



**Carbon Community Economic Development (CED) Board
Regular Meeting
June 17, 2025 10:30 AM
751 E 100 N Suite #2600 Price, Utah 84501**

Board Members Present:

Layne Miller
Jon Richens
Larry Jensen
Zak Konakis
Oran Stainbrook

Others Present:

Shanny Wilson
Ryan Lundstrom
Deborah Herron

Overview

Deborah Herron and Ryan Lundstrom from Duchesne County attended the meeting to talk about two significant programs they oversee, one supports local restaurants and the other supports a recovery program for men.

Action Items

Update the Rural County Grant application as indicated in the minutes.

1.) Welcome and roll call – Layne Miller

2.) Review, discuss, and approve previous meeting minutes from May 20, 2025 – Layne Miller

Motion: Jon
Second: Oran
Approved

3.) Rural County Grant 2024 recipient report(s), if any

None at this time, but Shanny mentioned that some 2024 recipients still need to report. She recently sent them an email and only 2 of the 5 responded.

4.) Overview of Duchesne County Rural County Grant Certificate Program - Deborah Herron and Ryan Lundstrom

Deborah explained the certificate program, noting that her predecessor had been very successful with it. They distribute \$5 and \$10 restaurant gift certificates in the community. Families or workers visiting from out of town use these certificates, resulting

in significant spending. This program has provided a substantial return on investment for the restaurants in Duchesne County, increasing their visibility and generating extra revenue.

The county assembles packets that include a visitor guide and three certificates. Their primary distribution method are golf tournaments. The local golf course hosts about 40 a year, each with nearly 300 golfers and many come from outside the area.

To ensure the certificates stand out, the county designs them, handles the printing, cutting, and distribution. The restaurants are responsible for returning them to the county office. Once the certificates are returned, the county issues a check to the restaurant using revenue from TRCC. The only requirement is that the restaurant must have been open for at least two years.

The amount of the certificates depends on the target audience, as the return varies by location. Historically, over 20% of the coupons are consistently redeemed each year, which is the amount they budget for. They allocate \$100,000 annually for this program, though they have never reached that amount.

The county breaks down its rural grant fund into three main areas: Workforce development (which includes Thompson's House of Hope), a main street matching grant, and customer service training (certificates are given to attendees). They reserve \$80,000 of their rural grant fund for Thompson's House of Hope, a men-only, faith-based recovery facility that aids in addiction recovery. More than 50% of men who graduate from this program have remained clean and employed, ultimately saving the county costs associated with legal issues like jail and court expenses.

Ryan elaborated on the main street matching grant for businesses who could use funding for facade upgrades. Additionally, grant funds are used to provide customer service training for local businesses. In the past, they have hired Ryan Murphy from Price to coordinate the training program.

The board expressed gratitude to Deborah and Ryan and concluded that the restaurant coupon initiative is worth considering.

5.) Review Rural County Grant guidelines and application changes - Shanny Wilson

Shanny noted that she has made changes to both the online and PDF application. She expressed her challenges regarding a word count in the application. She mentioned that she added some additional information under workforce development and training. She also noted on the application that not all projects receive approval and that grant requests cannot exceed \$50,000. She expressed a desire to start advertising the grant and sought the board's approval for this initiative. The board recommended noting that it is a one-to-one match grant and to edit the example given. It was also suggested that applicants specify the type of project they are applying for and include any construction plans. Additionally, it was suggested to potentially add a drop-down menu to the description section of the form for convenience. The board ultimately concluded that a minimum word count should be established for applications. Layne will schedule appointments with local radio stations to promote the grants.

6.) Economic update - Larry Jensen

We are currently working on answering questions for the NDA. The project continues to grow in cost, with the biggest concern being water. We are discussing various water options that would include drawing effluent from the sewer plant, or sourcing reservoir water from the river. This project is expected to cost between \$400 and \$500 million, and they have narrowed it down to one location. We are also working on acquiring direct water flow rights, and while there is water available, additional measures need to be taken to ensure we secure full rights. The Trump administration is not expected to continue honoring the environmental incentives, which could affect companies that were considering relocating to Carbon County. However, we want to attract companies that have genuine reasons for being here, rather than just seeking incentives. If this large company moves in, it will be a significant development. As for Wellington Microtech, the last thing we heard is that they are still attempting to revamp their operations. They were set to purchase a piece of property from Wellington City, but the county needs to navigate that property to secure our road development. Wellington City has been working for six months to resolve this matter, and it has finally been figured out. We are providing them with an easement description to facilitate our access through their property. Additionally, HUD reached out to Larry and Shanny about the appropriations grant previously received from Curtis's office that was intended to purchase property. They indicated that we could utilize the funds for a different purpose. We are currently collaborating with them to identify an appropriate project, with our first preference being road development. Shanny has written a proposal letter, which has been approved for moving forward. As far as we know, RC Solar is still planning the development of solar fields in Wellington. Intermountain Electronics is constructing another extension building on Consumers Road due to the continual growth of the company. The county is working with water and power companies to upgrade infrastructure needed to support industry and potential data centers. Larry noted that having more water options would enhance our ability to market the area. Lastly, a question was raised about the hotel being developed on the west end of town, and it was confirmed that this project is still progressing.

7.) Other business?

None at this time.

8.) Adjourn

Motion: Board

Approved

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Layne Miller", is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Layne Miller, Board Chair