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## Approved Minutes Steering Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 11, 2025, AT 12:30 P.M.

Meeting Held at Festival Hall; Combined Rooms 5 & 6;  
96 North Main St., Cedar City, Utah

Meeting Was Also Available to Board Members Via a Zoom Video Conference

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### Members In Attendance

Commissioner Paul Cozzens, *Chair*  
Commissioner Wade Hollingshead, *Vice Chair*  
Commissioner Gil Almquist  
Commissioner Jerry Taylor  
Commissioner Celeste Meyeres  
Hurricane City Mayor Nanette Billings  
Cedar City Mayor Garth Green  
Orderville Town Mayor Lyle Goulding  
Escalante City Mayor Melani Torgersen  
Stephanie Hill  
Tyler Fails  
Curtis Barney  
Henrie Walton (Via Zoom)

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### Representing

Iron County Commission  
Beaver County Commission  
Washington County Commission  
Garfield County Commission  
Kane County Commission  
Washington County Mayors  
Iron County Mayors  
Kane County Mayors  
Garfield County Mayors  
Iron County School Board  
Beaver County School Board  
Garfield County School Board  
Utah Tech University

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### Others In Attendance

Carrie Schonlaw  
Jen Wong  
Allison McCoy  
Kim Cooper  
Cody Christensen  
JayCee Finicum  
Cindy Bulloch (via Zoom)  
Amie Graff  
Luke Dunn

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### Representing

Five County Deputy Director  
Five County HR Director  
Five County Chief Financial Officer  
Five County CAP Director  
Five County Associate Planner  
Five County Administrative Assistant  
Representative Celeste Maloy  
Service Area Director for DWS  
Department of Workforce Services

- 1. Welcome and Introductions of all in attendance. -Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Chair**  
Chair Commissioner Paul Cozzens called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM and welcomed all in attendance. Attendees introduced themselves, including in-person and virtual participants.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance. Led by Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Chair.**
- 3. Review and Approve Draft Minutes from April 9, 2025, Steering Committee meeting.**



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A motion was made by Mayor Nanette Billings to approve the minutes. Second, by Commissioner Wade Hollingshead. Minutes were unanimously approved.

**4. Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Revisions and Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**

- Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Chair, opened a Public Hearing. There were no comments, so the Public Hearing was closed.

**Allison McCoy, CFO of Five County Association of Governments presented both budgets.**

**Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget Revisions**

- Final revised fiscal year 2025 budget: \$13,673,777 (net reduction of \$413,002).
- 8 grants closed due to expiration or program transitions.
- The Single-Family Revolving Loan Fund was discussed. It is a downpayment assistance program that can only be used in a rural area for new construction or land for new construction. It is a 0% interest rate with no monthly payment. It is only repaid if the home is sold or refinanced.
- Commissioner Celeste Meyeres commented that as a Steering Committee it is a duty to know of the programs to be able to share that with their constituents.
- Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Revisions was made by Mayor Nanette Billings. Second by Mayor Melani Torgersen. Passed unanimously.

**Fiscal Year 2026 Budget**

- Total proposed budget \$13,278,490
- The budget decreased due to reduced funding and program consolidations.
- Motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget was made by Commissioner Celeste Meyeres. Second by Commissioner Wade Hollingshead. Passed unanimously.

**5. Town of Apple Valley Master Plan with Impact Fee Facilities Plan Community Impact Board Application**

**Cody Christensen, Associate Planner, Five County Association of Governments**

- Request: \$50,000 CIB grant for updating the impact fee facilities plan.
- Motion to support made by Mayor Nanette Billings. Second by Commissioner Wade Hollingshead.

**6. Glendale Town Well Replacement Community Impact Board Application.**

**Cody Christensen, Associate Planner, Five County Association of Governments**

- Glendale did not originally get on the CIB list. They thought they had funding through the USDA, but that funding fell through. They are applying for CIB under a special consideration.
- They are requesting \$810,000 grant and a \$90,000 loan from CIB (1%, 30 years).
- Motion to support made by Commissioner Celeste Meyeres. Second by Commissioner Gil Almquist.

**7. Congressional Staff Updates.**

**Cindy Bulloch of Representative Celeste Maloy's Office**

- The Panguitch Lake Dam repair was approved, and the permit is on its way.
- A public land bill amendment was withdrawn due to widespread belief that it would remove some hunting and fishing grounds. This was mostly inaccurate as the majority



of the land was road easements, power easements, and pipeline easements. There was a portion for a reservoir. The bill is still being looked at for the future.

- Hurricane Mayor, Nanette Billings, is working with Representative Maloy and Senator Curtis to secure funding for phase three of an irrigation project, which requires infrastructure to move water from the completed settling pond to farms.
- Tarriff issues are also being addressed by Representative Maloy's office.
- Stephanie Hill was recognized as a dedicated advocate for the struggling sheep industry, which is facing a severe crisis. Representative Maloy was noted as instrumental in bringing national attention to the issue.

## **8. State Agency Updates.**

### **Amie Graff, Service Area Director for DWS**

- Fiscal year-end funding allocations are in progress, with updates on TANF and other funding sources anticipated next month.
- Unemployment is trending downward due to seasonal hiring: Iron County is at 2.7%, Washington County at 3.2%, and the statewide average is 3.2%. The national average is 4.1%. Garfield County remains higher at approximately 7.1% due to its seasonal economy.
- Challenges persist in connecting job seekers with available positions, particularly in rural communities.
- A new apprenticeship program is being developed in partnership with SUU and Furvo Energy to train power plant operators in Beaver County.
- Planning is underway for a Veterans and Community Resource Fair in Iron County, targeted for Fall 2025. Efforts are also being made to bring a similar event to Washington County in Spring 2026.
- Collaboration continues with the Milford Mine to support local job transitions through on-site recruitment events.

## **9. Universities and Technical Colleges Updates.**

### **Henrie Walton of Utah Tech University**

- President Shane Smead began as university president on May 1.
- Over 3,000 students graduated this year, with 28% being first-generation college graduates, 62% female, and 72% Utah residents, representing 41 states.
- President Smead has initiated the development of a new five-year strategic plan for the university, with broad stakeholder involvement; the process is beginning over the summer and will ramp up in the fall, aiming for completion by next spring.

### **Washington County Commissioner Gil Almquist provided updates on Dixie Tech.**

- Dixie Tech had 990 graduates, 500 of which attended commencement.
- Notably, 168 of the graduates were high school students.
- Most of the graduates had jobs.

## **10. Local Affairs Discussions, if needed. Nothing was discussed.**

## **11. Next Meeting – August 6, 2025**

## **12. Closed Session**



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- Mayor Torgersen made a motion to open a closed session citing Code 52-4-205.1A Seconded by Commissioner Wade Hollingshead.
  - Commissioner Celeste Meyeres made a motion to leave the closed session. Commissioner Gil Almquist seconded the motion.

**13. Adjourn.**

- Commissioner Paul Cozzens, Chair, called the meeting adjourned at 2 PM.

These minutes were transcribed, typed, and edited by JayCee Finicum, Administrative Assistant at the Five County Association of Governments. These draft minutes were approved by the Steering Committee at their August 13, 2025, meeting.