

**Six County Infrastructure Coalitions**  
**March 11, 2016 10:00 a.m.**  
**ROOM 157A&B**  
**1385 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah**  
**MINUTES**

Commissioners in attendance

Mike McKee, Uintah

Bruce Adams, San Juan

Jae Potter, Carbon

Ron Winterton, Duchesne

Jack Lytle, Daggett

Keith Brady, Emery

Others in attendance

Seth Oveson

Ralph Okerlund

Eric Johnson

Darin Robinson

1. Welcome - Bruce Adams
2. Minutes – Motion to approve by Lytle, seconded by Potter. Unanimously approved with no further discussion
3. Public Comment - No comment from public
4. Finance Director Report - Seth Oveson

Bank Reconciliation says there is \$3,456,000 left in that account. For Bills pending we have invoice from Jones and Demille for \$196,321.25, ETJ law for \$20,548 and the last Coalition Board meeting was held at the Department of Environmental Quality Board Room and we got an invoice for after hours security for the amount of \$33.75 these are the only bills. We are current on all the rest.

Motion to approve payment of expenses by Winterton, seconded by Lytle. Unanimously approved

- 5 Executive Director Report – Ralph Okerlund

Eric Johnson has been putting a lot of work to make sure we can get reimbursed on the bills. Many thanks to Keith Heaton with the Community Impact Board to work through these issues.

There were several legislative bills of interest during the last legislative session. The first was a public private partnership bill (SB257). It attracted a lot of positive interest. We had a good start and received some good input on amendments. It didn't get through the house process. It is something that should be brought back at next year's legislative session. The second dealt with conflicts of interest (SB205). This bill was approved by the State Legislature and should be signed by the Governor. It clarifies that a member of a board, like the Community Impact Board, may act on applications unless they have a personal interest not shared by the public generally. A third bill of interest dealt with high cost infrastructure tax credits (SB102). With infrastructure, when a company comes in and makes more infrastructure in rural areas they are eligible for a 30% discount for taxes. Fourth, there was a bill modifying distributions of oil and gas royalties (SB134). Because of low gas prices we don't have the income in the state. Employees with the Division of oil and gas have been laid off. The Division will not have enough people to work if we have a boom. The bill passed. It directs that the first \$4.5 million of funds will go to the Division. This year the State Legislature had to pull money from the general fund. This bill will help ensure the Division of oil and gas has a funding source.

Mr. Okerlund asked Commissioner Jae Potter to report on (SB246) dealing with exchanging state dollars for mineral lease funds. Mr. Potter reported that to make funds available to fund a port terminal in Oakland, a portion of the sales tax funds will go to an enterprise fund, Federal dollars will be traded for State dollars. It is not tax money we are trading. No money will be spent until everything is in place.

6. Infrastructure Report – Darren Robinson.

In performing the infrastructure study, we found that to complete our information, we needed to evaluate the infrastructure in adjoining counties across state boards in Colorado, Arizona and Wyoming. This is an added, new element as we evaluate projects. We noticed differences with neighboring counties in other states, but also many similarities. Those Counties are similar to our counties. They have shared project needs. We have been meeting with those counties there are a few more meetings that are pending.

Counties in other states would like a railroad

Colorado counties, like Utah counties, would also like more Broad Band

Recreation trail from Montross to Moab

All counties have transportation deficiencies and electrical transmission deficiencies.

Recreation is important to the counties in Colorado, Jones and Demille is looking to the board for guidance on that. The Board is in favor of meeting with Colorado counties. It was determined that we should work to set up a meeting in Colorado for the May 6, 2016 Coalition Board meeting.

7. Natural Gas Needs in Emery County – Keith Brady

Green River City has long needed natural gas. There are natural gas wells within a few miles of Green River, but none of it comes to the City. Commissioner Brady would like

the Coalition to look at how natural gas could be brought to Green River. Darin Robinson said that as part of the infrastructure study Jones and Demille has gathered information on the natural gas resources around Green River and that they can pull that information together and report.

8. Public Hearing on request for CIB funding for Broadband.

Jeff Egly and Dennis Sampson with the Utah Education Network (UEN) introduced the topic. He told of a broadband project in Daggett and San Juan counties. The project would need \$10 million. The UEN has access to E rate funding that could provide funding for approximately 90% of the project and the UEN is looking for a 10% match. The E rate funds are available now, so there is urgency to find 10% match. There is uncertainty if E rate funds will be available next year. Six bidders bid on this project and UEN requests to move forward and have the Coalition apply with the CIB for a project in San Juan and Daggett counties

Motion to open public hearing by Lytle and seconded by Winterton. Unanimously approved to open public hearing.

Commissioner Rebecca Benali from San Juan County spoke first. She indicated San Juan County is remote and the internet is not reliable and this is a time sensitive project if we want to get certain funding. The first phase is to get it to the schools there are 7 schools in the district that need reliable internet. Phase 2 is to get funding from Navajo trust funds. San Juan County could use the internet to improve government meetings because people could join in remotely. But the big issue is improving education. Right now the internet is through microwave transmission which means that it helps the schools a little but the average citizen does not have good internet. Citizens that have online businesses have to apply for more broadband so they can run their businesses. With the new system these problems would be greatly improved and people could take online education courses.

Keleigh Cole with the Utah Governor's office spoke in favor of the broadband project and that her office had recommended to UEN that they consider CIB as a funding source for matching funds.

Jean Dickinson a business owner in Daggett County spoke in favor of the project and an application to the CIB for funding. She mentioned the need for reliable internet in Daggett County.

Annie Smith the Economic Development Director for Uintah County spoke in favor of the broadband project and an application to the CIB for funding.

Ray Timothy the Executive Director of the UEN spoke in favor of the broadband project in Daggett and San Juan Counties. He mentioned how UEN had looked for other funding sources and explained the great benefits to rural communities when broadband is available.

Brian Raymond the Economic Development Director for Daggett County spoke in favor of the broadband project and an application to the CIB for funding. He mentioned how much Manila and Dutch John areas will be benefitted by better internet access and the improvement to education and business opportunities.

After hearing all public comments, the public hearing was closed.

9. Resolution to apply to CIB for matching funds for Broadband in Daggett and San Juan Counties.

Motion to approve resolution by Winterton, seconded by Potter. Passes unanimously

10. Financing Infrastructure - Paige Gardiner

Electrical Consultants, Inc. has an office in Woods Cross, Utah. Their services involve electrical projects but extend to title work and right away acquisition and property rights. They have a lot of local clients. The company does government permitting on environmental issues. ECI has a commitment to rural co-ops. ECI's roots began serving rural co-ops. ECI has relationships with many companies and they have been working with Jones and Demille on the electrical transmission line in the Uintah Basin.

11. Closed Session – Motion by Lytle, seconded by Brady to enter executive session related to real property acquisition.
12. Motion to adjourn Potter. Adjourned by acclamation.