



County Economic Opportunity Board

April 16, 2026

3:30 p.m.

<47 South Main, Council Chambers (3rd floor)>

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Welcome & Roll Call

Chairman John Perez called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Roll call was taken showing: Bill Cobabe, Grantsville City; Kathleen VonHatten, Lake Point; Stephanie Bagwell, Tooele County Association of Realtors; John Perez, Tooele City; and Tyson Hamilton (online).

Also in attendance was Ryan Englund, Better City; Rachelle Custer, Tooele County; Stephanie Eastburn, Tooele County.

2. Meeting Minutes

A. Minutes from the March 26, 2026 meeting

MOTION AND VOTE

Attachments

1. MARCH 26, 2026 CEO BOARD MEETING MINUTES_DRAFT.PDF

Motion to approve the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes by Kathleen VonHatten. 2nd by Stephanie Bagwell. All in favor.

3. Grants

A. FY2027 Rural County Grant Discussion

Discussion on the proposed allocation of funds for next year's \$200k grant application.

Ryan Englund gave an overview of the Rural County Grant. It will open around July 1st and will close in the middle or end of August. This is the one where we get \$200,000 as long as we make a good application. We submitted a good report. Rachelle Custer stated we need to start thinking of what projects the board would like to spend the funding on. Ryan stated right now these are things we've used it for: Better City contract, Tooele Tech, Small Business Grants, and Placer AI. Rachelle stated that were paying USU, but that is paid off. Rachelle stated this year's funding went to the Better City contract at \$5,700 per month, Tooele Tech is \$20,000, the Placer AI cost, and the rest went into the Small Business Grants. The Tooele Tech portion helps fund the SBDC (Small Business Development Center).

Kathleen asked if there are any other needs. Rachelle stated there is an Economic Development Plan, if there's any interest in looking at the strategic plans in there. We could look at funding an update to that since so much has changed. It's been 5 or 6 years since it's been updated. Kathleen asked if any of the strategies from the plan have been used. Rachelle stated the Small Business Grant program and the need to promote the motorized sports both came out of the plan. Ryan has worked a lot on that with Tourism. The Secret Shopper came out of that as well. The Wendover Airport had a water wing study funded and is starting to

work toward design. Once the study is done, they may ask for more funding. They originally asked for the plan and we did fund that.

Ryan stated this is \$200,000 and there is no match.

B. FY2027 Rural Communities Opportunity Grant Discussion

Discussion of potential projects to apply for the \$100k - \$600k grant (with \$400k match).

Ryan stated all counties except for Salt Lake can apply for this one. It requires a match and is highly competitive. They had about \$35 million in requests and only about \$2 million to award. John stated Tooele City will apply again for the infrastructure for Tooele City Business Park.

Rachelle stated we haven't identified anything county-wide to apply for this grant for. Therefore, there isn't a county match available. We can start looking for something to apply for and request the match in next year's budget, but this year's budget does not have it. Ryan stated the application opens in September and doesn't close until mid-October, so we have time. Rachelle stated we would have to know by August if we need to include that in our budget request for next year. Stephanie Bagwell asked about the Air Races coming to the Wendover Airport. Ryan stated they chose somewhere else.

Rachelle stated this grant is for anything to build or retain business. Bill stated we need to get some ideas together and come back. Is this just for the county? Rachelle stated it is county-wide. Anybody can apply for this - counties, service districts, etc. Bill asked about projects in town that would benefit businesses. Rachelle stated it has to be for new business or business expansion or retention. Bill stated we may have some sewer infrastructure projects. If the cities apply, does it go through the county? Rachelle stated no, Grantsville City, Tooele City, and Tooele County could all apply. Ryan stated they do limit how much money will go into each county.

4. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Stephanie Bagwell. 2nd by Bill Cobabe. Time of adjournment 4:01 pm.