

GARFIELD COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 24, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.

Present: Commissioner Leland Pollock, Commissioner Jerry Taylor, Commissioner David Tebbs, Attorney Barry Huntington, Clerk Camille Moore and Deputy Clerk Kylee Orton.

Commissioner Pollock called the meeting to order and Barry Huntington led the pledge of allegiance.

Commissioner Taylor made a MOTION to adopt the agenda with the addition of the Yard Family. Seconded by Commissioner Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting: Pollock - Aye, Taylor - Aye, Tebbs - Aye

Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the November 10th meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion carried. Voting: Pollock - Aye, Taylor - Aye, Tebbs - Aye

BOARD REPORTS

Commissioner Tebbs has an upcoming meeting with Reg Johnson, DNR. He attended UCIP's annual meeting, during which he ran for re-election to the UCIP Board. He also attended the USACCC conference last week in Salt Lake. There was discussion regarding the property tax deferral process. He additionally recognized the county's celebration of James A. Garfield's birthday.

Commissioner Taylor attended an evening event at the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City. He discussed the Escalante Visitor Center and mentioned ongoing conversations about bike paths along Highway 12 and 89. He spent several days at the USACCC conference and noted that he is no longer serving as the USAC Chairman. He addressed the Garfield Memorial Clinic and the conflicts with Medicare Advantage Plans.

Commissioner Pollock recognized Commissioner Taylor for his excellence as USACCC Chairman. He addressed ongoing issues related to the Medicare Advantage Plan at the Garfield Memorial Clinic, noting that a meeting with the hospital is being planned to further discuss the matter. He toured a trail in the Escalante District with the new District Ranger, Jennifer Thomas. He also reported on the Wildland Fire Bill currently under discussion.

PUBLIC WORK BUSINESS

Dave Dodds, Public Works Director, reported he went out with Brett Stewart to replace vandalized signs on the Flint Trail. He provided an update on the Panguitch Lake Dam construction. He also gave an update on the Cannonville Roadshed.

BRYCE VALLEY ELEMENTARY SIXTH GRADE

Bryce Valley Elementary School requested funding for their sixth-grade trip to Washington, D.C. Commissioner Taylor made a MOTION to approve \$3,000 for the Bryce Valley Elementary sixth-grade. Seconded by Commissioner Tebbs. Motion carried. Voting: Pollock - Aye, Taylor - Aye, Tebbs - Aye

GRAY WOLF DELISTING RESOLUTION

Kaden Figgins, County Planner, presented Resolution 2025-5 Federal Delisting of the Gray Wolf in Utah.

GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH RESOLUTION NO. 2025-5

FEDERAL DELISTING OF THE GRAY WOLF IN UTAH

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF GARFIELD COUNTY, UTAH, SUPPORTING THE FEDERAL DELISTING OF THE GRAY WOLF IN UTAH AND REQUESTING TRANSFER OF MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY TO THE STATE OF UTAH

WHEREAS, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) provides for the listing and delisting of species as threatened or endangered based on the best available scientific and commercial data; and

WHEREAS, the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) has recovered to sustainable population levels in multiple regions of the western United States, including areas bordering Utah, due to successful conservation and management efforts; and

WHEREAS, portions of northern Utah have already been federally delisted, allowing for limited state management under Utah's approved Wolf Management Plan; however, the species remains federally listed as endangered in the remainder of the state; and

WHEREAS, this split-jurisdictional management complicates the ability of the State of Utah and local governments to effectively address conflicts that arise between wolves, livestock, and wildlife populations, including big game species that are vital to local economies and hunting opportunities; and

WHEREAS, neighboring states such as Colorado are actively reintroducing wolves near the Utah border, increasing the likelihood of wolf dispersal into southern and central Utah and the resulting management challenges; and

WHEREAS, Utah has developed a comprehensive and science-based Utah Wolf Management Plan, which provides for balanced conservation of wolf populations while also protecting livestock, wildlife, and the livelihoods of Utah citizens; and

WHEREAS, Utah's long-standing policy, supported by the Governor, Legislature, and Utah Association of Counties, is to advocate for full federal delisting of the gray wolf throughout the state and to return management authority to the State of Utah under state law; and

WHEREAS, local governments, agricultural producers, and wildlife managers in Garfield County are directly affected by federal management decisions that do not adequately account for local conditions or impacts; and

WHEREAS, the Garfield County Commission finds it in the best interest of the County, its citizens, and the State of Utah that wolf management be conducted by the State, which is better equipped to balance ecological goals with agricultural and wildlife management needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County, Utah, that the County hereby expresses its full support for the federal delisting of the gray wolf throughout the State of Utah and requests that management authority be transferred from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the State of Utah.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Garfield County urges the Utah Governor's Office, the Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Utah congressional delegation to continue actively pursuing and supporting the complete delisting and transfer of management authority to the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Utah, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, the Utah Association of Counties, and the members of Utah's congressional delegation.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County, Utah.

Garfield County Commission, Chair

Leland F. Pollock

ATTEST:

Garfield County Auditor/Clerk

Camille A. Moore

Commissioner Tebbs made a MOTION to approve Resolution 2025-5 Delisting of the Gray Wolf. Seconded by Commissioner Taylor. Motion carried. Voting: Pollock - Aye, Taylor - Aye, Tebbs - Aye

AGENCY REPORTS

Chris Wehrli, Dixie National Forest Ranger, reported firewood permits will now be available for online purchase. There was discussion regarding projects the county and forest are working on together.

YARD FAMILY

Randy Yard discussed the misuse of fuel storage going on in Garfield County.

Commissioner Taylor made a MOTION to enter Executive Session. Seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion carried. Voting: Pollock- Aye, Taylor - Aye

Present: Kaden Figgins and Dave Dodds

AFFIDAVIT REGARDING CLOSED MEETING

STATE OF UTAH)
:ss
COUNTY OF GARFIELD)

The undersigned, as presiding officer of the Board of County Commissioners of Garfield County, State of Utah, after being duly sworn, hereby states, swears and affirms as follows:

1. That on the 24th day of November, 2025, during a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Garfield County, State of Utah, the board, upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds or more of the members present at the meeting for which notice was given pursuant to Section 52-4-6, voted to close the meeting to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual under Subsection 52-4-5 (1)(a)(I), Utah Code Annotated and pending litigation.
2. That a quorum was present.
3. That I do hereby affirm that the sole purpose for closing the meeting was to discuss the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual and pending litigation.

DATED this 24th day of November, 2025.

Commission Chair

NOTARY PUBLIC

Commissioner Taylor made a MOTION to return to the general session. Seconded by Commissioner Pollock. Motion carried. Voting: Pollock - Aye, Taylor - Aye.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

The accounts payable list was reviewed and signed by the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Commission Chair

Clerk/Auditor