



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

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MINUTES 7 April 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on April 7th, 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, Jacques Hadler, Mary McGann, Brian Martinez 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 4:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens to be Heard

Jim Webster spoke regarding the now cancelled Arches Timed Entry system, referencing 2022 University of Utah research which illustrated the traffic challenges and lines associated with the park before the system was implemented, and showed strong public support for a reservation system.

Carey Dabney, read a written statement from her husband Walt Dabney, which spoke to concerns regarding overcrowding and traffic at Arches National Park which are presumed to return and worsen in the absence of the Timed Entry system. Dabney explained why they felt that a shuttle system would not present a simple fix, for a variety of reasons.

Dave Bodner spoke in opposition to the proposed ACE alternative plan to address overcrowding at Arches National Park, stating that a shuttle system would not be an easy solution, as he feels is being proposed.

Mary O'Brien recounted events which she feels show a lack of transparency regarding the study contracted by the County with the Kem C. Gardner Institute.

Crystal Muzik spoke regarding what she saw as positive and negative changes in Moab since she has been living outside the County.

Pete Gross echoed sentiments expressed by others in support of the Arches Timed Entry system.

Dan Kent spoke regarding what he viewed as overwhelming negative pressure by developers and improperly managed overcrowding at Arches National Park.

Marsha Marshall spoke in opposition to the proposed Steen rezone.

Lauralee Green spoke in opposition to the proposed Steen rezone, stating that future technology could allow for significant development in a place that might now be considered unbuildable.

Presentations

Presentation On the History and Process of the UMTRA Site Future Plan – POSTPONED

Cloud Seeding Updates (Jared Smith, Rainmaker Technologies) – **TABLED**

Department Reports

Spanish Valley Drive Path Progress Update (GCATT Director Maddie Logowitz and County Engineer Sean Yates)

Logowitz gave an update on the project, its management structure, project goals, benefits and current right-of-way acquisition effort, with four properties close to being presented to the commission for consideration, and a 1.1-million-dollar funding gap which will require a letter of commitment to UDOT from Grand County.

Clarification given was that the 1.1 million funding figure would allow the path to be completed up to Resource Boulevard. Yates stated that the right-of-way acquisition cost would not be exorbitant.

Commissioner McCurdy inquired about the interest accrued from the \$2.7 million received in 2021 from UDOT for the project.

Martinez requested clarification regarding this designation of UDOT funding for the project as 'hotspot' funding. Yates stated that breaking ground on the project in April of 2027 would be feasible given the current timeline. Clarification also given that modifying the length of the path would not affect the grant agreement.

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

3. 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 works at Sand Flats Recreation Area.

McGann requested as a future consideration to consider policies and procedures guiding Commissioner representation on boards.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 17th, 2026**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Ratification of Local Consent for an Alcohol License at the VOCO Hotel**
- D. Ratification of Local Consent for Hotel Liquor License - Springhill Suites**
- E. Ratification of Local Consent for Special Event Beer License Cruise Moab 2026**
- F. Ratification of MOU for Senior Companion Program**
- G. Opioid Settlement Agreement**

- H. **Consulting Party Status with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) For Q3 2026 Oil and Gas Leases Sale in Grand County**
- I. **Approval of Purchase of EOC Furniture for Emergency Management**
- J. **Approval of Moab Office of Tourism's MOUs for Special Events Marketing Grants**
- K. **Crescent Junction Rehabilitation and Armor Coat Project**
- L. **Consideration of Active Transportation Cooperative Agreement with Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT)**

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Consent Agenda, as read by the Chair

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-1, Winfield absent

5. Appointment of Midterm Vacancy on The Grand County EMS SSD Board (Commissioner McCandless)

Presentation

Five applications received for the vacancy. The EMS board recommends Cassidy Davis. Chair McCandless explained the currently proposed recommendation, largely due to the candidates' finance background.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve Cassidy Davis to the midterm vacancy on the Grand County EMS SSD to the remainder of the term ending 12/31/2026

Motion seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

6. Consideration of Mud Springs Phase 2 Downhill Trail Design (Associate Commission Administration Quinn Hall)

Presentation

Grand County, in collaboration with San Juan County and BLM Moab Field Office, was awarded \$1,106,800 in grant funding on February 21, 2025 through the Outdoor Recreation Initiative to complete environmental surveys, trail design, and trail construction for Phase 2 of the Mud Springs Trail System. To date, there is \$887,792 in grant funds remaining for this project. Project partners have requested the Division of Outdoor Recreation that these funds be applied to road improvements that will improve the safety of network access from Highway 191. This modification will benefit individual trail users and make this area viable for events, such as NICA (National Interscholastic Cycling Association) races.

In order to keep Phase 2 trail development progressing, \$4,950 is needed to contract specialty downhill gravity trail design services this spring. This layout is needed to progress with the federally-required NEPA process.

Currently, the Mud Springs Trail System has 7 miles of beginner and intermediate-level singletrack trails. Additions to Phase 1 that will be completed this fall will add approximately 3 miles of intermediate and advanced-level trails. Phase 2 trails, which are still in concept and design phase, are estimated to add 10-15 additional miles of beginner, intermediate, and advanced-level trails, including the first downhill gravity trails in the area.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to authorize Mud Springs Phase 2 downhill trail design with a fiscal impact to be taken from the Commission Discretionary budget line

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion

Clarification given that the trail system will reopen on April 16 after the scheduled winter closure.

Motion passes 6-1, Hadler absent

Presentations

Cloud Seeding Updates (Jared Smith, Rainmaker Technologies)

Update given regarding the novel cloud seeding approach undertaken, overview of the science and technology behind the approach, and the effort to achieve demonstrable results from this approach. Clarification given that funding would be sought for this effort for 2027 as well, with an in-person report on final results to come this year.

7. Emergency purchase request for overhead door motors at the OSTA (OSTA Director Angie Book)

Presentation

During the vendor show portion of Jeep Safari, one of the arena's roll-up door's motors quit working. This door motor breaking caused a large inconvenience for several of the vendors, along with frustrations felt by many. The vendor show was able to proceed, but vendors felt a shift in foot traffic. I also had to coordinate alternate safety mitigation plans with local emergency services, and Red Rock 4-Wheeler volunteers in case of an emergency. If this was an event with livestock, we would have had to cancel the event at that moment.

The indoor arena has three large overhead roll-up doors. Two of these doors have original motors from the 1990s. One door lacks a motor, and the only way it stays open is with clamps (This is a low-traffic door, mostly for livestock, on the east side of the arena). These motors have been worked on and been on a band-aid maintenance system for a while. I propose that these motors be replaced in my presentation along with my 2026 budget requests. I understand right now we currently only have one motor that is broken, but I would like to submit this emergency repair for all three to be replaced. It is just a matter of time before the other motor fails, and the third door's need to utilize clamps is not an ideal safety mechanism.

In 2025, Arch Walker, LLC. quoted me \$10,000 for the three motors; he did mention a 20% increase that occurred at the beginning of the year. Archie was going to send me a revised quote by the end of the day. I also have a verbal estimate from A&E Electric from 2025 of \$2,500 to wire in the electricity for the east door. My original budget request was for \$12,500; I expect the updated quote to be around \$15,000. Final emergency cost and quotes will be supplied as soon as they are received.

If approved, this will be an unbudgeted expense that will not be drawn from any existing budgeted expense lines

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the emergency purchase and repair of the Old Spanish Trail Arena overhead door motors with Arch Walker Enterprises, LLC. In the amount of \$10,875.82 from the Capital Improvements fund

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

8. Consideration Of an Award for the Grand County Land Use Code Update RFP (Planning and Zoning Director Andrew Jackson)

Presentation

Jackson explained the solicitation process for proposals for the contemplated project. 3 proposals received and scored by a staff committee and then by the Planning Commission in a special meeting. Sunrise Engineering recommended by both groups, including by staff.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to award the bid to rewrite Grand County's Land Use and Development Management Code to Sunrise Engineering and hereby give them notice to proceed

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin stressed the importance for this effort to be done in a thorough and thoughtful process and not rushed, so that it may be useful for many years to come. Commissioner Winfield expressed surprise that Commissioner Hedin would suggest slowing down this process when he previously perceived that this project was earmarked to be fast tracked.

Commissioner Martinez expressed satisfaction with the current approach of fast tracking and staying on time in implementing this effort. Martinez added some comments made by Planning Commissioners regarding the proposals received. Commissioner McGann suggested the potential need to introduce moratoriums prior to implementation of a rewrite so that there would not be a rush to take land use actions prior to changes being implemented. Jackson expressed that such action would not be necessary.

Motion passes 7-0

9. Airport Entrance Road FAA Grant Application (Airport Director Steven Gleason)

Presentation

The Entry Road to the Canyonlands Regional Airport is our front door. It is in terrible condition and this Grant became available BIL or AIG grant funding. This is an opportunity to accomplish a much-needed project while Grand County still qualifies for 5% Local Match Program, which will likely not be available in the future. The project will overlay the Airport Entrance from the highway to the Terminal to the County SRE/ARFF building. In some areas, the sub base has failed to the point 18 inches of settlement.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Entrance Road Grant Application and authorize the chair to sign all related documents for the completion of the project for a fiscal impact of \$57,895, which constitutes a local 5% match

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Confirmation given that this was not contemplated during the budget season but was included in the Capital Improvement List. Commissioner Hadler expressed concern with how much money was being poured into the Airport, given the needs across the County, and stated that he was only at this time willing to support one of the Airport projects currently being proposed at this meeting. Gleason stressed that the available funding for this project should be considered relatively scarce and he considered this opportunity extraordinary.

Commissioner Martinez stated that safety and infrastructure projects such as this were expected by taxpayers and residents with the resources that the County has at its disposal, and suggested that such expenditures should be a priority for the County, rather than a focus on supporting what he termed overinflated staffing. Commissioner McGann states that it was inappropriate to suggest that County staffing was overinflated without proper objective analysis. McGann added that she also could only support one Airport project at this time, given the needs across the County.

Commissioner Winfield stated that projects such as these supported a vital economic driver at the County which would be needed to support the County going into the future.

Chair McCandless expressed that the newly formed Airport subcommittee would help prevent such surprise expenses from coming up moving forward. McCandless added that this road would also support the effort to expand new private hangars at the Airport facility. Commissioner Hedin expressed that the County needed to establish a holistic approach to capital improvement needs.

Motion passes 4-3, Hadler, Hedin, and McGann opposed

10. Pavement Preservation Grant Application (Airport Director Steven Gleason)

Presentation

In order to extend the life of the apron pavement, Lochner, in conjunction with FAA policy, is recommending a crack seal and seal coat on pavement at least once every 3 to 5 years. This pavement has not been preserved in well over 5 years. By performing this maintenance, we can extend the life of the Apron and prevent much more costly rebuilding.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Pavement Preservation Grant Application, with a total associated cost to Grand County not to exceed \$50,000, and all other needed signatures to complete this project

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion

Gleason explained that this potential grant was a part of a windfall of available money from the FAA that would not be guaranteed in the future, and thus important that the County took advantage of. Gleason offered additional clarification on the scope and need of the project.

Motion passes 5-1, Hedin opposed, McGann abstaining

6:07 p.m. Citizens to be Heard

Judy Powers stressed to the Commission that manufactured homes would present several difficulties to the community if relied upon as a solution to affordable housing.

6:08 p.m. Public Hearings

1. Steen Rezone from Range and Grazing to Resort Commercial (Andrew Jackson, Planning and Zoning Director)

Presentation

The Steen family is requesting a zoning map amendment for their property, changing it from Range and Grazing to Resort Commercial, to support various outdoor recreation uses, both primary and secondary, in line with the Grand County Land Use Code. The Zone Change aligns with the Future Land Use Plan for Spanish Valley, adopted on December 17, 2024, which involved Repealing and Replacing Section 6: Land Use of the 2030 General Plan. The applicant appeared before the Planning Commission on April 14, 2025, to present their plans for the property. The Planning Commission provided extensive feedback, including a request for more details on issues such as: 1. Annexation Status, 2. Infrastructure and Access, 3. Use Intent and Scope, 4. Food Truck, 5. OHV-Accessible Event Space, 6. Future Land Use Plan Alignment, and 7. Environmental and Scenic Protection. The applicant responded to the feedback in a letter sent on July 22, 2025, addressing comments from both the Planning Commission and the public. A response letter from Ms. Steen was included in the agenda packet.

At the planning commission meeting, it was suggested that the applicant obtain a letter from the city regarding the city's interest in annexation. State law does not require a property to be annexed into the city unless the property owner wants to be annexed (except if the property owner owns less than 50% of the property in an annexation petition). Grand County code states:

9.1.11 Required Municipal Notice of Urban Development. Proposed residential development with more than 15 dwelling units and an average density greater than one residential unit per acre, or any proposed commercial development with a cost projection of greater than \$750,000, that is in the municipality's proposed annexation area, is subject to municipal review.

The Steen request does not include any residential dwellings, and the improvements are less than \$750,000, so it is not subject to municipal review. Additionally, a request was made for a more recent title report. Ms. Steen has submitted a clean preliminary title report dated March 31st, 2026.

The applicant appeared before the Planning Commission on March 23rd, 2026, for a public hearing regarding the zone change from Range and Grazing to Resort Commercial. After public comment, Commissioner Randy Day made the following motion: Having considered the staff report and recommendation, public comments, testimony, the Future Land Use Map for Spanish Valley, and the Land Use Code, and finding that the Minnie Lee Ventures/Steen application for Zoning Map Amendment complies with the Grand County, Utah, Future Land Use Plan for Spanish Valley, I recommend approval of the Ordinance to the County Commission. Commissioner Megan Schafer seconded the motion. The motion passed with five in favor and two opposed.

Staff recommends that the County Commission open a public comment period to receive comments regarding the proposed ordinance.

The applicants, Mark and Ashley Steen, requested approval of the zone change request because they feel that it recognizes both the longstanding and current commercial use of their property and will allow for future legal commercial activities on this land. Explanation given that The Ravens Room Zipline business has been operating on the property since 2013 and is a well-established, highly rated tourist attraction and a unique outdoor experience in Moab. Raven's Rim wants to add the following attractions: a guided repel course, a recreational climbing zone, a food truck and shaded rest area for Slick Rock Bike Trail and Hells Revenge users, an OHV accessible event space, and additional zipline courses. The applicants explained that the geology and topography of the land makes building the entitled amount of housing units under the zone change impossible. The applicant expressed that the action was a way to align zoning with reality given the volume of outdoor recreation users that pass through the proposed area, often in violation of existing easement agreements.

Chair McCandless opened the public hearing

Tory Hill spoke in opposition to the proposed action, stating that disruptive development is possible at the site in question and citing adverse impacts to night sky views.

Bob O'Brien expressed that the Resort Special zone would be much more appropriate as a rezone request, and that developers would find a way to build if higher densities were granted.

Amy Johnson spoke in opposition to the proposed action, stating that there was too great a risk for technological advances allowing future development.

Andrea Brand, speaking on behalf of the Sandflats Stewardship Committee, stated that this committee voted to recommend denial of the proposed action, citing conflicts with and impacts to the robust established recreation area and associated economies.

Audrey Graham spoke in opposition to the proposed action, stating that the proposed rezone was too broad. Graham suggested that if the land owner wants a retirement fund, the community could get together and buy the land at a fair price with its current zoning.

Everett Hildenbrandt spoke in opposition to the proposed action, citing other more palatable options the owners could use to effect desired changes.

Jordan Lister spoke in opposition to the proposed action, citing a preference for subdividing and spot zoning to the wholesale zone change. Lister added that a food truck on the trail would cheapen the user experience and negatively impact Moab's greatest shared resource which is accessible, undeveloped, uninhabited red rock wilderness.

Emily Campbell addressed ambiguities that exist in the Grand County Land Use Code and General Plan, especially as it relates to protecting affordable workforce housing opportunities. Campbell spoke in advocacy for better process and please more predictable outcomes for both sides of this market.

Mary O'Brien stated that the proposed uses could be achieved with the Resort Special zoning, and that the Resort Commercial would invite large scale development even if it appears difficult.

Christy Williams spoke in opposition to the proposed action, citing concern with its timing and scope and the community's long held and widespread opposition to development on the rim.

Sena Hauer spoke in opposition to the proposed action, citing concern with instability in the Grand County Planning and Zoning Department.

McKay Edwards, representing Moab Springs Ranch Resort, spoke in opposition to the proposed action, citing a lack of sufficient communication with nearby landowners, and adding that the proposed action came with other procedural defects which were referenced during Planning Commission discussion.

Judy Powers spoke in opposition to the proposed action, expressing disagreement with zone changes prior to adoption of an updated land use code.

Pete Gross spoke in opposition to the proposed action, stating that not all nearby property owners were appropriately notified, even though Planning Commission discussion suggested that they had been.

Celia Alario spoke in opposition to the proposed action, advocating for a concept called solidarity tourism as a way of minimizing negative impacts and maximizing positive impacts, and also for land use philosophies that prioritize the preservation of water for growing food.

Crystal Muzik spoke in opposition to the proposed action, stating that a full-scale zone change was uncalled for and that the land use code update should be completed before considering such an action.

Christina Sloan referenced an available land use tool that could apply in a situation such as this, called a campus overlay, which would allow for a more tailored approach that would accommodate the uses sought by the landowner.

Dan Kent spoke in opposition to the proposed action, pointing to what he viewed as widespread community opposition.

Mike Duncan spoke in opposition to the proposed action, citing concerns with potential future groundwater contamination and availability.

Chair McCandless left the public hearing open until Wednesday, April 15th at 5 p.m.

2. Mick Vallantine Request for a Zoning Text Amendment to all Outfitting Services in the Light Industrial Zone (Andrew Jackson, Planning and Zoning Director)

Presentation

Mick Vallantine is requesting that the County Planning Commission recommend to the County Commission that the Grand County Land Use Code be amended to permit outfitter, guide service, and facility (excluding ATV outfitter, guide service, and rental businesses) as a permitted or conditional use in the Light Industrial Zone. Mr. Vallantine currently owns a Light Industrial property. The property is located at 825 W Kane Creek Blvd and is used for an E-Bike Business.

Staff Recommendation: The Grand County Land Use Code currently identifies various land uses permitted in the Light Industrial Zone. Such uses include: upper-story residential, county or state shop/storage yard, major utilities, building materials sales and yard, repair services, RV and boat storage, and manufacturing and production. The Grand County Land Use Code also allows outfitters, guide services, and facilities (non-ATV outfitters, guide services, and rental businesses) as a conditional use in the Multi-Family Residential Zone and several commercial zones. The staff finds that the request is consistent with other permitted uses in the Light Industrial Zone.

Planning Commission Motion: Commissioner Randy Day made the following motion: Having considered the staff report and recommendation, public comments, testimony, and the Land Use Code, and finding that the Mick Vallantine request for outfitters, guide services, and facilities (non-ATV outfitters, guide services, and rental businesses is similar to other permitted uses in the Light Industrial Zone, I recommend approval of the Ordinance to the County Commission.

The applicant gave a brief description of his desire to run an off roading outfitter business from the property.

Chair McCandless opened the public hearing

Judy Powers expressed concern with the County's procedure and whether such land use action was appropriate given road access to the parcel in question and general lack of light industrial zoned property.

The applicant, Mick Vallantine, clarified that he is seeking to legally operate a relatively low impact outfitting business operation on a parcel that with its current zoning could entertain much high impact business types. The applicant added that he is not looking to change the zone but rather add an allowable use within the existing zone in the use table.

Chair McCandless left the public hearing open until Wednesday, April 15th at 5 p.m.

11. Position Backfill Requests (Personnel Services Director Tess Barger)

Presentation

Barger gave an overview of two separate backfill requests, Deputy Assessor and Chief Deputy Treasurer, both resulting from recent vacancies of already existing positions which were within budget.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve backfill of the Deputy Assessor position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 5-0, McGann and Winfield absent

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve backfill of the Chief Deputy Treasurer position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

12. An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 616 (2020) OHV Speed Limits (Chair McCandless)

Presentation

The off-highway vehicle speed limit signs are misleading, suggesting OHV traffic is allowed on streets, and street-legal machines following OHV speed limits are creating traffic jams. This is causing issues for law enforcement. The City of Moab is in the process of removing the signs within city limits. Commissioner Hadler stated that to his knowledge Moab City was discussing taking the signs down but hadn't yet done so or approved that action. Hadler added that no other action has done more to reduce noise than the lower speed limits enacted by this ordinance, it is one of the few tools available to do so, and that he feels the County should wait for action by the City before approving this item.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the ordinance repealing Ordinance 616, OHV Speed Limits, in its entirety

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin suggested postponement in order to ensure a unified approach with Moab City, agreed that slow moving lines of OHVs were a nuisance, and suggested that the County could work with State legislatures to revisit the idea of a curfew. Commissioner McGann agreed with the idea of postponement for alignment with the City, shared the concern with users who interpret the regulation as allowing non-street legal off highway vehicles, and agreed that lower speed limits did have a positive impact on noise issues. Commissioner Martinez stated that there was confusion about what actions were taking place, clarifying his understanding that current speed limit regulations in place were not permissible by state law, but that lower speed limits for all vehicles were potentially being considered in Moab City. Commissioner Winfield confirmed this, while also adding that Moab City was perhaps considering a 20 mph speed limit for all vehicles.

Motion passes 4-3, Hadler, McGann, and Hedin opposed

13.ACE Plan Arches Shuttle Working Group (Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

The Grand County Commission voted to adopt the ACE Alternative as Grand County's formal proposal, sharing ideas for a future Arches National Park Visitor Use Management Plan. The plan was presented to State and Federal officials, who received it positively and found it well aligned with gateway community collaboration priorities.

Park Superintendent Lena Pace proposed a meeting on March 13 with the Commission Chair and the Mayor of Moab to discuss shuttle options. With the Mayor unable to attend, the Commission Chair invited the Vice Chair and Commissioner Martinez, who authored the ACE Alternative, to meet with Arches staff. The meeting's outcome was for Grand County to prepare a shuttle proposal to present to the NPS.

To achieve this, the County is formalizing a Shuttle Working Group. The effectiveness of this group at this early and foundational stage relies on a cohesive, collaborative start. Once a viable framework is established, the group intends to expand its membership to incorporate a broader range of perspectives and community feedback.

Commissioner Martinez outlined the current process working with VIA shuttle service to offer a pilot shuttle system as soon as May of 2026 at a cost not to exceed 3 million dollars.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to form the Arches National Park shuttle system working group consisting of Commission Chair McCandless, Vice Chair Winfield, and Commissioner Martinez

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin expressed concerns with recent proposals in the federal budget to slash spending for the National Park Service and whether adding proposed costs like a shuttle system are realistic. Hedin added that Grand County should be careful to stay in its lane as it relates to park management, and that such subcommittees should represent diversity in perspective amongst participating Commissioners.

Commissioner Hadler asked about the source of funding for the 3 million dollar proposed cost of the shuttle pilot. Hadler stated that a shuttle option would be a great option looking to the future but not without the appropriate preparation.

Commissioner Winfield stated that he feels it was the County's responsibility to be an active partner in developing solutions for Park management and that challenging solutions are often considered unrealistic. Winfield added that obstructionist perspectives and excuses will not help to create solutions and that openness is badly needed to achieve such solutions.

Commissioner McGann stated that a working study group would not do any harm, but that she feels that a shuttle system is simply not feasible, with many of those with experience in park management telling her that it would take years to establish a successful system.

Commissioner Martinez stated that the park superintendent requested a proposal for a shuttle system, and that he has been involved since 2012 in conversation regarding management alternatives at Arches NP and the current plan reflects that experience. Martinez mused that local progressives seemed to be opposed to clean air, public transportation, bike paths, and trail connectivity, which are concepts that the ACE plan seeks to achieve.

Motion passes 4-3, Hedin, Hadler, and McGann opposed

Discussion Items

14. Kem C. Gardner Discussion

Commissioner Hadler raised concerns with process in development of the report, with a draft currently available to Commissioners, stating that exclusive preliminary access given to Commission Winfield raises concerns regarding the report's integrity.

Commissioner Winfield stated that there was no intentional wrongdoing if any contract were signed by him without Attorney approval. Winfield added that the study's idea was Commissioner Martinez's and that he would naturally be involved in the way that he was. Commissioner Hedin did acknowledge that she used a non-County email to communicate with the study's authors, and added that supplying the author's with only particular studies served to manipulate its results.

Commissioner Martinez gave an overview of the timeline for the development of the concept of the study. Commissioner McGann stated that she felt that there was intentional withholding that served to keep certain Commissioners in the dark regarding the Study. Commissioner Winfield disagreed that there was withholding and took issue with the suggestion that there was.

15. County Communications with the Media

Chair McCandless stated that she is working on policies and procedures which will serve to guide communication that Commissioners engage in with media outlets, and which shall align with the adopted policies and current priorities of the commission majority, be grounded in verifiable facts and serve to inform and educate residents while supporting healthy civic discourse. Such communications will not require prior commission approval and are the responsibility of administrative staff prepared as needed in collaboration with the commission administrator to ensure consistency with the county's governance direction and policy commitments. Staff exercising this authority will do so in administrative capacity, giving effect to adopted policy rather than making or interpreting policy independently. A draft will be completed for future Commission review and considered for approval in an upcoming Commission meeting.

Commissioners offered their general reports, as presented in the agenda packet.

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Melodie J. McCandless

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

FILE NAME 4.7.2026 REG GCC MINUTES approved - 4/21/26, 4:37 PM.pdf

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00:11:34 UTC

Activity



dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov **sent** a signature request to:

- Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)
- Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

2026/04/21
22:38:02 UTC



Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

2026/04/21
23:08:02 UTC



Signed by Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)

2026/04/22
00:11:34 UTC



This document has been signed by all signers and is **complete**

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