RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
July 9, 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), Sonja Norton (Uintah County), Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County) virtual, Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Jack Lytle (Daggett County), and Scott Bartholomew (Sanpete County).

Also in attendance: Keith Heaton, Stacey Herpel, Brian Barton, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen, Lynn Sitterud, Mike Hawley, Joel Brown, Jon Stearmer, and Kori Wilde.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Candace Powers, Heather Poulson, William Savery, Jay Johnson, Brian Somers, Jonathan Rue, Deborah Herron, and Laura Hanson.

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 July 9, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Chairman Lytle recognized everyone in attendance and online. 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 were no public comments.

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

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 11, 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 June 11, 2026 meeting minutes as written, by Commissioner Miles and seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

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 Haddock stated that he will give the update for Emery County with Commissioner Worwood excused today. They turned on the nuclear reactor. It has reached national news. The same day they announced a partnership with the data center there that is going to be waterless.

Commissioner Miles stated that their thoughts and prayers are with Commissioner Stubbs and San Juan County during this time as they are fighting a large fire burning west of Monticello.

Commissioner Stubbs thanked Commissioner Miles and the board for their thoughts. She stated that the fire is over 100,000 acres and it is still a very active fire as of today the report of containment is 25% and they have evacuated the residents of Monticello.

Chairman Lytle thanked the commissioners and turned the time over to Jon Stearmer.

5. Auditor Agreement Review (Jon Stearmer)

Commissioner Lytle turned the time over to John Stearmer to review the auditor agreement that has since expired. Mr. Steamer thanked commissioner Lytle and stated that the current contract that we have with our auditors ended this year. We are needing to get open bids together for the following 5 years. Since the contract has expired the board now has a choice on what they are wanting to do. If we want to stay with our current auditors we could do that under professional services or you have the option to put it out for bid. So for today that decision needs to be made by the board to either draw up an RFP, if that is what the board desires to do, or we can continue with our current auditor through professional services.

Mr. Stearmer stated that we currently use Aycock, Miles and Associates for the past 5 years at a fee of $7,600.

After board discussion, the decision was made to write up an RFP for a new auditor and then do the reviews in the August board meeting.

Motion to approve an RFP for solicitation for a new auditor, by Commissioner Norton and seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew.

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

6. Port Analysis Update (Keith Heaton)
Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Director Heaton to give an update on the port analysis project. Director Heaton thanked Chairman Lytle and stated that they are in the middle of studying the Pacific Port opportunities. The analysis is expected to be completed by next month. The process once the draft is received it will be shared with the advisory group, before sharing with the board.

Director Heaton stated that Oakland is making good progress. Last month they received a federal grant and are moving forward to start construction as soon as possible. Over the next several months we will be partnering with them on what the structure of that looks like.

Director Heaton stated that Longview continues to work on their development plans. The first move with the Pacific Port would be coal as per the study verification. At the next meeting the advisory group's proposal will be ready for the board to consider.

7. 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 sent his thoughts and prayers to Commissioner Stubbs and those in San Juan County as well as others that are battling fires during this time. Director Heaton also thanked everyone for their support during his recovery. Director Heaton stated that our objective is to make sure that all of our member counties have those opportunities so that there is a secure future for children and grandchildren and generations to come.

Director Heaton stated that he has been working with Commissioner Stubbs on a potential rail expansion into San Juan County. These projects are very large and take a lot of time to develop. Uintah and Duchesne County have engaged with their Washington D.C. lobbyist to work with Drexel Hamilton Infrastructure Partners (DHIP). For several years now, DHIP has employed lobbyists who have been working with the congressional delegation to codify the rail project. This can help prevent future lawsuits that can delay a project or slow things down. We have had a number of coordination meetings to push hard over the next few months to get this project into the transportation infrastructure appropriation law. There was a delay with the Fish and Wildlife Service. They wanted to do a full biological opinion on species impact down line, so we are waiting on those studies to be completed and were only set back a couple of months.

Director Heaton stated that there has been some progress with the Greendale project in Daggett County. An electrical needs analysis is being performed for the needs of this project. Electricity and water are the two major concerns.

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.

8. 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 what happens after the fire is traumatic to the water channels, the communities that are dealing in the waterways of these floods that will come down. It is not just water, it is thick, full of debris, trees, ash, and soil. Our engineers have a specialty in this fire recovery that has been developed over years.

Mr. Barton stated that the engineering invoices are larger this month due to it including the consultant costs for the cactus surveys and the Ridgecrest activities. That work is not completed and we have been talking to the Ute Tribe and US Fish and Wildlife to make sure that those survey windows were hit this year.

Mr. Barton stated that Director Heaton, Commissioner Worwood and himself attended a virtual meeting of economic development leaders for Carbon and Emery County and had the opportunity to share with them the same information that was shared with the Community Impact Board in June. We covered the current status of the study, progress and local support. Mr. Barton stated that they will do what they can to continue to have those international opportunities for energy production.

Mr Barton stated that is all the updates at this time and is happy to answer any questions.

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.

9. Communications Report and Branding (Melissa Cano)

Chairman Lytle turned the time over to Melissa Cano for the Communications Report. Ms. Cano thanked Commissioner Lytle.

Ms. Cano stated that they took additional actions on the rebrand for the website and a few actions left to go on some new graphics. At that point we will identify what is missing and then will share that if needed.

Ms. Cano stated that they are ready to start doing social posts. At this stage we are at the end of the rebrand officially.

Chairman Lytle thanked Ms. Cano for their update and all the work they have 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.

10. 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 $367,056.91. 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
July 9, 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
Keith Heaton - Payroll	Direct Depost	07/20/2026 - 10/12/2026	58,244.01	Payroll/Admin.	General Grant

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor		Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	ACH	56433	4,455.94	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	ACH	50	298.34	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0626	1,589.91	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	ACH	830608	1,843.08	Insurance Premiums	General Grant
Health Equity	ACH	8mk5ci5	2.10	HSA Administration Fees	General Grant
Aycock, Miles & Associates CPAs, PC	ACH	47261	7,600.00		
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141609	9,027.28	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	482	75.00	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	483	2,225.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant -STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	ACH	2949458	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	0141616	13,500.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141616	14,500.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141616	69,780.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141616	2,440.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	2026-075553	8,362.50	Uinta Rail Line - EIS - May	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	2026-086300	5,813.75	Uinta Rail Line - EIS - June	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
Kunz PC	ACH	484	175.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal	Daggett County
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141611	1,500.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	495	1,425.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Legal	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141610	24,000.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Norda Stelo	ACH	49000955	130,200.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Total Payment Approval			**$ 367,056.91**		

Motion to approve expenses for June in the amount of $367,056.91 was made by Commissioner Miles seconded by Commissioner Bartholomew.

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

Mr. Rasmussen then reviewed the balance sheet which was completed by June 30, 2026. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for June. 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 June 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 Miles seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

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.

11. 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 Miles seconded by Commissioner Haddock.

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 11:42 AM.

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 ___	

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 Haddock.

Chairman Lytle called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 12:15 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 ___

12. Motion to Adjourn (Jack Lytle)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miles at 12:16 PM.

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

____________________, seconded by Commissioner _____________________.

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 ___

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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