

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF UTAH
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE SERVICES COMMISSION**

HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026
MULTI-AGENCY STATE OFFICE BUILDING
195 North 1950 West, Salt Lake City, Utah

Commissioners' present:

Chair, Stephen Handy
Jacquelyn Orton
Tara Thue
Christopher Conabee

Commissioners' participating virtually:

Vice Chair, Jennifer Tarazon
Falyn Owens

Commissioner absent:

Juliette Tennert

Staff present:

Department Commissioner, Ericka Evans
Deputy Director of Finance and Administration,
Todd Darrington
Managing Director of Operations, Jeremy
Sommerlath
Compliance Administrator, Craig Warr
Alcohol Education Director, Doug Murakami

Also present:

Assistant Attorney General, Samuel McHenry

Chair Stephen Handy called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Keith Neijstrom led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Chair Stephen Handy introduced the commissioners' and staff who assist with the June commission meeting. He excused Commissioner Juliette Tennert and made the following announcements.

- a. Proposed Future Meeting Schedule: *(subject to change)*
 - Thursday, July 30, 2026 - MASOB
 - Thursday, August 27, 2026 - MASOB
- b. Holiday Closure:

State liquor store and the DABS administrative office and warehouse will be closed:

 - Friday, July 03, 2026 *(administrative office and warehouse holiday observed Independence Day)*
 - Saturday, July 04, 2026 *(Independence Day)*
 - Friday, July 24, 2026 *(Pioneer Day)*
- c. Public Comments:
 - Those present, please complete the form located at the front entrance to

the room.

- Those participating virtually, please email your name, city, topic, and affiliation (if applicable) to hotline@utah.gov by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, June 24, 2026.
- Comments will be addressed at the end of the meeting.

PARENTS EMPOWERED UPDATE:

Alcohol Education Director Doug Murakami presented an update on the Parents Empowered campaign. He highlighted the No Bummer Summer campaign, which launched in May, and detailed fun ways for parents to stay connected with their children. He also shared helpful resources to keep children alcohol free.

Doug Murakami responded to the commissioners' questions, explaining that the SHARP survey defines underage youth as those under 21 years of age and polls children in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12. He added that media and social media are key to educating parents and increasing their engagement.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Todd Darrington provided a financial update for period 11 of fiscal year 2026 through May 31, 2026. He reported that overall revenue fell 1.25% and expenses decreased 7% during this period. He also noted that the department is on track to returning \$88 million to the general fund and explained that this amount does not include almost \$50 million for School lunch, \$11 million for Public Safety, and \$2.5 million for Parents empowered.

Chair Stephen Handy shared this was Todd Darrington's last meeting with the department. He thanked Todd Darrinton for being a great addition to the executive team and wished him well.

OPERATIONS UPDATE:

Managing Director of Operations Jeremy Sommerlath shared an operations update on the June inventory count for DABS state retail stores, warehouse distribution center, and all Type 2 and Type 3 package agency contracts. He pointed out this aligns with retail private sector business practices and it was conducted by a third party. He shared appreciation for all involved.

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans provided an update on the D365 enhancements that are ready to go live for the fiscal year 2027. She noted the system enhances inventory management, control capabilities, cash control processes, and the financial visibility.

VIOLATIONS: (Samuel McHenry) *[action item]*

*Referral Sources – State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), Unified Police Department (UPD)

[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)	Ramen Hero, Eagle Mountain and Yuqian Wang (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RB)
(2)	Brio Italian Grille, Murray	*SBI	(RF)
(3)	Brewskis on Historic 25th Street, Ogden	*SBI	(BAR)
(4)	Clubhouse Grill/Thanksgiving Point Golf Club, Lehi and Alexander Hardy (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RL)
(5)	KPot Korean BBQ & Hot Pot, North Salt Lake	*SBI	(RF)
(6)	La Lola Taco, Murray and J.G. (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RL)
(7)	Nori Sushi Bar & Grill, American Fork	*SBI	(RF)
(8)	Pizzeria 712, Orem and Lindsey Hoy (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RF)
(9)	Shoga Sushi Bar, Orem and Emma Bateman (<i>employee</i>)	*SBI	(RL)
(10)	Stan's Market, Kearns	*UPD	(OP)
(11)	Western Billiards, Kearns	*SBI	(BAR)
(12)	La Autentica Market, Magna and Jacquelyn Flores (<i>employee</i>)	*UPD	(OP)
(13)	Fenix Market, Kearns and Abigail Islas (<i>employee</i>)	*UPD	(OP)
(14)	Happy Lamb Hot Pot, Murray	*SBI	(RL)
(15)	Bambara/The Vault, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(BAR)
(16)	City Corner, Salt Lake City	*SBI	(OP)

Assistant Attorney General Samuel McHenry gave an overview of the items on the consent calendar noting they are complete and ready for action by the commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve the settlement agreements for a. violations consent calendar items 1 through 16. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Stephen Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 5

Vice Chair Tarazon
Jacquelyn Orton
Christopher Conabee
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Juliette Tennert

LICENSEE RECOGNITIONS:

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

Department Commissioner Ericka Evans reported since the May commission meeting, 119 licensees passed the Public Safety SBI Underage Buyer inspections. She congratulated those who passed and thanked them for following the alcohol safety laws.

CONSENT AGENDA: (Craig Warr) [*action item*]

a. Approval of the Minutes

- (1) May 28, 2026 Commission Meeting

- b. May License Renewal Campaign Results **(Effective July 1, 2026)**
- (1) 411 license records meet statutory requirements for renewal
 - (2) 5 license records will not be renewed
- c. Off-Premise Beer Retailer State License
- License Changes of Ownership:*
- (1) 7-Eleven Store #33978D, West Jordan (*purchase agreement May 18, 2026*)
 - (2) Summit Fuel LLC, Milford (*purchase agreement March 2, 2026*)
 - (3) Summit Fuel, Panguitch (*purchase agreement March 2, 2026*)
 - (4) Summit Fuel, Panguitch (*purchase agreement March 2, 2026*)
 - (5) Summit Fuel, Panguitch (*purchase agreement March 2, 2026*)
 - (6) Gas Stop 22, West Valley City (*purchase agreement 18, 2026*)
 - (7) Last Chance Store 15, Salt Lake City (*conditional*) (*purchase agreement April 13, 2026*)
 - (8) Shell 978 LLC, Salt Lake City (*conditional*)
- New Applicants:*
- (1) 7-Eleven #42854A, Herriman (*conditional*)
 - (2) Bullfrog Boat & Go, Halls Crossing
 - (3) Bullfrog Dock & Stock, Halls Crossing
 - (4) Mountain Home Store, Duchesne
 - (5) Summit Fuel, Alton
 - (6) The Corner Station Deli C-Store, Price
 - (7) Urban Groceries, Sandy
 - (8) Wasatch Cooperative Food Market, Salt Lake City (*conditional*)
- c. Manufacturing
- New Applicant:*
- (1) Black Feather Whiskey, Salt Lake City (*distillery*)
- d. Package Agency
- New Applicants:*
- (1) Black Feather Whiskey, Salt Lake City (*type 5*)
 - (2) Amangiri Resort & Camp Sarika by Amangiri, Canyon Point (*type 1 with type 4 privileges*)
- e. Hotel
- New Applicant:*
- (1) Voco Moab by IHG, Moab (*conditional*)
- f. On-Premise Banquet
- New Applicants:*
- (1) Market Street Grill, Cottonwood Heights (*restaurant venue*)
 - (2) Rio Management Event Services, Salt Lake City (*violation history*)

- g. Local Industry Representative
New Applicant:
 - (1) Palmer Beverage, Salt Lake City
- h. Restaurant Beer-Only
New Applicant:
 - (1) El Puerto, Sandy
- i. Restaurant Limited-Service
New Applicants:
 - (1) Mandarin Restaurant Cedar INC, Cedar City *(conditional)*
 - (2) Pinnacle Peak Grill, Inc., Price *(conditional)*
 - (3) La Neta Utah, West Valley City *(conditional)*
 - (4) Spitz Spanish Fork, Spanish Fork *(conditional)*
- j. On-Premise Beer Retailer - Beer Recreational
New Applicant:
 - (1) Rio Management Event Services, Salt Lake City *(violation history)*
- k. Restaurant Full-Service
Extended Closure:
 - (1) Kona Grill, Riverton *(requesting until August 28, 2026)**New Applicants:*
 - (1) Roasted Root Cafe, Escalante *(conditional)*
 - (2) Grid City Beer Works, South Salt Lake City *(conditional)*
 - (3) Mr. & Mrs. Crab Juicy Seafood & Bar Orem, Orem
 - (4) Ground & Toasted, Kane County *(conditional)*
 - (5) Kompas Taqueria, Draper *(conditional)*
 - (6) Code Blue, Tooele *(conditional)*

Compliance Administrator Craig Warr gave an overview of the consent agenda items noting they are complete and ready for commission action.

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve the consent agenda a - k, with the exception of item j. on-premise beer retailer - beer recreational #1 Rio Management Event Services in Salt Lake City and item f on-premise banquet #2 Rio Management Event Services in Salt Lake City. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 5

Vice Chair Tarazon
 Jacquelyn Orton
 Christopher Conabee
 Falyn Owens
 Tara Thue

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Juliette Tennert

Compliance Administrator Craig Warr explained the violation history for applicant Rio Management Event Services in Salt Lake City, which has 2 new applications, item f for an on-premise banquet license and item j. for a on-premise beer retailer - beer recreational license.

Bryan Borreson, owner of Rio Management Event Services addressed the commission to discuss the violation history, address safety concerns, and explain his plans to make sure alcohol is managed responsibly. He shared how he's worked with law enforcement and the State Bureau of Investigation to help with safety recommendations.

Chair Stephen Handy wished the applicant well and mentioned the recent legislative changes allow for the commission to consider the applicants violation history.

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to approve item f on-premise banquet #2 Rio Management Event Services in Salt Lake City and item j. on-premise beer retailer - beer recreational #1 Rio Management Event Services in Salt Lake City, on the consent agenda. Commissioner Orton seconded the motion. Chair Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 5

Vice Chair Tarazon
Jacquelyn Orton
Christopher Conabee
Falyn Owens
Tara Thue

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Juliette Tennert

LICENSE APPLICATIONS CONSIDERATION ITEMS: (Rob Hansen) *[action items]*

a. Bar Establishment: (Rob Hansen) *[action items]* **(Effective July 1, 2026)**

New Applicants:

- (1) Cosmica LLC, Salt Lake City *(conditional) (will surrender their restaurant full-service license upon approval)*
- (2) Talisman Brewing Co. Ogden *(will surrender their tavern license upon approval)*
- (3) Puerto Vallarta Restaurant, Cedar City *(conditional)*
- (4) Granary Speakeasy, Monticello
- (5) Four, SLC, Salt Lake City *(conditional)*

Training Program Manager Rob Hansen presented the license applications consideration item a. bar establishment new applicants. He shared there are 29 year round bar establishment licenses available with an additional 18 bar establishment licenses in July 2026 by state quota.

MOTION: Commissioner Thue moved to approve the license applications consideration item a. bar establishment new applicants 1 through 5. Commissioner Conabee seconded the motion. Chair Stephen Handy asked for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 5

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Vice Chair Tarazon
Commissioner Owens
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Conabee

Commissioner Tennert

COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND PUBLIC

Chair Stephen Handy wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July and talked about the Utah's America 250 commission mission to educate and unite.

Commissioner Orton shared her appreciation for Todd Darrington noting that he will be missed.

Tanner Leonard, licensee representative, took the opportunity to thank Commissioner Orton for her time serving on the Alcoholic Beverage Service Commission.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Commissioner Conabee moved to adjourn the June 25, 2026 commission meeting. Chair Stephen Handy second the motion. Chair Stephen Handy called for a vote. The motion passed 5 - 0 - 1.

Yea - 5

Vice Chair Tarazon
Commissioner Owens
Commissioner Orton
Commissioner Thue
Commissioner Conabee

Nay - 0

Absent - 1

Commissioner Tennert

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:54 am.