DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Colorado River Authority of Utah
August 18, 2026 -- 1:00 p.m. MT

1. **Call to Order – Gene Shawcroft, Chair**
Mr. Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm stating there was a quorum. A list of all attendees is included in Attachment I.

2. **Welcome and New Board Member Introductions - Members of the Board**
The new board members, Dustin Jansen, Roger Pearson, Teresa Wilhelmsen and Brian Martinez, introduced themselves.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of June 16 and August 3, 2026, Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meetings – Gene Shawcroft**
Mr. Humphrey motioned to approve the June 16 minutes, Mr. Williams seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board. Mr. Martinez motioned to approve the August 3 Special Board Meeting Minutes, Mr. Humphrey seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the board.

4. **Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person) – Gene Shawcroft**
There was no public comment.

5. **Report of the Chair – Gene Shawcroft**
Mr. Shawcroft stated that on July 31st we received the FEIS and that we anticipate receiving the ROD and 2027/28 Guidelines this week. Mr. Shawcroft asked Emma Epperson to present on the 8/13-14 tour of the reservoir. Ms. Epperson presented on the Flaming Gorge River retreat which she explained involved approximately 60 individuals including key leadership, congressional staff members, USU faculty and program leaders, Colorado River collaborative delegates and local leadership and media. Ms. Epperson explained the group traveled to Vernal, UT in a bus, visited an Ag-DRIP irrigation efficiency workshop to learn about the collaboration between USU and the Authority to help ag producers become more efficient in their water use, played trivia, listened to several presentations on various Colorado River topics, and traveled to Flaming Gorge where they participated in a tour of the dam, boat tours on the lake and rafting trips on the Green River while engaging in discussion with the various water users and stakeholders in the region. Ms. Epperson thanked Cody Stewart, IUSU ILWA, the Colorado River Collaborative and River Caucus, Rep. Scott Chew, the Bureau of Reclamation and Jack Lytle for their support of this trip.

Mr. Shawcroft discussed attending the One Utah Summit last week in St. George, and publicly thanked Director Ferry for all his commitment and leadership on the Board.

6. **Report of the Executive Director – Amy Haas, Executive Director**
Ms. Haas welcomed and introduced Elizabeth Cotter who is the Authority's new Project Engineer.

Ms. Haas discussed the Post-2026 Colorado River Reservoir Operations and explained that about a week ago Lake Mead hit its lowest elevation level of 1039' and last Saturday Lake Powell hit its lowest elevation level of 3519'.

Ms. Haas explained that for the past three years the bulk of the Authority's efforts in the interstate space has been focused on how to operate Lake Powell and Lake Mead after the current guidelines expire this year. Ms. Haas stated that on July 31st the Bureau of Reclamation released their long awaited Final Environmental Impact Statement, which she explained establishes sideboards for operating Lake Powell and Lake Mead through 2036. Ms. Haas explained the specific operating plans will be issued in roughly two-year increments, unless the seven states develop a consensus plan. Ms. Haas explained that this framework does not reduce Utah's water use, however, Arizona, California and Nevada face mandatory shortages of up to 3.0 million acre-feet in the worst conditions.

Ms. Haas discussed the framework which she explained is intended to last 10 years. Ms. Haas discussed the Lake Powell releases and upstream reservoir rules and explained the annual release range is between 5-12 MAF and explained releases from Glen Canyon Dam are dynamically adjusted between 5-12 MAF based on October 1 reservoir elevations to protect critical infrastructure. Ms. Haas discussed upstream reservoir triggers and explained the Secretary can release water from upstream units, including Flaming Gorge, Blue Mesa, and Navajo Reservoirs, when Lake Powell's elevation falls below 3,525 feet. Ms. Haas further explained this trigger is 15 feet higher than the Draft Successor Agreement negotiated by the Upper Division States.

Ms. Haas discussed Lower Basin shortages and mandatory reductions and explained mandatory Lower Basin cuts up to 3.0 MAF would be required if Mead falls below 1,000 feet. Ms. Haas discussed conservation pools and shortage limits and explained that new conservation pools allow both basins to store millions of acre-feet to hedge against shortages. Ms. Haas explained the Lake Mead Pool allows the Lower Basin to proactively conserve and store up to 7.0 MAF of water, the Lake Powell Pool allows the Upper Bain and tribes to conserve and store up to 3.0 MAF and includes an annual voluntary, temporary conservation of up to 200 KAF that is not operationally neutral. Ms. Haas explained the Federal Pool is a 1.0 MAF federally managed water resources pool created to satisfy federal/Tribal rights.

Ms. Haas explained the Bureau of Reclamation has committed $100 million to the four upper division states in support of conservation activities and that Utah has its existing Demand Management Program through which the federal money will flow to participants. Ms. Haas explained Utah is anticipating approximately $23M as part of this commitment.

7. Hydrology and System Status Update – Amanda Daniels, Senior Project Engineer

Ms. Daniels discussed month and water year-to-day precipitation and explained the northwest areas of the Upper Basin have benefited most from our recent rainfall. Ms. Daniels discussed precipitation accumulation where she explained we are sitting at approximately 22.1 inches of accumulated precipitation. Ms. Daniels discussed the record low water level at Lake Powell and explained today the level is 3519.5 ft. Ms. Daniels explained the extremely high temperatures across the nation have been in the news, especially the southwestern states. Ms. Daniels discussed drought status and explained that over 90% of the Upper Basin is in severe drought with 31% in extreme drought and 7% in exceptional drought. Ms. Daniels discussed the 8–14-day temperature and precipitation outlook and explained temperature was above normal and precipitation was at or near normal. Ms. Daniels discussed system operations and Upper basin storage and explained Lake Powell was 23% full and Lake Mead 27% full and the total system content was 32% full. Ms. Daniels discussed Lake Powell unregulated inflow forecast evolution and explained the observed total is 1,144 kaf. Ms. Daniels discussed Lake Powell end of month elevation projections which include the 6 maf release in 2026 and 7 maf release in 2027. Ms. Daniels explained the most probably inflow projection shows elevations approaching 3490' around March

2027. Ms. Wilhelmsen asked how much water has been released from Flaming Gorge as of today and Ms. Haas replied it was 307 kaf through July.

8. **Report on Post-2026 Operational Guidelines and Strategies for Lake Powell and Lake Mead - Wayne Pullan, Regional Director, Upper Colorado Region, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation**
Mr. Pullan discussed the dam tour last week which he explained his department is very proud of and was grateful to be a part of. Mr. Pullan discussed DROA releases and explained he was grateful they were able to cut back deliveries to the Lower Basin and plan for a 1maf DROA release. Mr. Pullan explained that additional releases are critical for maintaining Lake Powell's elevations and they are an infrastructure protection objective as much as anything else and that nobody ever dreamed about how to operate below minimum power pool. Mr. Pullan discussed the post 2026 Operational Guidelines and explained the idea the sideboards reflect the decision space they are working with which is very narrow and represents where they were able to get to. Mr. Pullan explained this gives them predictability and flexibility every two years through 2036. Mr. Pullan explained the Record of Decision should be out soon, and the August 24-Month Study is going to be released as early as Thursday. Mr. Pullan discussed shepherding and demand management and explained Utah's approach is a testament to the state's foresight, and it allows conservation to take place without putting water rights in jeopardy. Mr. Pullan explained that Utah's approach to shepherding and demand management creates real measurable water savings through voluntary compensated compensation and noted that $100 M in federal funding is available for conservation, with an obligation deadline of September 30th. Mr. Pullan mentioned three changes in personnel: Scott Cameron served as the Commissioner of Reclamation and retired a couple of weeks ago; Aubrey Bettencourt is the new Commissioner; and Ryan Randall is now in charge of the Salinity Program.

9. **Update on $100 Million Federal Grant Award to the Upper Division States for Contribution/Conservation Activities - Rachel Musil, Deputy Executive Director/Chief Engineer, Upper Colorado River Commission**
Ms. Musil discussed the Upper Basin $100M Contribution and Conservation Program and explained that the System Conservation Pilot Program was initially implemented in WY 2015-18 and focused on projects that supported innovations in water conservation, local drought resiliency and better understanding of a potential future program that contributes water. Ms. Musil further explained that end of season acre feet contributed during WY 2024 by the Upper Basin states was 64,558 af. Ms. Musil discussed the Upper Basin drought contingency plans which she explained protect Lake Powell from reaching critically low elevations and ensure continued compliance with the 1922 compact. Ms. Musil discussed provisional accounting which she explained is an agreement between Reclamation and the Upper Division States through the Upper Colorado River Commission that recognizes voluntary water contributions made by the Upper Division states to support Lake Powell. Ms. Musil explained this was to create a transparent, defensible accounting framework for actions taken and contributed water, that Upper Division contributions and augmentation efforts are formally tracked for potential credit, and qualifying activities have been supported through State funds and programs. Ms. Musil explained the year-to-year Provisional Accounting process involves selecting qualifying activities, implementing those activities, coordinating with Reclamation and finalizing an accounting report. Ms. Musil explained the total upper Basin qualifying activities delivered to Lake Powell for WY 2025 was 22,290 af, and delivered to Flaming Gorge was 2,389 af, and that WY 2026 is still ongoing and contributed water amounts are not fully accounted for. Ms. Musil explained the timeline of events explaining we just received notice of award for the $100 million contribution and that during WY27-28 will be the implementation of the Upper Basin contribution and conservation program.

10. Remarks from the Board

Mr. Renstrom explained there was nothing new in his area and the reservoirs are holding well this year. Mr. Humphrey stated it was hot in Emery County and reservoirs are below 40% and they are using all their reserves this year. Mr. Williams stated the state water plan is out for public review and comment and closes on August 23rd. Mr. Williams explained the secondary metering effort federal funds need to be spent by the end of the year, so they are working very hard to meet deadlines and get everything contracted. Ms. Wilhelmsen provided updates from water rights and explained they have just completed approximately 50 water applications for dedicated water for the Great Salt Lake. Ms. Wilhelmsen explained she is anticipating approximately a dozen more applications over the next few months. Mr. Pearson explained that people in his area are dealing with a lot of growth and are looking at conservation methods and stated he was grateful for the messaging about conservation. Mr. Martinez explained the Grand County areas are seeing planning conservation and thanked the Authority for the rafting trip. Mr. Jansen stated he appreciated all the information shared at today's meeting. Mr. Larsen explained they received some rain last week and there is more in the forecast he is hoping comes.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

12. Next Meeting: October 20, 2026 1:00 pm World Trade Center 1st Floor Conference Room, 60 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

13. Closed Session as needed to discuss interstate claims to the use of water from the Colorado River system and to protect classified records, legal strategy, or the ability of the state to carry out negotiations (UCA 52-4-205(2)(e)).

A motion was made by Mr. Renstrom to close the meeting pursuant to Utah Code section 52-4-205 to discuss interstate claims to the use of water from the Colorado River system and to protect classified records, legal strategy, or the ability of the state to carry out negotiations. The motion was seconded by Mr. Humphrey. Ms. Coleman took a roll call vote from each Board Member; the motion to enter a Closed Session passed unanimously.

14. Adjourn

The Board returned to open session and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Shawcroft, seconded by Mr. Williams, and unanimously agreed to by the board, which was adjourned at 3:20pm.

Attachment #1 – August 18, 2026 Attendee List

August 18, 2026
Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting

Board Member Attendees:
Gene Shawcroft, Chair
Dan Larsen (Virtual)
Dustin Jansen (Virtual)
Jay Mark Humphrey
Zach Renstrom
Joel Williams
Roger Pearson
Brian Martinez
Teresa Wilhelmsen

Attendees:
Amy Haas
Betsy Coleman
Emma Epperson
Wendy Crowther
Marc Stilson
Logan Anderson
Elizabeth Cotter
Rachel Musil, UCRC
Marc Stilson
Jay Williams, WRE
Amanda Daniels
Cody Stewart
Wayne Pullan, BOR
Sarah Shechter, AG
Cody Allred, PacifiCorp
Roger Pearson, CUWCD
Bart Leeflang, CUWCD
Scott McGettigan, Water Resources
Richard Salas, Water Resources
Mike Drake, Water Rights

Virtual Attendees:
Shanandoah A.
John Berggren
Tom Brutom
William Butcher
Evan Curtis
Dylan Dastrup
Dave Evans
Gregg Galecki
Dustin Jansen
Brooke Larsen
Willis LeFevre
Tony Mancuso

William Merkley
Ben Musselman
Troy Ovard
Gordon Rowe
Sarah Shechter
Clyde Watkins
Ellie Oakley
Kael Weston