

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ADVISORY BOARD (EOAB)

Held at Grand County Commission Chambers

125 E. Center St. Moab, Utah 84532

May 7, 2025

YouTube Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsv9khi0Txw>

Call to Order: Chris Wilson called to order meeting at 3:07 pm.

Present: Chris Wilson (Chair Voting, Private Sector Representative), Dana Van Horn (non-voting, Grand County Clerk/Auditor Office), Randy Martin (Voting, Member appointed by Moab Area Chamber of Commerce), Brittney Melton (Voting, Private Sector Representative), Melodie McCandless (Non-voting, Grand County Commission Representative), Jazmine Duncan (Voting, Representative from a Municipality in the County), Melisa Jeffers (Voting, Member of public who lives in the County),), Debra KcKee (non-voting, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity), Quin Hall (non-voting Grand County Administration), Forrest Rodgers (Voting member of public who lives in the County), Ashley Korenblat (Voting, Workforce development representative)

Ex parte communications and Disclosures:

Chris disclosed he will recuse himself from voting on artesian and folk festival.

Melisa disclosed that she helps many applicants with grants but more in a technical capacity with no differential treatment.

Aaron disclosed that he attends the Moab Area Housing Task Force meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

Jasmine motioned to pass the March 26th, 2025, the January 28th, 2025, and the January 29th, 2025 minutes. Randy Seconded. The motioned passed unanimously.

Discussion, consideration, and recommendation to the County Commission regarding the Rural County Grant(RCG) and Rural Communities Opportunity Grant(RCOG)

Chris gave feedback from different entities regarding the previous meeting. He stated that projects can get retroactive funding- this was regarding the Moab Brewery's beer garden application. Also, the Moab Regional Hospital could get funding even though its project was located in San Juan County. Still, there was a strong recommendation from the Governor's office that projects stay within the county. Chris continued to say that 90% of RCOG funds were used for infrastructure, but that a project for workforce or business recruitment and expansion could stand out for the competitive RCOG grant.

Melodie gave her perspective from the county commission stating that sales tax dollars should be focused on, as we have very low unemployment. She noted, because lack of staffing at the county, that the RCG funds should not be given in little micro grant amounts because it would be harder to manage. The county was wanting to have staff in place for the next year to address this problem.

Ashleigh commented and suggested that the board think about trying to direct money to create the greatest multiplier effect; that not just one business grows, but a network of businesses grow. She suggested that in future grants, we should be asking applicants for their multiplier effect.

A straw poll was conducted (time stamp 23:00) The Grand County EMS received the most votes for RCOG.

Motion: Jazmine made a motion for the EMS to be recommended for the RCOG. Randy seconded. The motion pass unanimously.

The next discussion was on for the RCG. Debra addressed that there was precedent for awarding grants to feasibility studies. Melisa posited that studies were important for a project like the golf club because with a study, they could then apply for further funding from a variety of sources.

Future Considerations: The next scheduled meeting in May would address the RCG funding and pass recommendation.

Chris adjourned meeting at 5:00 pm