County Economic Opportunity Board

September 18, 2025

Council Chambers

3:30 p.m.

1. **Welcome & Roll Call**
2. **Meeting Minutes**
   A. **Minutes from the August 21, 2025 Meeting**

      MOTION AND VOTE

   Attachments
   1. CEO Borad Meeting Minutes August 21, 2025_DRAFT.pdf
3. **Grants**
   A. **Rural Communities Opportunity Grant Application Recommendation**

      Discussion on the FY2026 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant application. The board needs to choose a project to recommend to the County Council for this grant.
4. **Adjournment**

County Economic Opportunity Board

August 21, 2025

3:30 p.m.

<47 South Main, Council Chambers (3rd floor)>

1. **Welcome & Roll Call**

   Chairman Craig Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

   Roll call was taken showing: Craig Smith, Tyson Hamilton, John Perez, Angie Davies, and Brittany Lopez.

   Also present was Jess Clifford, Tooele Tech Small Business Development Center; Ryan Englund, Better City; and Kathleen VonHatten, Lake Point City.

   Dan Royal was online.

2. **Meeting Minutes**

   A. **Minutes from the May 15, 2025 Meeting**

      MOTION AND VOTE

   Agenda Attachments
   1. May 15, 2025 CEO Board Meeting Minutes_DRAFT.pdf

      Motion to approve the May 15, 2025 meeting minutes by Brittany Lopez. 2nd by Tyson Hamilton. All in favor.

3. **Grants**

   A. **Rural County Part B Grant Application Discussion, Ryan Englund**

      Discussion on project ideas for the application/ intent to apply for the Rural County Part B Grant. Funding from this grant can be used toward:

      - Business recruitment, development, and expansion
      - Workforce training and development
      - Infrastructure, industrial building development, and capital facilities improvements for business development

   B. **Outdoor Recreation Grants, Ryan Englund**

      Outdoor Recreation Grant Discussion.

   Agenda Attachments
   1. Outdoor Recreation Grants Info.pdf

Ryan stated that the report for last year's Rural County Grant has been submitted and accepted. The 2026 Rural County grant application for $200,000 has been submitted and accepted. Soon we're going to work on the 2026 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant, up to $600,000. The county has received a co-op grant for marketing for $126,000; we asked for $225,000. That's more than we've ever received. Ryan stated that Brittany and Jill worked up a budget for $225,000 to spend next year. We were hoping that the state could match that. We kept the county funds the same. The majority will be used for content creation and digital marketing, but a small amount will be used for print marketing, local business PR and event sponsorship, market research, networking, and traditional advertising, etc. Brittany stated that the goal was to focus on the things we know we have and it was a crossover between the local restaurants and utilizing the

recreation we have. We are looking to get people to come recreate and eat here. This is the beginning stage. 6:25 The Explore Tooele page has been highlighting the local restaurants and shops.

Ryan stated that we've put together a good group of people and we've got a 3-5 year plan to roll out, with one or two things a year. Roger Brooks suggested promoting two or three things instead of everything at once. Brittany stated we have a Tourism Director at the Chamber of Commerce, and they've hired a marketing person. Ryan stated the state has been pushing hard for each county to get a Destination Marketing Organization, or a DMO. The chamber is going to do that for us. The grant has a huge impact if you're a DMO versus if you're not. Brittany stated that Jill started by reaching out to local eateries. We are waiting for the funding to come in before we start on the shops.

Ryan stated that the Part B grant is the Rural Communities Opportunity Grant. Right now, every county and municipality that has less than 10,000 people, and every COG has a chance to apply. In the past, we've focused on infrastructure and have got some good grants. Ryan asked the group what we should apply for. It is up to $600,000 and that would require a $400,000 match. Brittany stated that the Council will have to give approval to apply, and approval to provide the match.

Jess Clifford stated that one of the needs they've seen at Tooele Tech is creating an adult learning center in Wendover. Most of the adult learners are commuting to Tooele or just not going at all. Tooele Tech may be willing to back that in a skills perspective. The SBDC may be willing to be present out there for anybody that wants to start a business. There is not anything out there for those that want to develop a skill or start a business. Jess stated that they would be able to donate instructors' times and maybe some equipment/ materials.

Ryan stated that another idea discussed was the Wendover Airport. Brittany stated we're still in the design phase and only looking at the water lines. In the future we will need electrical upgrades. I would like to allocate some funds for the water lines. We've had some interest in events out there.

Brittany asked if the Department of Workforce Services could use the funding. Angie Davies stated that the funding for the current education department has been cut, and she will look into some ways the funding could help.
John Perez stated we could use the whole amount for looping in the water and sewer lines to the business park. I think the cost is around $1.2 million.

There was discussion regarding the Wendover Airport, the match requirement, and timelines for the possibility of the Tooele Tech project.

Ryan stated at the next meeting we should select a project or two, vote, and make a plan. Brittany stated there are buildings that the airport leases, so she will get with the director and see if any are classified to where they could be used for the Tooele Tech project. Brittany recommended that everyone come back next month with numbers for their project. Craig asked if it would be better to apply for multiple things, or just one thing. Ryan stated that it's best to pick one; going for multiple projects at once has been discouraged.

Outdoor recreation- Ryan stated we have a lot going on with the outdoor recreation. One of the problems with the industrial parks is that they don't have enough power to grow and are kind of stuck with what they have, but they'd like more power.

Ryan stated that a meeting with this group and the state considering nuclear power, solar, and wind in the future would be effective. The Department of Defense is looking to create places they can come in with nuclear, solar, and wind. BLM is opening up some of their land to do the same. Brittany stated we are looking for the best alternative power source, not necessarily just nuclear. The county just passed a resolution for alternate power uses. That was the first step the department of energy asked us to take. HB249 allows counties to create these energy zones. We are looking to create an energy overlay zone. This would allow alternative energy sources without having to change the zoning.

There was discussion about the need for public education and perception regarding nuclear power.

4. **Discussion Items**

    A. **Economic Development Website Presentation**

Presentation and discussion of the new Economic Development website: growtooele.com

Brittany shared the new Tooele County Economic Development website with the group and stated it is up and running now. Craig stated that Erda and Lake Point's information needs to be on the website on the local contacts page and the Grantsville contact needs to be updated. Jess Clifford stated SBDC is missing the D on the State contacts, and the SBDC website/email address needs to be added.

5. **Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn by Brittany Lopez. All in favor.