



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

WATCH ON YOUTUBE - search for: "GRAND COUNTY UTAH GOVERNMENT"

MINUTES 20 January 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on January 20th, 2026. 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 Melodie McCandless, Commission Vice-Chair Bill Winfield and Commissioners Trish Hedin, Mary McGann, Brian Martinez, Jacques Hadler, 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.

Chair McCandless Called the Regular Meeting to Order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair explained that consideration of the Novak Rezone pulled

Citizens to be Heard

Kent Green clarified that the Rally on the Rocks events would not be utilizing the Behind the Rocks trail during its event, despite rumors and suggestions otherwise.

Presentations

2025 Employee Years of Service Recognitions

The following Grand County employees were recognized for their years of service to the citizens of Grand County:

5 years: Scott Solle, Jared Meador, Constance Birchford, Quinn Hall, Misty Kovacs

10 years: Christopher Kauffman, Mary McGann, Silvia Payne, Jason Beddoes

15 years: Anthony Mosher, Jacob Blackwelder, Verle Green, Meg Flynn, Joseph Thurman

20 years: Emily Butterfield, Sandra O'Donnal, Jennifer Tibbets, Danalee Welch O'Donnal, Marcy Babcock, Mindy Lammert

25 years: Michael Striblen, Carrie Valdes

30 years: Duane Frandsen

Public Hearing

Four Corners Community Behavioral Health Annual Public Hearing

Melissa Huntington, Executive Director of Four Corners Behavioral Health, described the purpose of this hearing which is to allow for citizens to provide input, review, or feedback for services provided by her agency. No citizens were present to speak in this regard and the hearing was closed at 4:13 p.m.

Presentations (continued)

Grand County Sheriff Service Awards

Sheriff Wiggins recognized several individuals with live-saving awards for their efforts related to search and rescue incidents at Fisher Towers and the Moab Skyway.

UDWR PILT Check Presentation to the County

Chris Wood of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources presented a check for \$4,358 as a payment in lieu of property taxes for the UDWR land holdings in Grand County. Wood gave an overview of his agency's activities in Grand County.

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

1. Commission member disclosures and future considerations

Commissioner McCurdy disclosed that his wife is an employee at the Grand County Sheriff's Office and Commissioner McGann disclosed that her son is an employee at the Sand Flats Recreation Area and her husband is a Commissioner of the Moab Valley Fire District.

Commissioner Winfield requested that an airport study be considered for the next Commission agenda.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval Of Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2026**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Ratification Of Renewal Of I-70 Billboard Contract**
- D. Ratification Of Online Letter in Support of Continued Federal Funding for Trails**
- E. Letter In Support of Continued Federal Funding for Trails to the Utah Delegation**
- F. Ratification Of Local Consent - Canyonlands PRCA Rodeo**
- G. Cemetery Board Appointment**
- H. Letter Of Support for Rural Utah Motion Picture Incentive Program to Legislators**
- I. Purchase Of Inflatable River Boat for Search and Rescue**
- J. Express Evaluations Subscription Renewal**
- K. Contractor Agreement with Pronghorn Construction for Arroyo Crossing Ph. II - using CDBG Grant Funds**
- L. CDBG Interagency Agreement Grand County, Arroyo Crossing**
- M. Consulting Party Status with Bureau of Land Management (BLM) For 2026 Oil And Gas Sale in Grand County**
- N. Approval Of Lease Assumption Lot 118 CNY**
- O. Low Income Housing Loan Contract**
- P. Contract With Jones and DeMille Engineering for Sand Flats Road BUILD (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) Planning Grant Application**
- Q. Bid Award, Notice to Proceed and Contract for ARFF Vehicle**

R. Consideration of Approval of Revised/Adopted Job Descriptions

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Consent Agenda as read by the Chair, excepting item O

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

3. Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (Emergency Manager Kate Finley)

Presentation

The Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan (CWPP) is a five-year plan outlining mitigation, preparedness, and prevention strategies to address the risk of wildfire. Communities that participate in Utah's Cooperative Wildfire System (CWS), in which the state shares the cost of catastrophic fires in exchange for local government providing initial attack and engaging in prevention, preparedness, and mitigation strategies, are required to maintain a CWPP.

This plan contains goals for Grand County as well as the City of Moab, given the fire risks associated with creek corridors that run through the County as well as the City. This plan is the result of a collaborative effort between Grand County, the City of Moab, Moab Valley Fire Department, Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands, and Rim to Rim Restoration. County departments that participated in planning include Emergency Management, Grand County Road Department, Grand County Noxious Weeds Department, Grand County GIS Specialist, and Grand County Building Department. Team Rubicon to come to Moab to work on fire fuels mitigation from March 16-22, 2026.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the 2026 Community Wildfire Preparedness Plan for Grand County and the City of Moab

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

4. Special Events – Legacy Events (Special Events Coordinator Jenibeth Jones)

Presentation

Jones gave an overview of events to be considered for legacy status, which were those events run by Mad Moose (all those already established), the Moab 240, the Moab Trail Marathon, Skinny Tire Festival (Spring and Fall), Jenk Star Ranch, John Wayne Grit Series, and Jeep Jamboree.

Commissioner Hedin sought clarification as to the threshold for how long running an event needs to be considered for legacy status, which was set at 5 years. All events in consideration are in good standing.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Special Events Legacy List as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Discussion regarding whether any novel events run by Mad Moose would be automatically granted legacy status, with agreement that any such new events would not automatically be granted that designation.

Motion passes 7-0

5. 2026 Special Events High Impact Events Ready for Review (Special Events Coordinator Jenibeth Jones)

Presentation

Events considered at this time: Building Man 2026, RedRok Rally 2027, Raptors on the Rocks 2027 and Moab Grenadier Gathering West 2027. Events now able to be approved up to 18 months in advance. Events with problems in 2026 can have their event permit revoked in 2027. Commissioner McCurdy suggested that two events could be held simultaneously at OSTA, such as the case of Raptors on the Rocks and Moab Grenadier Gathering West in 2027. Commission discussion led to the conclusion that approval of Raptors on the Rocks 2027 and Moab Grenadier Gathering West 2027 should be delayed at this time in order to address potential conflicts with events being held at OSTA at the same date.

Motion by Commissioner Hedin to approve the High Impact Event Submissions: Building Man 2026 and RedRok Rally 2027

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

6. Immediate Backfill Position Requests (Personnel Services Director Tess Barger)

Presentation

Barger went over the range of current backfill position requests, as presented in the agenda packet, distinguishing between positions housed within elected and non-elected offices.

Deputy Assessor (replacement of outgoing retiring staff person)

Commissioner Hedin stated that the hiring freeze was put on for 2026 in order to address budgeting challenges, and that all departments needed to work as a team to cut costs in any way possible. Assessor Swasey gave more detail regarding the importance of this particular position.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Deputy Assessor position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy spoke to the importance of the DMV services to the community.

Motion passes 7-0

Chief Deputy Recorder: Replacement of position vacated in 2025.

Discussion

Recorder Nelson stated that this position had been budgeted for.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Chief Deputy Recorder position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner Winfield stressed the importance of maintain the staff necessary to comply with statute.

Motion passes 7-0

Sheriff Deputy position (Task Force Commander)

Discussion

Sheriff Wiggins explained that there were qualified internal candidates to fill this role, which would result in an additional vacancy.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Task Force Commander position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion

Promotion from within, with new vacancy to be filled externally.

Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy abstaining

Dispatch position

Discussion

Sheriff Wiggins explained that this position was vital for compliance with state mandates.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve filling the Dispatch position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Motion passes 7-0

Sand Flats Recreation Area: Two Recreation Technicians and Apprentice

Discussion

SFRA Director Andrea Brand explained that there would be no net budgetary impact due to other vacancies and hour reductions on her staff, and that these positions were important to fill and train before the visitor season began.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve filling two SFRA Recreation Technicians and one apprentice, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Motion passes 7-0

Airport Operations Manager (reclassification approved during budget discussions)

Discussion

Airport Director Steven Gleason explained that there were three current vacancies at the airport, and that this action only served to fill one of those vacancies.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve filling the Airport Operation Manager position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Motion passes 7-0

Onsite Crisis Nursery Worker (Family Support Center)

Discussion

Clarification made that this position was entirely grant-funded through the TANF program.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve filling the Onsite Crisis Nursery Worker position, as presented

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Motion passes 7-0

7. Ordinance - Grant Administration (Melisa Jeffers, Economic Development Coordinator)

Presentation

Grand County has previously operated without a subgrant policy. This new policy replaces the previous practice of full upfront payments with a reimbursement model that offers advance payments (up to 25%), more closely aligned with best practices from state models. This approach strengthens accountability, ensures timely project completion and reporting, while still supporting organizations with limited cash flow capacity.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the grant administration policy ordinance as presented

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 5-2, Hadler and McCurdy absent

8. Resolution – Vista Antigua Subdivision Amended Plat (Planning and Zoning Director Andrew Jackson)

Presentation

Jackson gave an overview of the proposed action, as presented in the packet. The proposed action involves an amendment of common boundary lines between lots and amending 30' drainage easement. It also includes a small parcel of land set aside for future development to be added to lot 30. Staff recommends approval.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the amended plat for the Vista Antigua Subdivision

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Amendment of common boundary lines between lots and amending 30' drainage easement. It also includes a small parcel of land set aside for future development to be added to lot 30.

Motion passes 6-0, McGann absent

9. Approve Madden Media's paid media plan for 2026 (Michael Soleta, Assistant Marketing Director)

Presentation

The Moab Office of Tourism began working with Madden Media in early summer 2025. The Madden team have shown themselves to be excellent partners, both as team members to the Moab Office of Tourism and as experts in the destination marketing space.

This media plan showcases Madden's 2026 advertising buys, showing 21 media placements, as well as a plan for the Utah Office of Tourism's co-op marketing program and international buys. In 2026, the MOT plans to spend \$1,400,000 on advertisements through Madden Media. The Moab Tourism Advisory Board approved this media plan unanimously at its January 13 board meeting, following a workshop on January 12.

The Commission approved the MOT's total paid media advertising budget line in December that highlighted this amount; on January 6, the Commission approved an amendment to MOT's contract with Madden Media to approve the total spend with the agency, including the \$1,400,000 spend on advertisements.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve Madden Media's 2026 paid media plan

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion

Commissioner Martinez referred the public to recorded workshops by Madden Media which contains a presentation with further detail regarding 2025 and 2026 campaigns.

Motion passes 5-0, McCandless and McGann absent

O. Low-Income Housing Loan Contract (pulled from consent agenda)

Presentation

Discussion was made regarding specification of the source of funding for this loan. Attorney Stocks summarized some details of the contract including terms related to default

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the Low-Income Housing Loan Contract

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Amendment of common boundary lines between lots and amending 30' drainage easement. It also includes a small parcel of land set aside for future development to be added to lot 30.

Motion passes 5-2, Hedin and Hadler opposed

6pm Citizens to be Heard

Kent Green offered further clarification that the event that he operates, RedRok Rally, will not be utilizing the Behind the Rocks Trail system.

Craig Nelson stated that he intended to run for County Sheriff and announced his presence at the meeting.

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Melodie J. McCandless

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

FILE NAME	1.20.2026 REG GCC MINUTES approved - 2/3/26, 5:48 PM.pdf
STATUS	● Signed
STATUS TIMESTAMP	2026/02/06 21:08:40 UTC

Activity

 SENT	dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov sent a signature request to: - Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov) - Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/02/04 00:49:03 UTC
 SIGNED	Signed by Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/02/04 03:24:38 UTC
 SIGNED	Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/02/06 21:08:40 UTC
 COMPLETED	This document has been signed by all signers and is complete	2026/02/06 21:08:40 UTC

The email address indicated above for each signer may be associated with a Google account, and may either be the primary email address or secondary email address associated with that account.