



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

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MINUTES 5 May 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on May 5th, 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 Vice-Chair Bill Winfield, who served as Chair for this meeting, 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 and County Attorney Stephen Stocks. Commissioner Chair Melodie McCandless was in attendance virtually.

Vice-Chair Winfield called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Closed Session

At 3:32 p.m., motion by Commissioner McCurdy to enter closed session for the purpose of purchasing, exchanging, leasing, or selling real property

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Motion passes 7-0

At 4:00 p.m., motion by Commissioner McCurdy to exit closed session

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Motion passes 7-0

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizens to be Heard

Gail Beerman spoke with concern regarding potential impacts to her property on Spanish Valley Drive from the proposed Spanish Valley Multiuse Pathway.

Mary O'Brien spoke with disapproval regarding the process and intent for contracting the Arches Timed Entry Study.

Andrew Jackson spoke in advocacy for skin cancer awareness month.

Presentations

Employee Recognition

Personnel Services Director Tess Barger recognized Treasurer Chris Kauffman for receiving an affiliate of the year award from the Utah Association of Counties, and also Grand Center staff for their heroic effort in responding to a health emergency from a local senior receiving services.

Kem C. Gardner Study Presentation

Phil Dean, Research Director and Chief Economist with the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, gave a summary of the main findings of the report contracted by Grand County and prepared by his firm, which seeks to determine the impact of the Arches Timed Entry pilot program on the local economy. The first key finding is that Grand County has experienced positive economic growth from 2022 to 2024, in inflation adjusted terms, across a broad array of standard economic indicators. The second key finding was that Arches National Park did have lower visitation during the timed entry pilot, but there was higher visitation to area parks in Grand County more broadly. The estimated 14% lower visitation is measured using counterfactual analysis which seeks to estimate what visitation to Arches National Park could have expected to be given actual data available. Confirmation given that the report would now be shared publicly, as it was not included in the agenda packet.

Discussion Items

2. Discussion of options for processing land use change application during Land Use Code update process

Contracted Attorney Bart Kunz discussed how vested rights and new land use applications interact with the process for updating the land use code. Once the process for updating is initiated, new applications can be considered subject to the new future form of the code. Kunz described the common law doctrine known as the vested right doctrine, which establishes that land use applications are considered under the law as it was at the time that they applied, with exceptions to this rule applicable when there is compelling countervailing public interest that would be jeopardized by the approval, or if there was formal initiation of a process to amend the land use code. Moratoria are officially referred to as temporary land use regulations. Any amendments have to prohibit the use suggested in any proposed new applications for the use not to vest. In regards to need for Grand County to formally initiate a process via resolution, Kunz offered a variety of caveats regarding how such a resolution would trigger and apply a proceeding that prohibits approval.

Department Reports

Children's Justice Center (CJC Director Andrea Noyes)

Noyes provided an update regarding the CJC, whose mission is to protect children, support families in crisis, collaborate with partners, promote healing, advocate for justice, and strengthen the community. Noyes described the success of the new facility, including necessary improvements that were made without direct County funding. Noyes described recent legislation passed which further protects children who have been subject to abuse, and also went on to describe recent trends in child abuse cases that the center has had to respond to. The Grand County CJC is the first in the state to offer teleforensic interviews for those victims that speak Spanish. Noyes described a number of events planned for the year for raising funds and support for the CJC.

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

3. Commission member disclosures and future considerations

Commissioner McCurdy disclosed that his wife is an employee at the Grand County Sheriff's Office.

Topics raised for future consideration: Commission appointment to working group to discuss the boat ramp at the Colorado River pedestrian bridge. Funding of the Kem C. Gardner Arches Timed Entry Study. Financial update from the Clerk/Auditor. Earned interest related to holdings from the Spanish Valley Pathway.

4. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 21st, 2026

B. Ratification of Payment of Bills

C. Independent Contract Agreement with Shires Bounce Rentals for the 2026 Grand County Fair

D. Independent Contract Agreements for the 2026 Grand County Fair for Bombtown Crawlers

E. Letter Of Support for Trust Lands Administration/DWR Land Transfer

F. Ratification Of 2025 Contour Agreement - Denver Flights

G. Conflict Public Defender Contract Award

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

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

5. Position Backfill Requests (Personnel Services Director Tess Barger)

Presentation

Barger described this action to fill to vacant positions, the OHV Trail Coordinator position will become vacant at the end of May 2026. Immediate backfill of this position is requested to allow for potential onboarding and training with the current OHV Trail Coordinator. This is the only position within Grand County solely dedicated to motorized trails programming and activities. The position is primarily grant-funded. OHV Trail Coordinator position was budgeted for in the approved 2026 annual budget. The position's salary is grant funded and the employee benefits are paid by General Fund (10).

A Patrol Deputy position became vacant recently and the Sheriff is requesting immediate backfill of the position. The Patrol Deputy position with the Grand County Sheriff's Department was budgeted for in the approved 2026 annual budget and was recently vacated. Salary and benefits are paid from the General Fund (10)

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve the backfill of the OHV Trail Coordinator and Patrol Deputy positions, effective immediately.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion

Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy abstaining

6. Consideration of Approval to Enter Negotiations Phase for Spanish Valley Multi-Use Pathway (Trails Director Maddie Logowitz, County Engineer Sean Yates, David Riddle of contract consultants Jones and DeMille)

Presentation

Grand County is ready to enter the negotiations phase prior to final design of the Spanish Valley Drive Multi Use Pathway.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to authorize the consultant to enter the negotiations phase for acquisitions related to Spanish Valley Drive Multi-Use Pathway

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

7. Bid Award for Jackson Street Storm Drain Project (County Engineer Sean Yates, Roads Supervisor Cody McKinney, Associate Administrator Quinn Hall)

Presentation

Jackson Street Storm Drain Project went to bid in Spring 2024 and came back outside the budgetary range. It was re-bid in 2026, and bids came back in a more appropriate range. The selection committee checked bids for completeness and pricing, and selected the low bidder.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to award the contract for the Jackson Street Storm Drain project to Silver Spur Construction

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy absent

8. Ordinance UDOT Franchise Agreement 2027 (Commission Administrator Mark Tyner)

Presentation

Administrator Tyner explained that this franchise applied to Rocky Mountain Power and not UDOT, despite the agenda title.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the 2027 Rocky Mountain Power Franchise Agreement and associated ordinance

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy absent

9. Resolution Declaring May 16th, "Adventure Safe Day" (Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

This declaration is an integral part of the "Always Adventure Safe" statewide campaign, developed in partnership with Utah State Parks and the Division of Outdoor Recreation. The goal of this initiative is to promote safe and responsible outdoor stewardship as the summer recreation season begins.

Utah is renowned for its diverse and accessible outdoor environments, drawing residents and visitors alike to its trails, parks, and waterways. With this enthusiasm comes the critical need to ensure that everyone is prepared for their adventures and mindful of preserving the natural beauty of our land.

Adventure Safe Day, May 16, is designed to be a statewide moment of unity, pride, and preparedness, reinforcing the message of safety and stewardship among all who recreate outdoors.

On May 16, we plan to host several mini-activations at high-traffic locations throughout the state, including State Parks, to engage the public directly. The goals for these activations are to:

Share Campaign Messages: Deliver key "Always Adventure Safe" messages focused on personal preparedness and land preservation.

Provide Resources: Distribute fun and useful preparedness tools, such as water bottles, stickers, and activity books for children, to reinforce safety messages in an engaging way.

Engage the Community: Encourage local residents and visitors to commit to safe and responsible recreation practices.

A proclamation will significantly elevate the visibility and impact of Adventure Safe Day within our community and the state. It will signal the city's commitment to public safety, environmental stewardship, and the well-being of all outdoor enthusiasts.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to approve the resolution declaring May 16th "Adventure Safe Day"

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McGann

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0, McCurdy absent

General Reports

• Elected Official Reports

County Sheriff Jamison Wiggins

- BLM contract renewed for five years, which helps pay for deputy hours spent patrolling BLM land, as well as use of dispatch services and computer operating system
- Join training exercise planned for upcoming weekend by South Valley SWAT
- State Homeland Security Grant funding Starlink equipment for all patrol vehicles
- Upcoming C10 car show fundraising event for Search and Rescue

- General Commission Reports and Future Considerations
 - Reports offered, as summarized in the agenda packet.

Vice Chair Winfield called a recess at 5:46 p.m., reconvening the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

6pm Citizens to be Heard

Randy Day, who serves on the Grand County Planning Commission, raised concern regarding the prominent role in Planning Commission discussion by the County Commission liaison, and requested clarification as to whether such involvement was appropriate or enabled by language in the Planning Commission bylaws. Day added that placing a moratorium on new land use application was not a good path to consider.

10. Closed Session

At p.m., motion by Commissioner Hadler to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical/mental health of an individual

Motion seconded by Commissioner McGann

Motion fails 4-2, Martinez and Winfield opposed, McCurdy abstaining

Vice Chair Winfield adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Melodie McCandless

Melodie McCandless
Chair, Grand County Commission

ATTEST:

Gabriel Woytek

Gabriel Woytek
Grand County Clerk/Auditor

Audit trail

Details

FILE NAME	5.5.2026 REG GCC MINUTES approved - 5/19/26, 5:20 PM.pdf
STATUS	Signed
STATUS TIMESTAMP	2026/05/20 17:14:35 UTC

Activity

SENT	dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov sent a signature request to: - Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov) - Melodie McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/05/19 23:20:24 UTC
SIGNED	Signed by Melodie McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/05/20 00:33:42 UTC
SIGNED	Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/05/20 17:14:35 UTC
COMPLETED	This document has been signed by all signers and is complete	2026/05/20 17:14:35 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.