



RURAL UTAH

INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION

RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 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) virtual, Sonja Norton (Uintah County), 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, Doug Rasmussen, Lynn Sitterud, Mike Hawley, Will Lane, Jay Johnson, and Joel Brown.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Candace Powers, Heather Poulson, Will Lane, Laura Hanson, Travis Campbell, Travis Kyhl, Hannah Johnson, and Kori Wilde.

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 (Jack Lytle)

Chairman Lytle welcomed everyone to the meeting on May 14, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Chairman Lytle recognized everyone in attendance and online and had everyone introduce themselves. Chairman Lytle led the pledge of allegiance.

2. Public Comment (Jack Lytle)

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 Lytle then turned time over to Melissa Cano for those wishing to make public comments electronically.

There was one written public comment from the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.

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

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2026 (Jack Lytle)

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

Motion to approve the April 9, 2026 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Bartholomew and seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

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

4. County Project Updates (Board Members)

Chairman Lytle stated that he will turn the time over to the board members for any project updates at this time.

Commissioner Miles stated that he was able to share the history of the railway to a few groups that are interested in the success of the project.

Commissioner Jensen stated that Sevier County met with a gentleman who actually lives in the state of Iowa as a county commissioner there. He and a business partner have an incredible business with building extremely large industrial buildings. While talking about San Juan County, let's not forget Sevier County rail line spur from Levan to here has already been

permitted, pushed through. This gentleman supplies almost the majority of equipment for anyone doing electrical work, trucks, cranes, etc. As we visited, he was interested in having the rail in this direction, approximately 30 plus miles, spur from Levan through San Pete and into Sevier County. Commissioner Jensen does not want this project to be forgotten about when we may have an opportunity to push forward and have that be a great economic benefit to Sevier County.

Commissioner Norton stated that they just sent a letter to the EPA to request an extension. They are working on their non-attainment because they feel that they should be out of non-attainment. It is being looked at and reviewed, so they did ask for an extension, because the time was apparently up for that.

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

5. Executive Director Report (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Lytle 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 expressed his appreciation to Jay Johnson from Venable, our legal counsel in Washington D.C., who was able to make it in person today. We look forward to hearing from him later today. Director Heaton stated he is grateful for Brian Barton and his team at Jones and DeMille for facilitating the technology. Director Heaton stated that we have members of the Coal Advisory Committee with us for the Pacific Port Project.

Director Heaton stated that we do have new emails. We have tried to keep it simple, mine is now keith@ruic.utah.gov and Stacey's is stacey@ruic.utah.gov. Both emails have been working for awhile and we are getting emails one way or another.

Director Heaton stated that about a week ago a county commissioner from Rio Blanco County in Colorado reached out and is involved in a lawsuit that has to do with a community in the state of Colorado suing a private entity that is involved in the extraction industry. They were seeking help. We are happy to help in whichever way we can, but I will defer to Jon in closed session if there is any legal action that will be happening.

Director Heaton stated that about a month ago President Trump issued a half dozen presidential determinations regarding energy, which are very favorable to the projects that we are working on. They are not executive orders, but they are welcome and we are hopeful that they help us move things along.

Director Heaton stated that we have had several meetings over the past month with Commissioner Stubbs in San Juan County regarding a potential rail extension into the county. We learned, thanks to Jones and DeMille, that New Mexico has also been looking at a rail extension coming from the south and heading north into San Juan County, up towards the Four

Corners area, appropriately called the Four Corners Rail Project. This gives fuel to our long-term plans of moving a rail line south and if those lines are connected, you would have a north-south rail line. If you look at a map of the rail systems in the United States, there is a huge donut hole of north-south rail lines in this part of the country. This is a very promising project and we are excited to explore the possibilities there. We are in the exploratory phase, with the help of Commissioner Stubbs and her enthusiasm for the development of these important projects and her assistance in pushing this project forward.

Director Heaton stated that he invites all of the board members and the staff to a meeting with Representative Mike Kennedy to talk primarily about the rail project and the language that he introduced into the transportation appropriations bill. We will also talk about our other projects because he has keen interest in those as well. That meeting will be May 27th at 2:00 PM, in his district office in Provo on University Ave. He will send out the address as the time gets closer as a reminder. He has been a huge supporter of our coalition and our projects.

Director Heaton stated that things are progressing with all of the federal agencies and we feel very confident that we are getting close to having some of those things wrapped up and moving into the next phase of the project.

Director Heaton stated that they took a trip to Oakland a few weeks ago and they are moving forward. They showed us their rail yard, which is completed. We saw their brand new rail engine. They have 8 rows of tracks in their yard that are newly built. They are long enough that they could each hold 50 cars. They can get 4 unit trains of coal in this yard. The yard sits less than a mile from the actual dock where they will be loading the coal onto the ships. They need to complete the rail yard to dock section. They have to do a level crossing and some other things, they are ready to start on that very quickly and then move into the actual construction of the loading facility, which will consist of a dolphin. Several companies are involved in that project and we have another meeting with them on May 26th in Salt Lake City. Anyone who is interested in participating in that, let him know and they will make sure that details are sent out.

Director Heaton stated that the Greendale Resort Project is still in progress with potential developers. They have not been as responsive, but they are still taking our meetings and moving forward. This project is just slow moving right now.

The Community Impact Board is having their annual retreat on June 4th and 5th. The coalition is on the agenda for both the rail project and the port project.

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

Chairman Lytle thanked Director Heaton for the update and all the work he has been doing. Chairman Lytle asked if there were any questions about the Executive Directors Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

6. Engineers Report (Jones & DeMille)

Chairman Lytle 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 in the monthly memo there has been a bit of an uptick in expenditures for Jones and DeMille because of the rail project. The efforts on the environmental surveys that need to be completed in order to satisfy the BIA, the Ute Tribe, and the STB process and their consultation with US Fish and Wildlife and the tribe. Some of this is ongoing to hit some survey windows that need to be hit this spring. The BIA has been great to work with and appreciate the efforts of many to make those connections with the tribe and the BIA.

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

7. Communications Report and Branding (Melissa Cano)

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Melissa Cano for the communications report and Branding. Ms. Cano thanked Chairman Lytle and stated that.

Ms. Cano stated that she is going to present the mock up of the new website and go through that today. Ms. Cano shared her screen to drive through the new website. The URL will be switching to the RUIC URL, which is secured. There is some wording that is being rewritten now and Jordan is still doing some updates, which takes several hours to update on our end. They added Sanpete County, removing some old content, and redoing the main image. Ms. Cano went through the updated drop down menus. The new website has the new color scheme throughout which you can see the overall look and feel of the website. The website will go live May 15th.

Ms. Cano asked for feedback or suggestions from the board if there are any at this time.

[DISCUSSION]

Chairman Lytle thanked Ms. Cano for their update and all the work she has been doing. Chairman Lytle asked if there were any questions about the Communications Report, seeing none, he then moved on to the next agenda item.

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

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Doug Rasmussen for the presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses. Mr. Rasmussen presented the financial information and requested payment approval today. He went on to request payment approval amounting to \$138,827.15. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today, he is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items.

RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL

May 14, 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

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	ACH	55477	3,951.25	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	ACH	48	963.51	Director's Travel and Admin Expense	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0426	1,834.68	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	ACH	788626	1,843.08	Insurance Premiums - June	General Grant
Health Equity	ACH	9j18kt4	2.10	HSA Administration Fees - May	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141007	11,540.64	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141020	600.00	Unit Pump Station Planning	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	454	3,338.85	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	455	2,770.68	Utah Rail Line - Legal Service	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	ACH	2930483	10,000.00	Utah Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141005	17,900.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141005	14,900.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141005	16,100.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	2026-042153	14,987.50	Utah Rail Line - EIS - March	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	2026-053232	14,042.50	Utah Rail Line - EIS - April	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141019	750.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	456	200.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	457	7,102.36	Ocean Terminal Planning - Legal	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141009	16,000.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Total Payment Approval			\$ 138,827.15		

Motion to approve expenses for February in the amount of \$138,827.15 was made by Commissioner Miles seconded by Commissioner Stubbs.

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

Mr. Rasmussen then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by April 30, 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 April by project as well. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for April was made by Commissioner Miles seconded by Commissioner Norton.

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

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

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

9. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency). (Jack Lytle)

Chairman Lytle then requested a motion for a closed session.

Motion to move into closed session for litigation was made by Commissioner Haddock seconded by Commissioner Batholomew.

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 11:05 AM.

RURAL UTAH COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING

Carbon Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ____
Daggett Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ____
Duchesne Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ____
Emery Board Member	Yea ____	No ____ excused
San Juan Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ____
Sanpete Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ____
Sevier Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ____

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Uintah Board Member Yea X No

Chairman Lytle requested a motion to move back into open session and exit the closed session.

Motion to move out of closed session was made by Commissioner Miles with a second by Commissioner Norton.

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 12:23 PM.

RURAL UTAH COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING

Carbon Board Member Yea X No

Daggett Board Member Yea X No

Duchesne Board Member Yea X No

Emery Board Member Yea No excused

San Juan Board Member Yea X No

Sanpete Board Member Yea X No

Sevier Board Member Yea X No

Uintah Board Member Yea X No

10. Motion to Adjourn (Jack Lytle)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miles at 12:24 PM.

Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition

A motion to approve the April 9, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner

Jensen, seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

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 ☐

Greg Miles
Co-Chair: Greg Miles

Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

ATTEST:

Stacey Herpel
Stacey Herpel

(COALITION SEAL)



