

MINUTES OF THE DUCHESNE COUNTY ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD JULY 01, 2026, BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M. IN DUCHESNE, UT, AS WELL AS ON ZOOM

Present -

Commissioner Tracy Killian, Commissioner Jeff Chugg, Economic Development Assistant Deborah Herron, Economic Development Director Kori Wilde, Jenny Adams, Judi Collins, Cody Ivie, and Commission Executive Assistant Melissa Hughes is taking the meeting minutes.

Attending & Participating via Zoom –

Tyson Stewart, John Zilles, and Debora McKee with GOEO.

Opening Comments & Welcome

Economic Development Director Kori Wilde welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from the June 03, 2026, Meeting

Tyson Stewart motioned to approve the minutes from the June 03, 2026, meeting, as presented. Jenny Adams seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Review & Discuss Changes to Rural County Grant Administrative Rule

Economic Development Director Kori Wilde read the requirements for hiring a third-party consultant. The parties discussed a strategic plan, the County general plan, and conducting an economic opportunities study.

Reminder – Open & Public Meetings Act Training

Director Wilde reminded the board member to complete the online board member training. It is an eight-minute video.

Discussion & Consideration of the FY27 Funding Priorities

Director Wilde explained the RCG grant and its contents. She is asking for input on ideas to move forward. Assistant Director Herron is excited about the possibilities with Placer AI. The annual cost for the program is \$15,000. John Zilles would like to know the data on why some businesses are successful, and others are not, why some have come, and others were going to but then didn't. What stops the businesses from thriving in the basin? Tyson Stewart mentioned a 30% leakage to Vernal between Smith's and Walmart. He has seen this in his study reviews. Cody Ivie asked about doing a broader study rather than a direct focus. Amazon is working on Amazon Fresh, which will impact grocery stores.

Debora McKee said she will put the board on the Blueprint Program starting in 2027. It is a free program. It was suggested that businesses add new offerings to attract new traffic.

The parties discussed the priorities for the \$200,000 grant:

- Main Street matching grant program. Director Wilde wants to revamp the application process to include an online application.
- Chamber of Commerce Membership & Pitch Competition. The parties were in favor of this
- Thompsen House of Hope. Possibly a workforce scholarship to help them get the needed supplies to start working.
- Customer Service Training
- Farmers Market

The next scheduled meeting will be on August 5th at 2:00 pm.

Adjournment

John Zilles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:02 p.m. The forum adjourned.

DRAFT