



LEGISLATURE

DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 | 8:30 a.m. | 210 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. David P. Hinkins, Senate Chair
Rep. Scott H. Chew, Vice Chair
Sen. Nate Blouin
Sen. Daniel McCay
Sen. Calvin R. Musselman
Sen. Ronald M. Winterton
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Logan J. Monson
Rep. Hoang Nguyen
Rep. Troy Shelley
Rep. Rex P. Shipp

Members Absent:

Rep. Stewart E. Barlow, House Chair
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Sen. Jerry W. Stevenson
Rep. John Arthur
Rep. Michael L. Kohler
Rep. Casey Snider

Staff Present:

Ivan D. Djambov, Finance Manager
Lacey K. Moore, Finance Officer
Tisha Gibby, Committee Secretary

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

1. Call to Order

Chair Chew called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: Rep. Albrecht moved to approve the June 16, 2026 minutes. The motion passed with a vote of 8 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 8

Rep. C. Albrecht
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 9

Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. D. McCay
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson

3. Colorado River Compact Updates

3. Colorado River Authority Presentation

Amy Haas, Executive Director, Colorado River Authority of Utah (CRAU), presented.

Chair Chew inquired regarding Lake Powell water releases. Amy Haas responded.

Sen. Hinkins asked about utilizing future Bureau of Reclamation funds for employees. Amy Haas responded.

Sen. Winterton requested further information on grants from the federal government. Amy Haas responded.

Logan Anderson, Finance Manager, CRAU, provided additional information.



Sen. Hinkins requested information on already appropriated funds. Logan Anderson and Amy Haas responded.

Rep. Albrecht inquired regarding Flaming Gorge Reservoir and power generation. Amy Haas responded.

Rep. Shelley asked about credit for released and conserved water. Amy Haas responded.

Sen. Musselman requested clarification on possible money to be provided to Utah from the Bureau of Reclamation. Amy Haas responded.

Sen. Hinkins asked about compensating Mexico for water conservation. Amy Haas responded.

4. Accountable Budget Process Draft Recommendations

[4. Accountable Budget Process Draft Recommendations](#)

[4. Accountable Budget Process Draft Recommendations \(Table Format\)](#)

[4. Accountable Budget Process Presentation](#)

i. Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner

Lacey Moore presented.

Hannah Freeze, Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner, responded.

Rep. Nguyen asked about keeping the public informed. Hannah Freeze responded.

ii. Utah Geological Survey

Lacey Moore presented.

Darlene Batatian, State Geologist and Director of the Utah Geological Survey, responded.

iii. Utah Water Agent

Lacey Moore presented.

Jamie Barnes, incoming Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, responded.

iv. Water Resources

Lacey Moore presented.

Joel Williams, Director, Water Resources, responded.

Tage Flint, Executive Director, Utah Water Ways, provided additional information.

Joel Williams continued responding to the recommendations.

Sen. Winterton asked the committee chairs about opening a bill file based on the recommendations. Chair Chew and Lacey Moore responded.

Sen. Hinkins asked about funding requests for Water Resources staff. Joel Williams responded.

v. Water Rights

Lacey Moore presented.

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, responded.

Sen. Hinkins commented on staff living and working in rural areas. Teresa Wilhelmsen responded.

Sen. Hinkins asked about water rights adjudication. Teresa Wilhelmsen responded.

5. Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner Work Plan

[5. Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner Action Plan](#)

[5. Office of the Great Salt Lake Commissioner Presentation](#)

Hannah Freeze, Great Salt Lake Commissioner, presented.

Rep. Shelley requested clarification on arsenic levels near the Great Salt Lake. Hannah Freeze responded.

6. DEQ Permitting Process Updates

Tim Davis, Executive Director, Department of Environmental Quality, presented.

7. Specialized Product Division Changes

[7. Specialized Product Division Presentation](#)

Amber Brown, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF), presented with Brandon Forsyth, State Chemist and Director, Division of Specialized Products, UDAF.

Sen. Hinkins asked about medical cannabis card expiration. Brandon Forsyth responded.

Sen. Hinkins inquired about paying for kratom regulation. Amber Brown and Brandon Forsyth responded.

Rep. Nguyen commented on funding and regulating. Sen. Hinkins responded.

Amber Brown presented.

Sen. Hinkins asked about product registration fees. Brandon Forsyth and Amber Brown responded.

Sen. Musselman asked about specialized product licensing and regulation. Brandon Forsyth and Amber Brown responded.

Sen. Hinkins inquired regarding inspectors of specialized products. Brandon Forsyth responded.

8. Wildfire Season Updates

[8. FFSL Wildfire Season Presentation](#)



Jamie Barnes, State Forester and Director of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (FFSL), presented.

Sen. Hinkins asked about possible debris from wildfires entering reservoirs. Jamie Barnes responded.

Rep. Nguyen thanked the division and asked about the amount of water used to fight wildfires. Jamie Barnes responded.

Rep. Nguyen asked about drones interfering with efforts to fight wildfires. Jamie Barnes responded.

Rep. Albrecht thanked Jamie Barnes and the entire staff of FFSL.

Rep. Shipp expressed appreciation to Jamie Barnes and the division and commented on the importance of forest management.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. McCay moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 6.

Yeas - 11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. McCay
Rep. L. Monson
Sen. C. Musselman
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. T. Shelley
Rep. R. Shipp
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays - 0

Absent - 6

Rep. J. Arthur
Rep. S. Barlow
Rep. M. Kohler
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. J. Stevenson

Chair Chew adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.