



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION  
MEETING MINUTES

November 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Carbon County Commission Chambers (Anchor Location + Electronic)  
751 East 100 North  
Price, Utah 84501  
(801) 712-7622

**Board Members Present:** Casey Hopes (Carbon County), Lynn Sitterud (Emrey County), Greg Jensen (Sevier County), Brad Horrocks (Uintah County), Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County) attended electronically, Greg Miles (Duchesne County) and Jack Lytle (Daggett County) attended electronically.

**Also, in attendance:** Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Stacey Herpel, Mike Hawley, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen and Jonathan Stearmer.

**Attended telephonically:** Melissa Cano, Kelly Carter, Joel Brown, Jake Bornstein, and HD Sandersen

**Others Present:** (Please notify staff at 3885-337-0033 of any spelling corrections or if you were present and not listed.)

**Public Meeting Participation Information:**

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://jonesanddemille.zoom.us/j/86748043561>

Or Join by Telephone:

1-253-215-8782 or

1-346-248-7799 or

1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 867 4804 3561

**1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance.** (Casey Hopes)

Chairman Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:05 AM. Board members were present including Commissioner Lytle attending electronically. Commissioner Miles then led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then moved to the second agenda item.

## 2. **Public Comment** (Greg Miles)

Public comment was accepted verbally, during the meeting, telephonically by Zoom, and by electronic written submission at [stacey@7county.utah.gov](mailto:stacey@7county.utah.gov). Electronic written comments will be forwarded to the Board Members. All comments are summarized in the meeting minutes. A complete copy of any written comments submitted may be requested at the email address provided herein. Chairman Miles called on Melissa Cano to review the information. Chairman Miles then turned time over to Melissa Cano for those wishing to make public comment electronically.

Melissa Cano proceeded to give instructions on how to participate in the meeting verbally and by Zoom. She indicated parties needed to click the raise hand button which renders the list from Zoom in the order hands are raised. A total of fifteen minutes is set aside for public comment, and each party will have a three-minute comment limit.

Melissa Cano indicated there were no comments from online participants and turned the time back to Chairman Miles.

Chairman Miles proceeded to inquire if any parties in the room wished to make a comment.

Jeff Worthington with the Utah AFL-CIO. He that part of their vision was how to rebuild rural parts of the state that have been devastated by some of the rulings on fossil fuels and how it has decimated some of the counties. He talked about the railway line in Uintah basin and discussed his conversations he has had with the Sierra Club and how sad he was to have the rug pulled out from underneath of us. He still hopes that this project will come to fruition. Building a railway in that area would change the whole dynamic of that part of the state and it will no longer be boom or bust. He showed his appreciation to the coalition and offer their assistance.

Chairman Miles thanked Jeff Worthington for his comments and moved on to the next agenda item.

## 3. **Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 12, 2023.** (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles inquired about changes or updates to the minutes, there being none requested a motion.

**Motion to approve October 12, 2023 meeting minutes made** by Commissioner Sitterud, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Miles then moved to agenda item four which was the report on the Scheduling of the SCIC Meeting.

## 4. **Discussion of scheduling for the SCIC December Meeting.** (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Executive Director Heaton. He stated that we need to have a December meeting to approve the new budget, but would not be able to make the current

scheduled meeting date as he will be out of town. After discussion the board was able to agree to hold the December meeting virtually on December 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

Executive Director Heaton turned the time over to Chairman Miles. He then moved to the fifth agenda item.

**5. Report on the Uintah Basin Railway Project. (Brad Horrocks)**

His only update was that he had been involved with a number of discussions with parties and would defer to Executive Director Heaton and/or closed session for a more detailed update.

There being nothing further to discuss on this topic, Chairman Miles called for the next agenda item.

**6. Report on the San Rafael Research Center. (Lynn Sitterud)**

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Commissioner Sitterud for the San Rafael Research Center report. He indicated not much is going on at this time. Things are progressing and with recent meetings we are hopefully going to be pouring cement for the new building before our next meeting. The buildings that have been ordered will be delivered in January.. Chairman Miles asked for any questions or further discussion, there being none moved on to the next agenda item.

**7. Report on the Rural Ecosystem. (Casey Hopes)**

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Commissioner Hopes for the report on the Rural Ecosystem report. Commissioner Hopes shared that the purchase land funding has been approved and we are just waiting on the appropriation to come through, then we can move forward. Commissioner Hopes then turned the time back to Chairman Miles who then called for questions. Seeing none, Chairman Miles called for the next agenda item.

**8. Executive Director Report. (Keith Heaton)**

Chairman Miles turned time over to Executive Director Heaton for the director's report. He thanked everyone for being here today. I would like to thank Lenise Peterman, who served as our administrator for the past year and half. I am thrilled to introduce in person too the board Stacey Herpel who is our new administrator. She is off to a roaring start as you all noticed. I am thrilled to have her on board and look forward to working with her. There is a meeting this afternoon at 1:00 PM in this facility with Utah Petroleum Association. I would like to thank Commissioner Jensen for a tour of Sevier County and meeting the mining folks at their facility. They are eager to work with this group and would like to participate in one of our board meetings in the next several months. I had a meeting with the division of Gas and Mining. I was fortunate enough to be able to present to them on the status of our railroad and some of their activities. I am going to circle back around to the rural ecosystem. They have got several grant applications that they are working on and critical materials energy sector. They would like us to participate in those applications as a named entity that would help administer those funds. I am happy to share that information with the board if there is any questions or anything like that, please let me know and we can discuss those things at your leisure. There is a huge effort to look at the future of energy

production in Eastern Utah and I think it is appropriate that seven county infrastructure coalition be a part of those conversations. Finally, I want to report on some things that are happening in San Juan County and I am not going to steal Dan Hawley's thunder when it comes to our water budget there. I am just very pleased that it is moving forward and participation we are getting from the Navajo people. You had an excellent meeting at the end of last month at the State Capitol with the Lt. Governor, several state senators, and representatives on the Mountain Home, Mountain Road project and submitted \$1,000,000 commitment to move that project forward. We will wait and see what comes forth from that when session begins in January. That is a project we have supported for months and we look forward to our role in that. We appreciate Commissioner Stubbs who is very active with the Navajo people and her constituents. We want to make sure we are supporting San Juan County. I would be happy to answer any questions, otherwise, I will hand it back over to Chairman Miles.

Chairman Miles asked Director Heaton if he could provide more information on the UM Proposal. Director Heaton responded with seeking federal funding to again advance critical material production in the State of Utah. They are looking at multiple areas and multiple partners. Everyone is looking for funding and we are not in a position too support anyone at this time with funding, but we are able to support them with Technical Support and other types of support. So one of the things that they would like us to work on would be water in Fairmont County and surrounding area as it pertains to industries that work in a critical material space. This is the information we have been working on from Jones and DeMille. Also organizing local government and helping in those areas are something that we are already doing. So, they are just basically, saying are we comfortable putting our name into these applications as an entity that would help provide that type of Technical Support and organization.

Chairman Miles then called for any additional questions for Executive Director Heaton. Chairman Miles thanked Executive Director Heaton for both his report and all the work he is doing in support of the Seven Counties Coalition. He then called for the next agenda item.

**9. Strategic Communication Report.** (Melissa Cano)

Melissa Cano stated she is recovering from the flu and has just been monitoring social media messaging and on standby mode for now.

Chairman Miles called for questions, there being none, moved on to the next agenda item.

**10. Engineers Report.** (Jones & DeMille)

Brian Barton took over time to appreciate Director Heaton on covering all the efforts that we have been involved in. It is fun to see all the bases that the coalition is touch every month. Brian covered a few of the line items in the budget that have been adjusted and to show the board where the pots of money are split up and how they are spent. Also wanted to talk about the Navajo Water Settlement study that we have been working on, we have a meeting Monday with them down there to talk through a few things over the past two months. We have been working with them to try to send us some data. It is a process to get data through the

different departments there. Some requests have to be very formal and some departments within there cannot send stuff directly to us that has to go through the department. So, we have just this week received some information regarding many homes throughout the Utah chapters that are not connected to water. There are several in there and so we are taking that information and starting to look at how to interconnect that with the existing systems and what the cost estimates looks like.

There being no further discussion, Chairman Miles appreciated the staff and all the work they have been doing to manage the budget and moved on to the next agenda item.

**11. Review, Consideration and Adoption of the 2024 Tentative Budget (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)**

SEVEN COUNTRIES COALITION 2024 BUDGET			
	2022	2023	2024
	ACTUAL	YTD ESTIMATE OF ACTUAL JAN - DEC	TENTATIVE BUDGET
<b>Income</b>			
CIB PROCEEDS			
GENERAL OPERATING GRANT	494,557.45	499,800.00	750,000.00
ADDITIONAL GRANT			0.00
UBRY GRANT	640,850.15	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
FEDERAL GRANTS			0.00
STATE GRANTS			0.00
SAN JUAN COUNTY/NAVAJO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING			3,000,000.00
SAN JUAN WATER PLANNING PROJECT	9,164.50	40,000.00	360,000.00
LEGISLATIVE FUNDING (EURC/SEEP RIDGE ROAD)	121,570.38	2,750,000.00	0.00
LEGISLATIVE FUNDING (ENERGY RESEARCH)	188,331.12	69,000.00	372,000.00
LEGISLATIVE FUNDING (ENERGY ECOSYSTEM)			0.00
OTHER INCOME			0.00
PRIVATE INDUSTRY - DRAX			0.00
NONPROFIT FUNDING - BYU	611,087.88	270,000.00	800,000.00
UBRY PLANNING PROJECT PURCHASE			27,900,000.00
UINTA RAIL PROJECT ANNUAL PAYMENT			500,000.00
OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL INCOME			0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,065,561.48</b>	<b>5,128,800.00</b>	<b>35,182,000.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
BANK CHARGES	570.89	700.00	1,000.00
EDUCATION/TRAINING	892.39	2,400.00	2,500.00
CAPITAL EXPENDITURES			0.00
EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES AND MAINT	281.52	1,400.00	1,500.00
INSURANCE	5,608.60	6,000.00	8,500.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	6,375.05	3,500.00	6,000.00
NEWSPAPER LEGAL NOTICES	1,290.70	2,000.00	2,500.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	231,219.38	240,000.00	250,000.00
PROJECTS			0.00
EASTERN UTAH REGIONAL CONNECTION PRECONSTRUCTION			0.00
SAN RAFAEL ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER	188,331.12	69,000.00	372,000.00
SAN JUAN COUNTY/NAVAJO MOUNTAIN REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING			3,000,000.00
SAN JUAN WATER PLANNING PROJECT	9,164.50	40,000.00	360,000.00
UINTA BASIN RAIL	640,850.15	1,500,000.00	1,500,000.00
DISTRIBUTED LOGISTICS PLANNING, PHASE 2			0.00
EASTERN UTAH REGIONAL CONNECTION/SEEP RIDGE ROAD	121,570.38	2,750,000.00	0.00
ENERGY ECOSYSTEM			0.00
CONTRIBUTION TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS -			0.00
EMERY COUNTY DRAX CONTRACT			0.00
EMERY COUNTY BYU CONTRACT	611,087.88	270,000.00	800,000.00
CIB RAIL PLANNING OBLIGATION			27,900,000.00
UINTA/DUCHESNE COUNTY REIMBURSEMENT			70,000.00
CONTRIBUTION TO FUND BALANCE			80,000.00
UTILITY DEVELOPMENT			100,000.00
GENERAL STUDIES/PLANNING	10,000.00	10,000.00	250,000.00
GENERAL ENGINEERING AND PLANNING	136,324.88	110,000.00	225,000.00
GENERAL ACCOUNTING	50,666.38	50,000.00	65,000.00
GENERAL LEGAL	46,998.76	70,000.00	175,000.00
REIMBURSEABLE EXPENSES			5,000.00
TRAVEL	4,899.70	4,500.00	8,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>2,066,132.37</b>	<b>5,129,500.00</b>	<b>35,182,000.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-570.89</b>	<b>-700.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>

Time was turned over to Melanie Sasser. The budget amount is going to be \$35,182,000. One of the big changes you will see on here is because we are fully anticipating moving forward with

the railway and other projects. Chairman Miles called for any additional discussion for Melanie, seeing none at this time Chairman Miles entertained a motion to adopt and move forward with the 2024 Tentative Budget.

**Motion to approve the 2024 Tentative SCIC Budget made** by Commissioner Hopes, seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the 2024 SCIC Tentative Budget. **The motion passed unanimously.**

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Daggett	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Emery	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
San Juan	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Sevier	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Uintah	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>

Chairman Miles then called for the next agenda item.

**12. Fraud Risk Assessment** (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

**Motion to approve the Fraud Risk Assessment made** by Commissioner Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Sitterud.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the Fraud Risk Assessment. **The motion passed unanimously.**

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Daggett	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Emery	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
San Juan	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Sevier	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>
Uintah	Board Member	Yea <u>  X  </u>	No <u>    </u>

Chairman Miles then called for the next agenda item.

**13. Presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses.** (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

Time was turned over to Melanie Sasser. Melanie Sasser shared he was presenting the financial information and requesting payment approval today. She went on to request payment approval amounting to \$2,795,741.23. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today she is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items.

**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL**  
**November 9, 2023 at 10:00am**  
**751 East 100 North**  
**Price, Utah 84501**

Expenses Previously Approved by Board :

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Grant

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
VOID	2339				
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	2340	46674	3,641.20	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	2341	18	687.65	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Lenise Peterman	2342	4419-15	427.50	Contract Labor	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	2343	0001	352.00	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	2344	219747	1,638.00	Insurance Premiums - November	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	2345	0132548	9,822.04	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jonathan A Stearmer	2346	10/31/2023	7,134.20	General - Legal Services	General Grant
Uintah Special Service District 1	2347	1001	2,736,310.02	Eastern Utah Regional Connection - Legal Work - Phase 2	State Legislature Funding (UOOT)
Jonathan A Stearmer	2348	10/31/2023	1,825.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	2349	2633147	5,578.38	Uinta Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2350	0132547	7,450.30	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2350	0132547	19,499.19	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2351	0132549	1,375.75	Navajo Water Settlement - Engineering	Division of Drinking Water
<b>Total Payment Approval</b>			<b>\$ 2,795,741.23</b>		

**Motion to approve expenses for October in the amount of \$2,795,741.23** was made by Commissioner Hopes, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks. Chairman Miles called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Melanie Sasser then reviewed the balance sheet which was complete to October 31, 2023. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statement for January through October. We also have included a profit/loss by class which shows all of the funding and expenditures by project. We have detail information for activity that has happened through October by project as well. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

**Motion to approve the financial report for September** was made by Commissioner Lytle seconded by Commissioner Horrocks. Chairman Miles called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Rasmussen, again for information purposes only, reviewed the project sheet. This does not require any approval from the Coalition. This concluded the financial update to the Coalition. Chairman Miles thanked Smuin Rich for their work efforts

**14. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency).** (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles then requested a motion for a closed session.

**Motion to move into closed session for litigation** was made by Commissioner Hopes, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Chairman Hopes called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 11:02 AM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Daggett	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Emery	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
San Juan	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Sevier	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Uintah	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

Chairman Miles requested a motion to move back into open session and exit the closed session.

**Motion to move out of closed session was made** by Commissioner Hopes with a second by Commissioner Jensen.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 12:20 PM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Daggett	Board Member	Yea <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/> (Absent)
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Emery	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
San Juan	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Sevier	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Uintah	Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

**15. Motion to Adjourn** (Greg Miles)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Hopes.



A motion to approve the November 9, 2023 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_, seconded by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yes ___ No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
San Juan	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Uintah	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Chair: Greg Miles

\_\_\_\_\_  
Co-Chair: Casey Hopes

**(COALITION SEAL)**

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stacey Herpel