



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

October 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Carbon County Commission Chamber (Anchor Location + Electronic)
751 East 100 North
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 712-7622

Board Members Present: Jared Haddock (Carbon County), Dennis Worwood (Emery County), Greg Jensen (Sevier County), Sonja Norton (Uintah County), Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County), and Jack Lytle (Daggett County).

Also in attendance: Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Michael Hawley, Jon Stearmer, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen, Dan Hawley, Tom Davidson, Steve Rodgers, Jeff Worthington, and Mike Bean.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Stacey Herpel, Melissa Cano, Joel Brown, Heather Poulsen, Candace Powers, John Laursen, Will Lane, and Willis LeFevre.

Others Present: (Please notify staff at 435-817-0025 of any spelling corrections or if you were present and not listed.)

Public Meeting Participation Information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://jonesanddemille.zoom.us/j/81812623532>

Or Join by Telephone:

1-253-215-8782 or

1-346-248-7799 or

1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 818 1262 3532

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (Jack Lytle)

Chairman Lytle welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:10 AM. Chairman Lytle led the pledge of allegiance and had everyone introduce themselves.

2. Public Comment (Jack Lytle)

Public comment was accepted verbally, during the meeting, telephonically by Zoom, and by electronic written submission at stacey@7county.utah.gov. Electronic written comments will be forwarded to the Board Members. All comments are summarized in the meeting minutes. A complete copy of any written comments submitted may be requested at the email address provided herein. Chairman Lytle then turned time over to Melissa Cano for those wishing to make public comments electronically.

There were no public comments online or in the room at this time.

Chairman Lytle thanked Ms. Cano and handed the time over to Chairman Miles. Chairman Miles then moved to the next item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for September 26, 2025 (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles inquired about changes or updates to the minutes, Commissioner Norton stated there were some grammatical corrections, and Commissioner Miles stated another correction. Ms. Herpel stated that those corrections are noted and will be done prior to posting approved meeting minutes. Chairman Miles requested a motion to approve the minutes with amendments.

Motion to approve, September 26, 2025 meeting minutes as amended, by Commissioner Jensen and seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. County Project Updates (Board Members)

Chairman Miles stated that he will turn the time over to the board members for any project updates at this time.

There were no updates from the County Commissioners at this time and the updates were deferred to Director Heaton.

Chairman Miles thanked the commissioners and turned the time over to Director Heaton.

5. Executive Director Report (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned time over to Director Heaton for the director's report and county project updates. Director Heaton thanked the chairman and the board. Director Heaton thanked everyone for being here today, he appreciates all the support both in person and those online.

Director Heaton went on to state that we are still waiting on a decision from the DC Circuit Court to the Surface Transportation Board on the Railway. This is taking longer than anticipated, but we hope to hear something any day. The courts have a different funding, which comes in part through fees and the Federal Government shutdown should not impact the decision time. Our private partners on the railway, Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners, are exploring the option of applying for a federal loan, since there is a shortage of private activity bonds, to help offset the difference. The application is for the RRIF program. This is being encouraged by the Department of Transportation, there will be more updates to come.

Director Heaton stated that another project we have been actively working on is the deep water throughput capacity port. There are multiple options that we are exploring at this time and we are in the process of working on an application to the Throughput Infrastructure Fund, which is administered through the Community Impact Board. The intent is to submit a phase one application for them to review next month. This is to explore various options that we are currently working on, including the original project site. This is a separate fund from the Community Impact Board fund, so many of the rules do not apply as it is not a CIB project.

Director Heaton stated that at our last meeting, we had scheduled a meeting with the Ute Business Committee. They have postponed that meeting due to many of their members traveling out of the area, they have not given us a reschedule date. We will continue to stay on top of that and hopefully get something and let everyone know as soon as we hear back from them.

Director Heaton stated that with the Jensen Water Project there was not too much to update on at this time, there is a meeting scheduled next week and we hope to have additional information at the next meeting. The funding applications are all in place with both the federal and state sources. The project is looking positive at this time. We attended the Basin Energy Summit and there was a lot of conversation about that project and the need for additional water to meet current and future demands.

Director Heaton stated that there were some good conversations at the Energy Summit about the Greendale Resort Project. We will be scheduling meetings shortly to continue to push forward with this project. The intent is that we will put together a consortium of interested parties to move it forward, we remain optimistic that it will happen.

Director Heaton stated that next week in San Juan County, Energy Fuels is holding an open house, thanks to Jones and DeMille, Scott Flannery will attend as a representative for the

Infrastructure Coalition. Many things are happening at Energy Fuels and we will continue to support them in any way we can, including exploring rail options and other ways to transport materials. There are many projects happening in San Juan County and we will continue to support those as best we can.

Director Heaton stated that this concludes his updates for the current and active projects that we have going on at this time, he would be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Miles thanked Director Heaton. Chairman Miles stated that he attended the One Utah Summit and one of the breakout sessions and the topic was on nuclear. One of the panelists was from Energy Fuels, along with Emmy Lesofsky in the Office of Energy, then another woman from Canada that had worked at a nuclear plant for 20 years, and Directory Ferry. They talked about the good things that are happening at the San Rafael Research Lab, Emmy Lesofsky pointed out that it is filling up fast. They have got a lot of interested parties, because they can actually do their research at the lab. Chairman Miles wanted to point out this highlight and that it has become a big success of the coalition.

Commissioner Worwood stated that Valor is building one of their buildings and have their modular reactor tested and approved by July 4, 2026. Valor is looking to hire 30 people at their expanded campus near the research lab.

Director Heaton stated that the original intent was that the Energy Lab could partner with the Idaho National Lab, as they did not have the capacity to handle all of the lab work that needed to be done. So we intentionally designed this to take overflow from the Idaho National Lab. Now we have almost maximized the existing capacity in just a few short years. Director Heaton appreciated everyone who had the vision and participated in the early stages of this project.

Chairman Miles then called for any additional questions for Director Heaton. Chairman Miles then moved on to the next agenda item.

6. Engineers Report (Jones & DeMille)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Brian Barton with Jones & DeMille for the Engineers Report. Mr. Barton stated that they sent out a memo yesterday to all the commissioners. This is a common report, technical report from Jones and DeMille, that we are providing the technical backup and muscle behind all the things that Director Heaton described. This report includes funding coordination applications, supporting documents to support all those efforts, and budget tracking.

Mr. Barton stated that we continue with the budget tracking on the rail and where we are at with that project. We need to be mindful of what is left in the budget and what is yet to be done. As soon as we have the DC Circuit Court's decision and that case is sent back to the STB, we can

have a clearer picture of the budget. We are ready to scope that out with all the involved parties and get through it as quickly as possible on the engineering side. Mr. Barton stated that is all that he has at this time.

Mr. Barton stated that with the communications report coming up next, he would like to bring up a type of branding for the coalition. Telling the coalition stories is a big deal. Helping everybody else outside of this room to understand the impact and the value that the coalition brings to these critical initiatives for the state and the nation.

Chairman Miles thanked Jones & DeMille for their update and all the work they have been doing. Chairman Miles asked if there were any more questions about the Engineering Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Communications Report (Melissa Cano)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Melissa Cano for the communications report. Ms. Cano thanked Chairman Miles and stated that we did talk briefly about revamping what branding could and would look like for the coalition. There will be more updates to come.

Ms. Cano stated that she is going to meet with Director Heaton first and show him a couple of ideas in the next month and then from there we will get that rolling. Ms. Cano stated that from previous conversations we want to be more forward, this is a good moment and achievement to take that forward and then the actual update will piggyback on what was just discussed. Ms. Cano thinks that once the DC Circuit Court makes the decision, it will become noisy again on the comment side for the railway and we anticipate some follow-up actions from that. At this moment, we are keeping quiet.

Ms. Cano stated that there was no stakeholders meeting last month, but we will regroup with everyone next month. This is all the update she has at the moment and is willing to answer any questions.

Commissioner Stubbs stated that in our local areas the public checks our budgets to see where we are at and where we are going. Commissioner Stubbs asked if there was a way to promote Seven County meetings and explain some of the benefits that are received for being a part of the coalition. We do not want to give away secrets or not sure if we are allowed to talk about this. If we could have an outline, it would help us as we report where we have been and try to promote Seven Counties in our areas or other areas.

Ms. Cano thanked Commissioner Stubbs and stated that she has been thinking up for next steps as well as next year. We can include paid advertising to your point, but that would obviously be a discussion for the board to decide if that is how they desire the money to be spent. There are different ranges of no cost, low cost, and then upward and onward that we can dive into as we

look at options. Some of the lower costs could be social media, which was my first recommendation and step to do a big push. To answer your point about advertising to your local community, we will have to get costs and see if the board approves that. Lastly, for an outline for everyone, that is simple to do and I will get on that and give everyone a couple of talking points per project.

Chairman Miles thanked Melissa and thanked Commissioner Stubbs for bringing up these points. Seven County Infrastructure Coalition is unique and there is not another body in the State of Utah, like Seven County, oftentimes we get compared to an Association of Governments. We are different and I think one of the challenges that we have faced is people comparing us to them. We need to continue to emphasize this just so that they understand the difference between what we are trying to accomplish and how we accomplish it.

Chairman Miles stated that he thinks it is a great idea to emphasize the Infrastructure Coalition name more than adding Seven County. Something to always keep in mind is if we do need to make a name change and drop the number, it would be nice to add a county or two and do that naturally. A lot of us are in meetings and it is conference season, so as we have conversations, just emphasize the work that the Infrastructure Coalition is doing.

Chairman Miles would be happy to have the conversation in conjunction with Melissa's guidance on branding and for possible legal name change to something that is more differentiating. As we have more successes, we may get more tied to the existing name of Seven County.

Commissioner Lytle stated that our retreat is usually in April or May and if we give this some thought and then boil it down during that period, it seems like it would make sense if we talk about the terms of the branding, talking points, name changes, and a more in depth agenda.

Chairman Miles thanked Ms. Cano for her update, the board for the ideas and comments and asked if there were any questions from the board. Seeing none, Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

8. Presentation, Approval and Adoption of Monthly Expenses (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Doug Rasmussen for the presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses. Mr. Rasmussen presented the financial information and requested payment approval today. He went on to request payment approval amounting to \$90,880.25. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today, he is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items.

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL

October 9, 2025 at 10:00 am

Carbon County Commission Chambers

751 East 100 North

Price, UT 84501

Expenses Previously Approved by Board :

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Keith Heaton - Payroll	Direct Deposit	10/27/25- 12/31/25	41,602.87	Payroll/Administration	General Grant

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	3256	53372	5,591.00	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	3257	41	1,000.95	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0925	1,232.00	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	3258	630529	1,760.10	Insurance Premiums - October	General Grant
Health Equity	3259	hdaqcw8	2.10	HSA Administration Fees - October	General Grant
Utah Office of Energy Development	3260	OED2601	10,000.00	Western States & Tribal Nations Mbrshp.	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3261	0138925	4,275.00	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3261	0138938	6,000.00	Unit Pump Station Planning	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3261	0138942	4,565.00	Program Management and Engineering - Ashley Valley Railway	General Grant
Kunz PC	3262	328	6,571.60	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	3263	329	2,175.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	3264	2859092	10,000.00	Uinta Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Stratton Law Firm PLLC	3265	154	8,557.50	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Services - PAB	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	3266	0138940	13,100.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	3266	0138940	13,300.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Kunz PC	3267	330	250.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal Services	Daggett County
Jones & DeMille	3268	0138939	2,500.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
Total Payment Approval			\$ 90,880.25		

Motion to approve expenses for August in the amount of \$90,880.25 was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Norton.

Chairman Miles called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Rasmussen then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by September 30, 2025. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for September. We also have included a profit/loss by class which shows the funding and expenditures by project. We have detailed information for activity that has happened through September by project as well. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for September was made by Commissioner Worwood seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

Chairman Miles called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

Mr. Rasmussen stated for information purposes only, then reviewed the project sheet. This does not require any approval from the Coalition. He stated that this concluded the financial update to the Coalition.

Mr. Rasmussen stated that it is required after the end of every quarter that you receive a general ledger detail, which comprises all for the accounts of the coalition and activity that has transpired for the last quarter, which is July, August, and September. This is for your review and information, but it is a requirement that you have this so that you can look at the detailed information.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Rasmussen and Smuin, Rich & Marsing for their work efforts and moved to the closed session.

9. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency). (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles then requested a motion for a closed session.

Motion to move into closed session for litigation was made by Commissioner Haddock seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 11:05 AM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING

Carbon Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Daggett Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Duchesne Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Emery Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
San Juan Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Sevier Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Uintah Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>

Chairman Miles requested a motion to move back into open session and exit the closed session.

Motion to move out of closed session was made by Commissioner Lytle with a second by Commissioner Worwood.

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 12:08 PM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member Yea X No

Daggett Board Member Yea X No

Duchesne Board Member Yea X No

Emery Board Member Yea X No

San Juan Board Member Yea X No

Sevier Board Member Yea X No

Uintah Board Member Yea X No

10. Motion to Adjourn (Greg Miles)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Lytle at 12:09 PM.

Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

A motion to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Daggett Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Duchesne Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Emery Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
San Juan Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Sevier Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>
Uintah Board Member	Yea <u> X </u>	No <u> </u>

Co-Chair: Greg Miles

Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

(COALITION SEAL)

ATTEST:

Stacey Herpel