

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES  
**Colorado River Authority of Utah**  
**May 22, 2025 --8:00 a.m. MDT**

1. **Call to Order – Gene Shawcroft, Chair**

Mr. Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 8:03 am stating there was a quorum. A list of virtual Attendee names was read aloud by Betsy Coleman. A list of all attendees is included in Attachment I.

2. **Approval of the April 22, 2025 Minutes – Gene Shawcroft**

Mr. Humphrey motioned to approve the minutes of the April, 2025 meeting. Mr. Larsen seconded the motion, and the minutes were unanimously approved by the Board.

3. **Public Comment Pursuant to the Public Comment Policy of the Authority (limit of 2 minutes per person) – Gene Shawcroft**

There were no public comments.

4. **Report of the Chair – Gene Shawcroft**

Mr. Shawcroft explained the 7 Basin States have been meeting approximately every other week and will continue to do so through mid-July. Mr. Shawcroft stated the 7 Basin states met in San Diego in April and Sacramento in May and explained the Department of Interior and Bureau of Reclamation participated in both meetings and will continue to attend all future Basin States Meetings. Mr. Shawcroft explained the deadline for a consensus framework alternative is late May/early June and that the drop deadline for new DEIS modeling is June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Shawcroft explained the 7 Basin States are exploring a “Natural Flow-Based Operations” which is premised on allowing each Basin to manage its own water use and limits long-standing points of disagreement and opportunities to manipulate the system. Mr. Shawcroft explained the only tie between the Basins are releases from Lake Powell and the concept is that annual releases from Powell would be based on a percentage of natural flow averaged over a period of years with a minimum and maximum release volume. Mr. Shawcroft explained that while the 7 Basin States have not agreed to this concept, they have asked the Bureau of Reclamation to model it.

Mr. Shawcroft discussed the UCRC semiannual meeting and reminded everyone that Utah is hosting the next public meeting of UCRC on June 26<sup>th</sup> at the State Capitol in Room 210 of the Senate Building at 9am.

5. **Report of the Executive Director – Amy Haas, Executive Director**

Ms. Haas deferred her report.

6. **Hydrology and System Status Update – Amy Haas**

Ms. Haas discussed the Upper Basin Storage focusing on the percent of current live storage where she explained Flaming Gorge was at 86%, Blue Mesa and Navajo at 64%, Fontenelle at 54%, and Lake Powell at 33%. Ms. Haas discussed Month to Date and Water Year to Date Precipitation and explained the tiny upper green color was the only region with near normal precipitation, so it is looking dry. Ms. Haas discussed the short-term forecast and

explained there is very little precipitation expected in the Colorado River Basin over the next 7-10 days. Ms. Haas stated the current snow water equivalent is 59% of median and that snowpack peaked on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 97% of median. Ms. Haas explained the current precipitation is below median at 89% as of May 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Haas discussed the most probable May forecast and explained the forecast dropped significantly between April and May with Lake Powell dropping over 850,000 acre feet over the last month. Ms. Haas discussed the Lake Powell water year unregulated inflow and explained the May most probable forecast is 5.91 MAF which is looking even worse than water year 2022.

7. **Management Plan Implementation and Preview of FY 2026 Work Plan – Marc Stilson, Principal Engineer**

Mr. Stilson discussed the Management Plan for 2026 and explained approval would be sought at the next board meeting. Mr. Stilson explained the major themes for the work plan which are continuing the work done in FY23-25, the implementation of Demand Management Pilot Program, and the utilization of State and Federal funding to improve water use measurement. Mr. Stilson discussed the \$50M in IIJA funding allocated to the Upper Division States through the Upper Colorado River Commission in August 2023 to support implementation of Upper Basin Drought Contingency Plans (DCPs). Mr. Stilson discussed interstate engagement and the 20 committees the Authority interacts with. Mr. Stilson discussed the 5 Advisory Councils including the new Agricultural Committee and their 2025 recommendations to the Authority. Mr. Stilson explained water conservation through voluntary water use reductions was a top recommendation which ties well into the Utah Demand Management Pilot project and Provisional Accounting – MOU. Mr. Stilson explained policy recommendations included supporting additional storage projects, protecting recreation economies in Utah, responsible river management and support of water for fish, wildlife, habitat and environment. Mr. Stilson discussed measurements including streamflow & diversions and consumptive use and explained we are working closely with the Division of Water Rights. Mr. Stilson discussed conserved consumptive use / flow credit accounting that he explained is steadily progressing and that a draft narrative identifying Qualifying Activities has been sent to DWRe & DWRI for review.

Mr. Stilson discussed hydrology and operations including modeling and research and implementation including Snow Temperature Profile Sensors & Radar Gap Filling. Mr. Stilson discussed drought mitigation and explained the agricultural water resilience study was completed in FY 25. Mr. Stilson discussed Utah Colorado River Accounting and Forecasting as well as Agricultural Water Resilience initiatives, including Utah demand Management Pilot Program, Agricultural Water Demonstration, Research and Implementation Pilot Program and Pelican Lake subsurface Drip Irrigation Pilot Program.

8. **Remarks from the Board**

Mr. Ferry stated that Utah drought conditions are severely impacting many areas of the state and thanked everyone for their hard work. Mr. Ferry explained there are currently 17 counties in the Governor's Executive Order for Drought and there is a Drought Response Committee meeting soon to discuss the orders that are expiring on Friday.

9. **Other Business**

No other business was brought forward.

10. **Next Meeting:** June 17, 2025 1:00pm World Trade Center 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, 60 E South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111
11. **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.**
12. **Adjourn**  
A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey and seconded by Ms. Hasenyager and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45am.



**May 22, 2025**  
**Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting**

**Board Member Attendees:**

Gene Shawcroft, Chair  
Joel Ferry, Vice Chair  
Candice Hasenyager, Virtual  
Dan Larsen  
Jay Mark Humphrey  
Zach Renstrom

**Virtual Attendees:**

Logan Anderson  
Amy Haas  
Betsy Coleman  
Marc Stilson  
Wendy Crowther  
Tom Bruton  
Scott McGettigan  
Bryan Dixon  
Dex Winterton  
Sarah Shechter  
Cody Stewart  
Dex Winterton  
Troy Ovard