

Economic Development Council

Meeting Minutes

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2026

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 PM MST

Location: Utah State Capitol, Capitol Board Room

Attendance and Roll Call

Council Chair: Jeff Moss, GOED Commissioner

Council Members & Attendees Present:

- Speaker Mike Shultz — Speaker of the House
- President Stuart Adams — Senate President
- Ben Hart — Utah Inland Port Authority
- Michael Ambre — The Point of the Mountain State Land Authority
- Benn Buys — Utah Fair Park
- Cameron Diehl — Utah League of Cities and Towns
- Brandy Grace — Utah Association of Counties
- Representative Calvin Roberts — Utah House of Representatives
- Tim Davis — Department of Environmental Quality
- Don Willie — The Point of the Mountain State Land Authority
- Abby Osborne — House Chief of Staff
- Todd Jenson — Utah Attorney General's Office
- Marsha White — Wasatch Front Regional Council
- Marcus Hardy, Lance Soffe, Kamron Dalton, Aspen Orton — Governor's Office of Economic Development

Absent: Dan Hemmert (MIDA); the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA).

1. Welcome and Council Purpose

- Commissioner Jeff Moss opened the session, welcoming council members and formally establishing the Economic Development Council created by HB 475 from the last legislative session.
- Representative Calvin Roberts noted that convening the state's leading economic development actors creates a more cohesive, unified platform and strategy for statewide execution.
- Commissioner Moss emphasized that council discussions will remain focused on high-level, statewide strategy and coordination rather than the details of specific companies or deals.

2. Swearing-In and Roundtable Introductions

- A Notary Public administered the formal swearing-in of council members.
- Members then completed a roundtable of introductions.

3. HB 475 Review: Purpose, Scope, and Legal Briefing

Legal Briefing

- Todd Jenson, AG's Office, provided a brief overview of the Open and Public Meetings Act (OPMA), the Government Records Access and Management Act (GRAMA), and record protections under HB 507 / non-disclosure agreements (NDAs).

Purpose, Scope, and Roles



- The council discussed the scope, purpose, and role of the Economic Development Council.
- Commissioner Moss reiterated the council's purpose as “big picture economic development strategy;” a tool to coordinate high-level projects across state agencies, with members bringing ideas and insight to the Commissioner as Council Chair for consideration and statewide execution.
- The role of the Council was defined as a tool to coordinate state-level strategic economic development objectives and recommend to the GOED Commissioner and Legislature ways to coordinate significant regional and statewide projects.

4. Project Coordination and Strategic Planning

Environmental Project Coordination

- Tim Davis, DEQ, addressed the council as to the need to integrate economic growth alongside environmental protection and stressed the need for early, coordinated communication on large scale projects.
 - Tim Davis advised the council that DEQ is compiling an internal checklist of the licenses and approvals required to develop large scale projects in Utah, to be delivered to the council and Legislature in August; a companion public-facing website/landing page will explain these processes to the public.
- The council addressed and raised issues regarding the challenge of delivering sufficient resources all the way through to customers and projects, noting recent legislation regarding energy and power generation.

Project Communication Strategy

- Marcus Hardy, GOED, addressed the Council regarding the need for a unified communication strategy for large-scale projects and deals in the state. Marcus Hardy introduced the idea of a comms workgroup comprising government and public agencies together to align on messaging.
- The council discussed the idea of playbooks to clarify messaging on projects messaging, and video assets available from this comms workgroup.
- There was further discussion of how to include local governments and communities in the messaging and communications.

Project Coordination and Awareness Process

- Lance Soffe, GOED, addressed the Council regarding the need for a process to identify and coordinate awareness of incoming high-visibility projects and how to address and alleviate barriers that may be involved, stressing the need for early awareness and collaboration.
- The Council discussed key questions and parameters for project awareness on high-visibility projects.
- Further group discussion followed on engaging local governments early on high-visibility projects, and on the benefits to citizens and communities when partner agencies are involved from the start.

6. Open Floor Items

The floor was opened for additional items; no further formal business was recorded.

7. Closing and Adjournment

- Commissioner Jeff Moss offered closing remarks.
- A motion to adjourn was made and seconded; the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 PM MST

Next Meeting Date: TBD

