

Utah Lake Authority

Governing Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2026

Time: 9 AM

Location: Provo City Council Chambers & via Zoom

1. Welcome & Call to Order

Presiding Board Member: Chair Pro-tem Paul Binns

In-Person Board Members Present

- Mayor Paul Binns, Lehi
- Mayor Karen McCandless, Orem
- Audrey Barton, Saratoga Springs
- Kyle Friant, Provo - Substitute for Mayor Marsha Judkins
- Curtis Blair, Utah Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Hilary Hungerford, UVU
- Derek Shumway, Utah County - Substitute for Commissioner Skyler Beltran

Online Board Members Present

- Jodi Gardberg, DWQ - Substitute for Candice Hasenyager
- Ben Stireman, FFSL
- Kamron Dalton, Go Utah
- Mayor Neil Brown, Genola

Absent Board Members

- Sen. Brady Brammer, Utah State Senate
- Mayor Zack Stratton, Vineyard

2. Chair and Board Members' Reports/Disclosures/Recusals

None were reported

3. Public Comment

None

4. Guest Presentations

None

5. Consent Items

Motion: Approve the May 2026 ULA Board Meeting Minutes

Motion made by: Audrey Barton

Seconded by: Curtis Blair

Approved unanimously

6. Staff and Committee Reports

Executive Director Report - Luke Peterson

- Executive Director Luke Peterson introduced Lance Merrel as the new Federal Projects Manager.
- The authority is partnering with FFSL to leverage Utah Lake funding for carp removal and invasive vegetation management.
- Progress on the Nature Center includes reducing design costs from 22 million to 12 million dollars.
- Additional funding for the Nature Center is being sought through UVU, Sen. John Curtis, and legislative requests.

Deputy Director Report - Sam Braegger

- Staffing updates include upcoming postings for an administrative intern and a fractional CFO position.
- Operations will transition to MacBook devices and explore moving to larger office spaces in Utah County.
- Sam provided updates on the lakewide sign plan and progress regarding 11 master plans for access points.
- Infrastructure improvements include a new marine sewage pump installation in August and recent boating access grant completions at State Park.

Events & Communications - Kelly Cannon-O'Day

- Kelly Cannon-O'Day reported that the carp bounty program successfully removed 5,805 fish, resulting in over \$26,000 in prizes.
- Upcoming activities include a co-sponsored beach day in American Fork and a commemorative Utah Lake 5K.

- The annual Utah Lake Symposium is scheduled to take place at Rocky Mountain University for Health Professions.

Events & Programing - Heather McEwen

- Heather highlighted upcoming events including the Scavenger Hunt and photo contest.
- ULA will be tabling at various city and county events during the rest of the summer.
- Two new lifejacket loaner stations are now up and available at the Utah Lake State Park.
- Social media growth was highlighted by ULA's new Social Strategies Specialist Dayna Jorgensen, who saw significant increases in Facebook and Instagram engagement through creator partnerships.

Development & Funding - Shelby Kozak

- Shelby Kozak reported on the launch of the Utah Lake Foundation website and its new accounting software.
- The foundation is utilizing exclusive product drops at tabling events to encourage donations via themed apparel.
- A new monthly newsletter from the foundation is slated to begin in August to build a sustainer program.

Restoration & Conservation - Alex Stosich

- Alex reported that 20 acres were dished with native wetland seeds in Millrace this spring.
- A remote sensing project with USU is mapping 1,500 acres of shoreline using drones to manage vegetation effectively.

Outreach & Education - Courtney Thomas

- Courtney discussed redesigning the Utah County Stormwater Coalition website and launching a new educational podcast series.

7. Public Hearing

- A public hearing was held regarding the FY 2027 July budget amendment for both general and capital funds.
- Sam Braegger explained that revenue changes stem from grant carryovers while expense changes include updated signage funding consolidated under external grants.
- The board established a restricted fund balance for operation and maintenance (O&M) following Commissioner Beltran's recommendation.

8. Action Item

Motion: Approve the FY2027 July Budget Amendment

Motion made by: Karen McCandless

Seconded by: Audrey Barton

Approved unanimously

9. Adjournment

Motion made by: Karen McCandless

Seconded by: Audrey Barton

Approved unanimously