

Critical Mineral Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2026

Present In the Room: Brian Somers, President of the Utah Mining Association; Dr. Tim Kowalchik, OED Director of Research; Jake Garfield, OED; Deputy Director, Emy Lesofski, Energy Advisor to the Gov. and Director of OED; Tracy Rees, OED Deputy Director; Jonathan Freedman, CEO and President of the Utah World Trade Center; Jason Perry, University of Utah VP for Government Relations; Joe Finely, Energy Council Policy Advisor; Ben Hart, Executive Director of the Utah Inland Port Authority; Nico Micheletti, Counsel; Jefferson Moss, Commissioner of GOED

Present Online: Nathan Schwebach, DNR Deputy Director; Mick Thomas, Director of Oil, Gas and Mining; Tyson Bomsta, OED Economist; Taylor Randall, President of the University of Utah; Brian Bean, Utah Senate Policy Advisory; Blake Nelson, OED Alternative Fuels Fellow; Ann Millner, Utah Senator; Dave Schallenberger, Utah Representative; Joel Ferry, DNR Director; Lance Soffee, GOED Senior VP of Economic Growth

1:04pm

Emy:

- Call to order
- Board member introductions with a highlight of what each member brings to the Council

Nico:

- Swearing in of members as a group
- Forms signed [5 of 9 sworn in]

Emy: A quorum is present

Mick: Overview of Council duties and Minerals Atlas

Joe: OPMA and Records Management Act trainings

Discussion of:

- Statutory requirements for the appointment of the two remaining members
- Council next steps: Where is the Council and where does the Council need to be headed
- Federal priorities and state opportunities
- Attracting investments, including planned/active projects
- Research capabilities being built at the University of Utah
- Coordination of permitting
- Creating actionable information for long-term benefit
- Connecting pieces and next steps: Workforce, Permitting, Research and testbeds,
- Forming ad hoc committees, especially for workforce
- Outline for the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the MINES Center

- Council meeting cadence

1:51pm

Emy: Call for public comment

- There were no requests / responses for the call for public comment

Emy: Call for Motions

- Brian made a motion to allow for virtual meeting attendance.
 - The motion was seconded and passed unanimously:
 - Ben: Aye
 - Jefferson: Aye
 - Emy: Aye
 - Brian: Aye
 - Jonathan: Aye
- Mick made a motion to survey the industry immediately. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously:
 - Ben: Aye
 - Jefferson: Aye
 - Emy: Aye
 - Brian: Aye
 - Jonathan: Aye
- Brian made a motion to go into closed session to discuss other two member nominations
 - Ability of the Council to go into closed session on this day was evaluated by counsel (Nico).
 - Motion carried
 - Ben: Aye
 - Jefferson: Aye
 - Emy: Aye
 - Brian: Aye
 - Jonathan: Aye
- Brian made a motion to return to open session
 - Motion was seconded and carried:
 - Ben: Aye
 - Jefferson: Aye
 - Emy: Aye
 - Brian: Aye
 - Jonathan: Aye

Council moved to close session

Brian: Motioned to go out of closed session

- Motion was seconded and carried:

- Ben: Aye
- Jefferson: Aye
- Emy: Aye
- Brian: Aye
- Jonathan: Aye
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2:09

- Return to open session

Emy: Call for a motion to adjourn

- Motion was made, seconded and carried:
 - Ben: Aye
 - Jefferson: Aye
 - Emy: Aye
 - Brian: Aye
 - Jonathan: Aye