

DRAFT MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. | 110 Senate Building

Members Present:

Sen. Keven J. Stratton, Senate Chair
Rep. Thomas W. Peterson, House Chair
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Don L. Ipson
Sen. Michael K. McKell
Sen. Jen Plumb
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Hoang Nguyen
Rep. Doug Owens
Rep. Casey Snider
Cody Allred
Steven Clyde
Nathan Daus
Wade Garrett
Jay Mark Humphrey

Michael D. Larson
Warren Peterson

Members Absent:

President J. Stuart Adams
Rep. Bridger Bolinder
Rep. Michael L. Kohler
Scott Paxman
Zach Renstrom
Gene Shawcroft
David Ure

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 www.le.utah.gov.

Chair Stratton called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m.

1. Commission Business

The commission members introduced themselves.

Charley Hart announced site visit plans for the commission.

MOTION: Rep. Peterson moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2026, meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 9 - 0 - 16.

Yeas - 9

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Ipson
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. H. Nguyen
Rep. D. Owens
Rep. T. Peterson
Sen. J. Plumb

Nays - 0

Absent - 16

Sen. J. Adams
C. Allred
Rep. B. Bolinder
S. Clyde
N. Daus
W. Garrett
J. Humphrey
Rep. M. Kohler
M. Larson
S. Paxman
W. Peterson
Z. Renstrom
G. Shawcroft
Rep. C. Snider
Sen. K. Stratton
D. Ure

[1 - Open and Public Meetings Act Handout](#)

Julie Humberstone provided an overview of the Open and Public Meetings Act.

2. Water Agent Update

Joel Ferry, Water Agent and Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources, provided an update and answered questions from the commission.

3. 2026 General Session Bills

[3 - 2026 General Session Passed Bills](#)

Julie Humberstone provided an overview of legislation passed during the 2026 General Session that relate to water.

4. State Water Resources and Anticipated Needs

[4a - Division of Water Resources Presentation](#)

Laura Haskell, Drought Coordinator, Division of Water Resources, presented information about water supply in Utah.

[4c - Great Salt Lake Commission Presentation](#)

Brian Steed, Commissioner, Great Salt Lake, presented information about water supply in the Great Salt Lake and answered questions from the commission.

[4b - Division of Water Rights Presentation](#)

Teresa Wilhelmsen, State Engineer and Director, Division of Water Rights, presented information about water supply and answered questions from the commission.

5. Water Entity Updates

[5 - Department of Agriculture and Food Public Water Optimization Dashboard](#)

Jim Bowcutt, Director of the Conservation Division, Department of Agriculture and Food, provided an update from the Agricultural Water Optimization Dashboard.

Shalaine DeBernardi, Assistant Director, Division of Water Resources, provided an update from the division and answered questions from the commission.

Teresa Wilhelmson provided an update from the division and answered questions from the commission.

Candice Hasenyager, Director, Division of Water Quality, provided an update from the division and answered questions from the commission.

Nathan Lunstad, Director, Division of Drinking Water, provided an update from the division and answered questions from the commission.

Jamie Barnes, Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands and Ben Stireman, Deputy Director, Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, provided an update from the division and answered questions from the commission.

Brian Steed and Hannah Freeze, Deputy Commissioner, Great Salt Lake, provided an update from the Great Salt Lake Commission and answered questions from the commission.

Bart Forsyth, Policy Advisor, Utah Water Ways, provided an update from the agency and answered questions from the commission.

[5 - Colorado River Authority Update](#)

Marc Stilson, Principal Engineer, Colorado River Authority of Utah, provided an update from the agency.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Owens moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 5 - 0 - 20.

Yeas - 5

Rep. S. Chew
Sen. D. Hinkins
Rep. D. Owens
Sen. J. Plumb
Sen. K. Stratton

Nays - 0

Absent - 20

Sen. J. Adams
Rep. C. Albrecht
C. Allred
Rep. B. Bolinder
S. Clyde
N. Daug
W. Garrett
J. Humphrey
Sen. D. Ipson
Rep. M. Kohler
M. Larson
Sen. M. McKell
Rep. H. Nguyen
S. Paxman
Rep. T. Peterson
W. Peterson
Z. Renstrom
G. Shawcroft
Rep. C. Snider
D. Ure

Chair Stratton adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.