

Utah Energy Council Meeting Transcript

2026/08/25 08:40

Transcript

Jake Garfield: Good morning. Good morning, Representative Albrecht. Curtis, good morning. Emy should be here shortly. There's an accident on the freeway, but she has got past that and...

Carl Albrecht: Good morning.

Jake Garfield: we will start as soon as she arrives.

Carl Albrecht: Morning, Curtis.

Curtis Wells: Good morning, sir. Yeah.

Jake Garfield: Curtis, have you had any rain in Moab?

Curtis Wells: Yeah, we've been getting some light rain down in the Moab Valley. Our mountains getting rain. We've got another storm coming this weekend. So, the monsoons have been decent so far. Yeah. But humidity is up though. So, we're still in the high 90s with higher humidity. So, it feels hotter than the late June, early July heat. but the kids are back in school, so that's a plus.

Jake Garfield: That's the greatest day of the year. It's like Christmas for adults.

Curtis Wells: Yeah, it's good to get back in a routine for sure.

Carl Albrecht: Spoken like young parents.

Jake Garfield: We still got one four-year-old who's only in preschool a couple hours a week, but next year they're all in school all day. It'll be a great moment.

Curtis Wells: Yeah, that's a big one.

Jake Garfield: Good morning, How's the traffic? Emy, you're still muted. Yep.

00:20:00

Emy: Okay, everyone was crashing into each other on the freeway,...

Carl Albrecht: Hello.

Emy Lesofski: So, I can see the capital and I'm just waiting to get into the roundabout and I'm so sorry. Do we have a quorum?

Jake Garfield: We do have a quorum of three. We are missing both Senator Milner and...

Emy Lesofski: Or is that a quorum, three? Is Senator Cullimore there?

Jake Garfield: Senator Cullimore is not here yet.

[Jake and Emy discuss who is present and confirm a quorum is present]

Emy Lesofski: Okay, then we can give it a minute and wait to see if they join and then I don't want to slow everybody down because I'm the late crowd, but good thing there's no traffic cops here because I'm not going 25 miles an hour. Yeah, for whatever reason it was a bumper car exercise on the 15.

Jake Garfield: Don't admit that right now.

[Laughter]

Emy Lesofski: And if I were in charge of transportation in the state, I would say that we should have a pay as you go toll thing like they do back east where if I want to drive in the tolling, I can go and I can pay a little bit of a premium to do it as a one off. That might have saved me three minutes.

Ryan Hunter: We do have that.

Emy: That's great.

Jake Garfield: Yeah,...on the right.

Carl Albrecht: You guys get all those fires I put out up there?

Jake Garfield: I think so. There were a lot, but I think everything's put out up here. We're bracing ourselves for the next one, but hopefully all this rain is going to lessen the impact of the next one. Have there been any new starts in your district, Representative Albrecht?

Carl Albrecht: No. ...no. I should say we had a small one the other day, but lightning caused, but they got it out. They still show the Beaver Cottonwood fire 95%. The other big ones are 100% but they've let people back onto the forest. If they go up the junction side, they can't get up the other side, which makes the bow hunters happy. We just Yeah,...we just don't want monsoons to set right on top of the mountain right now.

Jake Garfield: Yeah. Went through that flood zone in Beaver a couple days ago. That's a sad situation.

Carl Albrecht: Yep. Thank you.

Curtis Wells: CIB's got a funding package on our agenda forum for our September meeting to help out with some of their rebuilds.

Jake Garfield: All right.

Curtis Wells: So, we're looking forward to that.

Carl Albrecht: That'll help; going to be a long process with 253 and some of the infrastructure. Plus, they lost four hydro plants.

Emy Lesofski: Sorry. Sorry, sorry, sorry. Times a billion. All right. Do we have anybody else besides the three of us?

Jake Garfield: Senator Cullimore has still not joined, nor is [unintelligible].

Emy Lesofski: Okay, let's get rolling. Again, sorry for being late. Welcome. And we'll go ahead and call the meeting of the Energy Council to order. Thanks everyone for being here today. The first thing on our agenda is to approve the minutes of the July 7th meeting.

Carl Albrecht: Second.

Emy Lesofski: Is there a motion for that? Okay. Okay. Thanks. All those in favor say aye.

[Council members unanimously say aye]

Emy Lesofski: So moved. All the minutes are agreed to. Do we need to do an approval of the agenda or an amendment? No, verbally just say that we're going to move that discussion. All right. So, for the agenda, rather than having a closed meeting to discuss the Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition cohort study, we're going to go ahead and do that in open session. So, we'll just make that announcement and continue to

move on. The next item would be public comment as defined as a time set aside for citizens to express their views.

00:25:00

Emy Lesofski: Is there anybody from the public that would like to make any comments? Mr. Holmes, go ahead.

Stan Holmes: Good morning. Thank you, Madam Chair, and members of the council. I very much appreciate your having restored today's coal port study discussion to open session. Members of the public interested in this project remain disappointed and dismayed that the RUIC, has kept last month's Report for Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition report secret from the public. We're just wondering too about additional possible sources of public funding perhaps through the Utah Energy Infrastructure Authority Board and a potential high-cost infrastructure tax credit. I know that's not within the aegis of this council, but that's a concern that's out there. So, we do want to know what additional sources of public funding are being maybe sought for the coal port project. And again, thank you very much for reopening the discussion of the coal port study today to the public. Thanks. That's it for me.

Emy Lesofski: Thank you for your comments, Mr. Holmes. Anybody else? Hearing no others, we'll go ahead and move to our next meeting item, which would be a discussion of the coal port study. We're going to turn it over to Curtis, go. Thank you.

Curtis Wells: Thank you,...Madam Chair. The goal of the discussion is just to provide a brief overview for the Energy Council on what's happening and kind of how we got here. So, the legislature some time ago-- it's been, I don't know, probably at least a decade or close essentially created the throughput infrastructure fund and assigned the administration of that to the Community Impact Board [CIB] with a statutory requirement related to a deep-water port. Earlier this year, may have been late last year, the CIB moved forward with the Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition to pursue this. We set up an advisory committee with representatives from the coal producing counties AOG's Southeastern Rural Development Agency R Six, Laura Hansen with the Governor's Office of Planning and budget myself and members of the Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition. Norda Stello was selected to conduct a feasibility study that recommends approximately 80% investment in Oakland and potentially a 20% in investment in the Long Viewport subject to adjustment. Of course, discussions are ongoing with the developers at Oakland Long View. Throughput capacity is the focus. Return revenue would be a plus, but throughput is the driver for the project. and...and that's really it in terms of a 50,000 foot update on the process and happy to answer any questions or discuss this further if need to.

Emy Lesofski: All right. Thank you, Curtis. I think too that something that's worthy of discussing on this front is to the interest in the administration of promoting domestic coal resources. And I know that that's something that in recent weeks we've had visitors from the Department of Energy who've been here to discuss this. And I think the work that the CIB has undertaken dovetails into that though it's not something that we anticipated happening beforehand,... it's something that the administration is interested in and I think that that's a good thing. Does anybody have any Yeah.

Curtis Wells: It's great.

Emy Lesofski: Sorry. Go ahead. Does anybody have any questions about the CIB work on throughput? Right, hearing no questions-- appreciate your update, Curtis. Is there anything else you want to say about it before we move on to the next agenda item? Yeah.

Curtis Wells: I don't think so. I'll keep the Energy Council apprised as this develops and develops and we'll just keep working through the process. Appreciate your work on this too, Emy. Thank you.

Emy Lesofski: And I think this is a great example of ways that across agencies and across entities in the Utah state government that we work together. Everybody kind of has their own assignments and their responsibilities, but we want to make sure that we're maximizing our efforts for the people of Utah. And this

is one of those ways where we can use expertise to help each other and benefit our economy. So, thank you very much, Curtis, for that. I appreciate it.

Curtis Wells: Thank you.

Emy Lesofski: All right. The next thing on the agenda would be to go into a closed meeting for the discussion of character, professional competence or fitness of individuals who may be considered for the appointment to the Utah Energy Council under HB14. And then also a strategy session to discuss the purchase or exchange or lease of real property under HB70. Is there a motion to go to a closed door meeting:

Carl Albrecht: Ay, I so motion.

Emy Lesofski: Curtis, do you have a second for me?

Curtis Wells: So moved; I do second.

Emy Lesofski: Great. All right, we're going to go ahead and take a roll call vote on that. Jake, can you call the roll, please?

Jake Garfield: Yes. Chair Lesofski?

Emy Lesofski: Aye.

Jake Garfield: Representative Albrecht?

Carl Albrecht: Aye.

Jake Garfield: Mr. Wells?

Curtis Wells: All right.

Jake Garfield: Mr. Walking Shaw, and Senator Cullimore, I believe, is—is that still no Senator.

Nate Walkingshaw: Aye.

Emy Lesofski: Four to zero. So, we'll go ahead and move into a close session. Any instructions you want to . . . go for it.

Jake Garfield: Yeah, you should, yeah, every member of the council and staff should be moved into that room now and members of the public should be moved into a waiting room that will close as soon as we are done.

[Move to closed session]

00:35:00 [Move back to open session]

Brian Bean: I don't know if you guys can still hear us in the room or if the breakout session is still happening, but whenever I try to join a close session, it kicks me out.

Emy Lesofski: Okay, we've returned to—all, we have closed the closed session and returned to the main call now. And this call is being recorded. We'll move to the next agenda item in just a moment. Now that we've returned to open meeting, are there on our agenda motions? Do we have sound? Okay, all are there any motions that anybody would like to have the council entertain prior to us closing the meeting?

Representative Albrecht, please.

Carl Albrecht: Yes, Madam Chair. I would move that we appoint Dave Crabtree, former CEO of Deseret Power, who's now retired, and Joel Ferry, who will soon to be retired from state DNR director to our Energy Council as per whatever that House bill was.

Emy Lesofski: HB70.

Curtis Wells: Second. Aye.

Nate Walkingshaw: Aye.

Emy Lesofski: Very good. All those in favor, aye. Any opposed? No objection. The motion passes. Are there any additional motions?

Carl Albrecht: I Yes,...Madam chair. I would move that we have the respondents to the IPA, RFA, once they are reviewed by IPA and the Energy Council that an executive summary of each finalist be sent to the Energy Council for their review prior to any decision being made.

Emy Lesofski: All those in favor say aye. is there a second?

Curtis Wells: Second. Aye.

Emy Lesofski: Thanks. All those in favor say aye.

Carl Albrecht: Aye.

Emy Lesofski: Aye. Any opposed?

Nate Walkingshaw: Aye.

[No members opposed]

Emy Lesofski: All, are there any additional motions anybody would like to make? Hearing none, I think we can go ahead and vote to close this meeting of the Energy Council. All those in favor of closing the meeting say aye.

Nate Walkingshaw: Aye.

Emy Lesofski: Aye. Thank you so much everybody. Have a great day.

Curtis Wells: Thank you.

Carl Albrecht: Thank you.

Emy Lesofski: Bye-bye. 40 minutes. We're getting efficient. Hey.

Meeting ended after 01:14:38 

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