



RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 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), Greg Jensen (Sevier County) virtual, Sonja Norton (Uintah County) virtual, Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County) excused, Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Jack Lytle (Daggett County), and Scott Bartholomew (Sanpete County).

Also in attendance: Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen, Lynn Sitterud, Mike Hawley, Dan Hawley, Joel Brown, Jon Stearmer, Jay Powell, Mike Miles, and Curtis Wells.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Melissa Cano, Stacey Herpel, Travis Kyhl, John Laursen,, Heather Poulson, Jay Johnson, Mark Michel, Brian Somers, Willis LeFevre, Ted Franklin, Wendy Hutchinson, Cody Deeter, 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

August 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles welcomed everyone to the meeting on August 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM. Chairman Miles recognized everyone in attendance and online. Chairman Miles asked Commissioner Bartholomew to lead 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 July 9, 2026 (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles inquired about changes or updates to the minutes, there were a few grammatical changes to be made which were noted and corrected. Chairman Miles requested a motion to approve the minutes as written with corrections.

Motion to approve the July 9, 2026 meeting minutes as written with corrections, by Commissioner Bartholomew and seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to approve the minutes as written with corrections.

The motion passed unanimously. Chairman Miles moved on to the next agenda item.

4. Audit Presentation (Aycock, Miles & Associates)

Chairman Miles handed the time over to Mike Miles with Aycock, Miles & Associates to review the 2025 Financial Audit. Mr. Miles thanked the chairman and stated that everything looked good.

Mr. Miles started on page 11 and stated that the financial statements were transparent and recorded accurately with a good representation at the end of the calendar year 2025. Mr. Miles stated that this reflects the current resources of the coalition at the end of the year, there was \$66,000 in cash that was down from prior years. Mr. Miles overviewed the current liabilities and stated that the balance sheet is similar to prior years. Mr. Miles moved to page 13 and covered

the revenue and expenses with total revenues as \$1,224,000, which is down from prior years.

Mr. Miles continued with the remainder of the audit, covering expenses, income, and capital activity. Mr. Miles wrapped up the audit report with the government reports. Mr. Miles explained the final two pages, which is a Utah compliance report. There were no findings. Overall the financial audit had no findings to note.

Mr. Miles finished his report and asked if there were any questions for him at this time.

Chairman Miles thanked Mr. Miles for his report and called for a motion to accept the 2025 Financial Audit.

Motion to accept the 2025 Financial Audit, by Commissioner Worwood and seconded by Commissioner Jensen.

Chairman Miles called for a vote to accept the 2025 Financial Audit.. **The motion passed unanimously.** Chairman Miles moved on 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 Valor has announced a partnership with Nvidia. They are going to attempt to start creating a waterless data center. The idea is that they would power these with the modular reactors that Valor is making, which have helium and not water. The data center would be a closed system.

Commissioner Worwood stated that he attended the State Energy Board meeting and reviewed some projects that are associated with the Research Center, which consisted of graphite manufacturing, coal research, lithium battery recycling, and recovering recycling spent nuclear fuels. There is a lot going on at the lab that has been not only good for business not just for Emery County, but for the State of Utah.

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 thanked Brian Barton and Jon Stearmer and expressed appreciation to them for their support, experience, and knowledge. Director Heaton stated that we have an excellent team and a lot of things going on right now, having them is a huge asset. Director Heaton thanked Stacey Herpel, the Administrative Assistant, who recently had surgery and is attending virtually today, wishing her a Happy Birthday and a speedy recovery.

Director Heaton stated that we have some important things coming up to make everyone aware of them. If anyone would like to attend or participate in any of these activities, please let him know so that he can get you the details. With the Greendale Resort project in Daggett County, there is a meeting with the Governor's Office of Economic Development. They have provided funding for the work that has been done with this project to date, hoping to get their support and help provide a little pressure onto the private partners.

Director Heaton stated that they are meeting with Senator Lee's team August 14, 2026 at 2:00 PM in Salt Lake City to help codify the railway project.

August 14, 2026 they will be meeting with the Wyoming Energy officials about the Ocean Terminal project, which are possible partners.

Next week, the American Coal Council is going to be in Park City for a conference. The Department of Energy will be here to talk to us, we have an individual meeting with them on Tuesday at 9:30 AM at the State Capitol.

Remember, that we have a meeting with the Ute Business Committee on August 26, 2026 at 2:30 PM at the tribal offices in Fort Duchesne. We appreciate Commissioner Miles for his efforts and keeping good relations with the Ute Tribe as they are partners on the railroad project.

September 3, 2026 is the Community Impact Board meeting, where we have been invited to present on the Ocean Terminal study.

The RUIC September 10, 2026 meeting will be at 3:00 PM at the Utah Valley Convention Center on the 2nd floor Ballroom in Provo, after the Utah Association of Counties (UAC) conference. We will be holding a public hearing on the Ocean Terminal CIB application starting at 3:00 PM and then move into our regular meeting.

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 last month they reported about the surveys that have been completed on the cactus and some other species, particularly associated with some of the tribal lands in the basin. There are a few more surveys that are getting ready to start. We need to hit a

certain calendar window for those surveys, which will begin soon.

We appreciate the opportunity to support Director Heaton in all of these efforts, trying to ensure that we identify the technical parameters on these projects and try to take an engineering look at some of these opportunities that the coalition has.

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

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 Melissa Cano for the Communications Report. Ms. Cano thanked Chairman Miles.

Ms. Cano stated that she does not have a lot to report on today. In the next month they anticipate that all of the rebrand items, including a few outstanding things on the website, will be completely wrapped up. Then they will launch the coalition's social media.

Chairman Miles thanked Ms. Cano 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 \$114,644.79. 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

RURAL UTAH INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL

August 13, 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	56585	5,944.31	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	ACH	51	254.85	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	ACH	0726	1,684.08	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	ACH	852363	1,843.08	Insurance Premium	General Grant
Health Equity	ACH	e49qmn8	2.10	HSA Administration Fees	General Grant
Utah Local Governments Trust	ACH	1627853	585.00	Workers Comp Insurance Premium	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141972	3,889.40	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	507	2,571.76	General - Legal Service	General Grant
Kunz PC	ACH	508	1,972.96	Utah Rail Line - Legal Service	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	ACH	2959312	10,000.00	Utah Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141973	7,700.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141973	13,900.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141973	3,900.00	Utah Rail Line - Engineering	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	ACH	2026-099071	3,361.25	Utah Rail Line - EIS	Utah Basin Railway Project Grant - EIS - Phase 2
Kunz PC	ACH	509	961.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Legal	Daggett County
Jones & DeMille	ACH	0141949	1,500.00	Greendale Resort Planning - Engineering	Daggett County
Kunz PC	ACH	510	1,975.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Legal	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Norda Stelo	ACH	49000969	52,600.00	Ocean Terminal Planning - Engineering	Bulk Commodities Ocean Terminal Planning - Phase 1
Total Payment Approval			\$ 114,644.79		

Motion to approve expenses for June in the amount of \$114,644.79 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 July 31, 2026. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statements for July. 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 July by project as well. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for July was made by Commissioner Batholomew seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

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

Mr. Rasmussen stated for information purposes only, then reviewed the project sheet. This does
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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 for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency). (Greg Miles)

Chairman Miles then requested a motion for a closed session.

Motion to move into closed session for litigation was made by Commissioner Haddock seconded by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 11:05 AM.

RURAL UTAH COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING

Carbon Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Daggett Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Duchesne Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Emery Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
San Juan Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u> excused
Sanpete Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Sevier Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
Uintah Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>

Chairman Miles 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 Haddock with a second by Commissioner Worwood.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 11:50 AM.

RURAL UTAH COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING

Carbon Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No <u> </u>
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Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition

Daggett Board Member Yea X No

Duchesne Board Member Yea X No

Emery Board Member Yea X No

San Juan Board Member Yea X No excused

Sanpete Board Member Yea X No

Sevier Board Member Yea X No

Uintah Board Member Yea X No

12. Motion to Adjourn (Greg Miles)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Worwood at 11:51 AM.

Rural Utah Infrastructure Coalition

A motion to approve the August 13, 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 ____

Co-Chair: Greg Miles

Co-Chair: Jack Lytle

ATTEST:

Stacey Herpel

