

MINUTES OF THE DUCHESNE COUNTY ECONOMIC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 02, 2026, BEGINNING AT 2:00 P.M. IN DUCHESNE, UT, AS WELL AS ON ZOOM

Present -

Economic Development Director Kori Wilde, Deborah Herron, Jenny Adams, and Cody Ivie. Ashly Kulland, Courtney Betts, Michael Nielsen, Heather Lowry, Tonya Murray, Kyla Allred, Michael North.

Attending & Participating via Zoom –

Commissioner Jeff Chugg, Tyson Stewart and John Zilles.

Judi Collins and Commissioner Tracy Killian were excused.

Opening Comments & Welcome

Director Wilde welcomed everyone, as well as guests in attendance.

Approval of Minutes from the July 01, 2026, Meeting

Deb Herron corrected the spelling of Debra McKee's name. Jenny Adams motioned to approve the minutes from the July 01, 2026, meeting, with correction. Deb Herron seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Discussion and Consideration to Appoint the Chair

John Zilles motioned to appoint Deb Herron as the chair. Tyson Stewart seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Discussion and Consideration to Appoint the Vice-Chair

Deb Herron motioned to appoint Tyson Stewart as the vice-chair. John Zilles seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposing votes.

Announcement of the FY27 RCG Application Submitted August 24th

Director Wilde submitted the \$200,000 grant application on August 24th. At this time, we do not have RCG funds, but anticipate receiving them later this month.

Community Presentations

Mr. Mike North is the Center for Advanced Professional Studies (CAPS) Director - Workbased Learning Activities. North proposed \$5,500 to compensate students completing otherwise unpaid internships, particularly in health care, dental, veterinary, and school-aide placements. He also requested \$1,500 for awards in the InvestNest entrepreneurship competition, which runs through idea development, proof of concept, and final presentations during February through April.

Mr. Mike Nielsen described his insurance offices in Duchesne and Roosevelt and the personal investment required to renovate older Main Street buildings. He reported that the Duchesne location is close to completion, the Roosevelt project is scheduled to begin the following week, and requested additional funding after receiving \$10,000 in the prior year.

Ms. Betts introduced the Roosevelt Farmers Market, its nearly 20-year history, 35 participating vendors, Thursday schedule, and nutrition-assistance programs. She reported stronger vendor sales and described the market's role in keeping money circulating locally. Ms Betts outlined requested funding for advertising, a branded trailer, staff shirts, updated signage, a sound system, and live entertainment. She explained that future revenue could come from increased vendor participation and fees, equipment rentals, and advertising space on the trailer.

Advertising - \$4,000-\$6,000

Entertainment - \$2,000-2,400

Chamber Director Kulland reviewed the Chamber's use of county funding for business support, community events, tourism, entrepreneurship, and shop-local initiatives. She highlighted Summer Passport results, including 550 distributed passports, 58 participating stops, and growing interest from additional businesses. Chamber Director Kulland transitioned from reviewing the Chamber's prior accomplishments to presenting its current funding request. Duchesne County explained Placer AI's anonymized location data and proposed purchasing the platform for shared use across the county. The presentation covered applications including visitor analysis, local spending retention, event evaluation, business recruitment, tourism marketing, and Chamber membership development.

UBTech introduced the Launchpad Business Resource Center and explained that it would provide hands-on support for business formation, licensing, permits, planning, funding preparation, technology, sales, marketing, and growth. The center was presented as a public resource serving businesses and residents throughout the basin. UBTech requested financial support for furnishings, workstations, and technology infrastructure. The center would operate from the Vernal campus, serve Duchesne and Daggett counties in addition to Uintah County, add a third staff member, and coordinate referrals with chambers, innovation hubs, and the Small Business Development Center. UBTech requested \$10,000 from Duchesne County as part of a four-way funding partnership.

Discussion and Consideration of FY27 Projects

Varied comments of appreciation to the community for presenting and all very commendable endeavors. Cody Ivie commented that without yet having the \$200,000 awarded, the board should table the vote until October. Jenny Adams agreed. Presenters would not need to come back. Director Wilde will work with GOED on a timeframe for awardee notification. Director Wilde will work with each presenter following award notification and board vote.

Adjournment

John Zilles made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:21 p.m. The forum adjourned.