



SPECIAL MEETING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY BOARD (EDAB)

Held at the City of Moab Conference Center
217 E Center Street
Moab, Utah 84532

[Recording](#)

MINUTES May 30th, 2023 | 3:17pm

****Time stamps correspond to the video****

Members in Attendance Forrest Rodgers, Trisha Hedin, Chris Wilson, Shalee Bryant, Melisa Jeffers

Members in Attendance Remotely Karen Guzman-Newton, Meghan McFall, Huseyin Deniz, Elissa Martin

Members not in Attendance August Granath, Emily Campbell, Mary McGann, Jazmine Duncan, Kelly Thornton, Carly Castle, Huseyin Deniz

Also Present Ben Alter (Grand County Economic Development Specialist), Chris Baird (Grand County Strategic Development Director), Stephen Stocks (Grand County Attorney), Cari Caylor (CTE Director, Grand County School District), Randy Martin (Director of Business Operations, Redtail Air), Bill Winfield (Grand County Commissioner)

In Attendance Remotely Kate Jagla (Executive Director, Moab Free Health Clinic), Abigail Taylor (Executive Director, Seekhaven), Sky White (member of the community)

Welcome

00:01:20

Introductions

00:01:25

Conflicts of interest, disclosures, ex-parte communication

00:05:08 - None at this time

Citizens to -be- heard

00:05:10 - None at this time other than presentations on the agenda to follow

Presentations, if any

00:05:15 - None at this time

Discussion and Action Items:

A. Review of Economic Diversification Activity and Rural County Grant Definitions| Ben Alter
{“Economic Diversification Activity Definition in State Code 17-31-2 1(g)” included in Packet}
{“Rural County Grant 1-pager as published by Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity” included in Packet}

00:06:00

Ben reviewed the definition of Economic Diversification and presented a broad overview of the Rural County Grant and the projects it is designed to fund.

B. Discussion of Methodology For Prioritizing Proposals | Ben Alter

{“Proposal Evaluation Form” included in Packet}

011:15:00

Ben reviewed the proposal evaluation form and the process for tabulating results.

Group discussion included review of the state’s statutory definition of Economic Diversification. Stephen Stocks provided legal counsel on the definition and fielded questions from the Board. Public support for proposals was discussed. Only 117 surveys were submitted for consideration. It was made clear that non-voting Board member input is critical.

C. Consideration of the Recommendation of a Funding Proposal for Expenditures of TRT Funds for "Economic Diversification Activity" to the Grand County Commission

00:27:10

Discussion included: Detail and specifics on why the Board will make recommendations will be critical for the Commissioner’s consideration.

Revolving Loan Funds were discussed including interest rates, economic development application, funds available through different grant sources, industries that are fundable and those that are not.

Arts Coordinator impact on economic development beyond Moab Art Center activities was discussed.

Redtail Air was discussed as both a fundamental need for the county and too much for a private entity to consider.

Coworking space was discussed as a high value investment for the state. Moab Community Research Center agreed to commit to including co-working spaces as recommended by the Board if their project is chosen.

• Initial Scoring

{“Initial Scoring Results” included below}

5.30.23 - Diversification Proposal Initial Scoring - EDAB Special Meeting .XLSX

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	Average Score								
2	Program Number	Diversification	Impact	Reach	Need	Value	Feasibility / Duration	Average	
3	1	5.4	3.	3.1	3.9	3.9	3.4	3.8	
4	2	8.4	4.7	3.1	3.3	4.1	3.9	4.6	
5	3	7.9	3.7	3.6	3.3	4.	3.7	4.4	
6	4	6.4	3.4	2.7	2.9	3.3	2.4	3.5	
7	5	4.6	4.3	3.4	4.9	4.3	3.9	4.2	
8	6	3.9	3.1	2.4	3.4	3.1	2.7	3.1	
9	7	1.7	2.8	2.3	3.1	3.3	2.5	2.6	
10	8	2.2	2.5	2.3	3.5	2.7	2.2	2.5	
11	9	2.9	3.1	2.3	4.3	4.	3.3	3.3	
12	10	2.3	3.1	2.1	3.4	3.6	2.3	2.8	
13	11	1.9	2.7	1.7	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5	
14	12	5.1	2.6	2.3	3.3	2.4	2.6	3.	
15	13	4.9	2.6	2.9	2.4	2.7	2.3	3.	

• Deliberation and Prioritization

Discussion included:

USU SBDC Proposal - Current funding and details surrounding the new SBDC role that the county has agreed to fund for 3 years as well as the value of extending the salary commitment.

Revolving Loan Fund vs. Wildcat - What funding could be available from different sources, effective revolving loan funds totals, existing local revolving loan funds, additional options with microloan funds including Utah Microloan Funds.

Grand County School District- Career and Technical Education Student Career and Success Center - Education being a significant economic development initiative. Broadrange skills training including technical training is significant to career development in Moab. Capital improvement needs for the building to support this center. Concerns on the management of funds and under funding the project.

Community Resource Center - Consideration of funding this project with the next Rural County Grant application. Estimated costs of the south building repair and expansion to support the development of the proposed co-working space.

Redtail Air - Matching funds will support this project. STAR Project funding for Redtail air and how it was used was discussed. There were concerns that this is a private enterprise and that the number of locals using this service was low. Redtail Air proposed donating the portion of their matched \$95,000 for this project that is not realized as a loss toward the revolving loan fund yet to be determined. Board was split on this recommendation.

- **Development of a Funding Proposal**

Forrest recommends an additional \$100K for the USU SBDC staff role.

Board supported setting aside \$250K for a loan fund - organization TBD.

Board recommends funding the Grand County School District- Career and Technical Education Student Career and Success Center fully in the amount of \$221,500.

In the discussion there was considerable support for Redtail Air, but the board was split.

Chris made a motion that the Board recommends funding the Grand County School District- Career and Technical Education Student Career and Success Center fully in the amount of \$221,500, one additional year for the Senior Consultant salary and benefits for \$100K and allocating the remaining funds to supporting a revolving loan fund yet to be determined; Noting half the Board is in support of funding Redtail Air Charter Service for \$95,000 with the additional agreement that if Redtail Air does not lose their matching \$95,000 toward the service they will donate those funds to the revolving loan fund that is chosen.

Motion was tabled due to further discussion on Redtail Air.

Chirs makes a motion to support full funding for the Grand County School District- Career and Technical Education Student Career and Success Center in the amount of \$221,500, \$100K to the SBDC and the remaining funding to a revolving loan fund.

Melisa Seconds.

Shalee votes in favor.

Karen votes in opposition.

Consideration of Future Agenda Items

02:29:10

None at this time.

At 02:30:56, Shalee adjourned the meeting.