



RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

April 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Carbon County Commission Chambers (Anchor Location + Electronic)
751 East 100 North
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 712-7622

Board Members Present: Jared Haddock (Carbon County), Dennis Worwood (Emery County) excused, Greg Jensen (Sevier County), Sonja Norton (Uintah County) excused, Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Jack Lytle (Daggett County), and Scott Bartholomew (Sanpete County).

Also in attendance: Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Stacey Herpel, Jon Stearmer, Melanie Sasser, Lynn Sitterud, Dan Hawley, Travis Kyhl, Will Lane, Steve Rodgers, and Deb Herron.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Candace Powers, Heather Poulson, Patrick Lee, Shannon Kang, Lori Haslem, Mike Hawley, John Laursen, and Curtis Wells.

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

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting on April 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Chairman Miles recognized everyone in attendance and online. Chairman Miles led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment (Greg Miles)

Public comment was accepted verbally, during the meeting, telephonically by Zoom, and by electronic written submission at stacey@ruic.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.

Lori Haslem stated that she wanted to announce that she is leaving GOEO as of April 17th. Ms. Halsem accepted a position with Utah Inland Port Authority. She will be over the Black Gold Project in Duchesne County. Ms. Haslem stated that she has appreciated all the collaboration with the coalition and allowing her to be a part of the organization.

Chairman Miles congratulated Ms. Haslem and stated that he looks forward to working closely with her on some of those projects.

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

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 12, 2026 (Greg Miles)

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

Motion to approve the March 12, 2026 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Bartholomew and seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

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

4. Envoy Public Labs Presentation (Patrick Lee)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Director Heaton. Director Heaton thanked the Chairman and introduced Patrick Lee and his colleague Shannon Kang from Envoy Public Labs. They are working on an assignment in conjunction with the Office of Energy Development on nuclear energy. We are pleased to have them join us online.

Mr. Lee thanked Director Heaton and stated that it is a pleasure to come talk to the board today. Mr. Lee shared his presentation with the board and stated that as Director Heaton said, they are working with the Office of Energy Development on the nuclear energy public outreach campaign. Mr. Lee turned the time over to Ms. Kang to talk about who they are at Envoy Public Labs and the work that they are doing on this campaign.

Ms. Kang explained the history of why they were selected. Envoy Public Labs is a consulting firm and they responded to a case request for proposals to run this campaign. Envoy Public Labs specialize in public engagement specifically related to nuclear energy for the federal government and for private developers. They have experience doing this at the DOE federal level in all 50 states as they are pursuing nuclear energy through policy and through communities and at the county level, where they are looking for resources. We help address their questions, do we know enough about the technology to be making the right decisions? Is there still a lot of fear based in the community? How can we address those?

Ms. Kang explained that they brought in technical experts into different communities across the country to give them resources from the national laboratories and from industry partners. We are applying that same approach here in Utah. This campaign is like no other in the country that has put money forth to say we really need to do community engagement and we are really going to do it. Utah has taken the initiative and we are excited to be working with them.

Ms. Kang stated that the Office of Energy Development is the primary and then we are the contractor. We have two other contractors working with us. Love Communications came from the Department of Energy, Office of Nuclear Energy's Comms Department. They understand how to get information out to the general public and do it in a way that is understandable and digestible. We have been working with a local communication firm called Boncom. They are giving us the Utah flavor as we create fact sheets, ads, and social media posts, as well as some history on what has worked in the past and what hasn't. Ms. Kang turned the time back over to Mr. Lee to talk about the campaign and both sides of what they wanted us to do and how we are executing that.

Mr. Lee explained that this campaign is centered around a two-pronged approach. The first part of that is our community events, which is the cornerstone of what we are hoping to do with this campaign and a mandate to do at least one community engagement event in all 29 Utah counties. During these events we want to have the conversations with the local community leaders and officials to understand what the conversations are around nuclear energy in each county, what citizens are asking questions about, what their curiosities are, and create an event that is tailored to those interests and needs. The priority of the campaign is grassroots, focusing on connecting with the community, figuring out what they are interested in or wanting to learn more about, and where some concerns may be. By bringing in different subject matter experts and people who can speak to those concerns to put on a really engaged event. In talking with several counties

already, they have expressed that a town hall, Q & A sessions, open house, or a mix of both is where their interests are for engagement events. This is the main reason we are here today is to continue this conversation about what is the right fit for your county. A big part of that is that we are looking for community partners in each county. We have put together our community grants where we are putting up some money to partner with a local organization to help us with that local specific advice. An organization that can help with where is the best place to hold an event? What is the best date? How can we best promote the event? Who are the right people to talk to and help spread the word? How to tailor the event to the topics that the citizens are most interested in. Is it the different stages of the nuclear fuel cycle? It might be uranium mining or milling, or what does nuclear power and technologies look like? Some communities have an interest in workforce development and what does nuclear look like in terms of jobs and more education.

Mr. Lee explained that the second piece is that we also have mass communications where we are getting support from some of our partners on this initiative. We are putting out a lot of engaging information on a couple of different platforms. We have billboards and social media outlets. We will be running TV ads, as well as ads on Google and YouTube. That is intended to pique the interest of people and drive people to our website where we have built out and are continuing to build out our fact sheets, resource library, FAQ's, and a host of resources for people to learn about nuclear energy. Another important piece of information is that we are looking to partner with local print or radio partners to help promote the events and drive attendance to those in addition to connecting people with the resources that we have.

Mr. Lee stated that is the overview of our campaign and they are happy to answer any questions or provide additional information. Mr. Lee stated that they are excited to continue the conversations with the board and provide any information that may be useful to them.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Lee and his team for their presentation and information today and asked if there were any questions at this time, seeing none he moved to the next agenda item.

5. ICF Cost Increase Request (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Director Heaton to go over the ICF Cost Increase Request. Director Heaton stated that ICF works on behalf of the coalition with the Service Transportation Board to clean up some Endangered Species Act studies. This study is getting close to an end, they are on their final push and should be done by next month. ICF is requesting an additional \$38,070 to finish up the last set of tasks and move the project forward. Director Heaton stated that this does take a motion and he is happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Miles asked if there were any questions about the request and requested a motion to approve the ICF request.

Motion to approve the ICF Cost Increase in the amount of \$38,070, by Commissioner Lytle and seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

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

6. 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 stated that the Lisbon Valley Copper Mine is set to reopen in San Juan County. Commissioner Stubbs stated that building transportation is something that we can look at doing. Commissioner Stubbs stated that she had the opportunity to visit the site and was impressed with all the things that they are doing. She shared the article (linked below) for everyone to review and invited the board to visit and the engineers to look into the possibility of transportation in the Lisbon area.

<https://www.sjrnews.com/san-juan-county-la-sal/lisbon-valley-copper-mine-set-reopen>

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

7. 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 this organization is founded on the principle that we accomplish more when we work together and that the people here in person and online helps us accomplish that. We appreciate your collaboration and cooperation in making a difference in our communities.

Director Heaton stated that Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners have been working with the Forest Service and will begin geotechnical work soon. We are still working to get the final permitting. ICF is nearing completion with the Service Transportation Board. Those are federal entities that we have been working with and the finish line is insight.

Director Heaton stated that Mr. Michel was here yesterday, discussions continue to be that we intend to start construction on the project this calendar year. There are some things that still need to be done, but we are pushing forward in that direction.

Director Heaton stated that another project that we are working on is the Pacific Port Project. The group that is doing the study is Norda Stelo, and they are working with McKenzie Wood. They have been working hard on looking at the commodities that the state has that would fall

under the category of bulk, and they have come to some good results already. We have a visit scheduled in Oakland on Friday, April 24th. That will be a one day trip, we are looking forward to getting boots on the ground in Oakland. At Longview we had some federal officials and tribal officials on the site again. It is very positive and moving forward with their strategy on that site to make sure they can get through all the permitting issues.

Director Heaton stated that the Greendale Project is one we are continuing to work with potential developers on. We have a monthly meeting scheduled with them and we are trying to get them out to the site. We haven't been able to get them out there just yet. We want to make sure we have commission support when that gets scheduled. We will be keeping everyone updated when that happens.

Director Heaton appreciated Commissioner Stubbs, who spent the day with us on Tuesday, as well as the team from Jones and DeMille, in Monticello for the County Commission meetings. This was a great opportunity for us to express appreciation to Dan Hawley and the work he did on the water study and continuing to keep that on the forefront of both county and Navajo Nation leadership. We also discussed a potential rail line in San Juan County and beyond.

Director Heaton stated that due to the ICF contract addendum, we had to take some money out of the contingency fund to cover that. We also have some additional expenses with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Watercress, and Scelero Cactus inventories on the tribal lands. Taking care of those items has exhausted what we had left in the contingency. We are at a point where we will need to go before the Community Impact Board for additional funding. We plan on attending that meeting on June 4th. We have invited Will Lane and Mark Michel with Drexel Hamilton to join us.

Director Heaton appreciated Melanie from Smuin, Rich and Marsing who has been working very hard on the anti-fraud efforts, we are finally making progress there. There have been no reports or phone calls this month.

Director Heaton stated that is all the updates at this time and he is willing to answer any questions.

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.

8. 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 Director Heaton does a great job of highlighting the multiple efforts that are ongoing with the projects. We are grateful to provide the technical side of those projects, understanding the dynamics of implementation, funding, and schedule.

Mr. Barton stated that some highlights from the team in the Basin comes from Dusty Carpenter, who is doing tremendous work on the environmental side with NEPA. She has been helping us through the BIA and the Tribal process. Ms. Carpenter has a great understanding of process and procedure and has done a great job of setting the project up for success as we continue the discussions, the dialogue with the agencies, all of the agencies, and with the tribes.

Mr. Barton stated that the Jensen Water Project, or the Uinta Water Conservancy District, decided to issue an RFQ to move this project forward independently. We just found out this week that our team was chosen to complete that study and the initial work.

Mr. Barton turned the time over to Dan Hawley to talk about San Juan's Projects. Mr. Hawley stated that the success that the coalition had with the San Juan Water Study and the importance of meeting with the commissioners, receiving feedback, and questions from individuals with the tribe were valuable. The technical detail to be able to help them make the decisions now on spending the money and have viable projects that are within the Utah Chapter was a key success.

Mr. Barton stated that the coalition's ongoing involvement would be helpful to those initiatives in San Juan County. The infrastructure-focused group to come in and continue to help bridge some of the divides that occur. We have made great progress and more to come with more conversations continuing.

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

9. Communications Report and Branding (Melissa Cano)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Melissa Cano for the communications report and Branding. Ms. Cano thanked Chairman Lytle and stated that we have finalized the name and now we are going to go over branding and to pick the final logo and what the Commissioners. Ms. Cano stated that we are continuing the conversation from last month, we took a lot of the feedback from last month's discussion from various colors, tones, and designs and have narrowed it down to what we are presenting today.

Ms. Cano shared a PDF with the final draft logos which were created from everyone's feedback over the past month. The top line are the three options that were the most popular or option two,

which is the second line. The reason being was to know that we could use a variation of the logo with a tagline, with the RUIC, based on where we were proposing it, whether that be online, on a piece of paper, as a presentation, etc. So it is just deciding which direction we want to go. We want to move this along, understanding that we may or may not come to a final selection, but we can't really change the website URL and the whole look and feel of any of the collateral until we do move forward with the logo. Ms. Cano then turned the time back over to Chairman Miles for discussion.

Chairman Miles asked the board and everyone in attendance to vote for the top row and the bottom row. It was unanimously agreed that the logos in the top row was the favorite with a vote 8 to 4.

Ms. Cano stated that row one was her preference. The cog can mean engineering, but the cog can also mean inner workings in a community and the lines represent connectivity. When we looked back at our key messaging of what we want the Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition to tie into, it was about connections, community, connecting rural Utah, and being a leader in this infrastructure space. The cog represents infrastructure to her and not just tied to one type of industry. When you look at the second row, it is a little harder to draw the dots. Someone sent a message stating it looks like the Olympics. It is really hard because everyone has a personal preference.

Chairman Miles turned the time over to the board for discussion.

[DISCUSSION]

The board discussed the two options, abbreviated version, taglines, pros and cons, and personal choices with a rationale.

Ms. Cano stated that the consensus is the top center logo would be the primary. The one on the left and the right with the acronym, as well as with the tagline, those are just for specialty items. The RUIC is used when there is more name recognition.. You will notice on the 3rd row, there is that same cog in a circular pattern if you wanted to use it for a seal or have it embroidered or printed onto something.

Chairman Miles inquired about a motion to approve the chosen logo and seal for the coalition.

Motion to approve the second logo on the top row as the primary and the first image on the 3rd row as the seal , by Commissioner Jensen and seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to form a subcommittee to review logos. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition

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.

10. Presentation, Approval and Adoption of Monthly Expenses (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Melanie Sasser for the presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses. Ms. Sasser presented the financial information and requested payment approval today. She went on to request payment approval amounting to \$142,010.34. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today, she is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items.

RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL
April 9, 2026 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
Keith Heaton - Payroll	Direct Deposit	04/27/2026-07/06/2026	49,923.45	Payroll/ Administration	General Grant

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
VOID	3501				
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	ACH	54695	4,007.50	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	ACH	47	954.24	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0326	2,157.03	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	ACH	763316	1,843.08	Insurance Premiums - April	General Grant
Health Equity	ACH		2.10	HSA Administration Fees - February	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140624	9,136.38	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140626	750.00	Program Management and Engineering - Jensen Unit Pump Station Planning	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	430	3,003.20	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	0431	2,825.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	ACH	2919029	10,000.00	Uinta Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140628	11,800.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140628	14,700.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140628	9,500.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - BIA Draft ROD Prep - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	2026-021557	6,325.00	Uinta Rail Line - EIS - February	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	040627	1,500.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	432	125.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	433	5,458.36	Ocean Terminal Planning - Legal	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0140625	8,000.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Total Payment Approval			\$ 142,010.34		

Motion to approve expenses for February in the amount of \$142,010.34 was made by Commissioner Lytle seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew.

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

Ms. Sasser then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by March 31, 2026. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for March. 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 February by project as well. She then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for February was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

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

Ms. Sasser stated for information purposes only, then reviewed the project sheet. This does not require any approval from the Coalition. She stated that this concluded the financial update to the Coalition.

Chairman Miles thanked Ms. Sasser and Smuin, Rich & Marsing for their work efforts and moved to the closed session.

11. Motion to Adjourn (Greg Miles)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Batholomew at 11:25 AM.

Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition

A motion to approve the April 9, 2026 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 ___
Sanpete 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