



SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION
MEETING MINUTES

January 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Carbon County Commission Chambers (Anchor Location + Electronic)
751 East 100 North
Price, Utah 84501
(801) 712-7622

Board Members Present: Casey Hopes (Carbon County), Lynn Sitterud (Emrey County), Greg Jensen (Sevier County) attended electronically, Brad Horrocks (Uintah County) attended electronically, Silvia Stubbs (San Juan County), Greg Miles (Duchesne County) attended electronically and Jack Lytle (Daggett County).

Also, in attendance: Keith Heaton, Brian Barton, Stacey Herpel, Mike Hawley, Daniel Hawley, Melanie Sasser, Doug Rasmussen.

Attended telephonically: Kelly Carter, Jon Stearmer, Mark Michel, Eric Johnson, Candace Powers, Troy Ostler, Macey Wallace, and Utah Petroleum Association.

Others Present: (Please notify staff at 385-337-0033 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:

<https://jonesanddemille.zoom.us/j/86748043561>

Or Join by Telephone:

1-253-215-8782 or

1-346-248-7799 or

1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 867 4804 3561

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance. (Casey Hopes)

Chairman Hopes welcomed everyone to the meeting at 10:05 AM. Board members were present including Commissioner Miles, Commissioner Jensen, and Commissioner Horrocks who

attended electronically. Commissioner Hopes then led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then moved to the second agenda item.

2. Public Comment (Casey Hopes)

Public comment was accepted verbally, during the meeting, telephonically by Zoom, and by electronic written submission at stacey@7county.utah.gov. Electronic written comments will be 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. Chairman Hopes then turned time over to Brian Barton for those wishing to make public comment electronically.

Jon Stearmer stated that the U.S Forest Service regarding their permit and some action that they will be taking based off of the court decisions. They will be withdrawing and holding on to their approvals until other stuff gets worked out. This is just standard action from one of the partner federal agencies.

Chairman Hopes thanked Jon Stearmer for his information and proceeded to inquire if any parties in the room wished to make a comment.

Not seeing any at this time Chairman Hopes moved to the next item on the agenda.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2023. (Casey Hopes)

Chairman Hopes inquired about changes or updates to the minutes, there being none requested a motion.

Motion to approve December 19, 2023 meeting minutes made by Commissioner Sitterud, seconded by Commissioner Lytle.

Chairman Hopes called for a vote to approve the minutes. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Hopes then moved to next agenda item.

4. Changing the Meeting Location for February. (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Hopes turned the time over to Executive Director Heaton. Director Heaton stated that we will be changing our February meeting location to the state capitol due to most of the Commissioners are going to be in attendance during legislation. The date will remain the same. February 8, 2024 at 1:00 PM. The Kletting Room in the East Senate building has been reserved.

Executive Director Heaton turned the time over to Chairman Hopes. He then moved to the fifth agenda item.

5. Report on the Uintah Basin Railway Project. (Greg Miles)

Chairman Hopes turn the time over to Commissioner Miles for an update on the Uintah Basin Railway Project. Commissioner Miles stated that there were no additional updates at this time, but some decisions will be made within the next few months.

Chairman Hopes thanked Commissioner Miles and Commissioner Horrocks and then proceeded to the next agenda item.

6. Report on the San Rafael Research Center. (Lynn Sitterud)

Chairman Hopes turned the time over to Commissioner Sitterud for the San Rafael Research Center report. Commissioner Sitterud indicated that not much is going on at this time. Nothing new is happening in the nuclear building where they are still doing testing. The new building to house combustion testing was just delivered so there is six semi loads of metal stacked up and we are working on getting more concrete. We will hopefully see some movement within the next three to four weeks.

Chairman Hopes thanked Commissioner Sitterud for the update and asked for any questions or further discussion, there being none moved on to the next agenda item.

7. Ratify Hickens' Property Easement Extension. (Casey Hopes)

Chairman Hopes turn the time over to Director Heaton who stated that we have been meeting regularly with the Hickens' on options for easements on six different parcels of property that they own in Uintah County. Those options, as we previously discussed, expired January 2nd. Director Heaton expressed appreciation to Jon Stearmer and Mike Hawley, they have been very active participants in the negotiations and numerous meetings. Mr. Hawley was running around during the holidays, exchanging documents. With Jon laid up after surgery, Eric Johnson prepared a new agreement. The agreement that was proposed did not meet the expectations that the Hickens' had, so we reached an agreement that we would just extend the current agreement with the option of negotiating specific terms later. Before you today for approval is just a simple extension with the specific terms to be determined later. We wanted to make sure that all possibilities were still on the table as it benefits both the Hickens, the SCIC and the community at large. Director Heaton turned the time back over to Chairman Hopes.

Motion for the Hickens' Property Easement Extension made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Sitterud.

Chairman Hopes called for a vote to approve the Hickens' Property Easement Extension. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman Hopes then moved to next agenda item.

8. Executive Director Report. (Keith Heaton)

Chairman Hopes turned time over to Executive Director Heaton for the director's report. Director Heaton thanked everyone for being here today. It has been a busy time of year as we recover from the holidays and get back to full activity and with the weather that we have been having over the last week and that is expected through the weekend especially challenging. First, I really want to thank everyone for their good work. Jones and DeMille, Jon Stearmer who has been actively engaged and has jumped right on board with everything and it has been wonderful to work with him, I appreciate all of our friends and supporters as well. It makes the job very enjoyable.

The Forest Service is withdrawing their permits. As you know, during 2023, there was pioneering works and engineering on the mountain. The Service Transportation Board permits are no longer in place so by default, the Forest Service also is pulling their permits. The Forest Service personnel assured us that they continue to work with us as things materialize and change to make sure that we can continue to do any work that we need to do at the appropriate time. The decision was more of a formality than anything else. Also on hold is a permit with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Director Heaton also expressed his appreciation to Dan Hawley, who has been working hard on our San Juan water study project with the division of drinking water. They are meeting weekly with entities there that are a big part of this water study.

Over the last six weeks, we have had excellent meetings with Daggett and Duchesne County Commission. We talked about some good projects and possibilities and opportunities there. So, I appreciate them for their support of the coalition and we hope and expect to be able to do good things together moving forward.

Director Heaton also addressed some private sector activity. We have a meeting scheduled for later this month with Red Leaf Resources. They have the rights and own the upgrader, sometimes called the mini refinery, out near Vernal. That is a project that the Coalition's been working on for quite some time. They are interested in building an industrial park around that facility. That would be carbon neutral. That would be net 0 carbon output coming from that facility. We have been working with them and look forward to our face to face meeting later this month in Salt Lake City.

Director Heaton also mentioned we have been working with the natural gas pipeline company going through some of the right of way options we have. We put an offer out and we are waiting to hear back from them hopefully next month we will have good things to report there. Again, a reminder that next month the meeting will be in Salt Lake City at 1:00 pm at the Capitol February 8th. Thank you for all you do and your support.

Director Heaton thanked the board for all they do and for their support.

Chairman Hopes then called for any additional questions for Executive Director Heaton. Chairman Hopes thanked Executive Director Heaton for both his report and all the work he is doing in support of the Seven Counties Coalition. He then called for the next agenda item.

9. Strategic Communication Report. (Brian Barton)

Brian Barton stated that Melissa's daughter was ill this morning, so she is unable to join us, she expresses her apologies for not being able to be with us. At this time there is nothing major to report on. Melissa continues to monitor the social media interaction with all of that traffic that tends to happen with the coalition objectives and initiatives. We look forward to having her back soon. We had a good meeting with Melissa yesterday relating to a lot of things that are happening with communications and she wanted to come and unfortunately sick kids and late-night visits to the ER are never productive for your professional life.

Chairman Hopes called for questions, there being none, moved on to the next agenda item.

10. Engineers Report. (Jones & DeMille)

Brian Barton stated that as far as the rail is concerned, Keith and the other Commissioners have described it well. In support of the logistics of all that is going on and I did intend to include it in our monthly update summary, but it must have been in my head and didn't make it through my fingers. We did have a coordination meeting with UDOT regarding some improvements that they are making in Indian Canyon, US 191 so that they better understand the STB alignment of the railway and interaction points. So just be aware that there are some discussions like that continuing to happen with the agencies that are most impacted.

As far as the rail is concerned, we anticipate having a discussion next month regarding some additional budget line-item adjustments just within the URY budget itself. Similar, to what we did in December or November, we need to do that to push us through to June. We have the budget allocated. We are still in good shape. We still have contingency and the ability to keep all the initiatives moving forward. So, just addition to the easement coordination that has been done up in the basin area there is the San Juan water settlement work that has been done. We got a couple of projects that we are looking at right now doing some different alternative analysis to try to find the economical solution. One of the biggest issues we face down there on some of those projects to get water to some of those homes, you are running 25 miles, or more, of pipeline just to get a single home, so there is probably some other options. Just load outs or closer access, but we had a good meeting this past week. Some additional people were brought in from the Navajo Nations that are in charge of the water districts for the systems, and they had some additional GIS data that will give us some additional places where to put water lines. There are some known projects that they have had on their list and then some projects they have on their list that they are just waiting to see if they could get funding. We will have a couple of meetings with those districts and then be pushing forward with some additional modeling and even meeting with some of the chapter leaders.

Chairman Hopes ask if there were any questions about the Engineering Report. There being no further discussion, Chairman Hopes appreciated the staff and all the work they have been doing to manage the budget and moved on to the next agenda item.

11. Presentation, approval and adoption of monthly expenses. (Smuin, Rich & Marsing)

Time was turned over to Doug Rasmussen. Doug Rasmussen presented the financial information and requested payment approval today. He went on to request payment approval amounting to \$48,740.26. Mr. Rasmussen stated that you will notice that Director Heaton's payroll was previously approved as part of his contract but just for information we put that on this report. If there is any discussion or review of any items included in the payment request today he is happy to entertain or discuss those individual line items

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION PAYMENT APPROVAL
January 11, 2024 at 10:00am
751 East 100 North
Price, Utah 84501

Expenses Previously Approved by Board :

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Grant
Keith Heaton - Payroll	Direct Deposit	Jan '24 - Mar '24	59,186.35	Payroll/Admin	General Grant

Checks Currently Being Approved:

Vendor	Check #	Invoice #	Amount	Description	Funding Source
Smuin, Rich & Marsing	2369	06917	2,706.40	Consulting Per Contract	General Grant
Keith Heaton	2370	20	224.77	Director's Travel and Admin Expenses	General Grant
Stacey Herpel	2371	1223	512.00	Contract Labor	General Grant
Public Employees Health Program	2372	253832	1,668.74	Insurance Premiums - January '24	General Grant
Health Equity	2373	erkgcd0	2.25	HSA Administration Fees - January '24	General Grant
Deseret News	2374	2023-206270	104.06	Publication of '24 budget hearing	General Grant
Jones & DeMille	2375	0133188	3,079.96	Program Management and Engineering	General Grant
Jonathan A Stearmer	2376	12/31/23	3,800.98	General - Legal Services	General Grant
Jonathan A Stearmer	2377	12/31/23	1,375.00	Uinta Rail Line - Legal Service	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Venable LLP (1/2 Invoice)	2378	2653996	8,708.10	Uinta Rail Line - Litigation Challenges to STB Decision	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - STB Regulatory and Other Legal Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2379	0133113	9,900.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Program Management Services - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2379	0133113	9,500.00	Uinta Rail Line - Engineering	Uinta Basin Railway Project Grant - Strategic Communications - Phase 2
Jones & DeMille	2380	0133120	7,158.00	Navajo Water Settlement - Engineering	Division of Drinking Water
Total Payment Approval			\$ 48,740.26		

Motion to approve expenses for January in the amount of \$48,740.26 was made by Commissioner Lytle, seconded by Commissioner Miles. Chairman Hopes called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Rasmussen then reviewed the balance sheet which was complete to December 31, 2023. It shows the total assets and liabilities of the Coalition with the second page showing profit and loss statement for January through December. Total income for the entire year has been \$4,154,001 We also have included a profit/loss by class which shows all of the funding and expenditures by project. We have detail information for activity that has happened through December by project as well. He then asked if there were any questions regarding the financial information.

Motion to approve the financial report for January was made by Commissioner Sitterud seconded by Commissioner Jensen. Chairman Hopes called for the vote. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Doug Rasmussen, again for information purposes only, reviewed the project sheet. This does not require any approval from the Coalition. This concluded the financial update to the Coalition. Chairman Hopes thanked Smuin Rich for their work efforts

14. Motion for closed (executive) session pursuant to 52-4-205 (Litigation, personnel, real estate acquisition, &/or character/professional competency). (Casey Hopes)

Chairman Hopes then requested a motion for a closed session.

Motion to move into closed session for litigation was made by Commissioner Sitterud, seconded by Commissioner Stubbs.

Chairman Hopes called for a roll call vote to move into closed session. Motion passed; closed session began at 10:38 AM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
San Juan	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea _____	No ___(Absent)
Uintah	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___

Chairman Hopes requested a motion to move back into open session and exit the closed session.

Motion to move out of closed session was made by Commissioner Sitterud with a second by Commissioner Stubbs.

Chairman Miles called for a roll call vote with motion passing at 11:27 PM.

SEVEN COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COALITION VOTING:

Carbon	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Daggett	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Duchesne	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Emery	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
San Juan	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___
Sevier	Board Member	Yea _____	No ___(Absent)
Uintah	Board Member	Yea <u>X</u>	No ___

15. Motion to Adjourn (Casey Hopes)

A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Miles with a second by Commissioner Lytle.

A motion to approve the January 11, 2024 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:

Stacey Herpel