Board Members Present: Casey Hopes (Carbon County), Jack Lytle (Daggett County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Lynn Sitterud (Emery County), Willie Grayeyes (San Juan County), Garth (Tooter) Ogden (Sevier County), and Bart Haslem (Uintah County)

Also, in attendance: Mike McKee, Eric Johnson, Brian Barton, Mike Hawley, Doug Rasmussen, Kristi Sharp, Heather Hoyt, Kevin Keller, and Pamela Juliano

Attended telephonically:

Absent: Brad Horrocks (Uintah County)

Others Present: Senator Ron Winterton, Commissioner Greg Todd, Troy Ostler, Mike Dennis, Bret Reynolds, Andrew Kurish, Ty Gardner, Jonathan Johansen, Jean Dickinson, Diego Carroll, Aaron Averett, Michael McCandless, Rick Wahlin, Chris Hansen

1. Welcome (Lynn Sitterud)

Commissioner Sitterud welcomed all in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Public Comment (Lynn Sitterud)

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of December 20, 2019 Minutes

Executive Director McKee noted a change on item number 19. “Update concerning the amending of the Independent Contract Agreement with Eric Johnson.” The minutes currently state, “Mr. Johnson has indicated he would bill Lab hours at $170 an hour.” This should be corrected to $175 an hour.

Commissioner Miles noted one other change on item number 17. “Engineer’s Report.” On the first line, “difference projects” should be “different projects”.

Minutes of January 17, 2020
With those two changes:

**Motion to approve December 20, 2019 meeting minutes** by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Miles. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

4. **Report on San Rafael Research Lab.**

Commissioner Sitterud began by stating that the Coal Combustion Machine is assembled and the computer system was hooked up this past week. The switch gear for the sub-station is still on back order. It is expected to arrive in the next couple of weeks, as is the water cooking system. There should be a fire in the unit by the time of the next meeting.

There is a contractor working in the Molten Salt section of the building. The upgrades being made will bring it up to earthquake standards. It should take another 3 to 4 weeks to complete this work.

We have had meetings this past week to discuss the possibility of forming a different type of organizational structure for operating the Lab. There will be further discussions about this. Also, the natural gas is ready to go.

While senators and congressmen were home for the Christmas break, we were able to put together a meeting in the Governor’s office. All of the congressmen were present, except for Representative Ben McAdams. We were able to catch up with him by phone after the meeting. Everyone agreed that a letter should be written to the new Secretary of Energy requesting that the coal electric plant the Department of Energy is looking to build should be built at the Research Center. Everyone, also, committed their support to the Molten Salt Lab and the research facility in general. There is a lot of State and Federal support for this project and Senator Hinkins is still working to keep the funding coming.

5. **Report on the Uinta Basin Railway Project.**

Commissioner Miles reported that the draft EIS is being compiled and expected to roll out this Spring. The private partners and stakeholders have met. They attended the Utah Petroleum Association meeting last week. There was a lot of good information shared during the meeting.

Commissioner Lytle added that the technical report had been submitted to ICF, and about 99% of the mapping is complete. The collaboration taking place on this project is tremendous and he wanted everyone to know how much the board appreciated all of the effort.


Commissioner Ogden reported that he had met with Jones and DeMille to begin preparing an RFQ for a consultant to do an initial feasibility study for the Inland Port. The draft RFQ was sent to the Inland Port Authority staff with a request for them to take a look and make sure it

Minutes of January 17, 2020
complemented what they were working on. We did get some comments back and we are still working to make revisions to the RFQ.

7. **Report on Self-assessment.**

Executive Director McKee stated that the State Auditor’s office contacted him a few months ago. Because Seven County is a fairly new entity, it was suggested a risk self-assessment be performed. He requested it be submitted before the legislative session begins.

Doug Rasmussen, Coalition accountant, addressed the board explaining that as part of this self-assessment process there is a scoring sheet used by the State to determine an entity’s level of fraud risk. When the process began, Seven County was determined to have a very high fraud risk. With the Fraud Policy and Hotline recently created we scored a lot of additional points. There are two trainings required of board members, annually, which also add points. The board has recently adopted a Travel Policy which added points.

So, after carefully looking at the State’s scoring criteria we have tried to identify things that can be done to move the Coalition into the “moderate” scoring range. This is where the State would like us to be. To achieve low risk would require a lot of time and resources, so we believe the things we are doing to move in to the moderate range are enough.

The Conflict of Interest Policy recently adopted added points and requires each board member submit a signed Conflict of Interest statement. Kristi Sharp is tracking the receipt of these statements and will let board members know if she has yet to receive one signed by them.

As the scoring list is examined, creating a formal audit committee is worth 20 points. So, today, we will propose that the Seven County Board authorize an audit committee and appoint two board members to sit on that committee. In addition, there needs to be one, independent, financial expert identified to serve on the committee. The State would prefer this individual be a volunteer from one of the counties, but this individual could be paid for his/her time if needed. It would be easier if the committee members live in close proximity to the Smuin, Rich & Marsing office (Price), but that is not a requirement.

After today’s meeting they will go back through the Risk Assessment and verify that Seven County now scores in the moderate range. Once determined the required assessment paperwork will be submitted to the State.

8. **Discussion and consideration creating an audit committee and suggested members.**

The Audit Committee will require a commitment of time for its members. Currently, Commissioner Hopes is spending time each month carefully reviewing the expenses. The committee and its members need to be determined today, but the financial expert can be determined in the near future.

Minutes of January 17, 2020
Commissioner Lytle made the recommendation that Casey Hopes serve on the Audit Committee. Commissioner Haslem added that Uintah County has recently hired a budget officer who has a Master’s Degree and a lot of governmental experience. He would be willing to see if this person would be willing to serve as the financial expert. The Committee will only meet a couple of times per year, but during the actual audit it will probably require quite a bit of time.

Commissioner Miles offered to be the second board member to serve on this committee.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 202-01A creating an Audit Committee and appointing two members for this board along with one financial professional** was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Hopes. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

**Motion to appoint Casey Hopes to sit on the Audit Committee** was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

**Motion to appoint Greg Miles to sit on the Audit Committee** was made by Commissioner Hopes, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

Doug Rasmussen, stated that he had been given a couple of suggested names, by the State Auditor, for the financial expert position and would contact them along with the individual suggested by Commissioner Haslem from Uintah County. He will report back at the next meeting.

9. **Executive Director’s Report**

Executive Director McKee asked the board and public to take a minute to reflect on how far they have all come in the last year. As to the rail project, a year ago this project had just been funded by the C.I.B. (Community Impact Board). At that time, we put together a very aggressive schedule with the hope to have the EIS done in 2 years and to have construction done 3 years after that. It was the hope to be able to get additional funding from the CIB board. During those early days, a RFI (Request for Information) was put out and Drexel Hamilton was chosen to help develop the project. Then came the Rio Grande Pacific to provide capital. With these partners and that aggressive schedule, today we are right on track and a little under budget. A lot of ideas have come together and we may even be a little ahead with the construction part of the project.

Director McKee wanted the public to know how much he appreciated this board and how engaged they are with all of these projects. He wanted to thank the C.I.B. board and all of the professional people working on these projects. It’s just an outstanding team. Each of our counties have Commissioners who don’t sit on this board but they show up at meetings and participate in calls, all because there is a deep commitment to these projects.

As to the Seep Ridge Road Project, Director McKee wanted to thank Troy Ostler. He asked Mr. Ostler to address this project. Troy began by reporting that they have met with the BLM and the

Minutes of January 17, 2020
project appears to be on schedule. They are filing the pre-application and the SF299. The BLM has requested they obtain additional information and, as such, they are meeting with current right-of-way holders, pipeline companies, and private owners. They have met with Grand County to compare their road rights-of-way. They are looking to see if the alignments match. It is expected within the next couple of months they will have met with all of the right-of-way holders after which they will submit the report to the BLM and move on to the next step.

Director McKee next mentioned that the Research Center has come a long way in the past year and it's quite an incredible project. The opportunities that might be brought to that community is amazing. The same goes for the Inland Port Project. These are huge projects and not for the faint of heart. The rail has been considered for almost a decade and is finally coming to fruition. There are other impressive projects on the horizon, such as the possibility of a refinery. These could create tremendous possibilities for these counties...the sky's the limit.

Commissioner Haslem added that these projects give hope to our communities. These are big for our communities. Some may not end up happening as planned, but either way it's the first time in 5 years he has seen this kind of hope. He wanted to thank everyone working to try and make these things happen.

Director McKee addressed the board considering the next 3 items on the Agenda. These 3 items have to do with creating revenue for the Research Lab. But there have been discussions about restructuring and creating a separate organization to operate and manage the Research Center, possibly with Emery County taking the lead. This is still being discussed, considered and worked on. But, in a discussion with Senator Hinkins there was concern with how this might impact funding from the legislature? Who would the funds potentially come to? This new entity might include participation from different universities and other interested entities.

Commissioner Sitterud explained that the main reason this is being considered is that they put out an RFQ for a firm or individual to manage this facility. They got no takers. So, it looks like there needs to be some kind of entity created that could hire employees, pay wages and benefits, and oversee the day to day operations.

The other part of this, in addition to putting together this management entity, would be forming an advisory group made up of Seven County, Emery County, Utah State University, Utah Eastern University, University of Utah, BYU, Congressman Curtis’ office, Senator Romneys’ Office, Rocky Mountain Power and Emery Telecom. Senator Hinkins would also be involved. Depending which direction we go with this entity, the outcome of Agenda Items 10, 11 and 12 could be different.

Executive Director McKee mentioned that although this new entity was not on the agenda, they wanted to introduce the concept. By the next meeting there was hope that it would be a more complete concept. So, his thoughts were that the Research Center needed to keep moving
forward and the next 3 items on the agenda really pertained to Seven County. In the future, they could be transferred to the new entity.

10. **Discussion and consideration of a letter, agreement or term sheet with Alpha Tech related to the Molten Salt Lab at the San Rafael Energy Research Center.**

Time was turned over to Eric Johnson, the Coalition attorney. This Resolution 2020-01B is to approve an agreement with Alpha Tech Research Corporation. Alpha Tech is interested in using the molten salt lab at the Research Center. The letter of agreement they submitted has several prerequisites that must be met. One is that the Coalition must get its license from the Utah Division of Environmental Quality. The application for that license is prepared and out for peer review to make sure it is a strong application before it turned in. Once the prerequisites are met, Alpha Tech is committing to $30,000 a month for use of the lab. They would also be interested in 50% of the lab’s capacity for which they would pay between a million and a million and a half each year.

Commissioner Lytle asked, once Alpha Tech is up and running and paying the $30,000 a month, is that money to be used to pay the expenses for operating the lab? Mr. Johnson replied that the $30,000 was to be used for operating expenses. There are provisions in the agreement for that number to shift depending on the actual expenses once the lab is up and running.

Commissioner Ogden asked, referring to No. 5 on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), how the person hired to oversee the lab would be compensated? Another thing that stood out to him is there is no mention of any liability insurance associated with the lab. How is the Coalition’s liability covered?

Director McKee mentioned that there had been an insurance payment listed in the expenses, but Mr. Rasmussen (Accountant) explained that insurance was solely for the building itself.

Commissioner Hopes asked what was meant in the MOU by “priority use of the lab”? Eric Johnson stated that at this point it was an aspirational statement. Their hope is that eventually Alpha Tech will contract for 50% of the labs capacity.

Commissioner Miles asked if that meant they have a priority over that 50%? If so, could we reflect that in the MOU? If the full capacity of the lab is not being utilized, we should be able to bring in someone else to use the rest of the lab.

Eric Johnson suggested that the language be changed to say, “Alpha Tech has priority for up to 50% of the lab’s capacity.” That was acceptable to the board.

Commissioner Hopes had another question. In number 10 of the MOU it states that Alpha Tech is granted the right of first refusal over purchasing the Coalition’s lab and equipment. Where Emery County owns the land, the Coalition does not have the right to sell the property.
Commissioner Sitterud added that in the future, if this new entity they are looking to create wants to sell to the Coalition or Emery County does that create problems if Alpha Tech has the first right? Might it be better to say that Alpha Tech has the right of first refusal other then the entities selling among themselves?

Eric Johnson replied that this agreement has been worked up over several months. Up until just recently it was anticipated there was going to be a ground lease between Emery County and the Coalition so this new concept alters the MOU a little. He will talk to Alpha Tech about this. Their concern is that the lab not be sold out from under them once they are up and operating.

Director McKee reminded everyone that at this point everything is still in Seven County’s name, so this agreement right now is between Alpha Tech and the Coalition. Once a new entity has been created there will have to be appropriate steps taken to transfer equipment and agreements.

**Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01B, approving letter agreement/term sheet with Alpha Tech for initial use of Molten Salt Lab at the San Rafael Energy Research Center, with the following changes:**

No. 6, Alpha Tech is granted priority, up to 50% capacity, for use of the lab and its equipment.

No. 10, Alpha Tech is granted a right of first refusal to purchase the lab and/or equipment in the even it is determined to divest the lab or equipment to a third party or to cease operating a nuclear lab.

was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Hopes. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

**11. Discussion and consideration of a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding Appropriation for Coal Combustion Test Equipment between Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, Utah State University, Emery County, and University of Utah.**

The coal test equipment at the Research Center came from the University of Utah. Attorney Eric Johnson has put together a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Utah State University, University of Utah, the Coalition and Emery County concerning the equipment. This MOU the board is being asked to approve today just gives consent for the Coalition. Emery County and University of Utah have already signed. The MOU has been sent to Utah State University for signature. They have given verbal approval and are just waiting for the appropriate person to sign on their part.

Commissioner Sitterud asked if language needed to be added stating that the equipment is transferrable to whatever new entity is formed and ends up operating the Lab? Mr. Johnson stated that right now the MOU is between these entities and the Coalition. Nothing changes for this agreement. It needs to be adopted as is with any changes being made once the new entity is formed.
Motion to adopt Resolution 2020-01C, adopting a 2019 Memorandum of Understanding Appropriation for Coal Combustion Test Equipment between Seven County Infrastructure Coalition, Utah State University, Emery County and University of Utah was made by Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Lytle. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

12. Discussion and consideration of the ground lease with Emery County.

Motion to table this item was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Hopes. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

13. Discussion and consideration of monthly expenses.

Accountant Doug Rasmussen led the discussion concerning monthly expenses presented in the amount of $924,380.43. Director McKee questioned the invoice submitted by ETJ Law. The contract with them allows an equal monthly billing equal to $175,000 annually. Director McKee believes that the amount submitted is slightly over that allowable monthly amount. Kristi Sharp, with Smuin, Rich and Marsing stated that they had gone over the invoice carefully and believed it was correct. She stated that they would review it and correct it if necessary.

Commissioner Miles had one question for Jones & DeMille, the engineers, on a billing from Harris Group concerning a potential gas line for an upgrader. What work did Harris Group perform? Brian Barton, with Jones & DeMille stated that Harris Group had refined the cost estimates and conceptual design for the proposed natural gas line from Chapeta up to the Leland Bench area back in September/October, 2019.

(Continued on the next page.)
**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION FINANCIALS**  
January 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.  
751 East 100 North, Price, UT 84501

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| Total Payment Approval | $ 924,380.43 |

Motion to approve the monthly expenses, pending a review of the ETJ Law invoice and adjusting if necessary, was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Lytle. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.
Roll call vote for expenses for payment was as follows:

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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Doug Rasmussen next directed the board to the financial reports to include the Balance Sheet, followed by the Profit and Loss sheet thru 11-30-2019. The Profit and Loss is also provided by class, individual operating revenue and expenses associated with the various funding sources.

**Motion to approve the financials as of November 30, 2019** was made by Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Hopes. Unanimously accepted. 7-0-0 absent.

Mr. Rasmussen next took the board through the sheets depicting each grant project and how much remains in each fund. This is solely for the board’s information and does not require board approval.

**14. Engineers Report.**

Brian Barton stated that the roof repairs have begun on the Energy Resource Center. He next addressed the Uinta Basin Railway expenses. This month there was $844,000 submitted. This reflects several significant efforts moving forward. Jones & DeMille would like to thank Kevin Keller and the HDR Team. He recognized the expertise they have from Venable, the Washington D.C. legal experts, as well as ICF which is the 3rd party consultant assisting the Surface Transportation Board. These people all make a concerted effort to keep this project moving forward.

Mike Hawley mentioned that they have been really going over the numbers for the rail project. They closely track expenses for every consultant working on this job. He wanted everyone to know that they are trending on schedule and under budget.

They all wanted Kristi Sharp, with Smuin, Rich & Marsing, to know how much she is appreciated. It’s the great work she does that helps keep all the finances in order.

**15. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to Section 52-4-205 for real estate acquisition.**

The group coming to make this presentation had to cancel so this is not needed.

Minutes of January 17, 2020
16. Interviews in conjunction with RFQ for Engineering Services.

Executive Director McKee began by stating that when the Coalition was first set-up an RFQ was put out seeking an engineering firm. At that time Jones & Demille was selected and entered into a 5-year contract. That contract expires in February, 2020. A new RFQ has been put out and today we are to hear from those firms who submitted proposals.

There were 3 proposals submitted. One from Epic Engineering, one from CIVCO Engineering and one from Jones & DeMille. On the RFQ it stated that all proposals had to be submitted before 4pm. Unfortunately, Epic Engineering’s proposal was received exactly at 4pm. To accept Epic’s proposal as timely could open us up to legal ramifications. But it is the board’s decision as to whether to accept or reject that proposal.

After much discussion and deliberation by the board, the decision was made to not accept the Epic proposal.

Motion was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Haslem to not consider the Epic proposal. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

The names of the two engineering firms to make presentations were put into a cup and Kevin Keller was asked to draw a name. CIVCO Engineering’s name was drawn and they chose to make the first presentation. All those present with Jones & DeMille were asked to leave the chambers, the door was shut, and white noise played to the outside area.

Executive Director McKee stated that in the past, in an effort to be fair and not give any presenter an advantage over another presenter, those not presenting have been asked to leave the room. The public has been invited to remain. It is still an open meeting. The presenters have been asked to do this as a courtesy. Attorney Eric Johnson left the chamber and made sure those leaving recognized this was a courtesy, their leaving the room, and not a requirement. There was agreement. The board requested that presenters try to keep their presentations to around 30 minutes. Each Commissioner has a scoring sheet to be able to score and rank the presenters.

CIVCO’s founder and lead engineer, Troy Ostler, began their presentation. He introduced his team, Aaron Averett of Sunrise Engineering, Diego Carroll of Monument Engineering, and Brett Reynolds who is actually with CIVCO but will represent CRS Engineering as Daren Anderson was unable to attend due to the presentation date being changed.

Troy Ostler introduced himself and stated that he had founded CIVCO in the year 2000, in Vernal, Utah. They are a general engineering firm and they currently work for the Coalition on the Eastern Utah Corridor Project. They work in all 7 Coalition counties and as such they are familiar with the needs of the area. They also do a lot of work for the Utah Department of

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Transportation. They have brought together a team of experts that, they believe, can best serve the Coalition as it moves forward in to the future.

Mr. Ostler first introduced Diego Carroll of Monument Engineering. Mr. Carroll stated that he focuses on helping local municipalities build infrastructure. His specialty is the early stages of projects – the economics, the feasibility, the environmental, and conceptual design.

Aaron Averett with Sunrise Engineering next stated that they are a large company with offices statewide. They have the largest natural gas design division in the State of Utah. They felt this could really benefit the Coalition as it develops gas pipelines. They have developed high pressure distribution lines all over the Western United States. The other benefit they could bring to the Coalition is that have 35 G.I.S. employees and are the only ones in Utah who are ESRI certified. Sunrise is known throughout the state for developing water projects and could bring a lot of that expertise to the Leland Bench Project.

Bret Reynolds, representing CRS Engineering, stated that CRS has a lot of experience doing railway projects. Their firm was hired by C.I.B., back at the beginning of the Uinta Railway Project, to review the financial proposal. As such, they are quite familiar with this project’s goals. They have also been working on the Utah Inland Port Project and would be a big help as that project moves forward.

Time was turned back over to Troy Ostler who stated that he would be the Project Manager and he would appoint two Deputy Project Managers. Each member of their team would be assigned a Coalition project so there was always somebody in the know to assist at all times.

Jones & DeMille’s

Jones & DeMille’s principal, Brian Barton, took the lead. He introduced his team with him today. Mike Hawley, from Jones & DeMille and Jonathan Johansen with Johansen & Tuttle. Additional team members, not present, are Dan Hawley and Cody Deeter with EFG Consulting. Mr. Barton expressed to the board how much they appreciated the last 5 years working with the Coalition. It has been an exciting time as they have all been doing things never before done. They have pioneered a lot of new concepts, done regional planning in rural areas, and enjoyed bringing the Coalition Board information it has used to make important decisions.

Mike Hawley stated that as they put together a team, they wanted to be able to maintain unity within the Coalition. If this Coalition stays unified it can do incredible things. Looking at the opportunities before the Coalition, it is exciting. The team they have assembled includes professionals working in each of the Coalition counties.

Jonathan Johansen next spoke stating that Johansen & Tuttle was located in Castledale and has been in business since 1972. They do a lot of work in Carbon and Emery Counties. The firm has extensive experience with water projects. They have helped many local entities obtain funding
for these projects. They have a full materials lab located in Castledale. In addition, they are experienced with peer review, cost estimating and project concepting. Mike Hawley added that they were very pleased to have Johansen & Tuttle on the team.

Cody Deeter, not present today, would provide financial expertise. He has a lot of experience putting finances together for large projects. There are projects being contemplated that will require a rate structure to be calculated. Cody will help determine these rate structures.

Another team member, Don Hamilton with Star Point Enterprises has strong relationships with all of the oil and gas producers in the Basin. He has done permitting and rights-of-way acquisition.

Cameron Cuch with Sachem Group lives in the Roosevelt area and has extensive experience with Tribal permitting. He has helped us previously and will be a valuable member of the team as we work to do more projects involving the Ute Tribe. Finally, Elrena Mitchell with NASBAH Technologies is a veteran and member of the Navajo Tribe down in San Juan County. She has helped us to successfully deliver several projects in the past and will work with us in the coming years.

Brian Barton stated that they believe in the Coalition and in bringing in top professionals to help advance the cause. After 5 successful years of working together they have developed costing tools to help better understand projects. They now have a ranking matrix that is very valuable in decision making. Another strength they bring to the table is budget control. They maintain the website and have created a records officer position to help track records, store files, recordings, and conversations, and respond to GRAMA requests.

We are involved in several major projects for the Coalition and believe strongly that continuity in all of those efforts is important. Over time, they have brought in over 18 other consultants and professionals to provide expertise on projects when needed. We understand the Coalition’s need to be cost conscious and have reduced our rates significantly. We are on the Coalition team and look forward to doing more exciting projects in the future.

Director McKee asked him to discuss the Category 8 services. Mr. Barton stated that in the beginning there were many services needed that did not fit into a specific project category. His firm labeled them Category 8 services. This allows them to use less expensive staff to provide for those unexpected needs. We will continue to provide Category 8 services.

After the interviews were complete, Director McKee asked for a few more minutes to allow Kevin Keller, with HDR, to report on the rail project.

Time was turned over to Keven Keller. He began by telling everyone that the rail project is going well. They have just submitted a lot of information to the Surface Transportation Board. They have submitted cultural resources memos, biological resource memos, aquatic resource

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memos, just a ton of data in terms of GIS shape files and field data. All of that will be assimilated into a draft EIS statement by ICF, the third-party consultant.

They continue to refine the 3 alignments – Indian Canyon, Wells Draw and Whitmore Park. Much of what we’ve been doing is based on comments received from property owners, especially on the Whitmore Park alignment, along with federal and state comments. The one thing for everyone to be aware of is that we discovered another sliver of BLM land north of the Emma Park Road. As you may know, one of our intentions is to avoid BLM land, as it takes a lot of time to deal with their land management plans…it’s a scheduling issue. So, I wanted you to be aware that we are seeking a way around that BLM strip of land.

We are still working with property owners. Mark Hemphill and Pam Juliano with Rio Grande Pacific are doing a wonderful job with this. They have not had a single land owner tell them absolutely “no”.

In addition, we are doing a minimization project where we evaluate the alignments and make sure they are as good as possible. For example, if we cross a water body 4 times, is there a way we can only cross it once or not at all? If we are looking at the need for a bridge, is there a way we can avoid needing a bridge?

The step after this is impact assessment, looking at impacts we might be able to avoid or minimize. If we can’t avoid an impact then how do we mitigate it? We will also be looking at permitting activities. All of these are required to make the project a reality.

17. **Motion to enter closed/executive session and reopen at the end of the closed/executive session** for the purposes of personnel, and real estate acquisition was made by Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. Unanimously approved 7-0-0 absent.

Roll call vote was as follows:

**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:**

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**Motion to leave closed/executive session** made by Commissioner Miles, seconded by Commissioner Hopes. Unanimously approved 7-0-0 absent.

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18. Discussion and consideration for Engineering Services.

After returning from closed session, the Chair asked if there was additional discussion needed about awarding the engineering services or was the board ready for a motion?

Motion to award engineering services to Jones & DeMille was made by Commissioner Grayeyes, seconded by Commissioner Ogden. Unanimously approved. 7-0-0 absent.

19. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miless, seconded by Commissioner Hopes. Unanimously approved 7-0-0 absent.
A motion to approve the January 17, 2020 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

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Co-Chair: Brad Horrocks

Co-Chair: Lynn Sitterud

ATTEST:

Eric T. Johnson (Legal Counsel)

Minutes of January 17, 2020