



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

April 14, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
Carbon County Fairgrounds
450 S Fairgrounds Road, Price, Utah
(435) 219-1362

Board Members Present: Casey Hopes (Carbon County), Jack Lytle (Daggett County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County), Lynn Sitterud (Emery County), Garth (Tooter) Ogden (Sevier County), Willie Grayeyes (San Juan County) and Brad Horrocks (Uintah County).
Also, in attendance: Mike McKee, Eric Johnson, Brian Barton, Kristi Sharp, Keith Heaton and Lenise Peterman.

Attended telephonically: Melissa Schnee, Kelly Carter, Stan Holmes, Deeda Seed, Bret Reynolds, Reed Page and Sam (no last name given).

Others Present: Senator Ron Winterton, James Lawrence, Steve Rodgers, Joel Yellowhorse, Evan Barlow, Mike Bean, Tony Ericksen, Jeff Worthington, Guy Letendre, Senator David Hinkins, Pam Juliano, Mark Hemphill, Jeremy Pearson (Please notify staff at 801-712-7622 of any spelling corrections or if you were present and not listed.)

Public Meeting Participation Information:

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
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1-346-248-7799 or
1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 818 1262 3532

1. Review Coalition's Mission (All)

Chairman Hopes welcomed everyone to the Seven County Coalition Retreat Meeting and apologized for the delay. Due to time constraints, the review of the Coalition's mission was not discussed with overall agreement by the Board to assist in keeping the meeting on track. Chairman Hopes also indicated item #2 on the agenda would be skipped as well.

2. General Funding Strategies (All)

Executive Director Mike McKee indicated this has been covered in the earlier Board meeting and could be skipped as well in view of timing.

3. Partnering Discussions and Planning (All)

Chairman Hopes then had Executive Director McKee take point on this agenda topic. Executive Director McKee indicated we had a room full of important people here at the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. Executive Director McKee then turned the time over to the AFL-CIO group.

The retreat began with the introduction of parties from the AFL-CIO who were in attendance. Jeff Worthington, State President, introduced himself, indicating he represented 38 unions in the state of Utah including symphony musicians, teachers, and all the way down the line. He also introduced Tony Erikson Business Manager for Sheet Metal, also with the AFL-CIO but given the time restriction Tony Erikson did not speak and was only introduced. Mike Beam is a retired ironworker out of Salt Lake City and is the Carbon County field representative. He worked for Union Pacific Railroad after thirty-nine years and upon retirement he moved into the role with the AFL-CIO. He had a different vision of the AFL-CIO than his predecessors where the focus was more on the Wasatch Front. He has held two job fairs locally, specifically sits on the in-land port Board and strongly supports the Uinta Basin Railway project. He committed himself to the Seven County Coalition and has invited a member to speak as a keynote speaker at their annual convention scheduled for June 17 this year. He also spoke to the many apprenticeship programs and opportunities for our youth. Executive Director McKee circled back to the keynote speaker opportunity and ensured it was available to his replacement or another Board member which was confirmed.

Executive Director McKee then introduced the Weber State University team of Guy Letendre and Evan Barlow. Guy Letendre is with UAMMI which was granted some money to do a study on converting coal to carbon fiber. Evan Barlow headed that study and was introduced to present the research work done to date in support of the vision of coal-to-coal fiber. He also reviewed some other team members who have participated in the project as well. Evan Barlow went on to review the cost of traditional oil-based carbon fiber and the opportunity to produce it at a significantly cheaper rate. Commissioner Sitterud commented that this was where the concept of the San Rafael Research Center was conceived and how it nicely moves into this type of effort. Evan then proceeded to share a market study of these efforts including expected growth and the various fiber markets which present opportunities. Next steps include cost studies including the possibility of a C2CF plant, what that investment may look like and other technical pieces such as injection molding and so on. Executive Director McKee asked what a public/private partnership might look like to make this happen. Evan Barlow indicated the rate of return wasn't high enough to drive a wholly private approach and that a public/private endeavor was much more attractive. The Department of Defense is pretty much a guaranteed partner in this endeavor as well, making it very low risk overall for investment. Commissioner Grayeyes asked if other byproducts could be used in other ways which Evan Barlow indicated there were and most would require special handling.

Executive Director McKee then introduced James Lawrence, the President and CEO of EV Labs to discuss his planning for build outs of electric vehicles and batteries. He announced they are building electric trucks and buses in the Uintah Basin. Focused on commercial vehicles ranging in cost from \$14,500 - \$30,000. He mentioned a Class Six Truck which is like a box rental truck and will be building those throughout the summer and then those vehicles will be deployed in Salt Lake City with the remainder of the fleet going to California. They are also repowering school buses by taking existing buses and converting them to all electric. He discussed how many vehicle manufacturers are missing the driver and their experience, especially in regards to delivery drivers and trying to remove the multitude of steps a driver often has to take. His goal is to place a business in every one of the seven counties in the near future. Steve Rodgers was also introduced as technical support for these efforts. James Lawrence is also introducing a new battery technology which will be manufactured in our area and resulting in half the weight. The plant would be just the starting place and is building a strong team in support of this effort. Commissioner Ogden inquired what the longevity of the batteries might be and what type of amps will need to be used to charge them? James responded most of these would be fleet vehicles meaning most would be idle 10 – 12 hours and can charge on a regular outlet during those off times. The new technology will be even better and allow for faster charges. Commissioner Miles asked if there were other ways we could be helpful such as partnering with technical colleges or courses and James Lawrence has visited the trade and tech schools here in the area and no assistance is necessary at this time. Executive Director McKee thanked James Lawrence for coming and bringing his business to rural Utah.

Executive Director McKee then indicated there was no pressing need to discuss Red Leaf Resources and we would catch that up at another time.

4. Senator Hinkins/Senator Winterton. (Senator Hinkins/Senator Winterton)

Executive Director McKee then introduced both Senator Hinkins and Senator Winterton as next on the agenda. Senator Hinkins spoke briefly about the job fair mentioned previously by Jeff Worthington, thanking him for his support. He meets with the AFL-CIO every week during the legislative session and thanked them for their efforts. The Senator continues to work with Rocky Mountain Power as well as the San Rafael Research Center in diversifying rural Utah's economic position. Senator Hinkins feels that we are way ahead due in great part to the Seven County Coalition in some of these technical advancements. He is excited about the carbon fiber technology and understands we will need more power, not less to meet the needs of the county. Executive Director McKee expressed his thanks to both senators for their efforts.

Senator Winterton spoke to Senator Hinkins' support and both agreed about the lack of electricity locally. Other challenges rural Utah experiences including road issues, electrical grid challenges and housing as those are now coming to our area. We are low on truck drivers and have nowhere for them to live. We have large resources of natural gas and can't capture it and need to export it. The Uinta Basin Railway will be key to putting things together. He feels we have to educate others in the legislature on how to assist in the challenges we are facing.

5. Project Prioritization by Board Members. (All)

This agenda item was skipped.

6. Planning and Project Updates. (Jones & DeMille)

Brian Barton agreed to set aside Jones & DeMille planning and project updates due to time restrictions.

Chairman Hopes then recessed the meeting for lunch with the schedule to resume at 12:50 p.m. Sevier County update will be provided at the next meeting along with a Dagget County update.

Executive Director McKee then discussed the value of the economic study of the Uinta Basin Railroad will help bring business to the area. This is what the potential businesses are looking for – if Seven County Coalition does this or the three counties take the lead.

7. Project Opportunities. (All)

Chairman Hopes introduced Reed Page regarding gas pipeline updates. Reed Page reviewed the situation of gas growth in Central Utah and works at Summit Energy. He then shared his screen to present and discussed the Mountain West Pipeline covering their constraints and possible expansion. He also covered how the gas moves through the pipes and interconnectivity between different systems and how it is delivered. Currently constraints are pipes which are being maxed out for most of the year at certain points. These are important issues since we are constrained, not stranded, since you can sell some of the gas and it forces prices downward. It is clear some expansion is needed since you have more gas than you can move to find a home. We will experience relatively depressed prices coming out of the Uintah Basin for the next several years. An idea is to find a home for this gas perhaps close to Price on Ridge Road and build a pipeline to move some of this gas and make use of it. Moving towards getting this shovel ready as a patch to some of these challenges. Commissioner Lytle asked if Clay Basin helped with any constraints and the response was it does not as production is pretty stable and serves as a safety net for the most part. Executive Director McKee asked about uses such as what if the Hunter and Huntington plants move to natural gas – would this be a supply option. Reed Page responded the pipeline is so small, only 4", that it would require a massive upgrade to make this remotely work. It could be done but those plants have such large capacity that right now we simply don't have the gas capacity to support those plants. Commissioner Miles inquired about the potential of low hanging fruit of handling the large expanse of natural gas which essentially has nowhere to go and this trove of gas should be looked at. But that all different parts of the equation have to come together to figure out how to move this forward to the benefit of all. Executive Director McKee thanked Reed for joining the meeting while on vacation.

Executive Director McKee called on Commissioner Sitterud to provide an update on the San Rafael Research Center. Commissioner Sitterud then presented a short video of the San Rafael Research Center. He then reviewed building updates as an overview to the video. He indicated there is still outstanding equipment expected to fire up some of the Center's operations. Water treatment and heating is all ready, there is an upstairs now ready and the air handling equipment is ready. Standard office spaces including a conference room are ready as well. Executive Director McKee asked if there was a DOE contract in place and Commissioner Sitterud stated that it was through BYU. From inception it started with Seven County and Emery County ran with it. It now is being supported through the legislature via Utah State University and a Director was hired. Commissioner Sitterud then introduced Jeremy Pearson, the new Director. Jeremy Pearson expressed how visionary this project is and that he had good news. Jeremy Pearson is from LA, attended BYU with a masters in chemical engineering. He has been onsite for three months and then provided an update. He indicated the facility was almost complete with \$11million invested to date, with CIB contributing the lion's share of \$8.5 million. He is pursuing grant funding and expressed the interest groups are now coming including university research, Micronuclear is coming to tour and Zenopower is doing some work on nuclear batteries as well. These are all groups interested in utilizing the facility and interest is expected to grow. Commissioner Ogden inquired what type of process was being considered for hydrogen conversion. Jeremy Pearson indicated the approach would be water splitting from wind farms so it would all be renewable energy. This is in support of the grant application for \$30 million currently into the EPA. Efforts to keep it green will be fairly costly, Jeremy Pearson indicated. The idea is they will develop some alternatives to move things forward. The leadership in Colorado is driving this application for the region and they are working to keep it green.

Executive Director McKee then circled back to some previous agenda items. He discussed the carbon feasibility study that already has \$100,000 appropriation from the legislature. He did not go into the Leland Bench project but did indicate it was a revenue generating project. The Navajo transportation and water project is very familiar to the Board already and everyone appears clear on the objectives. The capital improvement list has been approved by the Board and he encouraged the Board to keep all projects listed on the list. Next, he covered regional air quality and possible relocation of refineries. Preliminary assessments are complete and while it would be pricey and should still be looked at regarding long term visioning for the future.

8. Membership Strategies. (All)

Executive McKee then mentioned the possibility of incorporating Sanpete County into the Coalition. CIB currently has \$56 million for the Oakland Port in Sanpete which is not likely to happen. At some point someone is going to try to grab that money. The money in question is mineral lease money along with some transportation funds. These funds could be used on roads, research centers and so on. Executive Director McKee is concerned about duplication of efforts and is focused on strengthening the Seven County Coalition. Commissioner Horrocks was in agreement of considering the idea and keeping the team together. Commissioner Miles indicated bringing in that funding and not having it available

to the entire Coalition may not be a wise decision. Commissioner Lytle indicated a much deeper discussion was in order, especially as it relates to the money distribution and the strength of the Coalition is the voice of it as one. Commissioner Horrocks would like this added to a future agenda. Executive Director McKee requested it be considered moving forward.

9. Motion to Adjourn (Casey Hopes)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miles.

A motion to approve the April 14, 2022 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 ___

Co-Chair: Greg Miles

Co-Chair: Casey Hopes

(COALITION SEAL)

ATTEST:

Lenise Peterman