



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

**Grand County Commission Chambers
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom
Moab, Utah**

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MINUTES 3 February 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on February 3rd, 2026. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Melodie McCandless, Commission Vice-Chair Bill Winfield and Commissioners Trish Hedin, Mary McGann, Brian Martinez, Jacques Hadler, and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek and County Attorney Stephen Stocks.

Chair McCandless Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 4:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens to be Heard

Moab City Councilperson and Airport Board member Jason Taylor expressed his support for the Essential Air Service study being considered in action item 9.

Mary O'Brien demanded greater transparency related to the Kem C Gardner Institute study on Arches Timed Entry.

Pete Gross argued that Grand County's current form of government has led to decreased transparency for Commissioner lobbying at the state level.

Allyson Mathis stated that no clear conclusions can be drawn regarding the economic impact of the Arches Timed Entry system, and she disagrees with what she perceives as some Commissioner's efforts to inappropriately jump to conclusions. Mathis suggested that the Kem C. Gardner Institute study was hired in order to confirm conclusions already drawn.

Presentations

USU – Home and Community Department Update

USU-Extension Assistant Professor Maria Velasco gave a three-year report on activities and impacts of her programming in Grand County, which includes increases in 4-H enrollment, career exploration, nutrition and wellness, prevention, the CUBE program and community health worker programming and capacity building.

Moab Tourism Advisory Board Updates (POSTPONED)

Department Reports

Family Support Center

FSC Director Julie Nieman introduced the FSC mission and vision and gave an overview of services offered as one of 11 state licensed family support center and crisis respite nurseries in Utah. The Grand County FSC is funded through County general funds, the Family Support Centers of Utah, and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Grand ITS & Emergency Response Update (POSTPONED)

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

2. Commission member disclosures and future considerations

Commissioner McCurdy disclosed that his wife is an employee at the Grand County Sheriff's Office. Commissioner McGann disclosed that her son is an employee at the Sand Flats Recreation Area and her husband is a Commissioner of the Moab Valley Fire District.

Commissioner Hadler requested a Spanish Valley Drive Multiuse Path Subcommittee meeting.

Commissioner Martinez solicited talking points or other related requests for the upcoming National Association of Counties (NACO) Conference that he will be attending.

3. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January 20, 2025**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Ratification of Local Consent Alcohol Permit for Building Man**
- D. Ratification of Local Consent Alcohol Permit for Run the Rocks Event**
- E. Ratification of RCG Grant Sub-Contracts**
- F. Letter of Support - Steward Moab 2026 OHVR Grant**
- G. Letter of Support - Steward Moab 2026 RTP Grant**
- H. Letter of Support for A Planning and Design Grant Application from BUILD Grant Program for Improvements to The Sand Flats Road**
- I. Letter of Support for Improving Public Safety Radio Coverage Over Southeast Utah**
- J. Letter Requesting Extension of Agreement All American Wash**
- K. Contract Agreement with SET Engineering - Buena Vista/Arroyo Crossing Detention Basin #2 Design**
- L. Audit Engagement Letter 2025 - Richey May**
- M. Grand County Sand Flats Toilet Service Contract 2026 With Ruff N Tuff Services LLC**
- N. Purchase Of 2 New Snowmobiles For GCSAR**
- O. Spanish Valley Storm Drain Master Plan Update - Horrocks Engineering On-Call Task**

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the Chair

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

5. Capital Improvements Project List (Finance Director Chantel Lindsay)

Presentation

Lindsay explained the difference between the Pre-Authorized Procurement List in action item number 4, which is pre-authorization of items already in the budget, and this list which represents a long-range capital improvements list. Sheriff Wiggins explained that the purchase of two vehicles outright (not leased) were planned for detectives and were intended to be kept for 7-10 years. Wiggins stated that the vehicle lease line in the SO budget was reduced to accommodate this expenditure. Roads Supervisor Cody McKinney gave an overview of Capital projects that would be funded out of Funds 18 (Stormwater) and 35 (Roads Capital Projects). Facilities Supervisor Shawn Fugit highlighted three projects proposed to be placed on the pre-authorized procurement list, including Star Hall HVAC, Grand Center HVAC, and Courthouse Front Step Replacement. OSTA Fire suppression system also proposed to be moved to the pre-authorized procurement list.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to move the following items from the Capital Improvement Project List to the Chair pre-authorized procurement list: Jail video surveillance server, Star Hall and Grand Center HVAC systems, Courthouse front steps, and OSTA fire suppression system

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy stressed that failure of the fire suppression system at OSTA would result in closure of the facility. Clerk/Auditor Woytek specified that there was an estimated 3 million dollars in the Capital Projects General Fund Reserve Balance. Commissioner Winfield pointed out that the Capital Projects Fund existed for the purpose of addressing capital needs like those being considered.

Motion passes 6-1, Martinez opposed

6 p.m. Citizens to be Heard

AJ Throgmorton expressed enthusiasm for the Spanish Valley Multi Use Path project. Throgmorton added that the ACE plan is not expressly against the Arches Timed Entry system but rather just serves to identify all potential alternatives in the interest of improving the overall visitor experience. Throgmorton expressed gratitude to Commissioners for the travel that they make in support of County efforts, and what he considers to be well-justified travel budgets.

6:08 p.m. Public Hearing

**1. Public hearing and consideration of adoption of proposed impact fee facilities plans and proposed impact fee ordinance/impact fee enactment, and to adopt, enact, or modify:
impact fee facilities plan, written impact fee analyses and an impact fee enactment for transportation, Sheriff, and Parks**

Contracted consultant Cody Deeter of EFG Consulting gave an overview of the Impact Fee Analysis prepared by his firm, which will be considered for adoption at the next Commission meeting. Topics discussed were Impact Fee purpose, Impact Fee methodology, Demand Analysis, Level of Service, Existing Capacity, New Facilities for Transportation, New Facilities for the Sheriff's Office, New Parks Facilities, and steps needed for final adoption of an updated plan, which includes the present hearing.

Chair McCandless opened the public hearing

Commissioner Winfield asked for an update on restricted Impact Fees held by Grand County, to date. Commissioner McCurdy expressed concern regarding the proposed increases and the associated burden on new building.

(No public comment at this time)

Chair McCandless left the public hearing open until 5pm on Wednesday, February 11th

4. Chair Pre-Authorized Procurement List (Finance Director Chantel Lindsay)

Presentation

On June 1, 2021, the Commission approved Resolution 3278, repealing and replacing the Grand County Purchasing Policy. The new policy allows the Commission to create a Chair Pre-Authorized Capital Procurement List and a list of Capital Procurements, which the Commission must approve. Capital Procurements are any purchases, including contracts that are over \$5,000. Items on the Chair Pre-Authorized Capital Procurement list still require the Chair to sign. However, these purchases do not need to go back to the Commission for approval, nor do they need to be ratified. The purpose is to streamline purchasing and eliminate the redundancy of the budget approval and approval again at the time of purchase.

A few important things to note are that items on the list will still require the Purchasing Agent's review to ensure they are within budget and that solicitation requirements have been met. Also, the Chair may require purchases on the approved list to go back to the Commission at their discretion. Following the 2026 budget approval, Department Heads and Elected Officials were asked to submit purchases over \$5,000 that they'd like the Commission to consider for the Chair Pre-Authorization List. The proposed 2026 list is attached. Five additional items were added, per discussion on action item 5.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Chair Pre-Authorized procurement list as presented and amended during this meeting, with inclusion of items from the Capital Improvements Project List, as discussed

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion

Discussion was made regarding the need for the Moab Office of Tourism to seek Commission approval for all large advertising expenditures. Clarification given that the marketing plan approved with Madden green lights all such expenditures made by the contractor contained within that plan.

Motion passes 7-0

5. Capital Improvements Project List (Finance Director Chantel Lindsay)

Presentation (none at this time)

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the Long-Range Capital Plan as presented and amended

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Commissioner Martinez requested an update on the availability of TRT Rec/Film/Convention funds that he feels could be used to support the remodel of the Moab Information Center restroom facility. Clerk/Auditor Woytek stated that he was working on that update and would provide the information as soon as possible.

Motion passes 7-0

6. Purchase of GCSO Jail video surveillance server (IT Director Matt Cenicerros)

Presentation

This purchase is under state contract, and abides by our purchasing policy- using a cooperative purchase contract with our existing vendor. Specifics regarding the design, make or and other details are protected as critical infrastructure and are allowed to be publicly disclosed. However, all hardware and support abide by best practices regarding NDAA and compliant supply chains. Utah contract MA3072

(No action taken at this time, addressed in action item 6)

7. Job Description Revision & Status Change of Dispatch Supervisor (Personnel Services Director Tess Barger)

Presentation

This position was reclassified from non-exempt to exempt entering into 2026. Due to chain of command and job duties revisions, we are requesting this position's status be changed back to non-exempt (hourly) as opposed to exempt (salary).

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the revised Dispatch Supervisor job description as presented, and reclassify this position's status from exempt to non-exempt.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Attorney Stocks noted that several other positions may be coming to the Commission to request non-exempt status. Barger explained that Personnel Services did thoroughly receive feedback for any changes to exempt status that were made.

Motion passes 7-0

8. Position Backfill Request (POSTPONED)

9. EAS/AEAS Study to Determine Air Service at Canyonlands Regional Field (Steve Gleason, Airport Director, Melisa Jeffers, Economic Development)

Presentation

Gleason explained how and why Grand County's historic Essential Air Service (EAS), was replaced with Alternative Essential Air Service (AEAS) in 2023. The contract/performance period is about to expire for the AEAS, and Grand County seeks to engage a consultant to navigate potential contracts and research and secure frequent and reliable flights that provide a level of service that appropriately provides for both visitors and locals. Up to \$50,000 in Rural County Grant funding was deemed allowable by the Economic Opportunity Advisory Board for this expenditure.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the approve the recommendation of the Grand County Economic Opportunity Advisory Board to allocate up to \$50,000 from Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity Rural County Grant for professional services to support negotiation and procurement of an expanded essential air service contract for Canyonlands Regional Airport in Fall 2026

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

10. CIB loan closing airport ARFF truck (Commission Administrator Mark Tyner)

Presentation

Currently contemplated contract involves a 25% up-front payment in Capital Projects Funds, roughly \$266,000, which would result in roughly \$40,000 in savings by delaying the issuance and interest related to bonding. The \$266,000 "loan" would be repaid to the County through FAA funding.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the expenditure from the Capital Projects fund for the closing costs of the CIB loan for the airport rescue and firefighting vehicle (25% down payment)

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Gleason explained that since Grand County is on the FAA approved funding list, he saw it as highly unlikely that the FAA funding would not return to the County.

Motion passes 7-0

11. Creation of an Airport Development Subcommittee (Chair McCandless)

Presentation

Grand County residents, businesses, and leadership have long recognized the need for consistent, reliable, expanded air service at Canyonlands Regional Airport. With a new director, significant FAA and County-funded infrastructure projects in process, and an Essential Air Service (EAS) contract expiring in Fall 2026, this is the time for the county to maximize federal investments, secure reliable air service, and position the airport as a key asset in our long-term development.

Currently, the commission makes decisions about airport infrastructure, service, funding, and sequencing without a unified strategic framework or long-term goals to guide our overall success. Key considerations before the commission include:

1. Major capital projects requiring coordination between FAA grant timelines, infrastructure, sequencing, and long-term service goals.
2. EAS contract negotiations that will shape air service reliability and connectivity for years to come.

The need to align airport development with broader economic development and infrastructure objectives, as well as regional connectivity. Airport expansion is too important to Grand County's future to address through one-off, piecemeal decisions without a coordinated understanding of how infrastructure, services, economic, and community development fit together. Establishing a commission task force would allow the commission to:

1. Provide strategic direction and feedback for the airport expansion and board during this critical period.
2. Coordinate across infrastructure development, EAS negotiations, and long-term air service planning.
3. Ensure the legislative body has complete information and a strategic context for evaluating proposals and decisions.
4. Align airport investments with our 2030 General Plan, economic development, and infrastructure plans.
5. Position Grand County to maximize federal, state, and other partnerships and relationships

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the creation of an airport development subcommittee and appoint Commissioners McCandless, Winfield and McGann

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Motion passes 7-0

12. Creation of an Outdoor Recreation Subcommittee (Chair McCandless)

Presentation

Grand County's world-class recreation assets, including hiking, mountain biking, motorized trails, climbing, and river access, are key drivers of our regional economy and community wellbeing. With coordinated direction, intentional planning, development, stewardship, and marketing, we have an opportunity to strengthen and expand our leadership as a model gateway community in the outdoor recreation economy.

Currently, the commission is making disconnected decisions on grant application support, partnerships, trails, and programs, without a strategic framework to guide overall success. Some recent examples include:

1. Similar Grant support requests for potentially overlapping resources that could be enhanced with collaboration, shared goals, and an overarching strategic plan with objectives.
2. A valuable regional project that demonstrates the need for high-level coordination on infrastructure, connectivity, accessibility, funding, and how it fits into a long-term regional vision.
3. New and expanded investment in motorized recreation funding, a critical sector for Grand County, requires a holistic plan to ensure it fits together with the overall funding, planning, and management strategy.

Outdoor recreation is too important to Grand County's future to leave to chance or allow it to operate in isolated silos without a coordinated understanding of the big picture for commission decision-making. Establishing a commission subcommittee would allow the commission to:

1. Assist in developing a unified strategic vision for outdoor recreation in Grand County.
2. Coordinate across Motorized Recreation, GCATT, Roads, MOT, Economic Development, and external partners.
3. Provide the legislative body with complete information and a strategic context for evaluating requests, proposals, and decisions.
4. Eliminate conflicts and duplication before they happen.
5. Position Grand County for state and federal resources, legislative support, and recognition

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to create an outdoor recreation subcommittee and appoint Commissioners Hadler and Martinez

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion

Multiple Commissioners advocated for the inclusion of Commission Hedin on this subcommittee, and others explained why they felt that would not be conducive to a productive subcommittee.

Substitute motion by Commissioner McGann to create an outdoor recreation subcommittee and appoint Commissioners Hadler, Martinez, and Hedin

Substitute motion seconded by Commission Hadler

Substitute motion passes 5-2, Winfield and McCandless opposed

13. MOU with State of Utah DTS regarding Starlink enterprise deployment (POSTPONED)

14. Gardner Institute Amendment One to Contract (Commissioner Winfield)

Presentation

Commissioner Winfield explained why a time extension to the contract was being contemplated at this time, at the request of the contractor, with no change in the scope of work.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve amendment one to contract with the Kem C. Gardner Institute, with the stipulation that drafts and comments be made available to all Commissioners, that the point of contact regarding the project be the Commission Administration office, and that the final report be made public.

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Substitute motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve amendment one to contract with the Kem C. Gardner Institute granting the time extension for completion to April 30th, 2026

Substitute motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner Martinez stated that pulling this item from the consent agenda only served to increase divisive discourse. McGann stated that she is abstaining not because she is opposed to the study in principle, but that she feels the proposed amendments in the original motion were reasonable.

Motion passes 4-2, Hadler and Hedin opposed, McGann abstaining

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor