



AGENDA

LEGISLATIVE WATER DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

LEGISLATURE Thursday, October 22, 2026 | 8:00 a.m. | Electronic Meeting | Room 110 Senate Building

Members of the public may participate remotely in the meeting by visiting the commission's webpage to access the live streaming options: <https://le.utah.gov/committee/committee.jsp?year=2026&com=SPESWD>

Approximate timeframe

8:00 1. Commission Business

- Call to order
- Approval of the meeting minutes from September 17, 2026
- Other commission business

8:05 2. Draft Legislation: Groundwater Management Amendments

The commission will consider draft legislation that addresses processes when water rights are subject to nonuse.

- Rep. Rex Shipp
- Commission discussion/action

8:20 3. Draft Legislation: Water Rights Restricted Account Amendments

The commission will consider draft legislation that modifies purposes for the use of the Water Rights Restricted Account and prioritizes water rights adjudication.

- Rep. Carl Albrecht
- Commission discussion/action

8:35 4. Draft Legislation: Colorado River Authority Membership Amendments

The commission will consider draft legislation that adds an additional member to the Colorado River Authority and addresses how members are appointed.

- Rep. Scott Chew
- Commission discussion/action

8:50 5. Draft Legislation: Transfer of Water Interests

The commission will consider draft legislation that addresses water rights, shares in water companies, and their relationship to land conveyances.

- Rep. Doug Owens
- Commission discussion/action

9:05 6. Aquifer Study

The commission will hear findings from an in-depth study of the Bountiful Sub-Area of the East Shore Area aquifer, including current groundwater status and the threat of salt infiltration into the aquifer.

- Ronald Mortensen, Trustee, South Davis Water District
- Jake Ferguson, General Manager, South Davis Water District & President, North Canyon Water Company
- Commission discussion/action

**9:25 7. Great Salt Lake Restoration**

The commission will hear a presentation on technological advances, including in desalination and pipe manufacturing, and their potential impact on Great Salt Lake restoration.

- Ian Harvey, Water Resources Innovation Consultant & Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Utah
- Commission discussion/action

9:50 8. Private Sector Initiatives Supporting the Great Salt Lake

The commission will hear presentations on private-sector efforts supporting preservation of the Great Salt Lake.

- A. Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust
 - Marcelle Shoop, Executive Director, Great Salt Lake Watershed Enhancement Trust & Saline Lakes Program Director, National Audubon Society
 - Megan Nelson, Policy & External Affairs Director, The Nature Conservancy, Utah
- B. Great Salt Lake Accounting
 - Warren Peterson, member, Legislative Water Development Commission
 - Commission discussion/action

10:20 9. Phragmites Removal Coordination

The commission will hear about the role of the Department of Agriculture and Food in phragmites removal.

- C. Commission staff
- D. Rob Hougaard, Plant Industry Director, Department of Agriculture and Food
- E. Commission discussion/action

10:30 10. Adjourn