



## Bear River Association of Governments

Box Elder County | Cache County | Rich County

170 N Main, Logan, UT 84321 • 35 E 100 S, Brigham City, UT 84302

Phone: 435.752.7242 • Fax: 435.752.6962 • Web: [brag.utah.gov](http://brag.utah.gov)

Approved 4.15.26

Motion: Commissioner Lee Perry; 2nd: Commissioner Tyler Vincent

Approved Unanimously

## GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, March 4, 2026 –12:30 PM

Rescheduled from 2.18.26

Brigham City Community Center - 24 N 300 W in Brigham City

In Person Meeting with Zoom Option

### MINUTES

#### **Attendees GB 03.04.26**

#### **Welcome, Introductions and Approve Minutes**

#### **Welcome New Governing Board Members: Mayor Bret Rohde & Council Member Mike Johnson**

The meeting, led by Chair Commissioner Lee Perry, took place at the Brigham City Senior Services/Community Center. Commissioner Perry expressed gratitude to Amanda Keller, the Director, for hosting the board at the excellent community facility. Amanda then provided some highlights about the center, and BRAG Aging Director Angela Hauptman presented [this handout](#) detailing the services offered.

The board also participated in the monthly birthday lunch, which occurs on the first Wednesday of each month. Each individual celebrating a birthday that month is honored with a complimentary meal coupon and a flower. Amanda stated that in one month alone, 52 new people came to the center. Typically 3,500 meals on wheels are delivered by volunteer drivers each month. With over 3,000 meals served in the congregate setting monthly. Some local mortuaries and other businesses sponsor a lunch and pay for all meals that day. The center is continually adding more group activities for patrons to participate in.

The [Minutes](#) of December 17, 2025 BRAG Governing Board meeting were approved with a **MOTION** by Commissioner Vincent, a second by Council Member Sandi Goodlander. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

#### **Annual External Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2025**

Andy Hernandez, CPA from Jones Simkins

The audit is conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. A digital copy of the [Annual External Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2025](#) was linked to the agenda for board members to review prior to the meeting and Hernandez provided physical copies at the meeting.

Hernandez explained the process of the audit as randomly picking an item, such as a check, and following it through its process to determine compliance in all areas. There are four reports in the **BRAG Financial**

**Statements Report** that Andy highlighted:

- Page 1 - Independent Auditor's Report
- Page 6 - Management's Discussion and Analysis
- Page 63 - Internal Control over Financial Reporting
- One material weakness was found that dealt with the journal entry of adding two additional entities to the BRAG books. BRAG is sole owner of both Tremonton Village and Box Elder Commons and has been for some time. BRAG leadership brought up the concern with the auditors and desired to get the entities added moving forward.



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- Page 70 of the audit report shows the letter from BRAG with the corrective action plan. Note: These two LLC are run by Sellers Group which manages the day to day operations of the entities, but BRAG owns the properties.
- Page 8 -a new column added called “Business Type Activities” for items related to the added LLC entities.
- Page 65 - Compliance for Each Major Federal Program
  - The auditors selected 60 transactions in each program and all were found in compliance.

Overall, BRAG External Audit is a clean audit with no findings on the financials or compliance regulations, just the stated material weakness. Hernandez, suggested board members read the first 10 pages of the audit to get a good comparative statement. The remaining pages are more focused on individual programs.

A **MOTION** to accept the **External Audit Report by Jones Simkins for Fiscal Year 2025** as presented was made by Mayor Larry Jacobsen and seconded by Commissioner Boyd Bingham. There was no discussion and the Motion to Accept passed unanimously.

### Election of Officers for 2026

#### [BRAG Governing Board Members 2026](#)

Following the past practice and custom of rotating the chairmanship from county to county and elevating the vice chair to chair, Mayor Mike Leonhardt will serve as governing board chair. The floor was opened for nominations for a vice chair from Cache County. Mayor Larry Jacobsen was nominated to serve as vice chair. Council Member Sandi Goodlander made a **MOTION** to approve the above stated new chair and vice chair for 2026. It was seconded by Council Member David Erickson and passed unanimously.

### Approve Meeting Schedule for 2026

A **MOTION** to approve the [Meeting Schedule for 2026](#) was made by Commissioner Vincent and seconded by Commissioner Bingham. The motion passed unanimously.

### Approve BRAG Ancillary Boards

#### [List with links to 2026 Boards](#)

Lucas Martin, BRAG Executive Director reviewed the various BRAG Program Advisory Boards Memberships. The goal is to have a member of the BRAG Governing Board on each board to offer input and also report back to the governing board. During the discussion, Commissioner Lee Perry volunteered to be part of both the Bear River Heritage Area Council and the Bear River Regional Access and Mobility Council.

Shawn Milne, BRAG Community & Economic Development Director, said that he would bring recommendations of new board members for the Economic Development Department Board to a future governing board meeting to make the mix of the EDD board 50% elected officials and 50% representatives of specific industries.

A **MOTION** was made to approve the BRAG Ancillary Boards with the modifications discussed. They acknowledged that these boards may also make any changes to membership as needed by the specific department. Mayor Vincent made the motion and Council Member Goodlander seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Stephanie Gittins, CDBG/CIB Specialist, had several items of business for the governing board to approve. [CDBG Delegation Letter](#) - “We the Governing Board of the Bear River Association of Governments (“BRAG”) hereby authorize the Executive Director of BRAG to sign all documents relating to the Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) program. This delegated authority shall remain in effect until rescinded by the Governing



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Board or until further instructions are given.” A **MOTION** to allow the delegated authority to BRAG Executive Director was made by Mayor Jacobsen and seconded by Council Member Erickson and passed unanimously.

**CDBG Application Status Update** - There are only two applications that have not been denied or withdrawn.

1. Suzy's Senior Companionship Services: request of \$35,000 vehicle purchase for providing transportation services for seniors and folks with disabilities.
2. Box Elder County- RNG Water- \$195,000 request for well improvement and water lines in Riverside and North Garland.

**CDBG Rating and Ranking** this table shows the results. A **MOTION** to approve the Rating and Ranking of the above two projects was made by Commissioner Vincent and seconded by Council Member Goodlander and passed unanimously.

**Annual Action Plan** - Stephanie asked the board for discussion on any of the updates to the 2026 CDBG Annual Action Plan before posting for public hearing. No suggestions were made. A **MOTION** to approve the plan “pending” public comment at the hearing, was made by Council Member Goodlander and seconded by Commissioner Vincent and passed unanimously.

### **BRAG Service Delivery Update**

Lucas Martin, BRAG Executive Director, presented the [BRAG Services At A Glance 2025 Report](#). This report offers a detailed summary of the individual services delivered by all BRAG departments throughout 2025. Lucas explained that this information is vital for grant applications and also helps to illustrate the scope and interdepartmental activities of BRAG's services. He concluded by thanking the BRAG staff for their significant effort in providing these great services to so many clients over the past year. A question was asked about the reduction in funding due to the federal government shutdown this year. It was noted that many program service outcomes will look different next year. An example is Continuum of Care (COC) , which will only be receiving 30% of the normal funding.

### **Annual Point in Time (PIT) Homeless Count Discussion**

Lucas shared the [Press Release from the Bear River Local Homeless Council BRLHC on the Point in Time Count Findings](#). Quick summary: On the nights of January 28-30, 2026

#### **Unsheltered Homelessness:**

Cache - 35 deduplicated surveys and 29 deduplicated observations

Box Elder - 17 surveys completed.

#### **Sheltered Homelessness:**

- The William A. Burnard Warming Center sheltered **39** individuals on-site and **2** in hotels.
- The Bear River Association of Governments reported **18** using hotel vouchers
- CAPSA sheltered 19 households totaling **68 individuals** — including 47 children.
- New Hope Crisis Center sheltered **2 individuals** onsite and **1** in a hotel placement.

**Children and Youth Homelessness** - not included in PIT count, but in the press release.

BRAG START Director, Stephanie Carver, reported that despite an overall statewide decrease in the Point-in-Time (PIT) count for Utah, the actual number of people experiencing homelessness is likely much higher than reported. She attributed the lower engagement or response to the survey this year to a possible fear among some experiencing homelessness regarding the current political circumstances.



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### Box Elder County Happenings

#### Box Elder County Officials

- The new overpass over the railroad on Forest Street is almost complete.
- A large new facility is being constructed by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints just south of the Walmart. This building will accommodate a new Deseret Industries, a Distribution Center, and space for technology-related functions.
- Many communities in the county are planning celebrations around America 250.
  - Including a countywide one on June 27 at the County Fairgrounds.

### Reports from Congressional Staff

#### Nathan Jackson - Senator Mike Lee's Office

- Nathan explained that the senate is considering a "talking filibuster" approach for the Save America Act. This act would mandate strict federal voter registration rules, requiring documentary proof of U.S. citizenship. He said the proposed filibuster rule is highly favorable, as it would limit senators to two speeches each, allowing the bill to pass with a simple majority vote instead of the current 60-vote requirement.
- Senator Lee is working on Federal Probes into Sports Streaming Costs.
- He noted the ongoing Iran Conflict, mentioning that numerous Americans are attempting to leave the region.
- He also stated that a new War Powers Act is currently being developed.

#### Val Potter - Senator John Curtis's Office

- He echoed Nathan Jackson's report.
- He said the War Powers Resolution probably won't pass, but that it might be for the best. With the current Iran situation, it is a tough time to consider such a policy.
- He brought up the partial government shutdown's effect on the Department of Homeland Security, specifically mentioning the impacts on the TSA and Border Patrol.
- Senator Curtis recently visited some offices in Utah and hopes to continue connections at least by zoom.
- The Fix the Forest Act and the Social Media Algorithm Accountability Act are on hold a little now due to more pressing issues around the war.
- On a positive note, Senator Curtis' office is actively involved in strengthening water and sewer infrastructure in Utah and Rich County Sewer is included in the funding efforts.

#### Lisa Roskelley - Congressman Blake Moore's Office

- She also stated she could say the same as the other congressional reports. - Iran, etc.
- The Community Funding Project requests are currently open for a short window. Contact her or Congressman Moore's website for more information. Typically 15 projects are chosen and this year 20 will be selected.
  - Participants can apply to both the Congressman and the Senator's project funds.



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### Other Business

Sherry Stevens - Utah Rural Outreach for Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity

- GOEO has issued reports from 2022 to current documenting where the 12 million dollars in funding went.
- She is working with a steering committee in Nibley City.
- And also with Shawn Milne to close out Rich County Grants in May.

Next meeting April 15 at CAPSA in Logan - Lunch at 12:30 PM followed by the meeting at 1:00 PM

Before adjourning, Commissioner Vincent shared his appreciation for the Brigham City Community Center, emphasizing its importance to the community, particularly the elderly, and the positive role it plays in their lives. He was appreciative of the opportunity to hold the meeting in the center's building and to interact with the people there.

A **MOTION** to Adjourn the meeting at 2:05 pm was made by Commissioner Vincent, and seconded by Commissioner Bingham.