

Six County Infrastructure Coalition Meeting
April 1, 2015
Carbon County Event Center
Price, Utah

Minutes

Voting Board Members present: Bruce Adams, Mike McKee, Jae Potter, Keith Brady, Ron Winterton, Jack Lytle

Also present: Executive Director Ralph Okerlund, Eric Johnson, Seth Oveson, Tami Ursenbach, Tammie Lucero, Brian Barton - Jones and DeMille

1) Welcome – Mike McKee

Mike McKee welcomed all and noted that the meeting is being held early because of Easter weekend.

Bruce Adams introduced the new executive director, Ralph Okerlund. Ralph thanked the chairmen for the opportunity to be involved in a ground breaking organization. It is an exciting time with what is going on in the State. He sees a blossoming of rural Utah in the next ten to fifteen years.

2) Minutes

Ron Winterton made a motion to approve the minutes with the following correction – correct the spelling of Commissioner Lytle’s name. Bruce Adams seconded. Motion carried.

3) Finance Director Report and approval of expenses

Seth Oveson reviewed finances including: the PTIF account which holds the CIB funding, expenditures, bank reconciliation, payables and the balance sheet.

Jae Potter made a motion to approve the expense report, Ron Winterton seconded. Motion carried.

4) Envision Utah introduction and report

Robert Grow introduced Envision Utah which is involved in planning, growth and projections. Their goals are similar to the goals of the Six Counties Infrastructure Coalition.

Robert has been involved with Envision Utah since 1994 in the greater Wasatch area. Their research focus is on the impacts of populations in the region including the development of the rail system along the Wasatch Front.

They are currently hosting a survey called “Your Utah Your Future”, which is available on line at envisionutah.org.

Envision Utah is a facilitator they gather facts and do projections. Robert is here today to listen to what the Six Counties Coalition's goals are and see if they can help in any way. The discussion continued concerning the differences between rural Utah and the Wasatch Front, preserving, protecting, growth and strengthening what is important to Eastern Utah.

Robert said they have been working on an analysis of how much natural gas will be needed in the State. They have different scenarios on line. You will also need to cool, heat and provide water for the growth. There is a communication issue of where the energy will come from.

Robert said it is clear that we need to redo the transmission systems. People have no idea of the cost. There is a campaign about the future of energy in Utah that needs to be pushed aggressively. People do not understand that even if we cut the consumption of energy used by new houses in half we still need a huge amount of natural gas.

Jae Potter reminded everyone that coal needs to be added to the vocabulary. It is the cheapest form of energy. There is technology available to make it cleaner than natural gas. We need to change the vision to include coal. The Wasatch Front is dependent on rural Utah for energy. The reality is the Carbon Plant is closing and Rocky Mountain Power has no idea where the replacement power is going to come from. The discussion continued concerning coal fired and natural gas powered plants concluding that coal needs to be included in the planning.

Bruce Adams said an issue with the on-line survey is most people will be from the Wasatch Front with their problems coming out in the forefront. For the past ten years UDOT has been working only on their Class 1 roads. Nothing has been done in the rural part of the state. Down the road there is going to be a capital need to replace these roads instead of just maintaining them. He feels that the most important thing Envision can do is regionalization and what is important to each area. It would be good to invite Envision to the Coalition meetings so that rural Utah's needs are discussed.

Robert said they would like to be invited to the meetings so that they know the Coalition's needs. They would love to be involved.

5) *Report on Coalition Website/Logo and consideration of approval*

Keith Brady has designed a web page and the domain is www.scic-utah.org. Multiple items can be posted on the web site such as agendas, meeting notes and minutes, audio recordings of the open meetings and resolutions in order to make the Coalition as transparent as possible. He is working on a logo which will be emailed out for review.

Jae Potter made a motion to approve the website domain and hosting by Carbon County. Jack Lytle seconded. Motion carried.

6) *Proposal on Rural County Senators and consideration of approval of support*

Bruce Adams proposed that the Coalition approve to support an amendment to the Utah Constitution that allows for individual representation for the public land burden carried by rural counties. He reviewed the square miles of public land each counties has. He is proposing that those

counties who don't have a senator living within the County receive a portioned senator for fair representation. Because of the burden of public lands in these counties, decisions are being made in the Legislature concerning public land without that representative residing in those counties such as San Juan and Carbon Counties. They want representation. He has a resolution and would like this Coalition to sign it and then he would take it to each county commission for signatures of support.

It was asked how many additional senators would be needed. Bruce said fifteen to eighteen. If this passes this new number of senators would be permanent. He has not found anyone in a rural county that opposes this proposal.

This resolution may continue to evolve as legal challenges and corrections need to be made. This is a beginning document.

Keith Brady made a motion to support the resolution, Jae seconded. Motion carried.

It was asked that this be brought back to the May meeting for final formalization and signatures.

7) Discussion of Public Lands

Mike McKee said the Public Lands Initiative may be pushed back because of delays and issues being worked on. He believes that as a whole the process has been very positive.

Jae asked that the plans be cohesive and to collectively work with neighboring counties so that we are saying the same thing. This topic will also be covered at UAC in May.

Daggett County has come up with a different proposal which has initiated discussions in the congressional offices, with the coalition and environmental group.

No action was taken.

8) Discussion about Projects Involving Other Counties and consideration of approval

Brian Barton with Jones and DeMille, has met with all six counties. They have had a positive response from the energy companies who are interested in what the Coalition is doing. They are compiling this information, some of which is very sensitive.

Jones and DeMille are moving forward with the scope including cultural resource identification, land use mapping and tracking the Bishop land bill. There are several other large infrastructure projects that are not energy based; for highways, power generation, water issues and refining opportunities. Jones and DeMille will prioritize all of the projects.

They have met with Utah State University and Scott Hill and understand what he is doing. They are building relationships and gathering information.

They are working on an on-line option and a new web site in order to make the public aware. The website not only allows for the board to interact and see what Jones and DeMille is doing, but is also a way for the Coalition to provide feedback.

Jae said there are a number of projects that will benefit the Coalition including the Duchesne/Carbon County pipeline. One of the items on the CIB agenda tomorrow is an application for a bulk terminal on the west coast that would allow the export of Utah products benefitting the State of Utah. The Coalition needs to be aware of these projects.

Ralph is aware of the application going to the CIB and wondered how it would affect the Coalition. He wondered if these kinds of projects should involve a discussion to bring the other counties under this umbrella. He would like some direction from the group on how they would like these relationships to work.

Mike thinks you can become too big or stay too small. There are opportunities where you can still participate without being a member of the Coalition through interlocal agreements. There will always be an adjoining county.

The discussion continued on the role of the Coalition and how it can work with surrounding counties who are not members.

No action was taken.

9) **Monthly Report on Infrastructure Study**

See above

10) **Public Comment (limit 3 minutes)**

The Economic Developer Directors met earlier this morning and indicated that they would like to hold their monthly meeting at 10:00 a.m. and be done by 11:30 a.m., have lunch and if possible, meet with the Coalition at 12:00 noon. A discussion continued on what times would work best for everyone in order to make travel efficient.

The chairmen decided that the Coalition meeting will begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and then continue with the official meeting at 12:00 noon in order for the Economic Developer Directors to meet at 10:00 a.m.

Scott Hill from Utah State University Eastern presented information about an application to the Economic Development Assistance program (EDA).

EDA is a Federal grant program used to support and enhance economic development issues especially in distressed regions. Distressed regions are areas where there has been a shut down in a major industry or company and in areas that have been impacted by the downturn in the economy. Because of the downturn in the coal industry and the closure of the Carbon Power Plant, our area qualifies for this grant.

Carbon County is the only county in the Western United States that is on that list due to the downturn in coal. EDA is interested in funding a project in this area because they have never funded here before.

The original application submitted by USU Eastern was a proposal for an industrial incubator located on College property. The idea behind the proposal was for companies that have demonstrated their technologies and laboratory skills and are now ready to scale up to a pilot application. Then build these projects to a commercial scale in Eastern Utah. The application is for 3.4 million dollars.

EDA liked the concept but wanted more data supporting the projects. They are willing to fund a study at a cost of four to five hundred thousand dollars. A following application based on the results of that study would have a great likelihood of being funded.

They are submitting an application for a grant for an economic study at a cost of \$500,000 which requires a 50% cost sharing and is due on June 1, 2015. They would take the results of this study and submit a second application for a project costing 3 million dollars with a 30% cost share which would be submitted next spring between March and June.

The initial study will look at the existing resources, what is the infrastructure to support the companies, what are the industry clusters in the region, what are the historical trends of those clusters, what industries has the most potential for growth and what are the things that those industries need to expand. Some of these will overlap with what Jones and DeMille are studying. A lot of information can be shared and they can work closely with them. This study would provide support to various agencies in the region on all levels, local, County and State.

They would like the Coalition to provide the local match of \$250,000 from the study they are already performing.

Because this item was not on the agenda no action could be taken. The time from for the grant is June 1. Eric will work with Scott and Ralph in order to get this on the agenda for the meeting in May.

11) Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to §52-4-205

Ron Winteron made a motion to go into executive (closed) session for the acquisition of real property. Keith Brady seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

The board convened to an executive (closed) session.

12) Motion to adjourn

Bruce Adams made a motion to close the executive (closed) session and reconvene in the regular meeting and to adjourn the regular meeting. Ron Winteron seconded. Motion carried.

Motion to approve minutes by Brady and motion seconded by Lytle.

SIX COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
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Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Board Member	Yea <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Bruce Adams
Bruce Adams, Co-Chair

Seth Oveson
Seth Oveson, Treasurer

Mike McKee
Mike McKee, Co-Chair

Eric Johnson
Eric Johnson, Acting Clerk

