

COMMISSION WORKSESSION

June 22, 2026

Minutes of a scheduled worksession of the Sevier County Commission held this twenty-second day of June 2026. Meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. with Commissioners Scott Johnson, Greg Jensen, and Ralph Brown in the Conference Room, Room 116, of the Sevier County Administration Building, 250 North Main, Richfield, Utah. Others attending included Clerk/Auditor Steven C. Wall, Executive Administrator Malcolm Nash, Road Supervisor Brodie Bagley, and Tourism Director Amy Myers.

Discussion of historic train economic feasibility:

Executive Director Malcolm Nash reviewed the historic train economic feasibility study with the Commission. Commissioner Johnson said he thought the train was not to be County sponsored, and felt that the County should not sponsor the train because the other trains that were sponsored had the rails and the trains already intact. He felt that the County should not support this project. Commissioner Brown indicated he felt that the County should support the project in theory, but it would be the responsibility of the owners and not the County if it moved forward.

Commissioner Jensen expressed his thoughts that even with the Heber Creeper rail, there was not enough rider support and they needed to go to the legislature each year to keep it going; and there was less rider support here. He also expressed his concern that the bike path would need to be closed for 3 to 5 years while the railroad would be constructed, and he did not support the project. Commissioner Jensen said he felt the County had expended time and money doing the studies, and did not feel that the County needed to spend any more on the project. Commissioner Brown indicated the bike path would only be closed for two years. Mr. Nash reported that the original firm that had offered to review the project, was still willing to look at the project on their own, at their own expense. Mr. Nash stated that an engineer's estimate is generally higher than the actual cost of a project, and they would like to take a look at it. Concerns were expressed that the County may still be involved or responsible for the project if it moved forward because the County owns the ground that the railroad would be built on. Commissioner Johnson again expressed his opinion that the County has done its due diligence, and feels that nothing more should be done.

Recommendation to apply for full Outdoor Recreation Grant heard:

Carson DeMille reviewed the previous projects that other entities have worked on in this central region, and other grants in looking to apply for additional funding. He reported that he had reviewed the ATV maps with grazers, ATV groups, Richfield City, a guide service, and other involved looking for ways to improve the trails and established campgrounds, etc. He indicated that if they did improve the road west of Richfield to take the switchbacks out, would cost approximately \$400,000 in addition to the \$500,000 for the proposed campground and trail improvements. He recommended applying for the full Outdoor Recreation Grant and scale back if needed, including looking at re-routing the road to avoid the switchbacks. Mr. DeMille said he would follow up with the other agencies.

Discussion on flood mitigation in the Monroe area:

Zoning Administrator Jason Mackelprang and Parker Vercimak, Jones & DeMille Engineering, met with the Commission. Mr. Vercimak then reviewed with the Commission the Division of Environmental Management's Report on the potential flood possibilities and mitigation from the Monroe Canyon Fire, and possibly working with NRCS to improve the waste ditch south and west of Monroe. He then reviewed with the Commission the difference in flood activity post fire versus pre fire. He suggested planning for the impact based on a 10-25 year flood, which would include the movement of debris and sediment after the fire loss. Discussion followed concerning the near years versus the future years on the flooding and culinary water sources for Monroe City. Mr. Vercimak then reviewed the information he put together in reviewing the flooding mitigation in different project areas across the mountain, and the drainage areas, both on the Monroe side as well as the Koosharem side. He indicated he would continue working with the other entities and Sevier County in developing the mitigation work.

Discussion on possible land use policies for data centers:

Economic Development Director Nash then discussed with the Commission establishing some land use policies for data centers, whether to allow or not allow, if allowed what parameters would be implemented. The Commission said this would need to be discussed in the future.

Review of possible participation in the R6 Self Help Housing:

The Commission then discussed looking at the cost and value of the lots in the Elsinore Addition with the possibility of working with R6 on the self-help housing program. The Commission indicated they would be interested if they could re-coup the money spent on the properties, not necessarily making a profit.

There being no further business to come before the Board, meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.