



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION  
MEETING MINUTES

May 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

Carbon County Commission Chambers  
751 East 100 North  
Price, Utah  
(435) 219-1362

**Board Members Present:** Tony Martinez (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 Brad Horrocks (Uintah 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, Keith Heaton, Gregg Healy, Andrew Browning, Jake Garfield, Deeda Seed, Carmen Valdez, Deborah Sigman, Grace Olscamp, Lionel Trepanier, Stan Holmes, Trisha Hedin, Tony Mancuso, Robyn Adamson, Box Nixon, Cindy Maughan, Sarah Stock, and McCoy Anderson

**Absent:** Casey Hopes (Carbon County)

**Others Present:** Troy Ostler, Jean Dickinson, Malcom Nash (Sevier County), Russell McClintock (Colliers), Pamela Juliano, and Carolyn Phippen (Senator Lee's Office). (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:**

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

## 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](mailto:hhoyt@7county.utah.gov). Electronic written comments will be forwarded to the Board Members. All comments will be 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.

1. Stan Holmes from Salt Lake City. Mr. Holmes began by stating he had several questions for the Coalition leadership, staff, and consultants. His first question had to do with the Governor's declaration of a drought emergency and whether the Coalition was planning to work with its member counties to explore conservation efforts. His second question was, does the SCIC consider itself an interlocal agency for purposes of accessing throughput infrastructure funds toward the acquisition of rights to a marine coal port facility? Are there other infrastructure funds, state or federal, now accessible directly from the legislature or through the Utah Inland Port Authority for which the SCIC considers itself an Interlocal Agency or is prepared to create an Interlocal Agency for the purpose of obtaining such funds? His third question was, has the SCIC prepared contingency revenue plans to accommodate possible changes in federal policies and programs, and/or litigation pending or likely, that would tighten mineral lease funds disbursement so as to reverse SB176's loosened restrictions and to significantly increase oil and gas royalty charges to reflect the true climate and environmental costs associated with extractive industries putting downward pressure on those industries? And, finally, has the SCIC received any proposals to establish EDCUtah mega sites in the region, in addition to the two in Carbon County, and, if so, what is the intended purpose of those sites? Mr. Holmes thanked the board for the opportunity to make comment.
2. Trisha Hedin from Grand County. Although she is affiliated with Grand County as a Commissioner, she is commenting today as a sportsman. She is addressing Item 16 on the agenda having to do with the Eastern Utah Regional Connection. She has been in opposition to this connection since the Seep Ridge Road was constructed. She is a big game hunter in the Book Cliffs and has been for about 18 years. After the Seep Ridge Road was built, she saw a huge impact on big game and the social impacts that come with a large amount of people gaining access to the area. The elk and deer populations are struggling in this region. One of the contributing factors is the road, road kill, and the fragmentation of wildlife. Big game is impacted when a major highway is built. This is critical summer and winter range. You are bisecting a migration route. You are degrading the habitat. Animals struggling from road build out have trouble calving and fawning. Over the last 30 years this connection has been proposed and rejected several times. Grand County opposes the building of this highway. So, please just table this item. She stated that she is surprised that Carbon and

Emery Counties support this project as it could potentially reroute some of their travel and tourism traffic. This ended her comments and she thanked the board.

3. Lionel Trepanier with Utah Tar Sands Resistance. Mr. Trepanier began with positive social greetings addressed to the board members and recognized the beauty of nature in each of the Utah counties. Today he stated that he, also, is addressing Item 16 on the agenda, the Eastern Utah Regional Connection formerly known as the Book Cliffs Highway. Today's action must be symbolic because this body decided to pull this project from any funding this year. This was done on January 4<sup>th</sup> when the final budget was adopted. Pursuant to the Interlocal Act, Section 520, this budget can be amended only pursuant to the provisions of the Interlocal Act and that would include a public hearing. What he'd like to address is that putting this back on the priority list, when no money can be spent on this item, is the wrong action. This project is a zombie and the Coalition is trying to bring it back to life. This ended his comments. He thanked the board for this opportunity.
4. Tony Mancuso, proud Utah naturalist and conservationist. He stated that he was here today to express his intense disgust that the Coalition is reactivating the Eastern Utah Regional Connection project on ancestral Ute lands, despite the long standing and recent opposition to this project by the communities it will affect. In his opinion, this project's main purpose is to decrease travel times for mineral market shipments by bypassing existing Ports of Entry. This project will further disconnect communities such as Helper, Price and Green River. He would encourage board members to consider the tenuous political foothold they have south of the Tavaputs Plateau. Consider the growth these communities have seen in the past decade. It seems you (Coalition board) are willing to send small businesses down the river for the benefit of special interests. Advertising this highway as a benefit for the tourism industry shows just how tone deaf you are to the needs of rural citizens. Everyone knows your tourism angle was conjured up by an engineering firm out of Montreal. Jones & DeMille didn't even do the feasibility study. This ended his comments and he thanked the board.
5. Mary McGann, Chair of the Grand County Commission, on May 20, 2021, submitted a written comment respectfully asking the Coalition to not reactivate the Eastern Utah Regional Connection project. She stated that the "majority of citizens in Grand County are opposed to the creation of a highway through the Bookcliffs in Grand County and have been consistently opposed for three decades." She requested the Coalition consider other projects that might be more favorably received. This will be a controversial project and face opposition.

For the May 21, 2021 meeting, there were no other Zoom or verbal comments made or submitted. No other written comments were received.

**3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for the April 16, 2021 meeting.** (Greg Miles)

Chair Miles noted that on page 8, toward the bottom, the sentence beginning “Chair Miles added...” mentions that diesel fuel is used to stabilize the fire that burns the coal. Please clarify this to reflect that diesel is used to warm up the boiler before they can start to burn coal. Commissioner Sitterud added that diesel is also used to stabilize the fire as well.

**Motion to approve the April 16, 2021 minutes as corrected** was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks.

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

**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:**

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

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

Commissioner Sitterud reported that for the Molten Salt Lab they initially bid pre-construction on Phase 1. All bids were over budget. They went back and combined Phase 1 and Phase 2 and republished. They received 3 bids. Two of the 3 were within budget. The winning bid was awarded to BHI in Vernal. Contracts will hopefully be signed in the next week. Right now, with this economic climate, it is very hard to get sub-contractors to give firm prices. As to the coal side, all of the testing in process has been completed. They are now waiting on prints and money to do work on the equipment so they can begin the Coal First testing.

That concluded the report on the San Rafael Research Lab.

**5. Report on Satellite Transportation Hub**

Commissioner Ogden began by saying that they have entered into an agreement with the Port of Oakland (California) to optimize infrastructure along a corridor from Oakland to Salt Lake City and improve the delivery of freight. They are still working with and on the Satellite Transportation Ports. Right now, they are working with a skeleton staff. They hope to acquire more staff in the future. They are saving money by hiring consultants versus adding staff.

at concluded the report on the Satellite Transportation Hub.

## **6. Report on Uinta Basin Railway Project**

Commissioner Horrocks began by stating how excited he is about this project. It's a great project. It's actually unbelievable where we are right now in the process. He deferred to Director McKee and Jones & DeMille to give specifics about the project.

## **7. Executive Directors Report**

Director McKee began talking about the Uinta Basin Railway Project. It was approximately two years ago, that the EIS process began. It is expected that the final draft EIS will be released by mid-August. They are very pleased. Once the EIS is released there will be a 30-day comment and review period. Then the final decision will be released by the Surface Transportation Board on the environmental. They have already released a favorable decision on the transportation merits of the project. There are various permits that still need to be obtained, like the 401 and 404 permits, and the 106 permit along with travel participation plans and surveys, such as the Barnaby Ridge-Cress Survey.

As to the San Rafael Research Lab, Commissioner Sitterud and the other Emery County Commissioners need to be commended for the amount of work they have done on this project. In addition, the State's legislative funding has been so important. As you may remember, there were some grant funds through the Department of Energy that we decided not to apply for individually, but joined with the University of Utah in support of their application. They have been funded and received an award of \$1.5 million dollars to get this multi-phase project up and running. There were concerns about whether this amount would be jeopardized with a new presidential administration, but the opposite is true and more funds are expected to be made available. The University of Utah has indicated that they would like to see the San Rafael Research Lab become an Innovation Center. This would be a huge opportunity for this project and Emery County.

Last month, if you will remember, we talked about drafting a letter to the Biden Administration concerning their position on banning fracking. That letter has been drafted and sent out to all of the board members for review. Commissioner Grayeyes had some very strong concerns he wanted represented in the letter. He has reviewed the proposed letter and is in support of moving forward.

That concluded the Executive Director's report.

## **8. Engineers Report**

Brian Barton stated that later in the meeting there would be a discussion about contract adjustments with HDR. They are working to finish the NEPA process for the EIS. Director McKee covered much of the rail project so there is no reason to duplicate those items.

Mike Hawley weighed in on the budget saying that as they approached the end of the EIS it's amazing, as a result of the HDR adjustments, that the budget contingency has grown!! Everyone has worked so hard and they have been able to keep the project on track.

That concluded the Engineers report.

## **9. Report on Western States Gas Initiative**

Director McKee introduced Andrew Browning, by Zoom, who has presented to this board previously. Andrew is one of the principal founders and President of the Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative. Andrew began by informing the board that they are now officially organized as a 501c4. He had a power point presentation which can be viewed on the Coalition's webpage by going to [scic.utah.org](http://scic.utah.org), then Meetings, then at the bottom of the page, Meeting Schedule & Archive, then May 21, 2021. Look for a file entitled "Andrew Browning Power Point Presentation".

Western States and Tribal Nations is a unique trans-national initiative, started in Utah, by the Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development and the Colorado Energy Office under the direction of then Governor Hickenlooper. Colorado, as a state, was then removed from the initiative by its current Governor Jared Polis. The mission has been to find markets for stranded Rocky Mountain gas, including the Basins, Western Colorado, and Eastern Utah. The overall approach is that we are better off trying to solve these challenges together. One challenge is getting the gas from the west coast to the Asian LNG markets.

Shortly after organization of the Initiative the Ute Indian Tribe joined. They have been steadily adding states, counties and tribes. Currently, they are comprised of the State of Wyoming, Utah State Officials, the State of New Mexico, and the Western Colorado Counties of Mesa, Moffat, Garfield and Rio Blanco. Duchesne and Uintah Counties and the Seven County Infrastructure Coalition are also members. The State of Baja California in Mexico is also a member, along with the Ute Indian Tribe, Southern Ute Tribe, and the Jicarilla Apache Tribe. They are currently in discussions with the States of Montana and North Dakota, along with the MHA Tribe (in North Dakota) and the Province of Alberta, Canada. They will next be meeting with the State of Arizona. They have a broad-based membership and they continue to grow.

This is the first coalition founded by the states and led by the states to advocate on behalf of their natural resources. They advocate for rural economic development and Tribal self-determination. The right for Tribes to develop their resources as they see fit.

Priorities for 2021 are to continue to work with Sempra LNG and the government of Mexico positioning Rocky Mountain natural gas for this project. They continue to work with Pembina, a leading energy transportation provider. Pembina has been able to secure local permits and a national permit for export authorization. They are being challenged by the Oregon Governor's administration. Western States continues to support them and develop relationships in Canada with Alberta and British Columbia to support Canadian LNG development. They believe that any development on the west coast will help their producers.

They are about to release a peer reviewed scientific study on greenhouse gasses and LNG. This study lays out the role that Rocky Mountain Natural Gas can play in reducing emissions in Asia. They are looking at a 50% reduction of greenhouse gasses in India, using Western natural gas for power generation, a 40% reduction in China, and almost a 40% reduction in Japan. They will

begin promoting this concept with a webinar at the Baker Rice Institute which is one of the leading think tanks on LNG.

They are trying to engage the Biden Administration on climate change concepts and where Western Natural Gas fits in and might play a role. They are using quantified data. They are, also, looking at the role Blue Hydrogen might play in all of this. [Blue hydrogen is when natural gas is split into hydrogen and CO<sub>2</sub>, the CO<sub>2</sub> is captured and then stored.] There is a lot of interest in Blue Hydrogen and carbon capturing sequestration.

As to LNG, they are competing to have Rocky Mountain gas used over some of the bigger companies, like Chevron's natural gas. They are developing several pipeline options. Mr. Browning pointed out that there are significant advantages his initiative brings over the Permian Basin, specifically their bonding authority. Three of the Western States, Wyoming, Utah, and New Mexico have building authorities with bonding authority to build infrastructure. Wyoming's is very specific to natural gas, both in and out of the state. They are in the process of putting all these pieces together for a presentation to Sempra. Sempra Energy is a North American energy infrastructure company based in San Diego, California.

They are looking to the future. As California indicates its move to hydrogen, they are trying to position the concept of Blue Hydrogen. All of the Basins are primed for Blue Hydrogen development. The geology of the Basins lends themselves well to carbon recapture projects.

They are anticipating a mission to Asia, possibly in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021 and they will be hosted by Sempra probably in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. They will be extending invitations to key members of the Utah stakeholder delegation.

As the presentation was wrapping up, Commissioner Miles had a question about capacity. He asked what the capacity was of the Sempra LNG facility? Mr. Browning responded that the first phase of the facility is going to be conversion of the regasification plant. That will be half a bcf (billion cubic feet) a day. Then, the second phase will be 50 million tons a year or about 2 to 2.5 bcf a day. There are opportunities to supply the Baja California, Mexico market. So, total potential capacity for the Sempra project would be 3 bcf a day. Right now, on average, the Rocky Mountain production is 11 bcf a day, so that would be almost 25% of total production.

This concluded Andrew Browning's presentation.

**10. Discussion and consideration of assisting with the Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative Planning Effort to include authorizing the payment of \$10,000 to the Utah Energy Office to support the Natural Gas Initiative.**

Director McKee began by expressing his appreciation for Duchesne and Uintah Counties being willing, in prior years, to support these planning efforts. Two years ago, the Coalition contributed to the study. The State of Utah through the Energy Office has been helping to coordinate this study to continue to advance the natural gas planning effort. So, by this resolution before you today, we are seeking \$10,000 to contribute toward that effort.

Commissioner Ogden asked if this \$10,000 was already set aside? Brian Barton with Jones & DeMille addressed this saying that there is between \$20,000 and \$30,000 allocated for Strategic Partnering, studies like this.

Commissioner Miles added that he thought this was a great effort, getting the Rocky Mountain's clean energy to the rest of the world. The Coalition should support this effort. Commissioner Horrocks stated that he agreed.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2021-5A assisting with the Western State's and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative Planning Effort to include authorizing the payment of \$10,000 to the Utah Energy Office to support the Natural Gas Initiative** was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**11. Report on the Colliers Community Planning Study.**

Time was turned over to Commissioner Ogden who began by introducing Ross McClintock with Colliers International and Malcom Nash, the Executive Administrator from Sevier County who have both been working on this project. Commissioner Ogden said they are excited about the results. He thanked Jones & DeMille, Executive Director McKee, and Seven County Coalition for supporting this project.

Ross McClintock introduced himself as a broker with Colliers International working out of the Utah County Office. For the past 2 years he has been the listing agent for the Salina Industrial Park. The Industrial Park is approximately 300 acres in Salina right off the I70 exit ramp. It's an important stop for truck traffic as there is not a lot of services for them, after this, until Grand Junction, Colorado.

As developers in Salina, they were excited at the opportunity to do this study and further explore development opportunities in this area. In addition, they were excited to take the information they found and apply it to the remainder of the Seven County Coalition Counties. It's hoped that what is created can be a blueprint for the other counties. There are a lot of principles and resources discovered that should apply across the board.

Gregg Healey, also with Colliers International, was participating by Zoom. Mr. McClintock stated that they both believe this is a unique time across the Wasatch Front. Building is going crazy. Millennials cannot afford to purchase housing. At their Utah County office many of those who are 30 years of age and under have good paying jobs but don't believe they will ever be able to afford to buy a home. They don't want to raise their future families in an apartment. They want the American dream.

About a week ago they met with a firearms manufacturer who was considering a move to Sevier County. They were looking for a rural, gun-friendly community. But, after doing their due diligence, the company responded that Sevier County could not provide them enough entry level employees to hire from. Unique, somewhat, to Sevier County is that everyone who wants a job has a job. Most of those employed make a good wage. So, not only is there not enough of a pool of people to hire from, the competitive wage is too high. The average age of a county resident, in Sevier County, is 33 years of age. The average age, in Utah County, is 23 years of age.

So, they started asking employees at their Utah County office, if they could work remotely, afford a nice home, not deal with traffic, and only have a two hour drive to good shopping and services, would they be interested? Every one of the them said "yes". Recruiting younger people may be the answer. An entity such as Seven County Infrastructure Coalition might be positioned to help its member counties set up recruiting plans.

Some of Collier's findings from this study are:

1. Cities located along major transportation corridors have an advantage. Salina, in Sevier County, is well positioned. It's in the middle of the state and on a major transportation corridor.
2. Cities must be open and welcoming to attract development. Salina and Sevier County have been great examples of this. Construction material costs are increasing so fast that businesses need to be able to start and finish projects as quickly as possible. They can't afford to be stonewalled by uncooperative officials as they wait for permits and approvals. Test your counties systems. Do a mock run through of a new project. See if there are any delays or snags.
3. Infrastructure is essential for development. Be forward thinking as a community. You have to plan and build ahead. Growth will happen where you put in sewer and water.
4. A workforce sufficient to staff new businesses and a competitive wage is essential.
5. Another thing that came out in the survey is that most people want facilities and services that will allow them to age in place.

Survey your communities. Find out the community's vision for growth. Local government and communities, as much as possible, should be on the same page. Everyone should consider following the Marshall Plan for rural Utah. It is a fairly obscure plan but contains an excellent road map for how to successfully develop communities.

In summary, as compared to Provo, Salina's average income is greater and the cost of housing lower, and it only has a 12% college graduation rate. Sevier County needs to be recruiting young graduates. Rural Utah needs to take advantage of the fact that many young people coming out of college would be willing to work remotely. This is an incredible time and opportunity for rural Utah if it can be visionary.

## **12. Report on the Monument Valley/San Juan County site visit.**

Executive Director McKee noted that Commissioner Grayeyes invited board members and staff to meet at Navajo Mountain on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Those of us who were able to go had a great visit. Time was turned over to Commissioner Grayeyes.

He began by saying that they all met at Navajo Mountain. He was impressed with all of the participants. There were so many that the meeting room was almost at capacity. The Lieutenant Governor Deidre Henderson attended with some of her staff. Also present were several County Commissioners, State leaders, Tribal leaders, and members of the Seven County Coalition. There was a presentation by the Jones & DeMille staff. In the afternoon there was a field trip. The response was very positive but people were amazed at the challenges facing the transportation project. But, Jones & DeMille assured everyone it was possible.

There are two projects being considered. One is the transportation and the other one the water delivery system. The possibility exists of putting them both into one right-of-way, combining the projects. This is the strategy they are going to pursue.

Commissioner Grayeyes pointed out that earlier that day there was a teleconference with the Navajo Division of Transportation, Community Development and the Navajo Nation Economic Development office. Also joining was Herman Daniels, Council Delegate for the Navajo Nation, and Commissioner Grayeyes. Commissioner Grayeyes stated that he is trying to create a partnership and get everyone to put in a share of the project costs. Everyone seems to support the idea and there were lots of positive comments. There was talk of helping them look for additional funding and a plan to reconvene in the future.

In speaking about the transportation part of the project, Commissioner Grayeyes noted that part of the dirt road was already established before either 1976 or 1967 and should be grandfathered in and not need to go through the federal process. So, if that is true, the project would only involve 3 to 4 miles of new road. The cost may be less than projected.

That was the end of Commissioner Grayeyes report.

Brian Barton, with Jones & DeMille commented that this is a beautiful place and the support at the gathering was amazing.

Executive Director McKee stated that he was amazed at all of the Chapter Presidents that were present. He visited with one of them who previously, in her native language, kept referring to Arizona to Utah and Utah to Arizona. As he spoke with her, he found out she was referencing a tragedy when a person died because agreements were not in place to allow emergency services to

cross the State border between Utah and Arizona. Director McKee said that as this project is put together there must be interlocal agreements signed to keep this from happening in the future.

Commissioner Grayeyes gave testimony about a family member who had been seriously injured and needed emergency services. A helicopter transport was required, as there were no roads for an ambulance to travel, and that was very expensive. The Navajo people live on very minimal incomes and cannot afford expensive medical transport services.

### **13. Discussion and consideration of an application for Infrastructure Planning for San Juan County for approximately \$1 million dollars.**

This item is a follow-up to the San Juan County/Navajo Mountain report. Senator Hinkins was at the San Juan meeting and they discussed a variety of funding possibilities. CIB was discussed, but there are a lot of restrictions to using those funds. There will be Congressional Water Settlement funding available and the State of Utah has made some commitments but this is going to take some very high level planning to pull it all together. So, this item is requesting the Coalition board's permission for the Director to apply for legislative funds to pay for this planning effort. So this request is to go out and apply for new funds, not to use existing Coalition funds.

Time was turned over to Jeff Hartley who added that one of the bills passed in the special session this past week was a \$100 million dollars set aside for water infrastructure projects. The money can be used for planning. It has not all been allocated so an application to the legislature would be appropriate.

Director McKee added that timing right now is very important. Before anyone knows it this money will all be allocated. This application needs to happen quickly.

Commissioner Miles had a couple of questions. One, is this considered a regional project? Brian Barton answered that it was a good question and depended on how you defined regional!! Southern San Juan County is very isolated and anything that can be done to connect it to other parts of Utah and Arizona is well needed. Infrastructure resources are very limited. When we speak of safety and emergency services having a transportation tie to the I70 corridor that is regional. As they reach up to Blanding and Hanksville, that too is a regional connection.

On the water front, the project will rely on the Utah/Navajo Water Settlement Agreement funds. The agreement is for San Juan County on the Utah side of the border but, again, you are dealing with a significant amount of "region".

Attorney Eric Johnson asked if the million dollars to be applied for through this resolution was for the water side only? Brian Barton responded that it is split between water and transportation. There is a lot of need on both sides.

Director McKee said this will also be used to address rights-of-ways. With this project they want to consider water, transportation, utilities and fiber optics, ending up with a complete package.

Commissioner Miles second question had to do with jurisdiction. He asked if most of this would be under the jurisdiction of the BIA? Brian Barton responded affirmatively. Most of it would be.

Commissioner Grayeyes added, as to the regional question, 50% of the roads will connect to Arizona and in his mind that makes it a regional project.

Commissioner Miles added that where he was headed with his question was who would own title to the rights-of-ways? Would the BIA? The State? San Juan County? Brian stated that it's a mix but most of the roads in the Navajo Mountain area have a BIA title. There is still a lot to be discussed.

Director McKee reiterated that this resolution is merely authorizing him to see if he can find funding to pay for the high level planning.

Commissioner Horrocks stated that Commissioner Grayeyes had been a great partner on this board, that this was a very worthy project and the Coalition should support it. He would make the motion. Commissioner Ogden said he would second the motion but he had strong feelings that if the Coalition led out on this the State and other partners needed to come to the table and help. This could not solely be a Coalition project.

Commissioner Miles suggested that someone reach out to the Department of the Interior. Sometimes on Tribal land projects there is funding available through them. Director McKee added that this really had to be a partnership with all of these entities. That is part of what this planning effort is about. This whole project is way beyond anything the Coalition can do on its own.

Commissioner Ogden said that he would like scoping to be a part of this planning effort.

Commissioner Grayeyes wanted everyone to know that other than for the high school, which only happened due to a court order, the State has put no money into San Juan County. San Juan County and the Navajo Nation need to have equal consideration.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2021-05B approving an application for San Juan County Infragstructure Planning with funds for approximately \$1 million dollars** was made by Commissioner Horrocks, seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING (Continued):

Uintah                      Board Member                      Yea X    No \_\_\_

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**NOTE:** At noon a break was taken. Meeting reconvened at 12:08 p.m.

**14. Discussion and consideration of ratifying a 2021 CIB Contract No. 19-1736 in the amount of \$750,000.**

Director McKee began by saying that this was to ratify a contract that had already been signed. Several years ago, there was a CIB award to the Coalition of \$3 million dollars. That money had been broken up into \$750,000 allotments. The first allotment had been expended and this was the second allotment. One change, included in this second allotment, was that additional funds will be paid to ETJ Law for litigation. ETJ Law services have gone from \$175,000 to \$215,000.

Commissioner Ogden asked, as concerns the litigation, if this would eventually go away?

Attorney Eric Johnson responded that it should be completed by the end of this year.

**Motion to approve Resolution 2021-05C ratifying CIB Contract No. 19-1736 in the amount of \$750,000,** was made by Commissioner Grayeyes, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**15. Discussion and consideration of amending the Coalition's contract with ETJ Law.**

Director McKee pointed out that this resolution allowed for the temporary legal service changes with ETJ Law that were just discussed in Item 14. This would change his annual payment from \$175,000 to \$215,000.

**Resolution 2021-05D amending the Coalition's contract with ETJ Law** was made by Commissioner Horrocks, seconded by Commissioner Sitterud.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**16. Discussion and consideration of reactivating the Eastern Utah Regional Connection EIS and placing it on the Coalition’s active project list.**

Director McKee reminded the board that a few months ago, on the agenda, was an item where they voted to suspend the Eastern Utah Regional Connection project, removing it from the active project list. What is before the board today is a request to put the project back onto the Coalition’s active project list. It’s possible that there are going to be funds available that if applied for and awarded could move this project forward. In order for this to happen the project would have to be moved back onto the active project list.

Commissioner Sitterud said that he thought the board had approved this money to be used for chip sealing that road? Director McKee responded that the legislature provided flexibility in how this money could be used, either for the EIS or for maintenance.

Commissioner Ogden asked if this was going to be another one of those projects where the Coalition does high level planning? Director McKee responded yes; the Coalition would finalize the EIS, then the State of Utah would move forward with the project.

Commissioner Lytle mentioned that these concerns, about this road, had been spoken of for many years in the past. But this road is a critical point of connection for Uintah and Daggett Counties.

**Resolution 2021-05E reactivating the Eastern Utah Regional Connection EIS and placing it on the Coalition’s active project list** was made by Commissioner Horrocks, seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yes X	No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea X	No ___

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING (Continued):

San Juan	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Uintah	Board Member	Yea X	No ___

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**17. Discussion and consideration of extending the Governor’s Office of Energy Development Contract No. 200917 for Isotopes Research at the San Rafael Research Lab.**

A few years back the Coalition was awarded \$1 million dollars from the legislature to be used at the San Rafael Research Lab. The money has been being used but is not all spent. This is an annual contract that has to be extended each year. We have received the new contract from the State and it needs to be authorized and signed.

Commissioner Sitterud pointed out that the money, on their end, had been allocated for licensing and that licensing is a slow process. Other funding, for example from the CIB, has been used for construction.

**Resolution 2021-05F authorizing the signing of a proposal to amend Contract No. 200917 with the Governor’s Office of Energy Development for Isotope Research** was made by Commissioner Sitterud, seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**18. Discussion and consideration of an adjustment to Task Order 8 Change Order 3 (Operations and Maintenance Planning) of the HDR Contract and Task Orders a reduction of (\$14,536) as a result of omitting safety planning meetings with first responders.**

Brian Barton explained that Items 18 thru 22 were all tied together. They all have to do with HDR’s work on the Uinta Basin Railway. So, this Item 18 is a small reduction of (\$14,526) resulting from eliminating the safety planning with first responders. This activity will be done later in the project.

**19. Discussion and consideration of an adjustment to Task Order 10 Change Order 1 (Geotechnical Services for Whitmore Park Alternative) of the HDR Contract and Task Orders a reduction of (\$74,565.46) as a result of omitting the final borehole due to inaccessible land**

Item 19 is a reduction, also, of (\$74,565.46) resulting from eliminating one of the geotechnical drill holes due to the lack of permission from a property owner. They feel they have enough data from this area that this won't be a concern.

**20. Discussion and consideration of an adjustment to the Master Service Agreement 9<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the HDR Contract and Task Orders for a total reduction of (\$89,101.46) resulting in a new total of \$10,948,361.54.**

Item 20 shows a total reduction of (\$89,101.46) based on the total of Items 18 and 19. So, Items 18 and 19 are the Change Orders and Item 20 reflects an adjustment of that amount to the Master Service Agreement.

**21. Discussion and consideration of an adjustment to Task Order 6 Change Order 4 (Engineering and Environmental) of the HDR Contract and Task Orders, an increased amount of \$153,900 for additional Barneby Ridge-Cress survey on Tribal lands.**

Items 21 and 22 are the same story. Item 21 shows an increase of \$153,900 to Change Order 4 for additional survey on Tribal lands as required by the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Barneby Ridge-Cress.

**22. Discussion and consideration of an adjustment to the Master Service Agreement 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the HDR Contract and Task Orders for a contract increase of \$153,900, for additional Barneby Ridge-Cress survey on tribal lands, resulting in a new total of \$11,102,261.54.**

Item 22 reflects that \$153,900 change to the Master Service Agreement.

If you add all of the adjustments reflected in Items 18 to 21 there is a net increase of just under \$65,000.

**Resolution 2021-05G – 2021-05K collectively authorizing adjustments to the HDR Contract and Task Orders** was made by Commissioner Horrocks, seconded by Commissioner Ogden.

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

**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:**

Carbon	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yes X	No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea X	No ___

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING (Continued):

San Juan	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Uintah	Board Member	Yea X	No ___

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**23. Discussion and consideration of updating the Coalition's Travel Policy.**

Time was turned over to the attorney Eric Johnson who stated that the Finance Director's office requested this clarification to conform the travel policy to the way reimbursements are actually being done. The actual travel expenses are being submitted and mileage reimbursement is being done using the IRS rate for mileage.

**Resolution 2021-05L updating the Coalition's Travel Policy** was made by Commissioner Grayeyes, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**24. Discussion and consideration of updating the Coalition's 2021 rail budget categories and review of financial projections.**

Director McKee stated that the reason for this item was, about a year ago, the board expressed a desire to be kept updated on the rail budget. Time was turned over to Mike Hawley with Jones & DeMille. Mike began by saying, today, during the meeting, the board approved rail change orders and contract changes. They have adjusted the budget accordingly. Some categories have gone up and some down. The bottom line is that we have been fiscally responsible and there is an approximate 50% increase to the contingency category, almost \$1.9 million dollars.

Director McKee stated that by this resolution the board is agreeing with these changes and projections concerning the Uinta Basin Railway budget. Commissioner Miles added, for clarification, that they are not opening the budget. They are just approving adjustments to an already approved budget.

Doug Rasmussen, the Financial Director, stated that was correct. There are no increases or decreases of the budget. There are just line-item changes within an already approved budget.

Commissioner Miles asked if they really needed to approve this as a resolution where it is just updated information? Director McKee stated that the reason he put this on in the form of a resolution is that he wanted the minutes to reflect that the board had been presented with this information and agreed with the changes. Commissioner Miles followed that they are just considering this as an approval of the project's financial projections.

**Resolution 2021- 05M updating the Coalition's 2021 rail budget categories and review of financial projections** was made by Commissioner Ogden, seconded by Commissioner Martinez (Carbon County).

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**25. Discussion and consideration of monthly expenses**

Doug Rasmussen with Smuin, Rich and Marsing presented the monthly expenses to the board in the amount of \$426,361.04.

(Remainder of this page left blank intentionally.)

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL					
May 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.					
Carbon County Commission Chambers					
751 East 100 North, Price, UT 84501					
Checks Currently Being Approved:					
Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	1877	44013	5,254.20	Consulting Per Contract - April 2021	General Grant
Heather Hoyt	1878	May 13, 2021	1,087.68	Contract Labor/Travel	General Grant
Mike McKee	1879	April 9-May 5, 2021	362.39	Director's Travel/Vehicle Expenses	General Grant
Jones & Demille	1880	0124843	25,196.55	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
ESRI	1881	26010278	534.82	Computer Software	General Grant
ESRI	1881	Q-441313	427.00	Computer Software	General Grant
Utah Local Government's Trust	1882	5/14/2021	492.00	Worker's Compensation Insurance	General Grant
Jones & Demille	1883	0124847	58,176.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & Demille	1883	0124847	5,000.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & Demille	1883	0124847	12,341.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Mapping Services - Phase 2
ICF Jones & Stokes, Inc	1884	0154869	124,708.14	Uinta Rail Line - NEPA Consulting	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP	1885	2347240	37,183.60	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Services	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Emery County	1886	2/26/2021	65,719.66	Pass-Through Funding - Emery County Drax Contract - Energy Research Center	DRAX
<NOTE> Emery County's invoice to DRAX is for \$65,739.66. However, the deposit from DRAX is for the check amount of \$65,719.66.					
HDR	1887	1200345988	35,610.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Engineering Services - Phase 2
HDR	1887	1200345988	45,288.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
HDR	1887	1200346815	8,980.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Baseline Environmental Services - Phase 2
<b>Total Payment Approval</b>			<b>\$ 426,361.04</b>		

**Motion to approve the monthly expenses in the amount of \$426,361.04, was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Horrocks.**

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

**SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:**

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

Doug Rasmussen next referred the board to the Balance Sheet as of March 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 March 31, 2021. He stated that there was nothing unique or unusual on these financials.

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

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

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.

Commissioner Lytle previously requested to know how much was available for a Daggett County Planning project. This amount had previously been included as part of a larger total. It has been broken out here for him. This is an option for any Commissioner who, from time to time, wants to know the amount available for a specific project. It is no problem to break these amounts out as needed. These are for the board's information and require no approval.

This concluded the financial reports.

**26. 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 Grayeyes at 12:47 p.m.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yes X	No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea X	No ___

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING (Continued):

San Juan	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea X	No ___
Uintah	Board Member	Yea X	No ___

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**Motion to leave closed/executive session** was made by Commissioner Grayeyes, seconded by Commissioner Sitterud at approximately 1:35 p.m.

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

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

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

Approved 7-0-0 absent

**27. Motion to Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Horrocks.

A motion to approve the May 21, 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