

**DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Colorado River Authority of Utah
June 16, 2026 -- 1:00 p.m. MT**

1. Call to Order – Gene Shawcroft, Chair

Mr. Shawcroft called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm stating there was a quorum. A list of all attendees is included in Attachment I. Board members introduced themselves.

2. Approval of the Minutes of May 12, 2026, Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting – Gene Shawcroft

Mr. Humphrey motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Ferry 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

A public comment highlighted the importance of securing federal funding and finding an effective mediator for western states' water issues.

4. Report of the Chair – Gene Shawcroft

Mr. Shawcroft explained that the Upper Division States have submitted four additional documents at the request of the Department of the Interior that address their response to Reclamation's preliminary preferred alternative and the Upper Division States' response to the Lower Basin's plan for 2027-28 operations.

Mr. Shawcroft explained that Aubrey Bettencourt has been nominated to serve as the Commission of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, however, it is likely that she will not be confirmed until August.

The seven Basin states submitted to the Federal Government a list of potential funding requests which represented approximately \$50 billion in projects.

Mr. Shawcroft announced that Governor Cox has appointed Dustin Jensen to the tribal seat of the board.

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

Ms. Haas discussed a "road show" that she and the State Engineer participated in where they met with four of the five Advisory Councils to discuss water rights preparedness. Ms. Haas explained that while compact curtailment is years out, water users should be prepared and understand their water use and curtailment risk.

Ms. Haas explained that last week the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee met regarding the latest developments on the Colorado River. Ms. Haas explained that Senator Mike Lee, who chairs the committee, invited her to participate in an oversight hearing on the Colorado River. Ms. Haas explained interstate litigation would devastate the Colorado River Basin and take decades to resolve, accordingly states that sue other states should not be rewarded with federal dollars. Ms. Haas explained the Upper Division States have a plan for post 2026 operations that often gets overshadowed by the Lower Basin plan and further explained that just because the Upper Division States aren't making headlines doesn't mean we haven't put something on the table. Ms. Haas stated that Flaming Gorge releases alone will not save the system. Ms. Haas

explained that Senator Lee was receptive to and adopted the message that states that sue other states should not receive any federal funding.

Ms. Haas explained that the day before the Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing she joined Governor Cox and Governor Gordon from Wyoming and others to discuss the Colorado River, and that there was alignment between the two states regarding their with positions.

Ms. Haas explained that beginning July 1 Marc Stilson will be stepping into the role of co-chair for the Advisory Councils replacing Cody Stewart. Ms. Haas explained that we will welcome three new board members at our August meeting, including one that will represent the Central Utah area, Brian Martinez who will represent the Southeastern area, and the State Engineer, Teresa Wilhelmsen, who will act as a non-voting member. Ms. Haas announced the resignation of Staff Engineer Betsy Morgan who is moving to be closer to her family in Montana.

Ms. Haas explained that in May she co-chaired a Law of the Colorado River Conference in Santa Fe, NM that focused on conservation activities.

6. Hydrology and System Status Update – Amanda Daniels, Senior Project Engineer

Ms. Daniels discussed month and water year-to-date precipitation accumulation and explained month to date precipitation was approximately 30% of normal, and water year to date precipitation was between 50-90% of average. Ms. Daniels discussed precipitation accumulation for the Upper Colorado Region which she explained was 18.5", in the 10th percentile. Ms. Daniels discussed the Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) which she explained is very poor and in the 10th percentile. Ms. Daniels explained Utah received near normal precipitation in May, however, Utah's March to May average temperature ranked as the 2nd warmest on record. Ms. Daniels discussed drought status and explained all the Upper Basin remains in the severe or extreme drought categories. Ms. Daniels discussed the 8–14-day temperature outlook, which she explained remains the same, and the precipitation outlook which she stated could increase over the next 2 weeks. Ms. Daniels discussed the Upper Basin Storage and Lake Powell, Lake Mead, and System storage where she explained our total system content is 40% full. Ms. Daniels discussed the Lake Powell Inflow Forecast evolution which she explained is dramatically low. Ms. Daniels discussed WY26 unregulated inflow compared with history and explained we are ranking at or near 2002 which she explained is the current record low. Ms. Daniels discussed Lake Powell and Lake Mead end-of-the-month elevation projections which she explained leave the Basin in a shortage condition.

7. Presentation on Proposed FY 2027 Work Plan and Request for Approval - Marc Stilson, Principal Engineer

Mr. Stilson presented the FY27 Work Plan which he explained functions as a "bridge year" plan focused on protecting Utah's share of the Colorado River. Mr. Stilson explained there were four fronts where the Authority is focused on defining Utah's every drop which include Interstate Negotiations, Basin Workgroups, in-state Advisory Councils, and Engineering and Research Projects. Mr. Stilson explained there were three concrete asks which include a firm floor of 3,500 ft for Lake Powell, Flaming Gorge to be treated as a limited reserve and not a bottomless backstop, and honest accounting where Utah's saved water is counted as such and not donated system water. Mr. Stilson discussed the three goals of the Interstate Work Groups which are to expand Utah's influence, strengthen Utah's technical and policy team, and promote Utah-centric objectives. Mr. Stilson discussed the 8 priorities that came from the Advisory Councils recommendations. Mr. Stilson discussed the 13 Authority projects that he explained have three jobs which are "measure it," "save it" and "model it." Mr. Stilson discussed the Demand

Management Pilot Program, which is the first of its kind among the Upper Basin states where every acre-foot of water is tracked as it moves to Lake Powell. Mr. Stilson discussed the GAP Radar Project and explained only 3 radars cover the entire state today with major coverage gaps across the Colorado River Basin in Utah. Mr. Stilson explained an addendum to the Work Plan was included to partner with Water Resources for additional radar coverage to assist the cloud seeding program. Mr. Stilson discussed Utah's message to Congress and Reclamation which he explained is to fund a solution, defund the fights, and prefer consensus. The Board discussed the Work Plan, a motion to approve was made by Mr. Renstrom, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, and unanimously approved by the Board.

8. Presentation on Proposed FY 2027 Budget and Request for Approval - Logan Anderson, Manager of Finance & Administration

Mr. Anderson presented the FY 27 Budget for the Authority and discussed the use of state funds that he explained totals \$12,612,008. Mr. Anderson explained the FY17 Appropriations, the FY26 ending balance, and the anticipated running balance, which he explained does not include in-kind or cash contributions that the Authority might receive during FY27. A motion was made by Mr. Humphrey to approve the budget, seconded by Mr. Ferry, and unanimously approved by the board.

9. Authority Audit Results - Logan Anderson

Mr. Anderson discussed an internal audit requested by the Authority approximately a year ago to ensure the Authority was following all proper state policies and procedures. Mr. Anderson explained that some minor findings were discovered but our final report was that the Authority followed all policies and procedures and there were no longer any findings. Ms. Haas thanked Mr. Anderson for his efforts with this project.

10. Remarks from the Board

Mr. Humphrey explained conditions in his area were dry and windy. Mr. Williams thanked everyone for conservation efforts and explained there was a lot of public awareness surrounding the drought. Mr. Larsen explained the two rivers he delivers peaked at 300 cfs and 250 cfs and explained in a normal year they would be 1200 cfs. Mr. Larsen explained that secondary water users were forced to begin using storage 6 weeks early in order to begin watering, if they could at all. Mr. Ferry thanked everyone for encouraging conservation efforts and working together to get through this. Mr. Ferry explained that the Governor issued an emergency drought declaration at the end of May, however, it does expire after 30 days. Mr. Ferry explained the declaration allows for emergency funds for producers to purchase hay and opens additional opportunities. Mr. Renstrom stated it was hotter and dryer in his location, but that water demand was lower than last year even though 4000 new connections were added. Mr. Renstrom explained if it wasn't for their reservoirs and infrastructure, they would be in a lot of trouble.

11. Other Business

There was no other business.

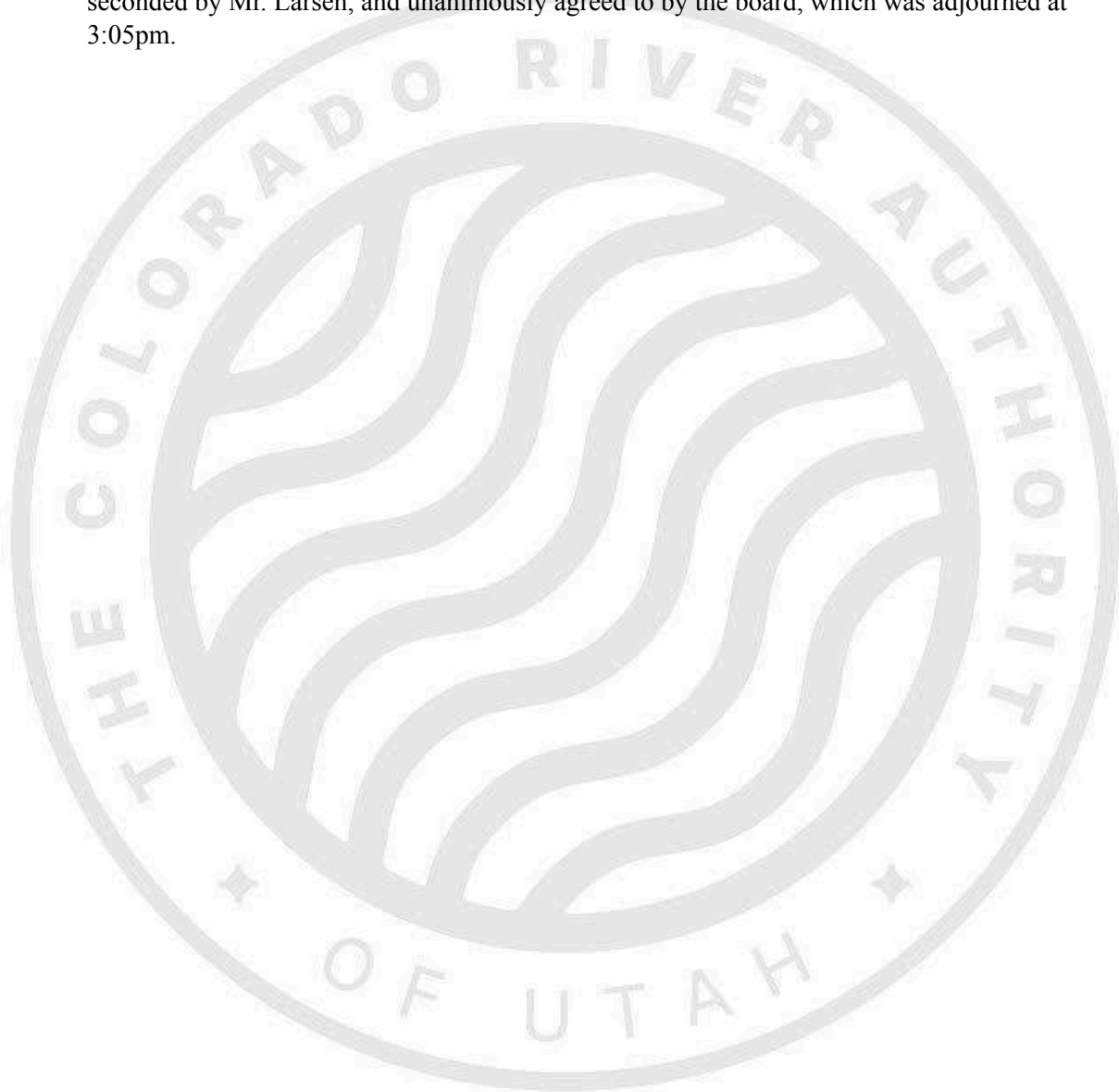
12. Next Meeting: August 18, 2026 1:00 pm World Trade Center 1st Floor Conference Room, 60 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84111

13. 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)).

A motion was made by Mr. Larsen to close the meeting pursuant to Utah Code section 52-4-205 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. The motion was seconded by Mr. Humphrey. Ms. Coleman took a roll call vote from each Board Member; the motion to enter a Closed Session passed unanimously.

14. Adjourn

The Board returned to open session and a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Renstrom, seconded by Mr. Larsen, and unanimously agreed to by the board, which was adjourned at 3:05pm.



June 16, 2026

Colorado River Authority of Utah Board Meeting – VIRTUAL ONLY

Board Member Attendees:

Gene Shawcroft, Chair
Joel Ferry
Dan Larsen
Jay Mark Humphrey
Zach Renstrom
Joel Williams

Attendees:

Amy Haas
Betsy Coleman
Wendy Crowther
Marc Stilson
Logan Anderson
Amanda Daniels
Cody Stewart
Sarah Shechter, AG
Scott McGettigan, Water Resources
Richard Salas, Water Resources

Virtual Attendees:

Emma Epperson
Cody Allred
John Berggren
JR Bird
Joel Brown
Tom Bruton
William Butcher
Ric Cantrell
Scott Chew
Derris Jones
John Laursen
Tony Mancuso
Brian Martinez
William Merkley
Ben Musselman
Kael Weston
Teresa Wilhelmsen
Dex Winterton
Ellie Oakley
Eric Holmstead