State of Utah

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DEIDRE HENDERSON
Lieutenant Governor

Department of
Environmental Quality

Tim Davis
Commissioner

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
Candice A. Hasenyager, P.E.
Director

Water Quality Board
James Webb, Chair
Trevor Heaton, Vice Chair
Jill Jones
Jeannie Simmonds
Michela Harris
Joseph Havasi
Trevor Heaton
Robert Fehr
Brian Martinez
Tim Davis
Candice A, Hasenyager, P.E.
Executive Secretary

MINUTES

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD
MASOB
and
Via Google Meet
September 23, 2026
8:30 am Board Meeting

PENDING

UTAH WATER QUALITY BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Jill Jones
Michela Harris
Tim Davis
Trevor Heaton
Joe Havasi
Jeannie Simmonds
Rob Fehr

DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY STAFF MEMBERS' PRESENT

Candice Hasenyager
Harry Campbell
George Meados
Skyler Davies
Henry Willmes
Cambria Linville
Adriana Hernandez
Christa Hutchinson
Clanci Hawks
Emily Canton
Leanna Littler-Woolf

OTHERS PRESENT

Haley Sousa
Mayor Alan J. Miller
Justin Telfer

Mr. Heaton called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

ROLL CALL
Mr. Heaton took roll call for the members of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 26, 2026 Meeting

Motion: Ms. Simmonds moved to approve the meeting minutes.
Ms. Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY REPORT:
Director Hasenyager addressed the Board with the following updates:

Federal & Intergovernmental Affairs (EPA Region 8):

- EPA Region 8 & State Directors Briefing: DWQ hosted Region 8 Environmental Protection Agency officials and state directors. Discussions focused on key regulatory areas including wetland permitting, narrative standards, nutrient implementation, cybersecurity funding, and State Revolving Funds (SRF).
- Regional Water Quality Focus: DWQ hosted EPA Region 8 states for targeted sessions on water quality standards, nonpoint source, and tribal consultation meetings.
- Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule**:** DWQ evaluated the EPA's supplemental information regarding the WOTUS rule. The deadline for public comments was noted as October 9, 2026.
- Water Quality Portal Modernization: A joint investment by the EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is aimed at modernizing the Water Quality Portal, with project timelines extending through 2028.
- EPA Office of Water Policy Shift: A memorandum from the EPA Office of Water rescinds specific guidance documents. These impact regulations surrounding PFAS discharges, pollutants of emerging concern, and compliance frameworks tied to the Supreme Court's Maui decision.

State & Local Partnerships:

- Annual Partnership Meeting: DEQ convened the annual alignment meeting with local health departments. The agenda centered on advancing the "One Team" approach, highlighting governance successes, addressing emerging health issues, and reviewing enforcement expenses.

Legislative Updates & Regulatory Compliance:

- Interim Week Sewer Breakfast: Hosted by stakeholders during the legislative interim week to present critical infrastructure updates.
- Wastewater Treatment Security Amendments: Proposed security amendments mandate facilities handling over 1 million gallons per day (MGD) to report security incidents within a 2-hour window.

PENDING

Infrastructure Funding & Data Center Water Demands:

- Salt Lake City Public Utilities Debt: A recent legislative audit of the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities identified a $600 million financial shortfall/debt which stems from major capital infrastructure spending.
- Legislative Focus on High-Energy Industries: The Utah Legislature is focusing on resource constraints. Deliberations center on the heavy water and energy demands of data centers and other high-energy-consuming industries.
- Water-Positive Operations (RSDZ Framework): Representative Cutler has a proposal to address large-flow data center impacts through the Regional Strategic Development Zone (RSDZ) process. The objective is to establish mechanisms that ensure data facilities achieve water-positive operations.
- Local Ordinance Mitigation: Municipal and local communities are currently managing the associated noise, light, and general nuisance issues of server facilities via local zoning ordinances.
- Vulnerability of Rural Counties: Small and rural counties are disproportionately vulnerable to large-scale industrial developments. This vulnerability is primarily driven by their limited local administrative and technical resources.

Compliance and Enforcement:

Request for Approval of Settlement Docket No. M25-02 for Spanish Fork City:

Ms. Littler-Woolf requested the Board to approve a civil penalty of $29,331.25 that was negotiated and signed by Spanish Fork on July 20, 2026. The facility achieved full compliance with ammonia and dissolved oxygen limits by January 2026, with no further exceedances reported. No public comments were received during the notice period.

Motion: Ms. Simmonds moved to approve the Settlement in the amount of $29,331.25.
Ms. Harris seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Funding:

Mr. Meados requested the Board to authorize a revised funding structure, due to lower project bids, for Hinckley Town:

Motion: Ms. Harris moved to approve the amended funding package for Hinckley as recommended by staff that includes a $705,000 loan at a 1.33% interest rate for a term of up to 30 years from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund; $750,000 in principal forgiveness for lagoon upgrade construction; $160,000 in Hardship Grant for engineering construction management services; and conversion of the $267,000 hardship design advance to a hardship grant.
Mr. Havasi seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Rulemaking:

Mr. Harris requested approval from the Board to initiate informal Rulemaking, Amendments to R317-16, Great Salt Lake Mineral Extraction Facility Operator Certification Approval.

PENDING

Motion: Mr. Havasi moved to approve the initiation of informal rulemaking for R317-16, Great Salt Lake Mineral Extraction Facility Operator Certification, to update and clarify feasibility assessments, agency efficiencies, and monitoring and reporting requirements.
Ms. Jones seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

Other:

Municipal Wastewater Planning Program 2025 Data:

Mr. Campbell presented the MWPP survey results covering 2025 financial and operational data.

- The survey achieved a 69% response rate out of 218 eligible facilities.
- 98% of respondents use user fees, 77% use impact fees, and 18% use taxes for revenue.
- The average user fee is $39, average impact fee is $3,500, and average tax revenue is $2.4 million.
- Salt Lake City reported a maximum average connection user fee of $149.
- Sinking fund establishment for repair and replacement shows a steady downward trend among respondents**.**

Mr. Campbells full presentation can be viewed here **Board Meeting Recording**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Ms. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting.
Mr. Havasi seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

The full recording of September 23, 2026, Water Quality Board Meeting may be viewed here September Board Meeting Recording

Next Meeting – October 28, 2026
Meeting begins at 8:30 am

In-Person
MASOB
195 North 1950 West
Board Room 1015
Salt Lake City, Utah 84116

Trevor Heaton, Vice Chair
Utah Water Quality Board

PENDING