RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
June 11, 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) virtual, Dennis Worwood (Emery County), Greg Jensen (Sevier County), Sonja Norton (Uintah County), Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Jack Lytle (Daggett County) excused, and Scott Bartholomew (Sanpete County).

Also in attendance: Keith Heaton, Stacey Herpel, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen, Lynn Sitterud, Mike Hawley, Dan Hawley, Jay Johnson, Joel Brown, Connor Haus, Caden Mather, HD Sanderson, Steven Rodgers, and Reed Page.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Jon Stearmer, Brian Barton, Candace Powers, Heather Poulson, Will Lane, Laura Hanson, Deborah Herron, John Laursen, Mark Michel, Brian Somers, Cameron Schow, Dan Anderson, Kori Wilde, and Lori Haslem.

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 June 11, 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.

There were no public comments.

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

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 14, 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 May 14, 2026 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Jensen and seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

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. Natural Gas Update (Reed Page)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Reed Page. Mr. Page stated that it has been awhile and it is great to be back. He appreciates the board for allowing him to come talk today about the Natural Gas updates.

Mr. Page introduced himself and stated that he is from Summit Energy that provides a natural gas market update for Utah, highlighting that while Eastern Utah remains constrained by limited pipeline takeaway capacity, the region could better capture economic value by supporting local, high-energy industrial projects—such as data centers and ammonia plants—rather than relying solely on exporting raw gas.

Mr. Reed explained the market overview with natural gas production in Eastern Utah (primarily Duchesne, Uintah, Carbon, and Emery counties) continuing to grow alongside crude oil production. While the region remains takeaway-constrained, market dynamics have shifted due to flat demand in premium western markets and emerging demand within the Rockies.

Mr. Reed stated that the strategic focus is to capture better economic value, the coalition is focused on increasing local consumption of natural gas rather than relying on exporting raw gas. Key opportunities include hosting high-energy industrial projects, specifically modern AI data centers and potential ammonia/nitrogen production facilities.

Mr. Reed stated that some of the infrastructure challenges is large scale pipeline expansion is prohibitively expensive, making basis differential a primary hurdle. Future strategies involve exploring intrastate pipelines to bypass federal regulation and leveraging fiber-optic infrastructure for data transmission, which is more cost effective than exporting gas.

Mr. Reed explained that while the market volatility and the long-term uncertainty of multi-decade assets, like LNG, present risks for investors, local demand growth, particularly from behind-the-meter power generation for data centers, is expected to lift regional natural gas prices over the next 3 to 5 years.

Mr. Reed stated that consensus remains that diversifying local economies through value-added activities is the best path to monetize local resources and mitigate takeaway constraints. Future planning should focus on attracting large-scale, energy-intensive projects that can utilize local gas supplies before they are potentially replaced by alternative energy resources like nuclear or geothermal in the long term

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

5. 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 Worwood stated that we have more prospective businesses or entities looking at the lab in Orangeville. Valor is on track to have their reactor up by the 4th of July. They have acquired some property close to the lab hopefully that will turn into a development or manufacturing facility.

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

6. 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 appreciated our national delegation who are here with us today. We appreciate their ongoing support from each of their offices and we will continue to lean on them over the next several months. Director Heaton thanked Mr. Page for coming today and presenting us with his wealth of information that is very pertinent to what we are trying to accomplish here.

Director Heaton stated that last week President Trump announced a $700 million investment in coal, to specific mines and projects, one of which was the Port of Oakland receiving $75 million, which is a project we are interested in. We have a meeting the morning of June 12 with the developers of that project to find out more details about the $75 million and what that means to each of us. We have met with Oakland several times over the last few months, both in person and online. This project is progressing nicely. We meet regularly with the developer at Longview. He is progressing nicely with his project. Our study that the CIB funded is nearing completion. It will be scheduled to be completed by the 4th of July. So we will have a draft ready for our next board meeting.

Director Heaton stated that the CIB board is not meeting again until September. We will have time to digest and come up with what our specific request would be for the balance of the throughput funding. We will also be working closely with our advisory group in advance. We will have some information available and can have some preliminary discussions with time to digest it fully and come up with a long-term plan before we have an opportunity to go back to the CIB.

Director Heaton stated that there is a potential of an LNG export facility at Longview for natural gas. That is a long-term play. I think Reed described how that would look. This is a coal first project, while he is 100% supportive of nuclear and geothermal reccognizing there is a place for all of the renewables, he thinks coal still has some runway. He thinks internationally as well as nationally, natural gas is going to be filling the void in the foreseeable decades. The counties are prepared for that. Director Heaton stated that he again is appreciative of Mr. Page for sharing his knowledge and his perspectives so that we can be prepared when that time comes.

Director Heaton expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Lytle, who stepped forward and was very supportive and helpful with the Community Impact Board, as was Commissioner Miles and Commissioner Bartholomew. The board unanimously supported our $800,000 request, which will get the rail project across the finish line. That is approximately a year's worth of funding, and we expect it to be completed before then.

Director Heaton expressed his appreciation to the Community Impact Board for their vision and foresight in not just creating this entity, but projects like the port and the railroad, plus their financial backing. If our rural communities are going to continue to thrive, we need these types of massive visionary projects. If we just rely on what has always been, what has always been is not what will always be, things change. If we are not prepared for those changes, if we don't adapt, if we don't think of new ways of funding major projects, then they are not going to happen and our communities will suffer. These projects that we are working on are long-term solutions of doing things differently than they have been done before. Director Heaton stated that he is grateful to everyone who helped with that.

Director Heaton stated that we continue to move forward with the San Juan County Rail and we are talking about Central Utah Railway. Without transportation it is really hard to have a good economy that is diversified and sustainable. With good transportation, you have removed the major hurdle. We appreciate the commissioners in those counties that are moving these forward. We will keep you informed as things develop.

Director Heaton thanked all the commissioners who made the effort to be with us as we met with Congressman Kennedy in Provo. We appreciate Commissioner Norton who was there and spoke well about the difference the project would make in Uinta County. Commissioner Haddock spoke about the difference that these types of projects make to the entire state and that working together and supporting one another is what really makes the difference. Having the voices of those elected officials there was important. Also, appreciation for Commissioner Stubbs and Commissioner Lytle who attended as well. Having them there and having those conversations and that commitment, all of us lifting in the same direction, is very significant.

Director Heaton stated that we are nearing completion with the Surface Transportation Board, on the railroad, which should trigger the other federal entities in issuing their final records of decisions and all of the applicable permits. We are looking to set up another meeting with the Ute Business Committee. Appreciation to Commissioner Miles for his assistance with that, as well as Jon Stearmer, working through their legal counsel. We want to make sure that there isn't anything unexpected as the Surface Transportation Board issues their favorable response and so that we can move forward as quickly as possible.

Director Heaton appreciated Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure partners and their relationships in Washington D.C., having those relationships and being able to have someone who can make those phone calls is helpful.

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.

7. 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 did great on covering all the moving pieces. Mr. Barton wanted to add onto the railway projects. The support of the Community Impact Board is significant. There are certain things that the coalition needs to do to provide the public side of the relationship with DHIP as far as that agreement is concerned. We are grateful for the ability to finish some of those critical elements.

Mr. Barton stated that all of the required ground surveys have been completed for the couple of the species that we were taking a look at, particularly on tribal land. So, those surveys have been completed. We are waiting for reports to be finished and ongoing coordination with the tribe and US Fish and Wildlife.

Mr. Barton stated that they are in the process of switching to the ocean terminal study. Norda Stelo and their team have done a good job of putting together a comparative ranking matrix, which is what we asked them to do in the RFQ scope. It is comprehensive and we are trying to make sure that we are as technically sound as we can be.

Mr. Barton stated that is all the updates at this time, and he is happy to answer any questions the board may have.

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.

8. Communications Report and Branding (Melissa Cano)

Chairman Miles turned the time over to Brian Barton for the Communications Report. Mr. Barton stated that Ms. Cano has other family obligations and is not able to be with us today.

Mr. Barton stated that Ms. Cano sent out an email with the new logos and a lot of the branded information based on our process over the last few months. They are open to any feedback the board may have or insights. There are a couple of changes to the website that Ms. Cano and Jordan Bane have been working on. Most of the rebranding effort is done, there are a few cleanup items yet to be done.

Mr. Barton stated that he appreciates everyone's patience with the rebranding process and hope that everyone likes the look and feel of it.

Mr. Barton stated that is all for communications this month and is happy to answer any questions at this time.

Chairman Miles stated that he is wanting a commitment from each board member to please send in a current headshot so that we can help finish up the website before the next meeting.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Barton for their update and all the work they have 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.

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

Chairman Miles 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 $384,202.80. 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
June 11, 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		Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	ACH	56266	4,268.25	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	ACH	49	475.62	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0526	1,531.05	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	ACH	808580	1,843.08	Insurance Premiums	General Grant
Health Equity	ACH	6wp6epz	2.10	HSA Administration Fees	General Grant
ESRI		900267260	1,208.00	Computer Software - Engineering	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	141324	5,752.75	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	463	2,813.85	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	464	6,058.10	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	ACH	2940360	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	0141286	18,250.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141286	14,500.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141286	2,100.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - BIA Draft ROD - Phase 2
Kunz PC	ACH	465	150.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	466	2,050.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Legal	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Jones & DeMille	ACH	141325	8,000.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Norda Stelo	ACH	49000933	152,600.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Norda Stelo	ACH	49000946	152,600.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Total Payment Approval			$ **384,202.80**		

Motion to approve expenses for May in the amount of $394,202.80 was made by Commissioner Jensen seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

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

Mr. Rasmussen then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by May 31, 2026. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for May. 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. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for May was made by Commissioner Bartholomew seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Chairman Miles 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 Miles thanked 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 Worwood at 11:17 AM.

Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition

A motion to approve the July 9, 2026 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

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 ___ excused

San Juan Board Member Yea ✓ No ___

Sanpete Board Member Yea ✓ No ___

Sevier Board Member Yea ✓ No ___

Uintah Board Member Yea ✓ No ___

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Co-Chair: Greg Miles

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Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

(COALITION SEAL)

ATTEST:

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Stacey Herpel