



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) excused, Greg Jensen (Sevier County), Sonja Norton (Uintah County), Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County) excused, Greg Miles (Duchesne County), and Jack Lytle (Daggett County).

**Also in attendance:** Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Michael Hawley, Jon Stearmer, Melanie Sasser, Dan Hawley, Andrew Browning, Lynn Sitterud, Scott Bartholomew, and Jeff Hartley.

**Attended telephonically:** Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Joel Brown, Heather Poulsen, Candace Powers, John Laursen, Jay Johnson, Mark Michel, Meghan Thacker, Travis Campbell, Deeda Seed, and Cody Deeter.

**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

## Seven County Infrastructure Coalition

### **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](mailto: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. Chairman Lytle then moved to the next item on the agenda.

### **3. January 8, 2026 Meeting Time Change Discussion (Keith Heaton)**

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Director Heaton for the update about the time change for the meeting January 8, 2026.

Director Heaton stated that the Community Impact Board will be having their meeting on January 8 that will start at 9:00 AM and the Seven County meeting will start at 1:00 PM after lunch.

Chairman Lytle thanked Director Heaton for the update and moved on to the next agenda item.

### **4. Approval of Meeting Minutes for October 9, 2025 (Jack Lytle)**

Chairman Lytle inquired about changes or updates to the minutes, there being none, Chairman Lytle requested a motion to approve the minutes as written.

**Motion to approve the October 9, 2025 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Jensen and seconded by Commissioner Miles.**

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

### **5. Addition of Sanpete County Discussion (Board Members)**

Chairman Lytle introduced and welcomed Commission Bartholomew from Sanpete County and asked if he would say a few words.

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Jon Stearmer stated that we have the honor of having Sanpete County wanting to join the coalition. On Monday their commission met, and by vote, it was approved unanimously to join the coalition. That brings a lot of different procedural things that need to take place, both with coalition and then with all member counties, because it will require an amendment to the interlocal agreement. Today we will need a motion to approve Sanpete County into the Coalition and then it will be sent out to the member counties to vote.

Commissioner Bartholomew thanked the commission for letting him address the board and this has been a long time coming and we appreciate the invitation. Are there any questions for us?

Members of the board welcomed Sanpete County.

Commissioner Lytle requested a motion to move forward with the addition of Sanpete County.

**Motion to move forward with approving the addition of Sanpete County with the authority from the Executive Director, Co-Chairs, and attorney to procedurally move forward with the production of legal documents for the member counties of the organization, by Commissioner Miles and seconded by Commissioner Jensen.**

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote to invite Sanpete County into the organization. **The motion passed unanimously.**

### **6. Western States and Tribal Nations - Road Map (Andrew Browning)**

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Andrew Browning for the Western States and Tribal Nations presentation, also known as WSTN Roadmap.

Mr. Browning thanked the board for having him today. He stated that the Western States and Tribal Nations Energy Initiative is an organization that was founded in Utah as an outcome of the Uintah panel session or the Uintah Basin Energy Conference in 2018, on the possibility of getting gas through a pipeline for export to Asian countries through a project called Jordan Cove. Jordan Cove did not work out due to political issues, but the organization took hold and we are now representing four Rockies states, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico.

Mr. Browning stated that they unite public and private sectors to build regional collaboration and advocate for the growth of Rockies natural gas markets, driving rural economic development, empowering tribal self-determination, and supporting global emission reduction through clean energy exports and that we are a 501c4.

Mr. Browning stated that the energy needs are growing rapidly. Western Electricity Coordinating Council region over the next decade indicates a significant and sustained increase, with forecasts showing a 20% rise in annual demand by 2045.

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Mr. Browning stated that regional regulations and best practices result in some of the lowest greenhouse gas intensities in the United States. Rockies producers are leaders in methane reduction, flaring minimization, and certified gas programs, setting a precedent for responsible energy production. Low-carbon Rockies gas supports domestic decarbonization and meets international buyers' demand for cleaner energy, helping global partners achieve climate goals. There are two pathways to export using existing infrastructure and rights-of-way allow for rapid expansion with minimal greenfield development. One is Southwest Pathway which leverages pipelines to connect directly to Mexico LNG terminals and the second is the Pacific Northwest Pathway that can quickly serve surging regional demand by expanding along existing corridors.

Mr. Browning talked about the Greenhouse Gas Study - Climate Engagement. This is a peer reviewed study, and an average 40% drop in lifecycle GHG emissions. Some roadmap recommendations are to engage directly with major offtakers, domestically and in the Asian-Pacific. Streamline permitting process across local, state, and federal governments. Secure Tribal and local support through community investment. Explore Government co-investment to minimize risk on projects. Support the region's independent producers. Formalize interstate energy partnerships, and continue to lead on methane emissions reductions and certified gas.

Mr. Browning thanked the coalition for letting them come and present today and would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Chairman Lytle thanked Mr. Browning and asked if there were any questions. Seeing none, Chairman Lytle moved on to the next agenda item.

### **7. County Project Updates (Board Members)**

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

Commissioner Norton stated that the Jensen Water project went before the Community Impact Board and received a grant for \$1.5 million and requested federal grants in the amount of \$4.5 million. With these grants that project will be moving forward.

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

### **8. Executive Director Report (Keith Heaton)**

Chairman Lytle turned time over to Director Heaton for the director's report and any project updates. Director Heaton thanked the chairman and the board. Director Heaton thanked everyone for being here today. November is the month for giving thanks. He expressed his thanks to the board and for their service. He thanked Sanpete County and stated he was happy to have them join the coalition. He thanked all those on staff, consultants, and contractors for the board.

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Director Heaton stated that working with everyone day in and day out makes the job not only satisfying but enjoyable.

Director Heaton stated that the legislative session is just around the corner. If there are any legislative priorities you have as a board member, please bring those to his attention and can discuss what we need to do. We do not want to miss any opportunities before the session gets going in full swing.

Director Heaton stated that the federal government is back to work. As was discussed last month, we have our consultant, ICF, ready to go on the railway project. We are hoping that is a quick process. We appreciate our legal counsel with Venerable in Washington D.C., Jay Johnson, who has submitted the legal brief outlining exactly what needs to happen and how that needs to happen. We are halfway there. The BIA and the Forest Service have been working through the shutdown with us on the railway project, we appreciate everyone who has been working with them to move everything forward. It is just a matter of how long it is going to take. We are excited to see what happens with an executive order from the White House on the Uinta Basin, Energy Development, and Economic Development. We continue to meet with Longview and the developers in Oakland about the port.

Director Heaton stated that we have an application in with the Community Impact Board, along with SERDA, we appreciate SERDA being here with us today. We are trying to work together to figure out how we will get this done and working with the Utah Mining Association. There is work to be done there and we continue to stay on top of that and we will push forward to get that done.

Director Heaton stated that things are happening with the Greendale Resort Project in Daggett County. We have a developer and have had several meetings over the last month that went very well. It is a big project and we have a lot of things to work out, but we finally have a private side party that seems willing and able to do that.

Director Heaton appreciates Commissioner Norton for providing an update on the Jensen Water Project. We are happy to get the Community Impact Board funding and now we are waiting for the Bureau of Recommendation to come forward.

Director Heaton thanked everyone and would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

Chairman Lytle thanked Director Heaton for all the work he does and then called for any additional questions for Director Heaton. Chairman Miles then moved on to the next agenda item.

**9. Engineers Report (Jones & DeMille)**

Chairman Lytle 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 projects. This report includes funding coordination applications, supporting documents to support all those efforts, and budget tracking.

Mr. Barton stated that there are a lot of moving pieces and thanked Director Heaton for keeping multiple spinning plates in the air and a lot of opportunities for the coalition. Director Heaton mentioned some of the efforts that are going on now that the federal government is back at work, it is going to create a lot of movement. We have been busy working through some forest application processes, working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and making sure that they have what they need to make their decisions and move forward. We have been working closely with Jay Johnson and helping do everything necessary to make the project happen. We have been working with DHIP and answering questions on the coalition's side and making sure that the information is clear and available for the decision makers.

Mr. Barton stated that Lori Haslam from the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity has been in contact with us regarding some changes to the opportunity zones that may be placed along the railway. There will be more discussion about that just to facilitate the economic growth and opportunities that an infrastructure element, like the railway, would present to our counties. Mr. Barton thanked the board and stated he would be happy to answer any questions at this time.

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

**10. Communications Report (Melissa Cano)**

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Melissa Cano for the communications report. Ms. Cano thanked Chairman Lytle and stated that we did talk briefly about the rebranding project. Ms. Cano has come up with several ideas for the rebranding project and will be presenting some options to the board on what that could look like and how we can rebrand. Ms. Cano stated that since the December meeting is usually full, then maybe talk about a breakout session or will send it to the board for their review. Ms. Cano welcomed Sanpete County and that she is excited about the rebranding and communications relaunch that comes with the addition.

Ms. Cano stated that the second update is for the railway. There have been a lot of positive messages that she wanted to share. The local community throughout Utah are sharing that they are excited and sincerely cannot wait for the project to get started, as well as what this looks like

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for jobs and economic opportunity. Those messages have been coming through our facebook page and email.

Chairman Lytle 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 Lytle moved on to the next agenda item.

### **11. 2026 Annual Budget Review and Approval (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)**

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Melanie Sasser to review the tentative 2026 Annual Budget at this time.

There was no discussion at this time. Chairman Lytle called for a motion to approve the tentative 2026 Annual Budget.

#### **Motion to approve the tentative 2026 Annual Budget, by Commissioner Miles and seconded by Commissioner Jensen.**

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote to approve the tentative 2026 Annual Budget. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Lytle moved on to the next agenda item.

### **12. Fraud Risk Assessment (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)**

Chairman Lytle turned time over to Ms. Sasser for the Fraud Risk Assessment review. Ms. Sasser stated that the Fraud Risk Assessment is like a self assessment that the state requires every year. It covers internal controls for separation of duties and we scored 365 out of 395, which puts us at a very low risk level. We are considered low risk so the items where you see improvements do not apply to this organization since we do not have purchasing and we only have one asset.

Chairman Lytle then called for any additional questions for Ms. Sasser. Chairman Lytle then moved on to the next agenda item.

### **13. Presentation, Approval and Adoption of Monthly Expenses (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)**

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Melanie Sasser for the presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses. Ms. Sasser presented the financial information and requested payment approval today. She went on to request payment approval amounting to \$73,301.98. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today, she is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items.

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**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL**  
November 13, 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

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor		Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	3269	53548	3,806.07	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	3270	42	283.94	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	1025	1,040.00	Contact Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	3271	652617	1,760.10	Insurance Premiums - November	General Grant
Health Equity	3272	jtjf2at	2.10	HBA Administration Fees - November	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3273	0139307	7,546.57	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3273	0139327	4,200.00	Program Management and Engineering - Jensen	
Kunz PC	3274	346	7,183.20	Unit Pump Station Planning	General Grant
Kunz PC	3275	347	2,525.00	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Venable LLP (1/2 invoice)	3276	2871301	10,000.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant -318 Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Stratton Law Firm PLLC	3277	160	1,680.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Services - PIB	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant -318 Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	3278	0139329	16,100.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	3278	0139329	15,700.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Kunz PC	3279	348	225.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal Services	Daggett County
Jones & DeMille	3280	0139328	1,250.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
<b>Total Payment Approval</b>			<b>\$ 73,301.98</b>		

**Motion to approve expenses for October in the amount of \$73,301.98 was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Haddock.**

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

Ms. Sasser then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by October 31, 2025. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for October. 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 October by project as well. She then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

**Motion to approve the financial report for October was made by Commissioner Miles seconded by Commissioner Norton.**

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

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

Chairman Lytle thanked Ms. Sasser and Smuin, Rich & Marsing for their work efforts and moved to the closed session.

### **14. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency). (Jack Lytle)**

Chairman Lytle then requested a motion for a closed session.

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

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 11:41 AM.

#### 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         No    excused

San Juan Board Member      Yea         No    excused

Sevier Board Member      Yea X      No   

Uintah Board Member      Yea X      No   

Chairman Lytle 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 Miles with a second by Commissioner Jensen.**

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 12:58 PM.

#### SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

**15. Motion to Adjourn** (Jack Lytle)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miles at 1:00 PM.

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A motion to approve the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Stubbs, seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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



Co-Chair: Greg Miles



Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

(COALITION SEAL)

ATTEST:

  
Stacey Herpel