DRAFT MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE, AND ENVIRONMENT INTERIM COMMITTEE

UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 | 8:30 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. Michael L. Kohler
Rep. Logan J. Monson
Rep. Doug Owens
Rep. Rex P. Shipp
Rep. R. Neil Walter
Rep. Christine F. Watkins

Members Absent:
Rep. Bridger Bolinder
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson
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 8:34 a.m.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2026, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 10 - 0 - 9.

Yeas - 10	Nays - 0	Absent - 9
Rep. C. Albrecht		Sen. N. Blouin
Rep. J. Arthur		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. W. Brooks		Rep. L. Monson
Rep. S. Chew		Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. D. Hinkins		Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. M. Kohler		Rep. M. Schultz
Sen. D. Owens		Rep. R. Shipp
Rep. D. Owens		Rep. C. Snider
Sen. K. Stratton		Rep. R. Walter
Rep. C. Watkins		

Chair Albrecht informed the committee about reports that were submitted to the committee and available on the Agency Reporting tab of the Legislature's website.

Chair Albrecht informed the committee that the agenda item, "6. Draft Legislation: Outdoor Recreation Sunset Extensions," would be heard in the 2026 November interim meeting.

2. State Water Policy Review

2 - State Water Policy Review Presentation (OLRGC)

2 - State Water Policy Review Handout (OLRGC)

Charley Hart provided an overview of the state water policy.

3. Draft Legislation: Resource Development Coordinating Committee Sunset Extension

Chair Stratton assumed the chair.

3 - Draft Legislation "Resource Development Coordinating Committee Sunset Extension" (v001) (Drafter: R. Williams)

Rep. Albrecht presented 2027 General Session draft legislation, "Resource Development Coordinating Committee Sunset Extension."

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to favorably recommend as a committee bill, "Resource Development Coordinating Committee Sunset Extension." The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 5.

Yeas - 14	Nays - 0	Absent - 5
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. J. Arthur		Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. N. Blouin		Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. W. Brooks		Rep. C. Snider
Rep. S. Chew		Rep. R. Walter
Sen. D. Hinkins		
Rep. M. Kohler		
Rep. L. Monson		
Sen. D. Owens		
Rep. D. Owens		
Sen. S. Sandall		
Rep. R. Shipp		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. C. Watkins		

4. Draft Legislation: Precipitation Capture and Storage Amendments

4 - Draft Legislation "Precipitation Capture and Storage Amendments" (v008) (Drafter: P. Owen)

4 - Handout (Rep. Shelley)

Rep. Troy Shelley presented 2027 General Session draft legislation, "Precipitation Capture and Storage Amendments."

Chair Albrecht assumed the chair.

Rep. Shelley answered questions from the committee.

Public comment was heard from:

Warren Peterson, Water Policy Advisor, Utah Farm Bureau Federation;

Jeff Budge, General Manager, Provo River Water Users Association; and

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, who answered questions from the committee.

5. Draft Legislation: Domesticated Elk Advisory Council Sunset Extension

5 - Draft Legislation "Domesticated Elk Advisory Council Sunset Extension" (v002) (Drafter: R. Williams)

Sen. Owens presented 2027 General Session draft legislation, "Domesticated Elk Advisory Council Sunset Extension."

Covy Jones, Big Game Coordinator, Division of Wildlife Resources, answered questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Hinkins moved to favorably recommend as a committee bill, "Domesticated Elk Advisory Council Sunset Extension." The motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 15	Nays - 0	Absent - 4
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. J. Arthur		Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. N. Blouin		Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. W. Brooks		Rep. C. Snider
Rep. S. Chew		
Sen. D. Hinkins		
Rep. M. Kohler		
Rep. L. Monson		
Sen. D. Owens		
Rep. D. Owens		
Sen. S. Sandall		
Rep. R. Shipp		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		
Rep. C. Watkins		

6. Draft Legislation: Land Conservation Board Amendments

6 - Draft Legislation "Land Conservation Board Amendments" (v002) (Drafter: P. Owen)

Rep. Shipp presented 2027 General Session draft legislation, "Land Conservation Board Amendments."

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to favorably recommend as a committee bill, "Land Conservation Board Amendments."

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: Sen. Owens moved to extend the sunset date 5 years. The substitute motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 15	Nays - 0	Absent - 4
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. J. Arthur		Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. N. Blouin		Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. W. Brooks		Rep. C. Snider
Rep. S. Chew		
Sen. D. Hinkins		
Rep. M. Kohler		
Rep. L. Monson		
Sen. D. Owens		
Rep. D. Owens		
Sen. S. Sandall		
Rep. R. Shipp		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		
Rep. C. Watkins		

The underlying motion passed with a vote of 15 - 0 - 4.

Yeas - 15	Nays - 0	Absent - 4
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. J. Arthur		Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. N. Blouin		Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. W. Brooks		Rep. C. Snider
Rep. S. Chew		
Sen. D. Hinkins		
Rep. M. Kohler		
Rep. L. Monson		
Sen. D. Owens		
Rep. D. Owens		
Sen. S. Sandall		
Rep. R. Shipp		
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		
Rep. C. Watkins		

7. Landscape-Scale Lands Report

7 - Landscape-Scale Lands Report (Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office)

Dillon Hoyt, Deputy Director, Utah Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office, presented an annual report on 2026 General Session H.B. 546, "Public Lands Duty of Care Amendments."

Dillon Hoyt answered questions from the commitee.

8. Fire Season Report

8 - 2026 Wildfire Update (Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands)

Brianne Emery, Acting Director and State Forester, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, presented a report on the 2026 wildfire season.

Brianne Emery answered questions from the committee.

Jamie Barnes, Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, commented on the impacts of the 2026 wildfire season and answered questions from the committee.

9. Water Year Report

9 - Water Year Report (Division of Water Resources)

Laura Haskell, Drought Coordinator, Division of Water Resources, presented a report on the water year that ended September 30, 2026.

Laura Haskell answered questions from the committee.

10. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Shipp moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 8.

Yeas - 11	Nays - 0	Absent - 8
Rep. C. Albrecht		Rep. B. Bolinder
Rep. J. Arthur		Rep. W. Brooks
Sen. N. Blouin		Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. S. Chew		Rep. L. Monson
Rep. M. Kohler		Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. D. Owens		Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. D. Owens		Rep. M. Schultz
Rep. R. Shipp		Rep. C. Snider
Sen. K. Stratton		
Rep. R. Walter		
Rep. C. Watkins		

Chair Albrecht adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.