



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 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) excused, Dennis Worwood (Emery County), Greg Jensen (Sevier County) virtual, 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, Stacey Herpel, Michael Hawley, Jon Stearmer, Melanie Sasser, Dough Rasmussen, Dan Hawley, Lynn Sitterud, Ron Dunn, Joel Brown, and Mayor Byrd.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Deborah Herron, Candace Powers, Heather Poulsen, John Laursen, Will Lane, Jay Johnson, Ann Harby, Connor Haus, Deeda Seed, Michael Klein, and Steve Rodgers.

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 (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting on December 11, 2025 at 10:05 AM. Chairman Miles recognized everyone in attendance and online. Chairman Miles led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Hearing 2026 Annual Budget (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles called for a motion to enter into the 2026 Annual Budget Public Hearing.

Motion to enter into public hearing for the 2026 Annual Budget, by Commissioner Lytle and seconded by Commissioner Norton.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 10:09 AM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member Yea No excused

Daggett Board Member Yea X No

Duchesne Board Member Yea X No

Emery Board Member Yea No excused

San Juan Board Member Yea X No

Sevier Board Member Yea X No

Uintah Board Member Yea X No

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Doug Rasmussen to review the 2026 Annual Budget.

Mr. Rasmussen went over the line items of the 2026 Annual Budget and asked if there were any questions or comments.

Chairman Miles turned this time over to Melissa Cano to open up public comments at this time.

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.

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There was a virtual public comment by Ann Harby and 2 email comments by Stan Holmes and Lionel Trepasier.

Motion to exit into public hearing for the 2026 Annual Budget, by Commissioner Lytle and seconded by Commissioner Stubbs.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 10:26 AM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member	Yea <u> </u>	No <u> </u> excused
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> </u>	No <u> </u> excused
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 thanked everyone for their comments. Chairman Miles then moved to the next item on the agenda.

3. Public Comment (Greg Miles)

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 Miles 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 Miles thanked Ms. Cano. Chairman Miles then moved to the next item on the agenda.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes for November 13, 2025 (Greg Miles)

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

Motion to approve the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Stubbs and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

5. January 8, 2026 Meeting Time Discussion (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Director Heaton. Director Heaton stated that in the last meeting, there was a conflict for the scheduled January 8 meeting with the Community Impact Board because of New Year's Day being a holiday. They have decided to change theirs to the second Thursday, which is the same as ours. To accommodate both meetings, they are moving their location to Carbon County Commission Chambers, which has made us change our meeting time to 1:00 pm. We want to make sure that we will have a quorum at 1:00 pm on January 8th. Some members are traveling and unable to attend. We are looking for a verbal commitment to show that we will have a quorum.

With discussion from the board members, it has been confirmed that there will be a quorum for this time frame.

Director Heaton stated that the February 12th meeting will be at the state Capitol at 1 pm and the room will be announced when those reservations are confirmed.

Chairman Miles thanked the commissioners and moved to the next agenda item.

6. Approval Resolution 2025-12B 2026 Meeting Schedule (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles asked the board if there were any comments or questions on the 2026 Meeting Schedule.

Motion to approve the November 13, 2025 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Stubbs and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

7. 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.

Commissioner Stubbs presented a resolution that San Juan County had approved to protect the lands in their county after floods and fires. This resolution finds partners to help restore and maintain the lands after any type of natural disaster.

Chairman Miles thanked Commissioner Stubbs and commented that this is a great resolution and he is interested in seeing Seven County adopt a similar resolution and something that should be brought up to state legislation is an exemption on the logging industry. Each county should adopt a similar resolution if they would like, but Seven County should adopt something similar and asked Mr. Steamer if he could write up a similar resolution for Seven County.

Commissioner Lytle stated that when the public lands are not maintained or destroyed it affects the watershed. Commissioner Lytle requested that at one of the retreat meetings we look at our mission and definitions, because watersheds are infrastructure. When it comes to our use of water and everything else, this is a strong connecting point when it comes to municipal water supplies. Watersheds are a key part of infrastructure.

The board members had discussion and questions regarding the adoption of San Juan's Resolution and how that looks for each county.

Commissioner Lytle made a motion to move forward to create a similar resolution urging the U.S. Forest Service to use all means available to restore and maintain healthy forest conditions.

Chairman Miles asked if there was any further discussion or questions at this time.

Motion to move forward to create a similar resolution urging the U.S. Forest Service to use all means available to restore and maintain healthy forest conditions, by Commissioner Lytle and seconded by Commissioner Norton.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes as amended. **The motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

There were no further project updates at this time.

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

8. Executive Director Report (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles 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.

Director Heaton stated that things are moving forward with the railway project. We are working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Forest Service at the local level, they have been cooperative and collaborative.

Director Heaton stated that the Greendale Project is moving forward, despite the fact that there is not much snow this year. Developers have been a little busy gearing up for the ski season and if the weather continues this way, maybe that will free up some time for our private partners.

There has been some movement with the opportunity zones. It is an economic development tool through the federal government, in collaboration with the state. They have tightened the eligibility to focus on distressed areas and allow states to redesignate zones beginning July 1, 2026, with new designations taking effect in January. The updated framework provides long term certainty, clear rules, and stronger incentives. This makes investments more feasible and better connecting capital with genuine economic units. Laurie Haslem with the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity has been on top of this. We also appreciate Mr. Brown with Senator Lee's office. They both have been working with us to make sure that we are aware of these opportunities and that we are tying them into our projects.

Director Heaton stated that the last thing he wanted to address is the throughput capacity and the deep water port. We appreciate the public's comment on this project. Those funds have been designated by the state legislature specifically for this project. We are trying to use these funds for the purpose it was designated for. We have submitted an application to the Community Impact Board to start this process. We have been working with SERDA to create a collaborative application, also bringing in the R6 association of governments. The direction that we have been receiving from the Community Impact Board and the Governor's Office is that we should work together on this. The intent is to create a steering committee to help govern the funds that would consist of the Executive Directors of those three entities and the chairperson of each of those boards and a seventh seat appointed by the governor. We hope to have a resolution by the January 8th meeting.

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

Chairman Miles thanked Director Heaton for the update and all the work he has been doing. Chairman Miles asked if there were any questions about the Executive Directors Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

9. 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 report includes funding coordination applications, supporting documents to support all those efforts, and budget tracking.

Mr. Barton stated that he agreed with Commissioner Lytle that watersheds are infrastructure. Those watersheds are an important function of drinking water systems, irrigation, soil stability, keeping our rivers and creeks clean, and keeping recreation going. The fires that the coalition counties have had this past season has shined a light on the importance of the watersheds.

Mr Barton turned the time over to Dan Hawley to review the San Juan County Water Project.

Mr. Hawley stated that the study that was completed last year sparked an interest to pursue emergency funding instead of waiting for settlement funding, so this project is going to be funded and we can start doing some well drilling.

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

10. 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 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 this is an important moment because we are adding Sanpete County as a full member and will no longer be Seven County. We are going to look at it from a holistic view of what this means for the Coalition's future. Each respective county's membership strengths, geographical impact and how do we make sure we are collaborative and crossing county and state boundaries to ensure that our goal remains the same to enhance quality of life for Utah Communities. So the proposal that was sent highlights some criteria for the new name.

Ms. Cano reviewed the criteria to follow when choosing a new name.

- The first criteria point is considering 2 paths. Do we preserve the SCIC acronym or do we adopt a new name? There is value in both directions. Preserving the SCIC acronym has some brand equity, but as we started to converse about it more, do people actually know SCIC or do they know it more shortly as the Coalition or Seven County? How much weight does SCIC as a stand alone have versus making sure we keep the coalition tied

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into the brand name. The other path is about removing the SCIC acronym and adopting a new name. What makes that viable is maybe we can use some word choices that better align with our future. Maybe it is more along the Utah Rural or Utah Regional.

- The second criteria point is to make sure that we reflect our multi county representation for future growth. Who is to say that Eight County doesn't turn to Ten County one day, so we do not want to tie ourselves to a number, but rather really take a look at the bigger geographical picture as well as what it means for future support for expansion.
- The third criteria point is emphasizing infrastructure and economic development. The words infrastructure and coalition have become an interchangeable part of our board, and when people refer to us they bring up Infrastructure Coalition. As we look through some of these recommendations, how do we tie in some of that same meaning behind the history of the coalition to make sure that our name clearly signals our mission to our partners.
- The fourth criteria point is representing Utah and its regional identity. We talked about Eastern, Central, and Rural Utah. How do we ensure that our name is grounded in Utah's geography and values as well as the industries we serve.
- The fifth criteria point is about conveying collaboration, unity and a shared purpose. There are a few name options that specifically go into the shared corridor or shared region as part of the name. Do we want to make sure that we use that shared terminology or can we select some words that tie in the interlocal of what the coalition stands for with its infrastructure projects.
- The sixth criteria point is that we want our name to be clear, professional and public facing. So the final name and the path we choose really needs to show our transparency and purpose.

Ms. Cano stated that option A preserves the SCIC acronym and option B considers a completely new name. The time will be handed over to Director Heaton, Mr. Barton and the board for discussion.

Board discussion about the options and reviewing several names.

Mr. Stearmer stated that once the board has decided on a new name, they will take this name back to their county commissioners and have a vote before the name can be officially changed per the interlocal agreement.

Chairman Miles requested a motion to approve the name of this organization be changed to Rural County Infrastructure Coalition.

Motion to approve the organization's name be changed to Rural County Infrastructure Coalition, by Commissioner Norton and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote.

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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 thanked Ms. Cano for their update and all the work she has been doing. Chairman Miles asked if there were any questions about the Communications Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

11. Approval Resolution 2025-12A 2026 Annual Budget (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

Chairman Miles requested a motion to approve the 2026 Annual Budget Resolution 2025-12A

Motion to approve the tentative 2026 Annual Budget, by Commissioner Lytle and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

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

Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

12. 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 \$96,292.51. 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.

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SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL

December 11, 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	3281	53773	3,092.96	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	3282	43	1,090.08	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	1125	2,251.07	Contract Labor	General Grant
Utah Counties Indemnity Pool	ACH	3368	5,023.00	Annual Member Contribution - 2026	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	3283	674651	1,760.10	Insurance Premiums - December	General Grant
Health Equity	3284	g4yt6c1	2.10	HSA Administration Fees - December	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3285	0139515	3,650.60	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	3285	0139514	5,250.00	Program Management and Engineering - Jensen Unit Pump Station Planning	General Grant
Kunz PC	3286	375	12,877.80	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	3286	362	75.00	General - Legal Service - EPA Ozone Matters	General Grant
Kunz PC	3287	360	894.80	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant -S1B Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	2388	2881135	10,000.00	Uinta Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant -S1B Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2389	0139531	15,700.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	3289	0139531	14,800.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	3289	0139531	8,300.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - BIA Draft ROD Prep - Phase 2
Kunz PC	3290	361	275.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal Services	Daggett County
Jones & DeMille	3291	0139513	11,250.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
Total Payment Approval			\$ 96,292.51		

Motion to approve expenses for November in the amount of \$96,292.51 was made by Commissioner Worwood seconded by Commissioner Stubbs.

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

Mr. Rasmussen then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by November 30, 2025. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for November. 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. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for November was made by Commissioner Lytle seconded by Commissioner Norton.

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

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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.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Rasmussen 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). (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles then requested a motion for a closed session.

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

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 12:22 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

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 Norton with a second by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 12:31 PM.

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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

15. Motion to Adjourn (Greg Miles)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Norton at 12:32 PM.

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A motion to approve the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon Board Member Yea _____ No _____

Daggett Board Member Yea _____ No _____

Duchesne Board Member Yea _____ No _____

Emery Board Member Yea _____ No _____

San Juan Board Member Yea _____ No _____

Sevier Board Member Yea _____ No _____

Uintah Board Member Yea _____ No _____

Co-Chair: Greg Miles

Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

(COALITION SEAL)

ATTEST:

Stacey Herpel