



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

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MINUTES 17 March 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on March 17th, 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, Jacques Hadler, Mary McGann, Brian Martinez 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

Citizens to be Heard

Kara Dohrenwend spoke regarding the presence of Team Rubicon in Moab and the vital fire mitigation work that they provide.

Rachel Paxman spoke in support of the consistent service provided by Contour Airlines and advocated for retaining them as Essential Air Service providers.

Allyson Mathis spoke in the interest of a petition a redress of grievances, and spoke in opposition to any efforts directed at controlling her rights to free speech. Mathis asked if Commissioners have seen drafts or preliminary results of the Kem C. Gardner Institute study on Arches Timed Entry, and spoke to what she viewed as inappropriate amendments made to the contract related to that study.

Pete Gross asked whether the Kem C. Gardner Institute requested an expansion

AJ Throgmorton pointed out that EAS selection went through a Commission subcommittee and an airport board with their associated recommendations. Throgmorton added that he was encouraged by options presented in the ACE plan for managing the flow of visitors into Arches National Park.

Rory Paxman, former County Commissioner and Airport Board Member, expressed disagreement with the hired consultant's advice and the Airport Board's recommendation regarding selection of an EAS provider, and advocated for retaining Contour Airlines. Paxman complained about the quality of the public survey.

Presentations

Moab Tourism Advisory Board

MTAB Chair Wendell Williams and MTAB Vice Chair Lori MacFarland gave a lengthy presentation regarding 2025 MTAB activity, covering topics such as the importance of tourism to the area economy, MTAB purpose, mission, objectives and composition, prioritization of tourism mitigation, new initiatives in 2025, overview of the Moab Office of Tourism, new and current sales initiatives, 2025 marketing results, 2025 public relations results, proactive communication efforts, holiday light campaign, film commission activity, and planned efforts for 2026.

Agency Reports

USU-Extension Report

Extension Director Cory Farnsworth introduced how the extension program is funded through its associated land-grant university (USU), and discussed its impact and value to the community.

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. Commissioner McGann disclosed that her son works at Sand Flats Recreation Area.

Commissioner Hedin requested a report from Commissioners Winfield and Martinez regarding their recent lobbying trip to Washington, D.C.

Commissioner Martinez requested an update regarding the Spanish Valley Multi-Use Path.

Attorney Stocks disclosed that his wife was a candidate for the County Fair Board vacancy being considered at this meeting.

2. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for March 3rd, 2026**
- B. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- C. Ratification Of Letter of Support for the USU 4H Program Award Nomination/Application**
- D. Ratification Of Costar License Agreement**
- E. Ratification Of Letter of Support for The BLM's RTP Grant Application**
- F. Ratification Of a Letter Supporting the City of Moab's Grant Request To Rebuild The Pack Creek Footbridge**
- G. Motorized Recreational Trail Program Grant Application and Commission Letter Of Support**
- H. Caterpillar 938 Front End Loader Buyback and Roll Forward for New Loader**
- I. Independent Contract Agreements for the 2026 Grand County Fair for Playback Party Band**
- J. Independent Contract Agreements for the 2026 Grand County Fair for Elite Events**
- K. Board Member Applicant Considerations for The Grand County Fair Board**
- L. Independent Contract Agreements for the 2026 Grand County Fair for Rigby Unicorn And Pony Rides**
- M. Independent Contract Agreement for the 2026 Grand County Fair for Berentis Rodeo Company**

N. Legal Services from Eric Clarke, Utah Association of Counties Attorney

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the Consent Agenda, as read by the Chair

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

3. Special Events Marketing Grants (MTAB Chair Wendell Williams, Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

Commissioner Martinez gave an overview of the applicants, the process for reviewing them, and the stated purpose of the grant. An additional round will be granted with applications due May 1st. Martinez gave an overview of qualifying expenses for the grant funds. Clarification given that the Moab Museum's full request was revised because parts of their application did not serve to promote a specific event.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the Special Events Marketing Grants, according to recommendations, with the exception of award amounts revised as follows: \$2,750 to Jenkstar Ranch (Building Man), \$5,000 to Outerbike, \$4,535 to the Moab Museum

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion

McCandless expressed agreement with the proposed modifications under consideration and Commissioner McCurdy expressed support for efforts directed at marketing to bring visitors from outside of Grand County.

Motion passes 7-0

4. Re-Appointment of board member to the Moab Tourism Advisory Board (MTAB Chair Wendell Williams, Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

Williams described the solicitation process for this vacancy specific to those working in businesses that collect Transient Room Taxes. MTAB recommends Felicia Baty.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to appoint Felicia Baty to the Moab Tourism Advisory Board for a four-year term ending December 31st, 2030

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

Dotty represents four area hotels. Attorney Stocks stated that it is more than a four-year term to maintain appropriate overlap of expiring board seats for this newly introduced seat, unless the Commission wished for this current term to expire at end of 2026.

Motion passes 7-0

5. Approval of Certified Training and Structural Inspection on the SL100 Mobile Stage with Stageline Mobile Stage (OSTA Director Angie Book)

Presentation

In 2021, Grand County and Moab City partnered to purchase a mobile stage. Moab City requested that Grand County take the lead on its management. Given the complexity of the equipment and scheduling requirements, it is most efficient for the stage to be managed under a single department. It is currently housed and managed by OSTA.

The original purchase included certification training for four technicians. While two OSTA staff members successfully completed the training, the other two trainees did not meet the requirements for valid certification. Currently, OSTA is operating with only one certified technician. As the stage grows in popularity, we risk having to cancel major events—such as the Moab Music Festival or the Folk Festival—due to a lack of certified personnel.

To mitigate this risk and prepare for potential employee turnover, I am requesting approval for a new certification training session, which covers two to four technicians. My plan is to involve multiple departments: I intend to attend the training myself, and I have confirmed that Facilities Supervisor Shawn Fugit is willing to participate. The remaining two spots will be offered to OSTA maintenance technicians.

Clarification made that this expense was not budgeted for. Commissioner Hedin questioned whether the City of Moab might contribute to the cost or if TRT funds might potentially be available for this cost.

Commissioner McCurdy stressed that certified personnel was needed in order to utilize the stage. Attorney Stocks stated that applicability of TRT funds was dependent on the use of the stage for events that served visitors versus locals.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the certified training and structural inspection with Stageline Mobile Stage in the amount of \$9,630.00

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion

Future discussion will ensue regarding possibilities for how the stage might be funded. Commissioner Martinez stated that TRT code did not allow the use of TRT promotion funds, but that funds held with the Recreation Film and Convention tag would potentially be eligible.

Motion passes 7-0

6. Approving additions to the 2025 Property Tax Abatements and Cancellations (Treasurer Kauffman)

Presentation

The Commission approved abatements and cancellations during the October 21st 2025 meeting prior to tax bills being mailed. The additional abatements and cancellations will cover everything from 10-10-2025 to 12-31-2025.

A handful of additional real and personal property abatements for disabled veterans, active-duty military, disabled low-income individuals and low-income seniors were accepted. Real and personal property amounts totaled \$20,042.71, \$7,594.13 of which will be reimbursed by the State.

Cancellations totaled \$16,158.42. All the cancellations (except for \$25.63 in Personal Property write-offs) are detailed in the attachments and include \$1,217.54 in recommended penalty cancellation (not shown on the District/Entity report), \$571.99 in prior year cancellations and \$14,343.25 in various other cancellations.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the additional 2025 property tax abatements and cancellations as presented

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion

Commissioner Martinez pointed out the recent legislation was aimed at eliminating these property tax relief programs.

Motion passes 7-0

7. Resolution Amending Employee Handbook (Personnel Services Director Tess Barger and County Attorney Stephen Stocks)

Presentation

Periodically, it is necessary to update the policies in the Grand County Employee Handbook, originally established by the Grand County Commission, to improve and create new policies and procedures. This update aims to include all ordinances and resolutions passed since the last version approved by the County Commission, which was last adopted effective January 1, 2014.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the resolution amending the employee handbook to incorporate all ordinances and resolutions passed since the last update

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Clarification that a subsequent revision would include a clause allowing automatic updates, and would be considered for approval at the next Commission meeting.

Motion passes 7-0

6 p.m. Citizens to be Heard

8. Midterm Vacancy Appointment to Grand County Special Service Water District
(Commission Administration)

Presentation

Grand County Special Service Water District Board member Mike Duncan is moving out of state. His term ends December 31, 2027. There were two applications received. Both meet the qualifications to be on the board.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to appoint Dale Weiss to the Grand County Special Service Water District to a term ending 12/31/2027

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

9. Resolution for Final Plat Approval of Schork Subdivision, being a replatting of Lot 15, All American Acres (P+Z Director Andrew Jackson)

Presentation

Christoph Schork owns a 5-acre parcel, being Lot 15 of the All-American Acres Subdivision, and has applied for a three-lot minor subdivision with permit number 2548. The Schork subdivision is situated at 4381 Heather Lane. It is located in the Rural Residential zone, which permits a maximum density of one unit per acre. The applicant intends to retain the existing structures on the property. The application meets the minor subdivision requirements set forth in 9.3 and 9.18 of the Land Use Code and complies with the Rural Residential zone as outlined in section 2.5 of the Grand County Land Use Code. Staff recommends approval of the Schork three-lot minor Subdivision as submitted.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy; having considered the staff report and recommendation, public comments, testimony, and the Land Use Code, and finding the Christoph Schork application complies with the Grand County, Utah, Land Use Code for Minor Subdivisions and for development in the Rural Residential Zone, motion to approve resolution number TBD for the Schork minor subdivision final plat

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

10. Resolution for Final Plat Approval of Jack's Subdivision (P+Z Director Andrew Jackson)

Presentation

Robby and Julie Lovato own three parcels with a combined acreage of 6.8 acres, and have applied for a six-lot subdivision, named Jack's Subdivision, with permit number 2547. The Jack's subdivision is situated at 3190, 3208 & 3250 Spanish Valley Drive. It is located in the Rural Residential zone, which permits a maximum density of one unit per acre. The applicant intends to retain the existing structures on the property. The application meets the subdivision requirements set forth in 9.3 and 9.18 of the Land Use Code and complies with the Rural Residential zone as outlined in section 2.5 of the Grand County Land Use Code. Staff recommends approval of the Jack's six-lot Subdivision as submitted.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield; having considered the staff report and recommendation, public comments, testimony, and the Land Use Code, and finding the Robby and Julie Lovato application for Final Plat approval of Jack's Subdivision, being a six-lot subdivision, complies with the Grand County, Utah, Land Use Code for Subdivisions and for development in the Rural Residential Zone, motion to approve resolution number TBD for the Jack's subdivision final plat

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

11. Recommendation for Essential Air Service (EAS) or Alternate Essential Air Service (AEAS) provider to the US Department of Transportation (Airport Director Steven Gleason and Consultant Luke Schmitt)

Presentation

Every 3 years, Grand County renegotiates the Essential Air Service (EAS) or Alternative Essential Air Service (AEAS) for the following 3 years. Proposals are considered based on multiple factors, and with input from the Airport Board, the Airport Subcommittee, and the outside consultant. Comprehensive analysis and presentation provided to the Commission and included in the agenda packet. Unanimous decision by the Airport Board and the subcommittee of the County Commission to recommend selection of Skywest as the air service provider.

Commissioner McCandless, member of the Commission subcommittee, attended all provider presentations, and stated that community demand was overwhelmingly in favor of Skywest. Commissioner Hadler stated that this was a very difficult decision and spoke in support of the strength of the review process. Commissioner Hedin expressed concern with the way that Skywest was perceived to have left the community in the dark in the past, but that a larger carrier was needed in order to foster growth at the airport. Commissioner McGann shared the disappointment in the past with Skywest's departure, expressed that Skywest would have to earn that trust back. Commissioner McCurdy asked whether contracts can be made stronger in the future, Attorney Stocks expressed that such contracts are quite complex given that they involve the federal Department of Transportation. Schmitt offered an overview of the costs associated with each of the three proposals, information which is included in his summary. Commissioner Winfield stressed that wages for the local workforce reasonable fares for for locals was very important in working with the selected service provider.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to recommend Skywest as the air service provider for the Canyonlands Regional Airport.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner McCurdy acknowledged that there were mixed opinions among the public on the appropriate selection.

Motion passes 7-0

Commissioners offered their general reports prior to the close of the meeting, as summarized in written format in the agenda packet.

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 5:49 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	3.17.2026 REG GCC MINUTES DRAFT - 4/7/26, 6:27 PM.pdf
STATUS	Signed
STATUS TIMESTAMP	2026/04/08 14:49:09 UTC

Activity

SENT	dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov sent a signature request to: Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov) Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/04/08 00:28:20 UTC
SIGNED	Signed by Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/04/08 11:48:51 UTC
SIGNED	Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/04/08 14:49:09 UTC
COMPLETED	This document has been signed by all signers and is complete	2026/04/08 14:49:09 UTC

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