



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
Carbon County Commission Chambers
751 East 100 North
Price, Utah
(435) 219-1362

Board Members Present: Jack Lytle (Daggett County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Lynn Sitterud (Emery County), and Tooter Ogden (Sevier County)

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

Attended telephonically: Melissa Cano, Kelly Carter, Bret Reynolds, Kyle Robe, Keith Heaton, Deborah Sigman, Stan Holmes, Darlene Reilley, and Zac Whitwell

Absent: Casey Hopes (Carbon County), Willie Grayeyes (San Juan County), and Brad Horrocks (Uintah County)

Others Present: Senator Ron Winterton, Senator David Hinkins, Mike Miles, Alair Emory, Joel Yellowhorse, and Michael Klein (Please notify staff at 435-219-1362 of any spelling corrections or if you were present and not listed.)

NOTE: Due to the Coronavirus, dial-in participation was offered. Dial-in numbers were as follows:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://jonesanddemillezoom.us/j/98188914951>

Meeting ID: 981 8891 4951

Dial by your location

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1. Welcome, Introduction and Pledge of Allegiance (Greg Miles)

After the reciting of the pledge, Commissioner Miles mentioned that he felt reciting the pledge was an important part of the meeting, especially in this day and time. He wanted to thank all of those who served in the military and sacrificed for our freedoms. He added that at the 4th of July celebration, in his home town of Bluebell, Utah, every year they retire the flag and raise a new flag. Veterans and active-duty members of the community help to lay the old flag to rest. A veteran with whom Commissioner Miles is friendly commented that wherever the American flag flies it is home. It's a tragedy that we have people living in this country who would vilify a flag. It's a real tragedy. A lot of sacrifices have been made to keep that flag flying. Commissioner Miles went on to relate the story of Fort McHenry, Francis Scott Keys, and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. He finished by saying how grateful he was to live in this great country and this great State of Utah.

Executive Director McKee added that we should always remember, as stated in the Pledge of Allegiance, that we are "one nation under God". We were founded on the principals of religious freedom. We maintain these freedoms as a result of the battles that have been fought.

2. Public Comment (Greg Miles)

Public comment was accepted verbally, during the meeting, telephonically by Zoom, and by electronic written submission at hhoyt@7county.utah.gov. Electronic written comments are 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.

Time was turned over to Melissa Cano who gave instructions on how to participate verbally and by Zoom.

For the July 16, 2021 meeting, there were no Zoom or verbal comments made or submitted. No written comments were received.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for the June 18, 2021 meeting. (Greg Miles)

There were 3 corrections noted.

Motion to approve the June 18, 2021 minutes, as corrected, was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Sitterud.

Chairman Miles called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Presentation and acceptance of the annual audit report

Mike Miles of Aycock, Miles & Associates made the presentation. He handed out a one-page audit recap sheet. He said that the partner who reviewed the audit said it was great and the Kristi Sharp, of Smuin, Rich and Marsing, had done a great job and was great to work with. The procedures in place were good and guarded the assets of the Coalition. There were no findings to report. A copy of the 2020 Audit can be found at scic-utah.org. Click on the DOCUMENTS tab.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-07B accepting the annual audit report for fiscal year 2020 was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Miles called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Report on San Rafael Research Lab

Commissioner Sitterud began by saying that a contractor was finally under contract. The contractor has started work on the nuclear half of the research center. They are still looking for grants to help purchase equipment. The coal side is waiting on new contracts. They plan on doing more work for DRAX and are waiting on contracts. Everything is moving along.

That concluded the report on the San Rafael Research Lab.

6. Report on Satellite Transportation Hub

Commissioner Ogden noted that the Inland Port continues to move forward. They are working on translocating projects. Currently, they are negotiating MOU Agreements with the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Oakland. These represent future opportunities to export products from the west coast. They are working on the design of a translocating facility which will help get product onto a train and to the ports. The staffing has been pretty short and they are looking to hire some specialty staff. Commissioner Ogden expressed his appreciation to the Senators present today who have been so helpful with this project.

This concluded the report on the Satellite Transportation Hub.

7. Report on Uinta Basin Railway Project

Commissioner Miles began by stating they are close to finalizing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). He turned time over to Director McKee who added that it's expected to be released early in August. The 401 Permit, having to do with water quality, is out for comment. Those comments are due late July. The 404 Permit is moving along. Once the EIS is released there will be a 30-day comment period. Once it's ended, the Surface Transportation Board (STB) will issue its final decision. Also, once it's released, the Forest Service will have an opportunity to go through the EIS and that could take several months. So, we will have the 401 and 404 Permits and the Update to the Forest Plan. This will also be a time to see if anything else needs to be done with the Tribal Participation Plan. There are mitigation aspects that will continue even after all of these documents are finalized and signed. As all of this is wrapping up, we are very pleased at where we sit today. The project is financially in good shape.

This concluded the report on the Uinta Basin Railway Project.

8. Executive Directors Report

Director McKee first made reference to the prior meeting where Grand County made a presentation concerning the Seep Ridge Road. Commissioner McGann referenced some time tests they had done concerning the limited amount of time saved by the Seep Ridge Road

extension, an average of 21 minutes. Director McKee, after that meeting, went back and reviewed work previously done by the Coalition's engineers (CIVCO Engineering) which showed if you traveled from Vernal through Colorado to Moab it was 37 minutes longer getting to Moab than anticipated by the Seep Ridge Road extension. If you traveled from Vernal, over Indian Canyon, through Price to Moab it showed 43 minutes longer. So, if we are putting everything on the table, the work done by our engineers at the beginning of this project, shows almost twice as much travel time compared to the numbers presented by Grand County.

Next, he spoke about the San Rafael Energy Research Center. He recognized how much hard work had been done by Commissioner Sitterud and others at Emery County. He next mentioned that without legislative funding much of this would not have been possible. He thanked Senators Hinkin and Winterton for all of their help in getting funds. As was previously mentioned, we are now looking for additional grants and federal funds. This research center and the possibility of it becoming an innovation center will be huge for this area and for the whole State of Utah.

He next recognized Commissioner Ogden for his work helping to create an Inland Port. In addition to the port, he and his fellow commissioners have been working on this transportation study to help identify potential areas of economic growth for Sevier County. Hopefully, by the next meeting, we will have the finalized study to discuss and review.

Daggett County has a regional plan it is also working on. Then, there is the Navajo Mountain project. Currently, we are having discussions with Senators and Legislators trying to secure the funding to make road and water system improvements for the Navajo Nation. The support of our senators is so important for all of these projects.

The Coalition is involved in a lot of projects that have the potential to make people's lives better. Our board members work very hard representing their counties and constituents.

At the end of the Director's presentation, Commissioner Lytle thanked him and the staff for all of their hard work. Commissioner Miles echoed those sentiments and stated that the Coalition has an incredible team. It takes a lot of work to move these projects forward.

9. Engineers Report

Brian Barton began by recognizing Executive Director McKee for all of his hard work and for all of those involved in the Coalition who have an incredible passion for what they do. These are all important projects which do make a difference.

He next addressed the Utah Regional Connection Project (aka Seep Ridge Road) and the travel times previously discussed. At the beginning of this project, when the initial calculations were done for the CIB application, they showed mileages. If you go through Indian Canyon, it is a total distance of 244 miles. If you go through Colorado, HWY 139, it's 201 miles.

Next, he referenced the changes they have made to their monthly summary. It now includes project rankings and a project development flow chart that shows the status of each project.

There has already been a lot of discussion about the various projects so there was not much to add. The rail project is doing well but there is still a lot of coordination required as the project nears completion.

As concerns Sevier County's project, they had a great call with Colliers (the project consultants) and Brian confirmed that they are almost done with their study. They are currently working on an addendum to the initial study they prepared and presented. It will almost totally replace the initial study. They presented the initial study to this board a few months ago and got a lot of feedback. They have taken all of that feedback and produced this addendum.

This concluded the Engineers Report.

10. Discussion and consideration of ratifying the San Rafael Research Lab invoices and checks requiring payment prior to the July 2021 Coalition board meeting and related matters.

Commissioner Miles began by stating that this had to do with the State's end of year and the need to have some invoices and checks reviewed, approved, and submitted prior to the regular Coalition July meeting. Commissioner Hopes, Sitterud, Miles, and Director McKee performed the review and believed the invoices and checks were all in good order. So, now, the board just needs to ratify those expenses previously approved.

Commissioner Ogden stated that he, too, reviewed those expenses and found no problem.

Motion to approve Resolution 2021-07A ratifying the San Rafael Research Lab invoices and checks requiring payment prior to the July 2021 Coalition board meeting was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Miles called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion and consideration of monthly expenses

Doug Rasmussen with Smuin, Rich and Marsing referred the board to the Payment Approval Sheet. He noted that the first 3 items were the invoices and checks previously approved prior to this meeting and spoken about in Item 10 on this agenda. The next check is not included in the total being approved today, Check #1923. The related invoices had previously been approved for payment. There were a couple of modifications to the invoices but they did not change the check total.

Mr. Rasmussen next recognized Alair Emory, present at this meeting, who is with the State Office of Energy and oversees a grant we have with them. He noted how much they appreciated her as she has been great to work with.

Commissioner Ogden had a question for attorney Eric Johnson. As concerns the Molten Salt Research Lab, how close are we to receiving the nuclear permit? Mr. Johnson responded that they had the application ready to submit when they were introduced to Jess Housekeeper who has a lot of experience with this type of application. Mr. Housekeeper went through the

application we had prepared and had several suggestions of things to do to strengthen the application. Those changes have been made and he is almost ready to submit.

Mr. Rasmussen next presented the monthly expenses to the board in the amount of \$410,282.55.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL					
July 16, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.					
Carbon County Commission Chambers					
751 East 100 North, Price, UT 84501					
Invoices Approved by Board Ratification (Amounts not included in monthly total for authorization):					
Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Grant
ETJ Law	1909	1857	6,187.50	Molten Salt/Research Center Facility - Legal Services	Energy Research Center Grant
ETJ Law	1910	1880	6,838.75	Molten Salt/Research Center Facility - Legal Services	Energy Research Center Grant
ETJ Law	1911	1902	9,062.50	Molten Salt/Research Center Facility - Legal Services	Energy Research Center Grant
Invoice Previously Approved by Board (Check was previously for higher amount - Amount not included in monthly total for authorization):					
Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Grant
VOID	1899				
ETJ Law	1923	1850	11,971.24	General - Legal Services	General Grant
Checks Currently Being Approved:					
Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Mike McKee	1903-1908			Director's Pay per Contract	General Grant
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	1912	44515	5,299.85	Consulting Per Contract - June 2021	General Grant
Heather Hoyt	1913	July 7, 2021	1,530.00	Contract Labor	General Grant
Mike McKee	1914	June 8-July 7, 2021	128.36	Director's Travel	General Grant
Jones & Demille	1915	0125295	14,966.75	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
HDR	1916	1200356758	60,537.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Engineering Services - Phase 2
HDR	1916	1200356758	108,232.76	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
HDR	1916	1200356760	10,776.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
HDR	1916	1200356838	9,700.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
Jones & Demille	1917	0125298	52,400.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & Demille	1917	0125298	8,816.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	1918	0156277	66,070.11	Uinta Rail Line - NEPA Consulting	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP	1919	2366947	29,282.40	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Services	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
ETJ Law	1920	1855	6,462.50	General - Legal Services	General Grant
ETJ Law	1920	1878	7,627.08	General - Legal Services	General Grant
ETJ Law	1920	1900	5,922.50	General - Legal Services	General Grant
ETJ Law	1921	1856	5,497.91	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
ETJ Law	1921	1882	6,956.25	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
ETJ Law	1921	1901	2,187.50	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
ETJ Law	1922	1883	2,275.00	CBD Rail Litigation	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
ETJ Law	1922	1903	5,614.58	CBD Rail Litigation	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Total Payment Approval			\$ 410,282.55		

Motion to approve the monthly expenses in the amount of \$410,282.55 was made by Commissioner Sitterud, seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

Chairman Miles called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Doug Rasmussen next referred the board to the Balance Sheet as of May 31, 2021 which showed the assets, liabilities, and equity, along with the Consolidated Profit and Loss and Individual Profit and Loss by Class for January thru May 31, 2021. Because the Coalition spends money and then requests reimbursement from the State or other funding source, as Mr. Miles mentioned in the audit, there is always a large receivable on the books. For this month, there is almost \$775,000 in receivables representing funds which have not yet been received.

Motion to accept the financials as presented for the month ending May 31, 2021 was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Miles called for a vote. The motion passed unanimously.

And, finally, the board was directed to pages that represent each individual project since inception with a statement showing expenses for each project and the funds remaining. If the project has been closed it shows as being zeroed out. In addition, these pages show any other expenses right up to today's board meeting.

Director McKee brought the invoices from ICF (Check #1918) to the board's attention. If the board would remember, previously it approved a certain amount which was less than what had been budgeted. So, that resulted in a previously budgeted amount and a different, less, approved amount. Since then, there have been some amendments to the ICF Agreement and it looks like we are going to come in under the anticipated amount. For June and July, we had anticipated \$125,000. The actual invoice presented this month was less than that, \$66,070.11. This concluded the financial reports.

12. Motion to enter closed (executive) session pursuant to Section 59-1-404 related to real estate acquisition, pending litigation, professional competency and trade secrets was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Lytle at 11:10 a.m.

Roll call vote, to make sure every vote was counted, was as follows:

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea ___	No ___	Absent
Daggett	Board Member	Yes X	No ___	
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea X	No ___	
Emery	Board Member	Yea X	No ___	
San Juan	Board Member	Yea ___	No ___	Absent
Sevier	Board Member	Yea X	No ___	
Uintah	Board Member	Yea ___	No ___	Absent

Approved 4-0-3 absent

Motion to leave closed/executive session was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Sitterud at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Roll call vote, to make sure every vote was counted, was as follows:

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea ___	No ___	Absent
Daggett	Board Member	Yes X	No ___	
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea X	No ___	
Emery	Board Member	Yea X	No ___	
San Juan	Board Member	Yea ___	No ___	Absent
Sevier	Board Member	Yea X	No ___	
Uintah	Board Member	Yea ___	No ___	Absent

Approved 4-0-3 absent

13. Motion to Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ogden.

A motion to approve the July 16, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yes ___ No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
San Juan	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___
Uintah	Board Member	Yea ___ No ___

Approved -0- absent

Co-Chair: Casey Hopes

Co-Chair: Greg Miles

(COALITION SEAL)

ATTEST:

Heather B. Hoyt