



## **GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

**Grand County Commission Chambers  
Hybrid virtual participation on Zoom  
Moab, Utah**

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### **MINUTES 19 August 2025**

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The meeting was held in-person in the Grand County Commission Chambers, with hybrid virtual participation also available via Zoom. It was also broadcast and saved on YouTube. Attending the meeting in-person were Commission Chair Bill Winfield, Commission Vice-Chair Melodie McCandless and Commissioners Brian Martinez, Jacques Hadler, Mary McGann, Trisha Hedin and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner, Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall, Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek and County Attorney Stephen Stocks.

#### **2:45 p.m. Workshop: Discussion of Grand County's Responsible Recreation program and Trail Ambassador Programs**

Commissioner Hadler explained that he called for this workshop in order to generate clarity regarding the future of a program that may need alternative sources of funding from those that it previously received. Hadler went on to describe the success and importance of the program, and explained that the Responsible Recreation program is well aligned with Utah's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan.

Chair Winfield stated that during the mid-year amendment process, the Commission agreed to fund the Responsible Recreation program until the end of 2025, with alternative funding and outsourcing to a third-party non-profit to be sought starting in 2026. Winfield identified a number of local non-profits that would be fit to assume management of the program. Commissioner Hadler disagreed that there was an agreement in place that would dissolve the Responsible Recreation program as a county-run program, and suggested that it would be important to preserve the program with increased advertising for visitation to the County. Commissioner McGann stated that the Responsible Recreation program was being replicated throughout the country and was the current widespread standard in areas with strong outdoor recreation opportunities. McGann added that such programming was critical in protecting resources which are central to the local economy.

Commissioner McCurdy stated that the challenge presented in this discussion is that unrestricted funds should be focused on supporting essential services. McCurdy stated that he supported the continuation of the program, but that it was not reasonable to prioritize it over services like EMS and Solid Waste. Commissioner Hadler responded that available grant sources could potentially fund the vast majority of the program.

Commissioner McCandless expressed support for the Responsible Recreation programming, but agreed with the idea of a new non-profit organization to run the program so that it could be separated from the politics of the County, especially when a portion of the community does not support it. McCandless recommended the establishment of a working group for migrating the program away from the County umbrella.

Commissioner Martinez stated that he has not seen the state or other established groups stepping up to support and run the program. Martinez added that grant opportunities have and will become more competitive, and more effort needs to be placed on supporting all trail infrastructure, including motorized trails. Martinez agreed with the assertion made by the chair that it had been agreed to fund the program through the end of the year, with it departing to outside administration starting in 2026. Commissioner Martinez stated that the community of Grand County is its most valuable asset, not public lands, and service to the community must be prioritized.

Commissioner Hedin expressed support for keeping the program within the County, while maintaining an approach that would seek expanded outside funding. Hedin added that the recognition and accolades associated with this program are a great boon to Grand County.

Commissioner Martinez sought clarification regarding possibilities for maintaining the grant funded motorized trail ambassador program. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for that program to be assumed by the Sheriff's Department.

Agreement was made that an informal working group would be established in order to identify next steps forward. Clarification was requested as to whether the motorized trail ambassador program would be maintained in a County Department so that the correct information could be provided during the upcoming grant review process. Clarification given that keeping that aspect of the program within the County is the consensus preference.

### **3:30 p.m. Closed Session**

**At 3:31 p.m., motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to enter closed session for the purposes of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual.

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCandless

**Motion passes 7-0**

**At 4:19, motion by** Commissioner Martinez to exit closed session

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner Hadler

**Motion passes 7-0**

**At 4:20 p.m. Chair Winfield called a ten-minute recess**

**At 4:30 p.m. Chair Winfield called the regular meeting to order**

### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Winfield raised two points of order, stating that item 15 would be postponed until the next meeting agenda by request from the CUP applicant, Item 12 would be pulled from the agenda, and that with respect to Item 14 the financial statements would be considered for acceptance at this meeting, but their contents would not be presented until the following Commission meeting.

## **Citizens to be Heard**

Charlotte Mates stated that the Utah Alzheimer's Association approached the Grand Center staff about Alzheimer awareness and education, which resulted in an hour-long presentation for twenty local people, eighteen of which had a family member or close friend with Alzheimer's/dementia. The same presentation will be offered from 1-3 p.m. on August 20<sup>th</sup> at the Grand Center, and will be augmented by a local support group established by area social workers. Mates advocated for an assisted living facility in the community.

Scott Solle spoke in opposition to the proposed CUP at 1540 Spanish Valley Drive, which he feels introduces industrial commercial activity into a residential area, a use which he states had previously operated illegally at that location.

Shirley French spoke in opposition to the proposed CUP at 1540 Spanish Valley Drive, stating that the proposed use was not a good fit for the existing neighborhood.

Samantha Derbyshire spoke in support of the Trail Ambassador program, stating that her business relies on the local trail system and the program preserves the integrity of those trails.

Bob O'Brien, speaking as a private citizen, spoke in support of the work done by Cristin Hofhine, stating that she has done a great job in helping the Planning Commission navigate difficult topics.

Mary O'Brien asked the Commission what elements of the work done by Cristin Hofhine were in question, if she was counseled regarding these work elements, if she had been notified in advance of the proposed consideration of her removal, and what process took place to include consideration of her replacement on the agenda without background.

Ashley Norman, daughter of Jim and Nolan Walker, spoke to advocate for an exception to the County noise ordinance so that her family could keep protective dogs in order to address a raccoon infestation on her family's property. Norman stated that such an exception can be offered in accordance with State code.

## **Agency Reports (none scheduled)**

## **Presentations**

**Moab Area Community Land Trust (MACLT)** (MACLT Director Kaitlin Myers, Board Members Shalee Bryant and Sheri Griffith)

MACLT representatives offered key updates to the Commission regarding efforts to create permanent affordable housing by holding land in trust in the Moab Valley. Overview given of the proposed completed site plan at the Arroyo Crossing development, where nearly 100 homes have been built over 5 years, with an additional 85 in process and 119 still to be developed. Current efforts involve applying successes and expertise in collaborating with Grand County to continue expanding affordable housing options. Commissioners offered gratitude and appreciation to the tremendous efforts made by individuals with the organization in advancing this important cause.

## **Department Reports**

**IT Department** (IT Director Matt Cenicerros)

Ceniceros gave a brief update, stating that Grand County is currently in a positive place regarding cybersecurity, and his department's efforts to provide reliable robust and integrative technology in order to provide services to County citizens. Overview given of IT staff roles, including a GIS specialist, and a newly introduced systems administrator role.

### **Weeds Department** (Weeds Supervisor Elizabeth Weimholt)

Weimholt offered an overview of activity by the Weeds Department, with information regarding department structure and funding, as well as information regarding the community wildfire defense grant. Weimholt offered an overview of noxious weeds present in Grand County. Weeds Supervisor and Crew lead are funded by the General Fund, and four other weed technicians (two full-time) are grant funded. New fuels reduction coordinator fully grant funded. Weimholt gave an overview of the general seasonal work patterns of her department. Funding sources include the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Bureau of Land Management, and Department of Natural Resources. Community Wildfire Defense Grant offers \$375,000 over next five years for personnel equipment, in partnership with Rim to Rim Restoration. Overview given of outreach and education efforts.

### **Commission Member Disclosures**

Chair Winfield offered clarification that he had no financial stake in current housing projects active or being considered in Grand County. Attorney Stocks disclosed that since his office handles prosecution, it did not review the indigent defense council contract.

### **General Commission Reports and Future Considerations**

#### **Jacques Hadler**

- Attended Trail Mix meeting, first active transportation rep appointed, bylaws reviewed, attendance qualification removed for at large members
- Attended Colorado River Authority meeting hosted by Grand County
- Attended Thompson SSD meeting, current board vacancy, discussion regarding the potential for GWSSA to subsume this board
- Participated in Branding Agency selection committee
- Attended Internal Audit Committee meeting

#### **Trisha Hedin**

- Recreation Special Service District meeting
- Meeting with head of Southeastern Region of the Division of Wildlife
- Planning Commission meeting, discussion regarding Novak rezone
- Meeting with Department of Agriculture regarding Ag protections in the valley

#### **Brian Martinez**

- Meeting with Planning and Zoning regarding progress on introduction of MFR 45 zone and landscaping ordinance
- Update from media agency Madden to the MTAB, Branding Agency selection committee
- Attended multi day workshop of the Colorado River Advisory Council, hosted in Grand County
- Attended audit committee meeting

#### **Mary McGann**

- Attended Colorado River Authority meeting hosted by Grand County
- Homeless Coordinating Committee meeting

**Mike McCurdy**

- No report at this time

**Chair Winfield paused the reports and called for the 6 p.m. Citizens to be Heard**

Lynn Jackson requested an update on the Spanish Valley Drive Pathway. Jackson expressed concern regarding the way that the upcoming ballot proposition is proposed to be worded on the ballot because it does not clearly list all entities that might be eligible to receive support from this revenue source.

**Commission Reports resumed at this time****Bill Winfield**

- Attended meeting with Indigent Defense Council regarding potential new regional oversight structure
- Attended Airport Board meeting, bylaws under review
- UAC committee regarding state legislative solutions for issues Centrally Assessed taxation
- Internal Audit Committee, review of financials
- Attended multi day workshop of the Colorado River Advisory Council, hosted in Grand County
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**Melodie McCandless**

- Attended Moab Area Housing Task Force meeting
- Attended Council on Aging
- Attended dinner with Colorado River Authority
- Attended Moab Chamber of Commerce board meeting
- Canyonlands Healthcare SSD meeting, proceeding with master plan for 8 acres adjacent to Care Center
- EMS SSD meeting, financial update given
- Future consideration: add county liaison to the Moab Area Community Land Trust board

**Elected Official Reports****County Attorney Stephen Stocks**

- Upcoming training to be offered regarding the Government Records Access Management Act (GRAMA)
- Friends of the CJC putting on a "Scoop, Splash, and Support" fundraising event on August 23

**Clerk/Auditor Gabriel Woytek**

- Working on implementation of anti-fraud measures with Zions Bank
- Managing multiple large and complex GRAMA requests
- Budget season underway, initial department draft budget requested for the beginning of September
- Managing Board of Equalization appeal application processing, hearing set for August 27-29, Commissioners welcome to attend as passive observers
- Chantel Lindsay hired to replace Steven Vowles as Finance Director
- County Clerk legislative steering committee
- To attend National Conference of Election Administrators in SLC
- 77 days until general election, preparations picking up

**General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:**

**1. Approval of Consent Agenda Items**

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Local Consent Liquor License - Red Cliffs Lodge**
- D. FY26 Cooperative Agreement Between the DNR Forestry, Fire, And State Lands (FFSL) And Grand County (Grand County Noxious Weeds Department)**
- E. Consideration Of Signing a Letter of Support for Cybersecurity Funding**
- F. Grant Contract For \$192,282 For Non-Motorized Trail Projects**
- G. Indigent Defense Council Grant Contract Approval**

No minutes were available for review and approval, and Commissioner Martinez requested that Item F be pulled from the consent agenda.

**Motion by** Commissioner Hadler to approve the Consent Agenda, except item A and F

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Discussion** (none at this time)

**Motion passes 7-0**

**F. Grant Contract For \$192,282 For Non-Motorized Trail Projects**

Martinez inquired as to what the actual cash match from the County was for this grant opportunity, which appears to be \$78,928, and also asked regarding the qualification for optional sales tax revenues in supporting trail activity.

**Chair Winfield called for this item to be tabled until more information was available for consideration of approval.**

**4. Proclamation: Suicide Prevention Month** (Amanda McIntosh, Suicide Prevention Liaison - Four Corners Community Behavioral Health)

**Presentation**

Staff from FCBH explained the current effort to raise awareness for suicide prevention, issuing a proclamation that seeks to break down the stigma regarding mental health in general and suicide in specific.

Commissioner Martinez spoke the proclamation into the record, as it was presented in the agenda packet.

McIntosh gave an overview of activities that will take place during the proclaimed suicide prevention month of September.

**Motion by** Commissioner Martinez to approve the Proclamation hereby proclaiming September 2025 to be Suicide Prevention and Awareness month

**Motion Seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Item 5 was postponed to a future Commission meeting**

**6. Approval of Final Plat - Vina Subdivision (Zoning Administrator Cristin Hofhine)**

**Presentation**

Hofhine gave an overview of the proposed approval, with detailed staff report included in the agenda packet. All land use requirements met; staff recommends approval.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the proposed resolution approving the Final Plat of Vina Subdivision

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McGann

**Discussion**

**Motion passes 6-0, Martinez absent**

**7. Appoint Additional Commission Liaison to Planning Commission (Chair Winfield)**

**Presentation** (none at this time)

**Motion by** Commissioner McCandless to appoint Commissioner Brian Martinez as an additional liaison to the Planning Commission

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Discussion**

Hedin stated that such an action was not in accordance with policies and procedures. Commissioner McCandless clarified that Commissioners wishing to attend Planning Commission meetings not as the liaison are unable to make comment in the meetings. Commissioner Martinez stated that he had been directed by Commissioner Hedin at a recent Planning Commission meeting that he was not allowed to speak at the meeting.

**Motion passes 4-3, Hadler, Hedin, and McGann opposed**

**8. Selection and award contract for Branding Agency (Moab Office of Tourism Staff Mick Soleta and Alison Harford)**

**Presentation**

Soleta gave an overview of the intent and project goals behind the rebranding effort, which is to develop a comprehensive strategy, brand, platform and story for Moab that not only positions it as a must visit destination but also incorporates lessons learned from other international destinations and Grand County's mass promotional efforts. Another goal is to create a brand and implement it in a way that touches every stage of the business life cycle and to garner buy in from the community.

A selection committee made up of commissioners Martinez and Hadler, the chair and vice chair of MTAB, members of MOT and commission administration, the County Clerk, and the marketing director at the Utah Office of Tourism reviewed 36 total proposals (nearly 1,000 pages) with bids ranging from \$88,000 to \$2,217,500, and answered hundreds of questions submitted to the procurement portal.

Three agencies were named finalists and the lead strategist, creative director and account executive at each agency traveled to Moab for in-person presentations and interviews with the committee and MOT's agency partners. The committee recommends the selection of Camp4 and Tourist to serve as the strategy and branding agency to support this limited engagement.

The three finalists were reviewed with the Moab Tourism Advisory Board at its August 12, 2025 meeting and the board voted unanimously to give the selection committee the authority to choose the branding agency out of the three finalists.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to award the Strategy and Branding Agency contract to Camp4 and Tourist in an amount not to exceed \$750,000 and authorize the Chair to sign all associated documents and contracts upon completion of legal review

**Motion Seconded** by Commissioner Martinez

#### **Discussion**

Commissioner Hadler sought confirmation that the Tourism Office was satisfied with the follow up questions posed to the selected firm, which were centered around gauging commitment to community outreach and an in-person presence. Commissioner Martinez expressed gratitude to staff for their effort in the selection process, and confirmed that they were satisfied with the selected firm.

**Motion passes 6-0, McGann absent**

### **9. Selection of Search Firm for Moab Office of Tourism Director (Commission Administrator)**

#### **Presentation**

Personnel service recommended Horizon Hospitality, with a cost range based on salary awarded to the position. Several search firms were considered, with Horizon Hospitality chosen for their specific subject matter expertise. Commission Administration confirmed with the state that TRT funds were an allowable use for this selection firm effort.

**Motion by** Commissioner Martinez to select horizon contract range between 19 and 31 thousand dollars.

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

#### **Discussion**

Personnel Services Director Tess Barger explained her rationale for recommending Horizon as the search firm for this effort, which included quality of services and communication.

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **10. Funding request from the Housing Task Force via Grand County Housing Subcommittee** (Commissioner Hedin, Housing Authority of Southeastern Utah Director Ben Riley, MACLT Director Kaitlin Myers)

### **Presentation**

The Grand County Housing Subcommittee continues to gather information and prioritize action items related to housing. Following the adoption of recent changes to the HDHO program, the subcommittee has regrouped and continues to identify housing solutions for our area.

Additionally, discussions have revolved around the best use of funds related to the \$100,000 Grand County has set aside funds for housing-related items in its current budget. The attached document is a request from the Housing Task Force for \$15,500 from the budgeted funds to support the Housing Task Force, along with funds to investigate the current "Housing Pipeline" in the City and County, to inform future discussions about the typology of future development. The exact amount listed above will also be requested from the City as a match for the current project.

The Housing Task Force continues to be guided by a group of volunteers, primarily from local organizations working on housing solutions in Grand County. As a volunteer body, there continue to be capacity and financial issues that may impair its effectiveness. The current request will help alleviate a portion of that burden by providing some financial assistance to the body, along with funds to forward one of the County Subcommittee's priority goals of identifying the current housing outlook in the City and County. \$10,000 will be allocated to the Housing Task Force to fund administrative goals such as putting on events similar to the recently held Town Hall, which was an informative and successful event. It has been a priority of the HTF to put on similar events at least twice a year to inform the public and governing officials about ongoing housing-related items. \$5,500 will be allocated to the HTF to facilitate a study that will give the subcommittee, local housing agencies, and other groups insight into the types of developments that are permitted, under construction, or look likely to come to fruition, to get a better understanding of the future housing landscape in the next two to four years. This item was the top priority for the County Subcommittee and will hopefully be the basis for future housing priorities and decisions moving forward. This pipeline mapping will be made into a presentable format for both the Commission, the Moab City Council, and the dashboard on [moabhousing.com](http://moabhousing.com).

Myers and Riley gave further background on the proposed effort. Commissioner Martinez requested further detail regarding the breakdown on the use of funds proposed to be offered.

**Motion by** Commissioner Martinez to approve the request by the Housing Task Force of \$15,500.00 from the Affordable Housing budgeted funds

**Motion Seconded** by Commissioner McCurdy

### **Discussion**

Commissioner Hadler spoke in support of the value that will be derived from this designation of funds. Commissioner McCurdy expressed that he would like to see hard guidelines regarding the establishment of concrete goals and the specificity of data. Chair Winfield spoke to the importance of the City matching funds, and for the study to facilitate all types of housing. Commissioner McCurdy spoke to the importance of involvement from San Juan County in tracking trends for housing development across the County line.

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **11. Resolution - In Support of Public Lands (Commissioner Hedin)**

### **Presentation**

Hedin gave a brief overview of the proposed resolution, which serves as an acknowledgment as a legislative body that the health of public lands is of extreme importance to outdoor amenity driven communities.

**Motion by** Commissioner Hedin to approve the Grand County Resolution Supporting Public Lands as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McGann

### **Discussion**

Chair Winfield stated that he was not in support of the Resolution, which he feels is an effort to tell federal delegates how to do their job, especially when the County is working with these delegates regarding the UMTRA site, and carries a negative tone towards Senator Mike Lee. Winfield added that the Utah Public Lands Council would be a more effective effort to be involved in. Commissioner McCurdy stressed that it was important not to compromise Grand County's role among state stakeholders and coalitions.

Commissioner Martinez stated that he does not see the purpose for the letter, and requested that potential entry by Grand County into the Utah Public Lands Council be placed on the next Commission agenda.

Commissioner McGann stated that she did not feel like the Resolution address UMTRA in any way.

Commissioner McCandless stated that she agreed with the first half of the letter but started to have issues with any suggestion that would serve to direct the actions of federal delegations.

**Motion fails 3-4, Winfield, McCandless, Martinez, and McCurdy opposed**

## **12. Appoint Interim Planning and Zoning Administrator (Commission Administration)**

### **Presentation**

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve as an additional liaison to the Planning Commission

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

### **Discussion**

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **13. Resolution - Repealing and Replacing Resolution #3421, Approving a special election for November 4, 2025 (Commissioner McCandless)**

### **Presentation**

McCandless explained the purpose of the proposed correction. Resolution 3421 was passed by the Commission on August 5, 2025. The proposed resolution repeals and replaces 3421. The resolution language was changed to better reflect the role of the Canyonlands Healthcare Special District and correct a typographical error in the original resolution. The proposed ballot language was also updated with the changes. Attorney Stocks stated that his office had approved the revision, and referenced two small grammatical errors to be fixed.

**Motion by** Commissioner Hadler to approve the Resolution repealing and replacing Resolution #3421 and calling for a special election on November 4, 2025, including correction of grammatical errors raised by the County Attorney

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McGann

**Discussion**

Commissioner McCurdy stated it should be clear that all eligible entities could be considered in the future, not just those mentioned in the draft resolution and ballot language. Chair Winfield stated that recipient entities needed to be held accountable, allocations should not be guaranteed, and all entities allowed to receive funds should be considered. County Attorney Stocks clarified that statute gives the power for the Commission to allocate the funds on a quarterly basis. Commissioner McGann stated that since the three named entities will be doing the bulk of campaigning for the measure, that they are rightly entitled to be considered recipients to begin with. Clerk/Auditor Woytek suggested that the insert accompanying the ballot could include more broad information regarding qualifying uses of the tax revenue. Commissioner Martinez asked what other critical healthcare needs were being provided by CHCSSD, and Commissioner McCandless gave an overview of all such efforts.

**Substitute motion by** Commissioner Martinez to approve the Resolution repealing and replacing Resolution #3421 and calling for a special election on November 4, 2025, with removal of the language “provides resources for other critical healthcare needs”.

**Substitute motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

Attorney Stocks stated that in his review his office found the original language to be adequate. McCandless spoke to the importance of providing broader context for the activities of the CHCSSD. Woytek confirmed that the updated language was compliant with Election Code. McCandless stated that the potential for the new tax has inspired further action and progress with efforts led by the CHCSSD.

**Substitute motion fails 2-5, Hedin, Winfield, Hadler, Hedin, McGann opposed**

**Discussion**

Winfield stated that he would not support the Resolution without reference to all entities that could be eligible to receive the revenue.

**Original motion passes 6-1, Winfield opposed**

**14. Acceptance of 2024 Grand County Audit and Financial Statements (Commission Administration)**

**Presentation**

Administrator Tyner explained that the 2024 audit was presented at the regular Audit Committee meeting on August 18. Due to a scheduling conflict with Larson, they are not able to present the audit in the commission at this meeting, but will be available to present on September 2. The public can watch the Internal Audit Committee meeting with Larson's presentation and discussion on YouTube. Upon approval, it will be signed and certified to the state by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the 2024 Audit as presented

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

**Discussion**

Woytek quoted the subsequent event note that would be included in the final draft:

*In 2025, additional action was taken as a response to the State Auditor's Finding letter dated December 2, 2024. By direction of the County Commission, a transfer in the amount of \$340,791 was made from the General Fund to the TRT Promotion Fund in order to reimburse TRT funds used to support the Trail Ambassador Program contained within the Grand County Active Trails and Transportation department.*

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Item F from the Consent Agenda was reconsidered at this time**

## **F. Grant Contract For \$192,282 For Non-Motorized Trail Projects**

### **Presentation**

Hadler explained that clarifying information given regarding the required 20% cash match would be leveraged by paid staff time, with volunteer hours being offered as an in-kind donation. Hadler explained that the Commission approved the grant on March 18<sup>th</sup> as proposed, advised against denying the grant after approving its parameters at time of submission, and stated that the project helps stimulate visitation and support important area trails.

**Motion by** Commissioner Hadler to approve the grant contract for \$192,282 for non-motorized trail projects

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner Hedin

McCurdy asked if the funding source was applicable to TRT funding. Commissioner Martinez stated that this was made possible due to the presence of a crew, the same of which is not available for motorized trails, which he feels the Commissioner should be putting effort towards.

## **15. Cooperative Agreement - Dark Skies (Commissioner Hedin)**

### **Presentation**

Commissioner Hedin explained that the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands already funds this type of program, and this allocation of funds would serve to support that already existing program. Commissioner McCandless asked about if \$20,000 had been earmarked in the 2025 budget, Woytek clarified that only \$3,000 had been earmarked for this activity. Attorney Stocks stated that the contract was unclear regarding support by County staff that would be provided. Stocks clarified that incentives would only be provided to those who showed need. Chair Winfield expressed support for a carrot approach, and stated that no administrative costs should be covered by these County funds, only financial support for the physical improvements themselves.

**Motion by** Commissioner McCurdy to approve the MOU with the Friends of Arches and Canyonlands to administer the Dark Skies financial assistance program

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner McCurdy

### **Discussion**

**Motion passes 7-0**

## **Discussion Items**

## **16. Discussion of Possible Updates to the Special Events Ordinance**

Commissioner McCurdy began by reciting the definition of special events as quoted on the County website, as well as those type of gathering that are considered exempt. Discussion ensued regarding what had been perceived to be a compromise of a gathering of 65 motor vehicles or less being exempt from special event status. Commissioner McCurdy requested a closer look particularly at events held on County facilities, especially those at OSTA, events which may have long-term permits with the BLM. McCurdy stated that the OSTA facility director should have latitude in approving and managing events at the facility that she runs.

Attorney Stocks recommended that the language of the ordinance specify whether the anchor location pertains to the County facility, and what qualifications exist for designating the facility as the anchor location, such that loopholes might not be taken advantage of. Commissioner Hadler confirmed that the proposed updates by the Special Events Coordinator were only related to adjustments to application timelines. Hadler expressed that even though the anchor location would be at OSTA for events focused on BLM lands, that public infrastructure would still be widely impacted. Commissioner Hedin expressed concern specifically for large motorized events and the ramifications of welcoming more of those large events and their associated impact to the community. Vice-Chair McCandless suggested that refinements be made to the legacy event list so that it can be more inclusive of long-held events. McCandless added that the 18-month application horizon should apply across the board, including for events at OSTA, and should be accompanied by a deposit. McCandless added that there should be improved coordination between the Special Events Coordinator and the OSTA Director, and the special events grant program needs to be better defined in the Ordinance.

Attorney Stocks warned that when exceptions are applied to events at OSTA, that such events will be seen as having an advantage, and that the fee schedule might be considered for adjustment to reflect that value. OSTA Director Angie Book agreed that refinements were needed for administering the Special Events grant program. Book clarified that a deposit system was in place, welcomed the idea of a shared calendar, and disagreed that event holders for events at OSTA should be subjected to an 18-month advance application schedule. Commissioner Martinez stated that he would like to support t encourages increased use of the OSTA facility, supported the idea of a shared event calendar, and supported the idea of a significant deposit which matches the scale of the event. Martinez added that the schedule for reserving space for events at OSTA should be better aligned with the high-impact event application and approval schedule. Martinez added that there should be an appeal process so that Commission Administration could have authority to review potential special event applications.

Commissioner McCurdy stated that he would collect all ideas and work with the attorney on a draft ordinance for an upcoming workshop. McCurdy added that the OSTA Director should be given latitude to solicit replacement events in the event that a large event was cancelled with short notice. Angie Book clarified that there is always an extensive mutual vetting process for potential large events before they book at OSTA. Working group including Commissioners McCurdy and McCandless, along with OSTA Director Book and Attorney Stocks, to be established in order to create another comprehensive revision to the Special Events Ordinance.

## **Closed Session**

**At 8:59 p.m., motion by** Commissioner McGann to enter closed session for the purposes of discussing the lease, exchange, purchase, or sale of real property and to discuss pending or reasonably imminent litigation

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner Hadler

**Motion passes 7-0**

**At 9:55 p.m., motion by** Commissioner Hadler to exit closed session

**Motion seconded by** Commissioner Hedin

**Motion passes 7-0**

**Chair Winfield adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.**

*Bill Winfield*

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Bill Winfield  
Chair, Grand County Commission

*Gabriel Woytek*

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Gabriel Woytek  
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

# Audit trail

## Details

FILE NAME 8.19.2025 REG GCC MINUTES approved.pdf - 9/2/25, 7:01 PM

STATUS ● Signed

STATUS TIMESTAMP 2025/09/04  
18:01:52 UTC

## Activity



SENT

dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov **sent** a signature request to:

- Bill Winfield (bwinfield@grandcountyutah.gov)
- Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

2025/09/03  
01:01:29 UTC



SIGNED

**Signed** by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)

2025/09/04  
18:01:52 UTC



SIGNED

**Signed** by Bill Winfield (bwinfield@grandcountyutah.gov)

2025/09/03  
20:33:15 UTC



COMPLETED

This document has been signed by all signers and is **complete**

2025/09/04  
18:01:52 UTC

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