratton, Chair
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht, Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Derrin R. Owens
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. John Arthur
Rep. Walt Brooks
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Logan J. Monson
Rep. Doug Owens
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson
Rep. Rex P. Shipp

Rep. Casey Snider
Rep. R. Neil Walter
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

Rep. Bridger Bolinder
Rep. Michael L. Kohler
Speaker Mike Schultz

Staff Present:

Charley Hart, Policy Analyst
Julie Humberstone, Managing Policy Analyst
Patricia Owen, Senior Associate General Counsel
Ryan C. Williams, Associate General Counsel
Alyssa Castor, Administrative Assistant

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

Chair Albrecht called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Shipp moved to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2025, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. R. Walter

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

The committee members introduced themselves.

Charley Hart provided information about committee materials.

[1 - Open and Public Meetings Act Handout](#)

Julie Humberstone provided information about the Open and Public Meetings Act.

Charley Hart announced a tentative site visit.

[1 - Changes to Committee Bill Files](#)

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to give the chairs permission to open committee bill files. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 5

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider

[1 - 2026 General Session Passed Bills](#)

[1 - 2026 Required Reports](#)

Sen. Stratton assumed the chair.

2. Adoption of Study Items

[2 - 2026 Proposed Study Items](#)

Charley Hart introduced the 2026 interim study items approved by the Legislative Management Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to add a study item, "assessing impacts from data center development in the state." The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

Discussion to the motion.

Rep. Owens' underlying motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to include other forms of energy to the 2026 interim study item list.

Sen. Hinkins withdrew his motion.

MOTION: Rep. Albrecht moved to approve the 2026 interim study item list, as amended. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

3. State Water Supply and Drought Response

[3 - State Water Supply and Drought Response Presentation](#)

Joel Williams, Director, Division of Water Resources and Laura Haskell, Drought Coordinator, Division of Water Resources, presented an update on water conditions, drought response planning, and strategy, and answered questions from the committee.

Scott Paxman, General Manager, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, and Jacob Young, General Manager, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, presented an update on water conditions, drought response planning, and strategy, and answered questions from the committee.

4. Long-Term Water Infrastructure Funding

[4 - Long-Term Water Infrastructure Funding Presentation](#)

Joel Williams and Shalaine DeBernardi, Assistant Director, Division of Water Resources, presented information on long-term water infrastructure funding needs and answered questions from the committee.

[4 - Prepare60's Statewide Water Infrastructure Plan](#)

Scott Paxman and Jacob Young presented information on long-term water infrastructure funding needs and answered questions from the committee.

Tim Davis, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Quality, provided input on water infrastructure.

5. Unified Water Infrastructure Plan

[5 - Unified Water Infrastructure Plan](#)

[5 - Unified Water Infrastructure Plan Presentation](#)

[5 - Unified Water Infrastructure Plan Handout](#)

Joel Williams and Shalaine DeBernardi presented the unified water infrastructure plan from the Water Development Coordinating Council.

6. Outdoor Recreation Long-Term Planning

[6 - Outdoor Recreation Long-Term Planning Presentation](#)

Jason Curry, Director, Division of Outdoor Recreation, presented information on the Outdoor Recreation Initiative and the division's work in planning, and answered questions from the committee.

7. Sunset Review: Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Grant Program

[7-10 - Sunset Assignments](#)

[7-10 - Sunset Presentation](#)

[7-10 - Sunset Review Summary](#)

Charley Hart presented information on the sunset review for the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Grant Program.

8. Sunset Review: Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee

Ryan Williams presented information on the sunset review for the Utah Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee.

9. Sunset Review: Great Salt Lake Advisory Council

Patricia Owen presented information on the sunset review for the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council.

10. Sunset Review: Resource Development Coordinating Committee

Julie Humberstone presented information on the sunset review for the Resource Development Coordinating Committee.

Redge Johnson, Director, Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, provided input on the Resource Development Coordinating Committee.

Tim Hawkes, Chair, Great Salt Lake Advisory Council, provided input on the Great Salt Lake Advisory Council.

Jason Curry provided input on the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Advisory Committee and the Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Grant Program.

The committee discussed the proposed sunset reviews.

11. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 13 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 13

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.