



DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

Wednesday, August 19, 2026 | 9:00 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. R. Neil Walter
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:

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

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 le.utah.gov.

Chair Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

1. Data Center Policy

Bryce Bird, Director, Division of Air Quality, presented information on environmental considerations concerning data centers.

MOTION: Rep. Shipp moved to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2026, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. D. Owens
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. K. Stratton
Rep. R. Walter
Rep. C. Watkins

Nays - 0

Absent - 8

Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. M. Kohler
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider

Bryce Bird answered questions from the committee.

[2 - Data Center Presentation \(Division of Water Quality\)](#)

Candice Hasenyager, Director, Division of Water Quality, presented information on environmental considerations concerning data centers.

[2 - Data Center Presentation \(Division of Water Rights\)](#)

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, presented information on the water right application process and considerations concerning data centers.

Teresa Wilhelmsen answered questions from the committee.

Candice Hasenyager answered questions from the committee.

[2 - Data Center Presentation \(Division of Wildlife Resources\)](#)

[2 - Data Center Fact Sheet \(Division of Wildlife Resources\)](#)

Justin Shannon, Deputy Director, Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR), and Daniel Olson, Impact Analysis Coordinator, DWR, presented information on wildlife considerations concerning data centers.

Justin Shannon and Daniel Olson answered questions from the committee.

[2 - Data Center Presentation \(Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner\)](#)

Hannah Freeze, Commissioner, Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, presented information on the impact of data centers on the Great Salt Lake.

Public comment was heard from:

Allison Barton, resident, Murray;

Ava Nye, resident, Cottonwood Heights;

Ashley Nye, resident, Cottonwood Heights;

Diana Stevens, resident, Syracuse;

Jessica Wiarda, resident, Salt Lake City;

Aspen Azalea, Protect Utah;

Anne Berbert, candidate, House District 15;

Teena Horlacher, Chair, Davis County Conservatives;

Tracy Killian, Commissioner, Duchesne County;

Willis LeFevre, Commissioner, Uintah County; and

Alexander D'Angelo, resident, Salt Lake County.

2. Wildfire Update

[3 - 2026 Fire Season by the Numbers](#)

Jamie Barnes, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, presented information on wildfire conditions.

Jamie Barnes answered questions from the committee.



3. Audit Report

[4 - Audit Report Presentation \(Office of the Legislative Auditor General\)](#)

Brian Dean, Deputy Auditor General, Office of the Legislative Auditor General (OLAG), and August Lehman, Senior Audit Supervisor, OLAG, presented a report on the Audit of the Off-Highway Vehicle Funds.

Public comment was heard from:

Brett Stewart, Utah OHV Advocates;

Steven Hawkins, Vice President, Utah ATV Association; and

Jason Curry, Director, Division of Outdoor Recreation, who also answered questions from the committee.

Sen. Stratton recommended further discussion with stakeholders.

4. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 10

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

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. Owens
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. C. Snider
Rep. R. Walter

Chair Albrecht adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.