

Emery County Economic Opportunity (CEO) Board

Meeting Minutes

July 8th, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.

Emery County Courthouse, Commission Conference Room
75 East Main Street, Castle Dale, Utah 84513

In Attendance:

Board Members: Nicole Steele (online), Brock Johansen (online), Ren Hatt (online), Commissioner Jordan Leonard, Patsy Stoddard, Laren Huntsman.

Others: Commissioner Dennis Worwood, Commissioner Keven Jensen, Natalie Olsen, Debra McKee with GOEO (online).

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm.

1. **Welcome** - Nicole Steele

Nicole Steele welcomed everyone to the Emery County Economic Opportunity Board meeting.

2. **Discuss/Approve/Deny** - County Economic Opportunity Board Meeting Minutes April 8th, 2025 Minutes.

Patsy made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Brock. Voting was unanimous.

3. **Discuss/Approve/Deny** - Signing the Attestation Letter for the 2025 RCG Funds.

Nicole read the letter. Brock made a motion to accept the letter and have Nicole sign the letter with a second from Laren. Voting was unanimous.

4. **Discuss/Approve/Deny** - FY 2025 Rural County Grant- Emery County Economic Development Projects.

a. Consideration of additional funds for the Business Improvement Grant program for 2025.

Patsy asked this to be put back on the agenda. Of the 30 applicants we had for the Business Improvement Grant there were 13 businesses that didn't get funded. She is asking that we use the unspent RCG funds to be used to fund the rest of these businesses through the Business Improvement grant. Laren asked how do we resend the motion if we want to since we have already said it's a no? Brock said the decision was made last meeting to put that money toward the master plan. Brock also asked where the county was at with the Industrial Park Master Plan? Commissioner Leonard said the county advertised an RFP and when we got the bids back, two were RFP's and two were RFQ's so they felt like they had to re-advertise. It just got sent out to the paper, so we are still about a month out before awarding the RFQ. The money still waiting to be spent from the RCG was set aside for a head hunter company. Commissioner Jensen said one thing to think about is with the state lab there now, there is quite a bit of interest from companies looking at the Industrial Park that he feels it might not be necessary to go get a head hunter. Debra talked to some folks within GOEO and spoke with Jen Wakeland. She is really focusing on bringing companies to rural areas. Debra suggests EDC Utah and GOEO come and present to the board as to how they can help the county. Laren said his thoughts at this point in time is that we have not had anything from GOEO nor anything from the State that they have actually produced in those arenas that he has been in. He hates to give up money that we have and then be caught flat footed. Maybe we put this on hold for another meeting and get EDC Utah and GOEO down here to present what they can do for the county. Debra said she can organize that meeting. Everyone was ok with having the meeting in September. Laren made a motion to table this and continue with the existing plan with a second from Brock, Patsy opposed; all others in favor. Motion carried.

5. Discuss/Approve/Deny- FY2026 Rural County Grant.

The 2026 RCG application is due September 1st. We need to discuss where we want the money to go. The final approval was \$10,000 Junior Entrepreneur, \$115,000 for the Business Improvement Grant, and \$75,000 to Business Recruitment. Laren made a motion to approve the said amounts with a second from Brock. Voting was unanimous.

6. Discuss/Approve/Deny- Discussion for an RCOG application.

This is a competitive grant through GOEO. Green River was awarded one last year. It is for Economic Development projects. The intent to apply is open right now, with the open application period starting September 15th. Emery County is eligible to apply for that grant. It was suggested to use that grant to help with utilities up at the Industrial Park.

Laren made a motion that the board recommend to the county to submit an intent to apply application for the RCOG grant with a second from Patsy. Voting was unanimous.

7. Other Business:

Commissioner Leonard said any direction we can get whether we go Economic Development Director to contractor, we have looked at different ways. Brenda is a little concerned about funding a full time position with grant money. If we come up with a pretty good marketing and recruitment entity we could just go that direction.

Debra said there is an Economic Alliance meeting this week in Price. It's a traveling meeting and it's coming to our area. It's huge and very important. It would be nice to have Emery County folks there. It starts at 8:00 am.

It was discussed that we would have our meeting with GOEO and EDC Utah on September 9th @ 3:00 pm as long as that works for them.

Pam Whitmire: She said she has spent the last couple of weeks searching for grants and there are a lot of grants for municipalities and for counties and only one for the individual (Business Improvement Grant). That grant helps the "littles" in the county. She said she is too late for this year's grant but will apply when it comes out next year. Please remember that grant for the little people. We want to keep Emery County alive because we love it.

8. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 12TH, 2025 @ 3:00 pm