



GRAND COUNTY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING

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

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MINUTES 18 August 2026

The Grand County Commission met in a regular meeting on August 18th, 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 Jacques Hadler, Mary McGann and Mike McCurdy. Also attending in-person were Commission Administrator Mark Tyner and Associate Commission Administrator Quinn Hall. Commissioners Brian Martinez and Trisha Hedin were in attendance virtually.

Workshops beginning at 2:30p.m.

County Complex Project Exploration

Staff and project consultants presented early-stage planning and site exploration options for the proposed Grand County Administrative Complex upgrade/consolidation. Discussion covered space deficits across current county buildings, structural maintenance backlogs at existing facilities, ADA accessibility, and long-term department growth projections. Review given of preliminary feasibility studies comparing renovation of existing downtown buildings versus acquiring/developing a consolidated county services complex site.

Chair McCandless called the regular meeting to order at 4:12p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Department Reports

Emergency Management (Emergency Manager Kate Finley)

Finley gave an update on recent regional emergency responses, seasonal heat/flash flood preparation, and other general departmental operational updates.

Moab Office of Tourism (MOT Director Mick Soleta)

Soleta reported on the office's successful tourism marketing campaign, which generated significant economic impact and hotel stays. He also discussed the ongoing rebranding project, which found that many visitors want to return or spend more time in Moab. The new brand and campaign are scheduled to launch in September. The office is also focusing on film tourism, international visitors, and using data to better understand tourism.

Grand County Engineering (County Engineer Sean Yeates)

County Engineer Sean Yeates provided an update on the Engineering Department's work, including development review, infrastructure, flood mitigation, and transportation projects. He highlighted progress on the Newark Thompson replat, the Jackson Street storm drain project, the Moab Town Boat Ramp, and the Spanish Valley multi-use pathway. Engineering is also working to make the planning and development process more effective for residents, contractors, and developers.

General Business - Action Items, Discussion and Consideration of:

4. Commission member disclosures and future considerations

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

5. Approval of Consent Agenda Items

- A. Ratification of Payment of Bills**
- B. Ratify Film Commission Sponsorship of Location Manager's Guild International Awards**
- C. Letter Of Support for USU's Grant Application for the Ending Wasted Food Award, Nourishsmart Families**
- D. Contract Extension - Burke Playgrounds OSTA Playground Project**
- E. Contract Extension for Renner Sports - Pickleball Project**
- F. Ratification Of Grant Contract Amendment - Mud Springs Phase I**
- G. Grant Application: OHV Trail Coordinator Position In 2027-28**
- H. Recommend Reappointment of Historic Preservation Commission Members (2)**
- I. Secondary Manufacturers (Opioid) Contingent Fee Application**
- J. Letter Of Support / Funding Request to the Department of Natural Resources for The Colorado River Boat Ramp**
- K. Appointment Of Two (2) Vacancies on The Budget Advisory Board**
- L. Revision Of Job Description & Backfill Request for OSTA Administrative Assistant**

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

Motion Seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

6. Approval Of Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Grant Letter of Acknowledgment (Commission Administration)

(This item was postponed)

7. Resolution amending the 2026 Budget (Finance Director Chantel Lindsay)

Presentation

Lindsay clarified that this amendment was comprised of Mid-year administrative budget adjustments requiring formal resolution approval by the Commission, including revenue & expenditure realignment, updated revenue projections based on Year-to-Date (YTD) tax receipts and actual departmental spend.

The amendment also adjusted operational expenditure lines across multiple county funds to ensure compliance through the remainder of FY 2026.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to approve the resolution amending the 2026 Grand County budget

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion

The Commission had a brief discussion about the Economic Development Director's overtime budget and the projects she works on which demand this unexpected overtime.

Motion passes 5-2, McGann and Hedin opposed

Citizens to be Heard

Sarah Melnicoff spoke in support of a full time Victim's Advocate in the Attorney's Office.

Taylor Johnson spoke in support of the Arches Shuttle Pilot system.

Diane Fordin spoke with gratitude for the bike path completion on Highway 128 and spoke in support of the Arches Shuttle Pilot system.

Michael Wolf spoke in opposition to the Arches Shuttle Pilot system.

Aaron Lindberg spoke regarding the rural to urban challenges that he sees taking place in Spanish Valley, and hopes the Commission can utilize information gleaned in studies to make the best decisions for the future land use of that area.

Rory Paxman spoke in support of a full time Victim's Advocate in the Attorney's Office, and urged the Commission to consider all options for any future public safety facility.

Gary McDaniels spoke in opposition to the Arches Shuttle Pilot system.

Allyson Mathis spoke with displeasure to what she regarded as a lack of decorum by Commissioners who preach that such a decorum must be followed.

Pete Gross spoke in opposition to the revisitation of the Burr Oak rezone, and spoke in support of a full time Victim's Advocate in the Attorney's Office.

Carey Dabney spoke in support of a full time Victim's Advocate in the Attorney's Office.

Susie Johnston spoke in support of actions by the Commission which she feels have benefitted the local community, including the affordable housing plan and the Arches Shuttle Pilot system.

8. Ordinance amending the 2026 Consolidated Grand County Fee Schedule (Commission Administration)

Presentation

Changes to the Fee Schedule happen from time to time. Usually, it comes up at the beginning of the year, but occasional updates are necessary from time to time. This coincides with the amended budget adoption, and changes here include an update to fees in the Recorder's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the Old Spanish Trail Arena (OSTA).

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the ordinance repealing and replacing Ordinance 728 with the updated Grand County Consolidated Fee Schedule

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0, Hadler absent

9. Consideration of an emergency purchase of Civic Plus Media to livestream county meetings (Commission Administration)

Presentation

The county uses the Civic Plus platform for its website and agenda and meeting management software. This product allows meetings to be streamed and maintained on the county's website. This purchase is a sole source purchase since Civic Plus provides both agenda and meeting management and the county website. The personnel services fees were calculated using the following factors: percentage of Personnel Services staff time devoted to each of three respective categories, which service(s) the SSDs are using, salary and benefit costs of the Personnel Services Department, and the number of full-time employees at each SSD.

Motion by Commissioner McGann to approve the emergency purchase of the Civic Plus Media module to livestream county meetings on the Grand County website.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hedin

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

10. Consideration of \$2,500 in Matching Support for the Promise Baby & You Early Childhood Program (Commissioner McGann)

Presentation

Our Village is piloting Promise Baby & You, a free nine-week workshop series for parents of children ages 0–3, developed through Promise Partnership Utah in Grand County beginning this fall. While parents receive training, their children are provided meals and on-site childcare, and every family that completes the course receives a seeded \$500 My529 college savings account for their child. The requested \$2,500 would fund art and learning supplies for the children's programming that runs alongside each session, be matched by \$86,000 committed to the program, and advance the County's interest in early literacy outcomes and in remaining a community where young families can put down roots.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to recommend a \$2,500 grant match for the Our Baby & You program from the Commission Discretionary account.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Hadler

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

11. Proclamation September 2026 as Suicide Prevention Month (Amanda McIntosh, Elizabeth Wright, Four Corners Behavioral Health)

Presentation

Amanda McIntosh and Elizabeth Wright gave a presentation detailing local behavioral health stats, upcoming awareness walks, and crisis intervention resources in Southeastern Utah.

Motion by Commissioner Hadler to proclaim September 2026 to be suicide prevention and awareness month

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

12. Consideration of Reclassification of GCAO Victim Advocate (County Attorney Stephen Stocks)

Presentation

This position was established as part-time after the victim advocate services MOU between Grand County and the City of Moab expired. There is a greater need for victim services in Grand County and possible future need for field responses for the GCSO. The Victim Advocate serves victims working with the Grand County Attorney's Office, Grand County Sheriff's Office, and the Children's Justice Center.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the reclassification of the part-time Grand County Attorney's Office Victim Advocate position to a full-time, benefited position, effective 8/31/2026

Motion Seconded by Commissioner McCandless

Discussion

Commission discussion centered around the overwhelming community support for the position, what should be considered essential to deliver to the community, and the challenges associated with adding staffing costs at the County.

Motion passes 6-1, Hedin opposed

13. Consideration of Reclassification of Sand Flats Recreation Area Lead Technician (Planning & Zoning Director Andrew Jackson)

Presentation

The SFRA Lead Recreation Technician was a position previously included in the department's structure. Due to ongoing increased volumes of SFRA users and recreation, reintroducing a Lead Technician to provide "on the ground" supervision and delegation to seasonal Recreation Technicians would serve to ensure that the same quality of service is provided to SFRA users during high-use seasons. In addition to a 9% increase in SFRA visitation over the last 4 years, there are an additional 10 miles of trails to maintain. The position's annual budgeted hours would increase from 1,080 to 1,200. The needs of the team are already necessitating this and some of these duties are being performed already. This would formalize it and compensate the position accordingly. Position funded entirely through enterprise fees collected at SFRA.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve the reclassification of the SFRA Recreation Technician II position to SFRA Lead Recreation Technician, effective 8/31/2026.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCandless

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

14. Resolution Amending the Employee Handbook Military Pay Policy (Personnel Services Department)

Presentation

The changes proposed in the revised Military Pay policy address two items. First, they clarify that the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides unpaid job protection for a maximum of five cumulative years to service members for qualifying military absences. Second, the proposed changes would increase County-paid military leave from 80 to 120 hours per calendar year. This mirrors the employer-provided military pay offered by Utah Highway Patrol and many other counties in Utah.

Motion by Commissioner Martinez to approve the amendment of the military pay policy included in the Grand County Employee Handbook (2026), effective immediately.

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

15. Selection of Shuttle Attendant Services Provider, Moab–Arches Shuttle (Commissioner Martinez)

Presentation

Grand County solicited proposals for Shuttle Attendant services, with responses due August 10, 2026. The Cooperative Management Agreement with the National Park Service provides for attendant staffing to support shuttle operations with the County as the contracting party.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to award VIA the shuttle attendant service agreement

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

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

16. Amendment to the Moab–Arches Transportation Services Agreement to Accommodate the Selected Shuttle Attendant Provider (Commission Administration)

Presentation

The Transportation Services Agreement was executed before the Shuttle Attendant provider could be selected, and will need to reflect the provider the Commission selects. If the selected provider is the shuttle operator, the amendment will add attendant scope and hours to the existing agreement. If a different provider is selected, the amendment will establish the coordination and communication obligations required by the Cooperative Management Agreement between contractors, and a separate services contract will come before the Commission at a later meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to assign amendment option A to the Moab Arches service agreement

Motion seconded by Commissioner McCurdy

Discussion (none at this time)

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

Public Hearing

17. Public Hearing to receive input from the public with respect to (I) the issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds and (li) any potential Economic Impact that the Series 2026 project to be financed with the proceeds of the Series 2026 bonds may have on the private sector

At 4:13 p.m. Chair McCandless opened the Public Hearing, to be left open until 5:00 pm on Wednesday, August 12th

Presentation

As presented by Financial Advisor Marcus Keller. The Series 2026 Bonds will be issued for the purpose of (a) financing all or a portion of the construction of storm drainage improvements, including storm drainage pipelines, manholes and catch basins and related improvements (collectively, the “Series 2026 Project”) and (b) paying costs of issuance of the Series 2026 Bonds. Based on the Issuer’s current plan of finance and a current estimate of interest rates, the total principal and interest cost of the Series 2026 Bonds if held until maturity is \$1,053,353.50.

18. Paved path maintenance project on the Arches bike path from Fund 47 (Roads Supervisor Cody McKinney)

(This item was postponed)

19. Creation of a subcommittee to update the OSTA bylaws and Rodeo Resolution (Chair McCandless)

Presentation

The OSTA Advisory Committee bylaws have not been updated since the creation of the committee. The rodeo resolution was last updated in 2008. The subcommittee will meet and update the bylaws to incorporate the County's vision for the arena's special events. Timeline: 60 days.

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to appoint Commissioners McCandless, Hedin, and McCurdy to the OSTA subcommittee

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 7-0

20. Consideration of rescindment of denial of Burr Oaks rezone made at the July 21st commission meeting (Roads Supervisor Cody McKinney)

Presentation

This proposal would rezone a vacant 5.02-acre parcel at 4500 South Zimmerman Lane, just south of the Blu Vista Subdivision, from Rural Residential (RR) to Large Lot Residential (LLR). The change would allow about eight half-acre single-family lots. The Spanish Valley Future Land Use Plan maps this area as a Moderate Scale Neighborhood, which allows somewhat more housing than is proposed. Staff recommends the Commission take public comment, review the request against the Land Use Code criteria, and forward a recommendation to the County Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield to rescind the motion made and passed at the July 21, 2026, Grand County Commission meeting denying the Burr Oaks rezone application

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

Discussion

Commissioner Hedin stated that she would prefer this action take place after conclusion of the contracted traffic study on the area. Commissioner McCurdy stated that this rezone enables development of homes that will fill a housing niche of single-family homes which is currently in demand. Commissioner Hedin stated that wider planning efforts still need to reach their conclusion in order to determine the real needs.

Motion by Commissioner Winfield: after reviewing the staff report, the applicant statement, public comments, the recommendation for the planning commission, recommendation of the planning commission, the Spanish valley future land use plan, and the rules in land use code section 9.2.5 2.5 and finding that the rezone from rural residential RR to large lot residential LLR fits the general plan and future land use plan and meets the rezoning rules. I move to adopt the ordinance amending the Grand County zoning map for parcel number 02-000035-000033 from rural residential RR to large lot residential LLR following findings with the following findings: the character of the surrounding area has changed, the need for a new use in terms of higher potential housing inventory, the community benefit in the form of workforce housing, and it matches the general plan in that it fits the moderate scale neighborhood label.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Martinez

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

21. Closed Session

At 6:47 p.m., Motion by Commissioner Hadler to enter closed session for the purposes of discussion pending or reasonably imminent litigation

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Motion passes 5-0, Hedin and McCurdy absent

At p.m., Motion by Commissioner Hadler to exit closed session

Motion seconded by Winfield

Motion passes 6-0, Hedin absent

22. Resolution authorizing the filing of cross-appeals for 2026 Centrally Assessed properties (County Attorney Stephen Stocks)

Presentation

Motion by Commissioner McCurdy to approve a resolution allowing:

1. cross-appeal should be filed by legal counsel and pursued in response to the appeal initiated by the following owners: 1. Mid America Pipeline LLC. 2. IACX Resources Utah LLC
2. That the County Commission direct the prosecution of the cross-appeal(s) under the advice of legal counsel, hereby authorizing Thomas W. Peters Esq., to file the necessary cross-appeals to protect the County's interests.
3. That in the event an appeal by an owner not identified above is subsequently discovered, legal counsel is authorized to file a cross-appeal using his discretion to ensure timeliness, but such cross-appeal must be subsequently brought before the Commission as soon as possible for ratification.

Motion seconded by Commissioner Winfield

Discussion (none at this time)

Motion passes 6-0, Hedin absent

Chair McCandless adjourned the meeting at 7:08 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	8.18.2026 REG GCC MINUTES approved - 9/2/26, 7:14 AM.pdf
STATUS	Signed
STATUS TIMESTAMP	2026/09/02 23:57:27 UTC

Activity

SENT	dvanhorn@grandcountyutah.gov sent a signature request to: Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov) Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/09/02 13:14:52 UTC
SIGNED	Signed by Melodie J. McCandless (mmccandless@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/09/02 23:57:27 UTC
SIGNED	Signed by Gabriel Woytek (gwoytek@grandcountyutah.gov)	2026/09/02 15:08:04 UTC
COMPLETED	This document has been signed by all signers and is complete	2026/09/02 23:57:27 UTC

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