



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**Grand County Commission Chambers
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom
Moab, Utah**

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MINUTES 15 July 2025

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on July 15th, 2025. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Bill Winfield, Commission Vice-Chair Melodie McCandless and Commissioners Brian Martinez, Mary McGann, Trisha Hedin and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek, and County Attorney Stephen Stocks. Commissioner Jacques Hadler was in attendance virtually.

4:00 p.m. Chair Winfield called to order the Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens to be Heard

Steve Evers, Executive Director of the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands National Parks, read a statement that was presented to the Commission prior. Evers referenced the need for improved emergency response infrastructure at Arches National Park and the strain placed on emergency response by current visitation volume. In response to the proposed letter to Secretary Burgum, Evers urged the Commission to add a request for construction of an updated Emergency Operations Center to its letter.

Kara Dohrenwend offered a brief history of human waste management in public recreation areas, which has become a more widespread problem with increases in visitation over the last twenty years. A number of collaborative group efforts have been formed over the years to address the human waste management issue and the need to preserve the visitor experience through education, including the Trail Ambassador program, which she feels should be supported in order to continue these important efforts.

Colin Topper, member of the Trail Mix committee, commented on the e-bike recommendation letter being considered by the Commission. Topper stated that the two main advisory committees who would speak on a topic such as this has found common ground in the idea that any recommended adaptive management alternative should have a phased implementation, and that protection of recreation assets is essential to the community.

Pete Gross expressed concern that the Kem Gardner study is confirming what the Commission appears to have already drawn a conclusion on.

Cliff Koontz, chair of the Motorized Trail Committee, specified that MTC supports Alternative C, and also a phased approach to Alternative B, in regards to the e-bike recommendation letter. Koontz expressed support for the Motorized Trail Ambassador program. Koontz spoke personally regarding the proposed budget amendment which he feels should preserve some level of support for the Trail Ambassador program, in order to sustain tourism and the surrounding environment.

Samantha Derbyshire, owner of Whole Enchilada shuttle system and vice chair of the Trail Mix Committee, spoke in support of a phased and careful introduction of e-bike usage on area trails, which she feels is advocated by the committees who would have the expertise to speak on the matter. Derbyshire stated that degraded and poorly managed lands will not sustain a healthy economy.

Noelle Gignoux, local resident working as a community and recreation planner, spoke in support of continued funding for the Trail Ambassador program, which constitutes an industry best practice approach to recreation management.

Caleb Meyer spoke in opposition to the proposed letter to Secretary Burgum, citing problems with some of the solutions referenced in that letter due to concerns regarding cost, logistics, and effectiveness. Timed entry is the only solution available that avoids gate closures of the park during peak volume times of year. Meyer cited the National Park mission to preserve public lands for the enjoyment of future generations.

Scott Newton spoke in support of Alternative B in the e-bike recommendation letter, stating that a slow roll out of e-bike introduction only constitutes exclusion. Newton stated that the local cycling community is overwhelmingly in favor of opening up widespread and immediate e-bike access, an approach which is in line with other prominent mountain biking communities.

Harris Hadziabdic spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, stating that the tourism economy is bolstered and supported by the program. Hadziabdic stated that the Commission should be opposing a reduction in force at the National Park Service, and should be in support of the Arches Time Entry system.

Lynn Jackson spoke regarding what he sees as unsustainable expectations for Grand County taxpayer dollars in managing federal public lands, which he feels is more appropriately managed by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service.

Tony Mancuso spoke in support of responsible recreation expenditures, which he feels have been targeted in a way that is not equitable to other activities funded by the County. Mancuso referenced challenges regarding public land management and the extreme importance of maintaining responsible recreation programming to address these many challenges.

Presentations (none scheduled)

Agency Reports (none scheduled)

Department Reports

Economic Development / PR Coordinator

New County staff person Melisa Jeffers introduced her goals and intentions in fulfilling this new role in the County, which includes positive and meaningful storytelling regarding the County's accomplishments. Key priorities presented for Economic Development surrounding strategic planning and Public Information efforts focused on establishing an appropriate communication platform for use by the County.

Moab to Monument Valley Film Commission

Film Commissioner Bega Metzner gave an update on her Commission's activity, especially related to area film production activity, which includes many commercials and major studio films. Overview given of some of the key productions that have taken place thus far in 2025, and the economic impact associated with these visiting productions. Overview given of future planned productions in the area. Metzner introduced two film industry guests involved with a very large upcoming production currently titled 'Zeus,' which has chosen Moab as its only US filming location. A section of Main Street to be closed on July 30 from 5am until noon, following detailed coordination with UDOT. Grand County received a highly commended location of the year awards at the 2025 Cannes Film Festival.

Commission Member Disclosures

Commissioner Martinez disclosed that he is a concessionaire for Arches and Canyonlands National Parks. Commissioner McCurdy disclosed that he is a concessionaire for Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.

General Commission Reports and Future Considerations

Jacques Hadler

- Audit Committee meeting, special meeting to be scheduled August 4th
- Trail Mix meeting, e-bike recommendation letter discussion
- Selection Committee for Tourism Rebrand agency, 36 submissions reviewed with 3 selected as finalists for detailed interviews

Trisha Hedin

- Attended Watershed Council meeting, discussion regarding Southeastern Utah's comments on state water plan, required water element in General Plan, Ag protections discussed with State Department of Agriculture
- Planning Commission meeting, discussion regarding landscaping ordinance and Meador overlay

Bill Winfield

- Update offered regarding new hires for County Engineer, Airport Director, Emergency Manager, and Economic Development/PR specialist
- Meeting with Contour Airlines regarding potential for increased flights between Denver and Moab
- Meeting with EMS and Moab Valley Fire District and GCSO regarding potential increase for
- Audit Committee meeting, internal audit to operate under GAGA standards
- Meeting with Dominion Energy regarding franchise agreement related to pipelines in the County
- Airport board meeting, FAA grant awarded to TSJ Construction for taxiway E, G, and J paving projects
- Attended CJC meeting, child visits up 51% over 2024, \$82,500 grant received for mental health support for first responders, upcoming domestic violence training
- Attending meetings and updates regarding Deer Creek Fire
- Attended UDOT meeting
- Attended Indigent Defense Council meeting

Brian Martinez

- Chamber update: 'Celebrate Moab' website launched
- Audit Committee meeting
- Trail Mix Meeting
- Meeting with Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation
- Motorized Trail Committee meeting
- Branding agency selection committee
- Town Hall in La Sal in response to wildfire
- Attended Watershed Council meeting
- Grand County Weed Board, 2 seats to become open on January 1

- Meeting with UDOT regarding high emphasis crossing and potential Main Street bulbouts, potential crossing in Dogwood area
- Indigent Defense Council meeting

Mary McGann

- Homeless Coordinating Council meeting, homelessness down, causes yet unknown
- Future Consideration: potential to adjust library hours to best accommodate homeless population during peak summer heat

Mike McCurdy

- OSTA serving as emergency operations center, largely closed to public

Melodie McCandless

- Community Renewable Resource (C-REP) Meetings
- USACC monthly meeting
- Canyonlands Health Care Special Service District and GC EMS meeting, discussion regarding implementation of full 1% rural healthcare sales tax
- Meeting with SE Utah Health Department regarding continuation of human waste management efforts

Elected Official Reports

Attorney Stocks

- Received some kind of program for quarterly trainings for law enforcement and prosecution
- CJC Advisory Board meeting

Clerk/Auditor Woytek

- New online BOE appeal application platform established for receiving and processing applications
- Tax Valuation Notices slated to be sent Friday, July 18th
- Office fielding consistent GRAMA requests
- Attended County Clerk's Conference in Brigham City
- Branding Agency scoring committee
- Working on a draft Resolution for the Rural Healthcare Sales Tax measure to potentially be placed on a countywide ballot this November
- Finance Officer Vowles will be presenting a fiscal update as well as a 2026 budget action plan on August 5
- Draft Financial Statements undergoing detailed review

Sheriff Wiggins

- Introduction of Emergency Manager Katelyn Finley
- GCSO Monthly Statistics for May: 2,252 calls to dispatch, 1,170 call responded to, 700 911 calls, 15 SAR calls, 43 arrests, 47 papers served, 566 traffic stops
- GCSO Monthly Statistics for June: 2,177 calls to dispatch, 934 call responded to, 731 911 calls, 12 SAR calls, 54 arrests, 71 papers served, 383 traffic stops
- Possibility for a sales tax to support public safety activity, Commission may consider introducing via ordinance, potential for new Public Safety facility, Crews and Associates to provide a presentation at next Commission meeting regarding the sales tax, which would largely be paid by visitors and not locals
- GCSO sending resources to Deer Creek fire response

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

2. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Ratification of Mud Springs contract extension of time and additional monies provided by the State of Utah**
- D. Ratification of Contractor Agreement with TSJ Construction for Airport Taxi Lane project**
- E. Ratification of local consent for various event locations of the Moab Music Festival**
- F. Letter of support for Ride with Respect OHVR Grant Application to do maintenance on motorized singletrack**
- G. Award bid for Hydroexcavator Trailer for County Roads**
- H. ICA Reelcreative: "Who is Moab" Media Production Project**

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Consent Agenda, as read by the chair

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

3. Approval of Thank You letter to CIB for Funding ARFF Truck (Chair Winfield)

Presentation

Chair Winfield gave background on this action seeking to recognize the CIB board for their generosity in granting a special loan to Grand County in order for the Airport to be compliant with FAA regulations as it relates to its fire truck.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the letter of appreciation to the Permanent Community Impact Board for funding the purchase of a new Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting truck

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

4. Consideration of 2026 Quarter 1 High Impact Special Event Intent to Apply Submissions (Chief Deputy Clerk/Auditor Jenibeth Jones)

Presentation

The following Intent to Apply (ITA) Submissions were received by the deadline for Quarter 1 2026 and deemed as high impact. As per the Special Event Ordinance, high impact ITA's are reviewed by the County Commission at a quarterly meeting, which is based on the proposed event dates. Applicants may request Commission review at a quarterly meeting sooner than the designated review date. The Commission may choose to postpone issuing a decision until the proposed event's assigned quarterly review. Notable events include the Canyonlands Half Marathon, which is included on the list of pre-approved events. This event will take place on March 21, 2026. Another notable event is Easter Jeep Safari, which is also on the list of pre-approved events, which takes place mostly in Quarter 2, but begins in Quarter 1. This event will occur

March 29-April 5. Also included in this agenda are two events (Moab Grenadier Gathering April 30-May 3 and Raptors on the Rocks April 7-10) that have requested an earlier commission review. There is also an event that has previously been approved by the commission, but would like to request a date change. (Moab REDROK Rally proposed to be moved from June 11-13 to April 23-25)

Kent Green of the Redrok Rally explained that the Redrok Rally is asking for a date change due to concerns regarding safety from heat exposure. Commissioners McCandless and Hadler expressed that a June date was ideal for such an event due to being a slower time for visitation. Commissioner Hedin stated that she is concerned with the potential special event calendar with this change, which would create a situation with many motorized events in a row. Commissioner McCurdy expressed understanding for the proposed date change. Commissioner McCandless expressed concern with approving the date change due to appropriately approving an event for quarter 2 ahead of time, suggested tabling approval for this event until all Quarter 2 events are being considered, and recommended that Mad Moose events and perhaps the Skinny Tire festival be preapproved. Marc Pett of the Redrok Rally spoke to safety concerns regarding holding the event in the early summer heat. Commissioner Martinez confirmed that 4,000 individuals, 400 vehicles and numerous vendors were brought to town in association with the event. OSTA Director Angela Book explained that OSTA was not available at any other alternative dates outside those currently being proposed. Commissioner McGann suggested that foresight be practiced in order to identify a more preferable date for the 2027 event. Commissioner Hadler shared concerns regarding approval of this event ahead of time before other potential Quarter 2 applicants.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the following 2026 Quarter 1 High Impact Special Event Intent to Apply submissions: Arches Ultra, Moab's Red Hot Ultra 2026, Moab Run the Rockies, Skinny Tire Spring Festival, Moab Grenadier Gathering, Moab Redrok Rally and Raptors on the Rocks

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy supported the only option available to address safety concerns with the Redrok Rally. Commissioner Hedin stated that she would abstain from voting due to concerns regarding approval ahead of time, a vote which would take place in October. Marc Pett explained the challenges related to waiting until October for approval of the event. Commissioner McCandless reiterated

Substitute motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve all intent to apply submissions, with the exception of the Redrok Rally, which should either be considered with other quarter two events or otherwise remain at their previously approved June date.

Substitute motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner Martinez stated that he also had a preference for the event to take place in June, and stated that June 2025 was exceptionally hot. Martinez added that turning away the associated economic impact was not palatable given the County's current financial concerns. Commissioner McGann clarified that the substitute motion on the table was not turning the event away but rather offering fairness to other potential applicants.

Motion to amend the substitute motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve all intent to apply applications except for the proposed date change for the Redrok Rally

Motion to amend seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy stated that if an eventgoer suffered from heat stroke and died, that the event holders could not be held responsible. Commissioner McCandless stated that approval of other events at this time for quarter two of 2026 was not fair to all event holders.

Substitute motion by Commissioner McCandless to approve intent to apply applications only for those events taking place in Quarter 1 of 2026

Substitute motion seconded by

At 6:27 p.m., Chair Winfield tabled item 4

Citizens to be heard

Sam Hodges spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program which they stated helps preserve the important landscape and keeps people safe.

Sam Newman spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, which he feels is essential to guiding visitors in recreating responsibly and safely, and an important amenity available to visitors that drive the economy.

Zoe Huston expressed support for the Trail Ambassador program, with which she has firsthand knowledge in seeing how the program has vastly improved the visitor experience.

Kristina Young spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, which is critical in guiding visitor behavior in service to the residents of the County, a message which Young states is important to be coming directly from the County.

Olivia Holmes spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, which she feels is very important to the local economy and quality of life.

Jenna Gardinier spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, which she feels has overwhelming support from the community.

Bree Scott spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, stating that the guidance and resources provided by the program is important in taking pressure off of local emergency response resources.

Joy Dannelly, speaking as a private citizen, spoke to the importance of visitor education related to the landscape and how important it is to improving the visitor experience, which she has firsthand experience through working in the Trail Ambassador program.

Audrey Pefferman voiced support for the Trail Ambassador program which has resulted in great improvements to front country trails in the area.

Beth Roberts spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, stating that it does serve to promote area trails.

Luke Wojchiechowski spoke regarding the draft letter to Secretary Burgum, stating that Timed Entry is not a primary driver of local economic declines. Potential contributing factors are plentiful to the demonstrated decline in TRT revenue. Limiting the scope of impact to timed entry threatens to ignore other actionable

items and factors. NPS has been a willing partner, but solutions proposed in the draft letter are likely not feasible. Wojciechowski closed by saying that TRT revenue is down, but visitation is not.

1. Public Hearing – Meador Drive Townhomes Rezone for Overnight Accommodations Overlay (OAO) - Residential

Presentation

Andrew Jackson with Horrocks Engineering gave an introduction of the project at 3981 South Highway 191. 24 units on 2.1 acres of land, with an application for an overnight accommodation overlay. Planning Commission forwarded a favorable recommendation. Applicant is requesting a waiver on 80% power generation and assured housing. Proposed new overlay zone directly adjacent to existing overlay zone at Rim Village condo development.

Applicant Curtis Wells spoke regarding the appropriate use of the parcel under consideration for overnight accommodation use, and propose use only utilizes have of the density allowable by zoning. Wells reference the positive revenue impact that the development would provide.

At 6:54 p.m., Chair Winfield opened the public hearing, to remain open until Wednesday, July 23 at 5 p.m.

No other public comment was received.

11. Discussion Item: Billboard Relocation

Andrew Jackson explained that the Commission did have a path to deny relocation of this billboard along Highway 191, for which the applicant has been in discussions with the Planning Department. Underlying zoning does not provide for billboard use. Commission appetite to consider the relocation being sought at this time. Braden Saunders and Amy Clayton of YESCO were present to describe the situation and answer questions. Chair Winfield stated that he did not have concerns regarding the potential relocation. No negative feedback was received from the Commission.

At 7:04 p.m. Chair Winfield resumed Item 4

Discussion

McCandless clarified that she does not wish to offer early approval to any quarter 2 events out of respect, fairness and consistency. Marc Pett stated that he did consult with the Office of Tourism regarding available hotel rooms and was able to confirm that up to 4000 rooms were available during the past car show weekend, and that visitors to his event more commonly use VRBO and Air BnB.

Motion to amend passes 5-2, McCurdy and Martinez opposed

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy expressed that the event might be cancelled without the requested date change. Commissioner Hadler clarified that the event holder stated that they may need to modify but not cancel.

Amended substitute motion passes 4-3, Winfield, Martinez, and McCurdy opposed

After the vote, OSTA Director Angie Book raised concerns to be addressed regarding potential date conflicts at OSTA after the date change was not granted.

5. OHVR Grant Application for OHV Trail Coordinator (Trails Director Maddie Logowitz)

Presentation

Logowitz described the Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation (OHVR) Grant, which is funded by OHV registration funds and administered by the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation. The program offers six different funding categories, including educational programs that “promote safety, courtesy, and resource conservation related to OHV trails.” In 2023, Grand County was awarded an OHVR Grant to bolster the Motorized Trail Ambassador Program. This award provided approximately \$250,000 in funding for one fulltime and one parttime OHV Trail Ambassador positions in 2024 and 2025. It also funded the purchase of two UTVs, two enclosed trailers, and a variety of equipment.

This application seeks funding to continue program services into 2026 and 2027. Funding will support ongoing public education and outreach on popular motorized trails as well as incorporate motorized trail maintenance services. The inclusion of trail maintenance into the scope of work is in response to community feedback and need. The program equipment purchased with funds from the 2023 OHVR Grant will be used. The objectives of this application are to:

- Continue to provide educational resources that promote a positive visitor experience and safe and responsible visitor practices
- Perform routine maintenance on motorized routes throughout Grand County
- Coordinate and plan trailwork projects with local partners and stakeholders
- Mobilize volunteers and engage businesses for trailwork days

Funds will be used for:

- 1 fulltime OHV Trail Coordinator position
- 3 parttime OHV Trail Ambassadors (this number of part-time staff was recommended by the Motorized Trail Committee to fulfill current needs)
- Tools and materials for light trail maintenance

A 25% match is recommended as the minimum for this grant. The match included on this budget includes both cash and in-kind contributions, such as volunteer hours. The cash match is composed of line items that are ineligible for grant funding, including the cost of benefits for the existing full-time position.

Note: Grand County Search and Rescue is applying to the “SAR” funding category of the OHVR Grant. This application is for the “Education” funding category, which is a separate fund, so the two applications from Grand County will not be in competition with one another.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the letter of support and OHVR application for funding to support ongoing educational programming and maintenance on the motorized trail system

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy sought clarification that the cost to the County would be \$55,000 in cash over two years, with a partner match \$29,000.

Motion passes 7-0

6. SEUHD MOU for Healthy Trails Coordinator (Trails Director Maddie Logowitz)

Presentation

Representatives from the Health Department gave an overview of the MOU and the programming that it supports. Since 2023, Grand County and the Southeast Utah Health Department (SEUHD) have supported a Grand County Healthy Trails Coordinator position, each funding 50% of the total expense. This position implements programming associated with public education and mitigation of health issues associated with human waste. Human waste management in recreation areas, such as trails and dispersed camping zones, is an ongoing issue in Grand County. Human waste can contain harmful pathogens that impact public health and water quality. Human waste in recreation areas also degrades the quality of user experience and can result in area closures.

The main objectives of this position are:

1. Mitigate health hazards associated with human waste through a preventative in-person and online education campaign
2. Monitor recreation areas within Grand County to assess risks to public health and identify hazards
3. Liaise between the County, SEUHD, local land management agencies, and other stakeholders.
4. Develop the program in anticipation of future phases

Cost share agreement with the BLM for 30K a year in addition to in-kind contributions, 3-4 NEPAs per year given free of charge. Commissioner McCurdy argued that the BLM has ample incentive to provide financial support for the initiative. Logowitz offered that other funding partnerships can also be sought.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the 2025 Memorandum of Understanding between Grand County and the Southeast Utah Health Department, which will provide \$38,652 to Grand County for 50% of the Healthy Trails Coordinator position

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCandless

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin described her own experience of having a visit to the outdoors tarnished by improper human waste disposal and how desperate the need is to address it. Commissioner Hadler also expressed appreciation for the effort given his experience as a guide and seeing the seriousness of the issue, including with dog waste.

Motion passes 7-0

7. Resolution to Amend the 2025 Budget (Clerk/Auditor Woytek)

Presentation

Woytek described the key revisions of the original 2025 budget contained within the proposed amendment, as has been discussed in previous workshops, meetings, and public hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve the resolution amending the 2025 Grand County Budget as proposed

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner Hadler stated that he appreciated the spirit of compromise in maintaining some level of GCATT funding. Commissioner Hedin sought clarification regarding the Recreation Special Service District TRT funding, for which Clerk/Auditor Woytek stated he did not receive direction from the Commission to

change. Hedin stated that she would have preferred to maintain higher funding for GCATT, but does understand that compromise was necessary, and that the Trail Ambassador Program has and will continue to be a very important aspect in maintaining the visitor economy. Commissioner Hadler described the process for finding common ground regarding the GCATT budget, which he described as a result of conversations with other Commissioners. Commissioner Martinez described a structural deficit in the County budget which requires cuts which may feel severe but are necessary given current projections, and that this amendment represented a compromise but not a solution. Martinez expressed appreciation for the importance of the Trail Ambassador program, but stated that no resident that he spoke with agreed with the idea of funding the Trail Ambassador program out of general funds. Chair Winfield stated that County Departments have been directed to reign in spending and discussions have been ongoing regarding the reduction of costs and the matter is being handled seriously. Commissioner McCurdy sought confirmation that the increased 4.5% TRT rate is factored into revenue projections, which was confirmed to be true. Commissioner McGann expressed that the severity of the cuts being presented are premature, given that she feels that revenues will rebound, and that the Trail Ambassador program should be fully funded through the remainder of the year due to the critical nature of the program to the visitor economy. Commissioner McCurdy referenced the downturn in revenues and expressed general concern regarding the budget.

Motion passes 6-1, McGann opposed

8. Consideration of Response to BLM Draft Environmental Assessment on Class 1 E-Bikes (Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Moab Field Office has released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) concerning the "Authorization of Class 1 E-bikes on Designated Mountain Bike Trails," presenting various alternatives for e-bike access, which were described by Commissioner Martinez. Letters from the Trail Mix Committee, the Motorized Trail Committee, and from a local bike shop owner were included in the agenda packet. One proposed letter drafted by Commissioner Martinez, supports alternative C, while a separate letter drafted by Commissioner Hadler supports alternative B. Hadler went on to describe the process for drafting his version, which included input from the Trail Mix Committee as well as many stakeholders from the local cycling and trail user community. Martinez explained that his version supports wider immediate expansion of e-bike in order to achieve enhanced accessibility and inclusivity, to capture the economic benefits from a user group growing in population, the minimal environmental impact and need for efficient management, and the need for alignment with evolving trends. Martinez stressed that the majority of bike companies, guides, and outfitters signed on to a letter supporting alternative C, and 83% of public comment supported ebikes on all trails. Commissioner Hadler stated that a phased approach was an appropriate compromise on what he strongly feels is a divided issue. Hadler added that the Raptor Route should remain closed to ebikes in order to avoid confusion regarding the part of the trail that is on Forest Service land, and also to respect the wishes of the Sandflats Stewardship Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve a letter commenting on the BLM's Draft Authorization of Class 1 E-bikes on Designated Mountain Bike Trails which supports option C, excludes the Raptor Route from ebike access, and presents a three-year phased approach to introducing ebikes into trails, as recommended by both trail advisory committees.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy spoke to the challenges that would be presented for promotion and enforcement with a phased approach. Commissioner McCandless referenced public comment received which introduced the idea of using TRT promotion funds to encourage use of routes that were open to ebike use in a phased

approach. Commissioner McGann stated that certain types of ebikes created conflict and that the industry was very unsettled, with some machines acting more like motorcycles, and that it was easier to open things up rather than close them back down. Commissioner Martinez stated that he was not opposed to a phased approach, but that local outfitters and public comment made quite clear that such an approach was not viewed favorably by a strong majority. Martinez reiterated that enforcement and education of a phased approach would be overly onerous.

Substitute motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the letter commenting on the BLM authorization of class one ebikes on designated mountain bike trails as presented in the letter drafted by Commissioner Martinez, with the following edits: While we support alternative C, adaptive management and a phased implementation will provide time for trail crews to roll out the approach. We suggest opening half of the trails in year 1 and the remainder of the trails the following year, conducted in close collaboration between the BLM and Grand County Active Trails and Transportation. However, we specifically request that the Whole Enchilada trail system, including the Raptor Route, remain closed to class 1 ebikes until the Forest Service approves their use.

Substitute motion seconded by Commissioner McCandless

Motion to amend the substitute motion by Commissioner Martinez, removing the reference to the Whole Enchilada trail system in the comment

Motion to amend the substitute seconded by Commissioner McCandless

Motion to amend the substitute passes 7-0

Discussion

Commissioner Hadler stated that he much preferred the three-year phased approach but appreciated the spirit of compromise demonstrated.

Substitute motion passes 6-1, Hedin opposed

9. Discussion and approval of letter to Secretary Burgum regarding Arches National Park Timed Entry and Infrastructure Investments (Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

Commissioner Martinez explained the draft letter to Secretary Burgum of the Department of the Interior, acknowledging the "Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks" Executive Order, which seeks to assert Grand County's voice in gaining needed infrastructure improvements to the National Parks. Commissioner Hedin stated that the National Park service is suffering from sever cuts, and she feels it is inappropriate to speak to such needs at a time when operational budgets are being slashed, and that there are inappropriate assumptions being made about a study that has not yet been completed regarding the impact of the timed entry system. Commissioner McGann stated that improvements could be introduced to avoid timed entry and an emergency operations center should be added to the list of requests. McGann added she felt paragraph two was unnecessary and watered down the impact of the request. Commissioner McCandless stated that the Secretary of the Interior would take steps to rescind anything that restricts recreation in the parks, and that paragraph two should remain in the letter. McCandless added that efforts to support and protect NPS staff were equally as important to requests such as this. Commissioner Hadler stated that he did not support the letter and found it disingenuous when the park budget is being cut so heavily. Commissioner Martinez stated that the purpose of the Timed Entry study was to determine the effect of the system on the local economy, not to analyze effects on visitation.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the letter to Secretary Burgum, with the following edit to the draft following bullet point number five: add fundamental infrastructure investments such as an updated emergency operation center to improve incident responses.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy stated that international visitation has suffered greatly since COVID-19. Commissioner McCandless requested that the letter be shared with the state delegation. Chair Winfield expressed support for the letter, suggesting that the only way the County can get support is if it asks for it.

Motion to amend the original motion by Commissioner Martinez, replacing the language from “We strongly believe that the timed entry system is limiting visitation and harming our local economy” to “We question if the timed entry reservation system is limiting visitation and harming our local economy”

Motion to amend seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Motion to amend passes 7-0

Amended motion passes 5-2, Hadler and Hedin opposed

Discussion Items

10. Discussion on Moab City Services

Chair Winfield mentioned a number of loose ends that need to be tied up regarding agreements between Moab City and Grand County, and that there was a meeting scheduled for both parties so that a number of these agreement can be formalized and reaffirmed. The Chair clarified that upcoming meeting would involve himself, Commission Administrator Tyner, Sheriff Wiggins, as well as City Manager Michael Black, Mayor Langianese, and Police Chief Bell.

12. Discussion of Changes to The Governing Policy - Topic: Intro Statement and Conduct

No discussion at this time. Topic to be discussed at a later date.

Chair Winfield adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

Bill Winfield

Bill Winfield
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

FILE NAME 7.15.2025 REG GCC MINUTES approved.pdf - 8/6/25, 12:04 PM

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Activity



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- Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)
- Bill Winfield (bwinfield@grandcountyutah.gov)

2025/08/06
18:04:38 UTC



Signed by Bill Winfield (bwinfield@grandcountyutah.gov)

2025/08/06
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Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

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This document has been signed by all signers and is **complete**

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