

MINUTES
WFRC || Wasatch Front Economic Development District
September 10, 2026

Location: WFRC office, 41 N Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City, UT, and via Zoom

Documents Referenced:

"2026Sept10_WFEDD_Agenda_FINAL.pdf", "GMT20260910-193121_Recording.transcript.vtt"

1. Introductions and Consent Agenda (00:00:26)

- **Call to Order:** Mary Catherine Perry, WFEDD Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.
- **Roll Call:** Andrea Pearson, WFRC, read the roll call of attendees online and in the room.
- **Consent Agenda:** Approval of the minutes from the June 11, 2026 meeting.
 - Motion to approve by Commissioner Raelene Blocker.
 - Seconded by Mayor Monica Zoltanski.
 - The motion passed unanimously without opposition.

2. Chair Report (00:03:25)

- Co-Chair Perry advised attendees to stay engaged with legislative interim meetings, particularly those involving transportation, infrastructure, and economic development.
- The Salt Lake Chamber will be taking federal priorities to Washington, D.C., in a couple of weeks, in close partnership with WFRC.
- The Salt Lake Chamber's Government Affairs Bootcamp will be held on October 23rd and 30th.

3. Public Comment (00:04:55)

- No public comments were made.

4. Review WFEDD Financials (00:05:09)

- **Presenter:** Marian Florence, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer, WFRC
- The EDA grant cycle ended on March 31, 2026, and despite significant delays at the EDA, the retroactive funding was officially awarded in late August.
- The rotating grant was renewed for \$210,000 over three years (\$70,000 annually), which supports staff time and consulting assistance for developing and maintaining the CEDS.

5. Funding Opportunities (00:08:17)

- **Presenter:** Meg Padjen, Community and Economic Development Director, WFRC
- WFRC administers a total of nine funding programs.
- Letters of intent are due on September 30 for five Capital Transportation and Planning Technical Assistance programs: Surface Transportation Program, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program, Carbon Reduction Program, Transportation Alternatives Program, and the Transportation and Land Use Connection program.
- A mandatory "How to Apply" workshop for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program is scheduled for October 8.

6. Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Toolkit (00:12:27)

- **Presenters:** Bryan Kowalczyk (UDOT) and Clint Harper (Harper 4D Solutions).
- **Presentation:** A legislative directive required UDOT to lead efforts to assist communities in understanding and planning for next-generation aircraft and Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). The toolkit helps local governments inventory their current aviation policies and address issues like infrastructure, noise, and emergency response capabilities.

- **Q&A Highlights:**

- Mayor Zoltanski inquired about local government preparations and proactive policies for privacy and noise control, particularly concerning commercial drone deliveries (e.g., Walmart in Sandy). Clint Harper clarified that while the FAA governs airspace and operations, local communities have authority over conditional use permits, zoning, time/manner of operations, and privately developed facilities.
- Mike Moore from Hill Air Force Base requested a follow-up discussion regarding airspace deconfliction and emerging threats concerning drone operations near F-35 flight paths.

7. FinTech Innovation Center from the University of Utah (00:45:02)

- **Presenter:** Ryan Christiansen, Senior Director, FinTech Center.
- **Presentation:** The center launched its Master's in Financial Technology program this fall and hosts an annual FinTech Exchange conference every February for industry leaders and regulators.
- **Economic Impact:** The Utah FinTech industry employs nearly 8,000 people (not including those at sponsor banks), generating roughly \$1 billion in wages with a highly concentrated workforce in Salt Lake County.
- **Government Synergies:** Opportunities were highlighted for governments to leverage FinTech for capital access (government-backed loans), transit/mobility payment improvements, and utilizing Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) funds to address community needs like housing shortages.

8. Other Business and Adjournment (01:08:33)

- Kersten Swinyard highlighted the Salt Lake County Office of Regional Development's upcoming Regional Solutions Conference titled "Finding Middle Housing," scheduled for Wednesday, September 30, at the Viridian Event Center.
- The next WFEDD meeting will be on Thursday, December 10, 2026.
- The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.

A recording of this meeting, as well as any meeting packet materials, may be found on the WFRC website at www.wfrc.utah.gov.

Wasatch Front Economic Development District (WFEDD)

2026 EDD Board - COG Appointments			Present	Others in Attendance
DAVIS COUNTY				Alex Leonardi, Davis County
Member -	Dave Maughan, Mayor	Syracuse	Yes	Connor Heckert, UDOT
Alternate -	Clark Wilkinson, Mayor	Centerville	No	Trinity Benson
MORGAN COUNTY				Bryan Kowalczyk, UDOT
Member -	Raelene Blocker, Commissioner (Vice Chair)	Morgan County	Yes	Clint Harper, Harper 4D Solutions
Alternate -	Blaine Fackrell, Commissioner	Morgan County	No	Ryan Christiansen, University of Utah
SALT LAKE COUNTY				Michael Jeanfreau, DWX
Member -	Monica Zoltanski, Mayor	Sandy	Yes	Matthew Maass, UDOT
Alternate -	Tish Buroker, Mayor	Riverton	No	Elvon Farrell
TOOELE COUNTY				Paul Coats
Member -	Jake Thomas, Councilmember	Grantsville City	No	
Alternate -	Tye Hoffmann, Councilmember	Tooele County	No	
WEBER COUNTY				

Member -	Gage Froerer, Commissioner (Chair)	Weber County	No	
Alternate -	Steven Gibson, Mayor	Pleasant View	Yes	
State, Non-Governmental and Other members				
Member -	Lance Soffe	Gov Office of Economic Opportunity	Yes	WFRC Staff:
Alternate -	Stephen Smith	Utah Inland Port Authority	Yes	Marcia White
Member -	Nicole Cottle	UTOPIA Fiber	Yes	Meg Padjen
Alternate -	Shannon Ellsworth	Rio Tinto	Yes	Marian Florence
Member -	Mary Catherine Perry (Co-Chair)	Salt Lake Chamber	Yes	Madison Aviles
Alternate -	Greg Bisping	EDCUtah	Yes	Andrea Pearson
Member -	James Taylor	Weber State University	Yes	
Alternate -		Tooele Technical College	No	
Member -	Jimmy Mcdonough	Talent Ready Utah	No	
Alternate -	Darin Brush	Davis Technical College	No	
Member -	Silvia Castro	Suazo Business Center	No	
Alternate -	Julie Johnson	United Way of Northern Utah	Yes	
Member -	Kent Andersen	Davis County	Yes	
Alternate -			No	
Member -	Lauren Littlefield	Salt Lake County	No	
Alternate -	Kersten Swinyard	Salt Lake County	Yes	
Member -	Rachelle Custer	Tooele County	No	
Alternate -	Laura Vernon	Utah Division of Water Resources	No	
Member -	Stephanie Russell	Weber County	No	
Alternate -	Chris Roybal	Northern Utah Economic Alliance	No	
Member -	Kate Becker	Morgan County	No	
Alternate -	Shawn Milne	Bear River Association of Governments	No	
Member -	Sara Toliver	Visit Ogden	No	
Alternate -	Chris Sloan	Group 1 Real Estate	No	
Member -	Nicolas Fritz	Intermountain Healthcare	No	
Alternate -	Gwendolyn Kervin	Department of Workforce Services	Yes	
Member -	Michael Moore	Hill Air Force Base	Yes	
Alternate -	Muriel Xochimitl	XFactor Strategic Communications	Yes	