

**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL ECONOMY SYSTEMS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2023, AT 3:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS CWC OFFICES LOCATED AT 41 NORTH RIO GRANDE STREET, SUITE, 102, SALT LAKE CITY UTAH.**

**Committee Members:** Dave Fields, Chair

Morgan Mingle, Co-Chair

Nathan Rafferty

Ed Marshall

Carl Fisher

John Knoblock

**Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director

Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

**OPENING**

1. **Chair Dave Fields will Open the Meeting as Chair of the Economy Systems Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

Chair Dave Fields called the Economy Systems Committee Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. He welcomed those present to the first meeting of the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Economy Systems Committee. Chair Fields asked if the Committee Members felt Zoom was the best way to conduct the meetings moving forward. Co-Chair, Morgan Mingle, and Ed Marshall believed Zoom was the easiest way to participate in future discussions.

Chair Fields noted that the Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council, Carl Fisher, was present. Mr. Fisher advocated for the Systems Committees to be formed to continue the work done during the Mountain Accord. Economy was one of the categories included in that process.

**COMMITTEE STRATEGY**

1. **Committee Members will Discuss the Overall Strategy and Goals for the Commission.**

Chair Fields reported that the Committee would first discuss the overall strategy and goals of the Economy Systems Committee. The Idealized Economy System document from the Mountain Accord was shared. Mr. Marshall asked when the document was written. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen reported that all of the Mountain Accord documents are available on the CWC website. The final Economy Group Meeting took place on October 28, 2014. The Idealized Economy System document was part of the Meeting Materials Packet from that last Economy Group Meeting. She noted that the Idealized Economy System document included relevant information and action items.

Chair Fields asked about the other Systems Committees and asked if those groups intend to revise the Mountain Accord documents in some manner. Ms. Nielsen reported that the Economy Systems Committee is the second Systems Committee to meet. It is largely up to the Committee to determine what the focus should be. The overarching idea behind the restructuring was to categorize people from the Stakeholders Council into focused areas and look at what had not been accomplished from the original reports. The Systems Committees could decide what to carry out.

Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, prepared an Economy Systems Committee Worksheet that listed membership and included the Guiding Purpose from the Mountain Accord, which was “Broadly shared economic prosperity that enhances quality of life and preserves natural and scenic resources and infrastructure that is attractive, sustainable, and provides opportunity for visitors and residents.” The worksheet also included some relevant Mountain Accord deliverables.

Ms. Nielsen informed those present that the main economic deliverable pertains to the land exchanges between the U.S. Forest Service and the Cottonwood Canyons ski resorts. Those land exchanges were originally included in early versions of the Central Wasatch National Conservation Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). In the current version, the land exchanges were removed due to administrative issues identified by the Forest Service and issues pertaining to the value-for-value element. The land exchanges as originally conceived had been taken out of the CWNCRA. However, the Economy Systems Committee could explore the idea of a land exchange between the Forest Service and the Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts if there was continued interest in that approach. Other items mentioned in the Idealized Economy System document could also be pursued further. Additionally, it would be possible for Committee Members to look into relevant projects not listed.

Mr. Fisher explained that each Systems Group has its own version of the Idealized System document. He believed the intention was to look at the Idealized Economy System document and consider updates and modifications. The world has shifted a lot in the last decade or so and there might be new ideas that need to be captured. The Environment Systems Committee was the only other Systems Committee that had met so far. There had been some discussions about the wildfire efforts but water and Federal Legislation were also important topics that the Committee would address.

Chair Fields believed people on the Committee need to be familiar with the Mountain Accord and the Idealized Economy System document. Instead of rewriting the document, he thought it was best to focus on specific actionable items. Ms. Nielsen reported that the documents were sent to Committee Members in advance of the meeting. Nathan Rafferty thought it made sense to read the Idealized Economy System document to capture actionable items. He suspected some elements were no longer relevant but there were likely relevant items as well.

Chair Fields discussed the SHRED Act. The idea was that the fees paid to the Forest Service by the ski resorts would stay in the forest where they were collected. In the Forest Service office, there are charts on the walls to indicate the current staffing levels and what staffing would look like if the SHRED Act were to pass. That was something that the Economy Systems Committee could discuss further. He added that the National Forest Foundation Ski Conservation Fund had been an excellent tool to bring dollars back into the forest. Mr. Fisher asked if there was a way to insert something into a local bill that would address the problems on a more local level. Chair Fields expressed concern that something like that could negatively impact the land bill. There was discussion about special service districts where local revenues are captured at a state or regional level.

A question was raised as to whether there was a Transient Room Tax at the ski resorts. This was confirmed. Committee Members wondered if a certain percentage was reallocated specifically to the canyons or if it went into a general tourism fund. Chair Fields explained that Summit County uses the Transient Room Tax a bit differently than Salt Lake County. Salt Lake County uses the Transient Room Tax more broadly. In Summit County, it seemed to be used to attract more tourists. Co-Chair Mingle clarified that it was a mix. 67% needs to go toward the establishment and promotion of tourism but there was some gray area in terms of what the establishment of tourism meant.

Mr. Marshall thought that for the Economy Systems Committee to have relevance, it needs to go beyond the Idealized Economy System document. He felt it needed to expand on what was in the document. The document did not mention Millcreek Canyon at all. In addition, it only deals with ski resorts and does not mention other types of businesses. He hoped that the scope of the document could be expanded beyond the ski resorts. Co-Chair Mingle agreed. It seemed there could be more exploration and diversification of the economic potential within the canyons. There was no objection to focusing on a broader geographic area and scope than what was in the document.

There was discussion about off-season use. Mr. Marshall believed there was a lot of use that was not strictly related to skiing or attracting skiers to restaurants during the ski season. It was beneficial to the economy to attract visitors during the off-season as well. Chair Fields noted that the summer visitation at the ski resorts is more localized while the winter visitation includes more destination visits. However, that was not necessarily true for Park City. The trail network there put them on the map. Co-Chair Mingle pointed out that it was still mostly local regional mountain bikers.

Mr. Fisher reported that he left a link in the Zoom chat box related to the diversification of the economic interests and activities in the region. It discussed wildlife viewing and economic contributions from those activities. He did not believe the Office of Outdoor Recreation was established during the Mountain Accord process. There might be opportunities to capture those contributions from an economic standpoint. For instance, backcountry skiing, climbing, hiking, and mountain biking.

Chair Fields asked what resources were available to the Economy Systems Committee to move forward with. He wanted to understand whether the Committee Members would be responsible for putting together all of the information. Ms. Nielsen reported that CWC Staff would administrate the meetings and take care of the Open and Public Meetings Act responsibilities. The members of the Economy Systems Committee have expertise specific to the economy of the mountains. If there was a desire to recreate an outline or identify what data should be updated and collected that request could potentially be brought to the Stakeholders Council and then the CWC Board. The CWC Board could decide whether to allocate funding to update the data. As for CWC Staff, the involvement would be based on what was desired by the Members of the Economy Systems Committee.

Mr. Fisher believed that if an updated economic framework was needed, there could be a request made to the CWC Board to partner with someone. It depended on what the Committee felt was necessary. The hope was that the Systems Committees would determine what was needed in the future. Ms. Nielsen believed the framework would start at a Committee level. If the Committee and Stakeholders Council decide that more needs to be done, then a formal request could be made.

Chair Fields noted that there had been a suggestion to expand the geographic area and look beyond the ski resort economy. It was clear that Committee Members wanted the Economy Systems Committee to have a broader scope. Before final decisions were made, he believed each of the Committee Members needed to re-read the Idealized Economy System document. At the next meeting, additional recommendations could be shared based on the review of that Mountain Accord document.

Ms. Nielsen reported that after the Environment Systems Committee Meeting, CWC Staff followed that with a poll administered to Committee Members. The poll asked for specificity about the desired area of focus within the scope of the CWC environmental work and the environmental issues in the study area. Something similar could be done with the Economy Systems Committee as well. Alternatively, the next meeting could review the document further.

Mr. Rafferty thought it made sense to be as efficient as possible with the meeting time. As a result, he wanted to focus on tackling actionable items. He did not have a strong desire to update the Idealized Economy System document and preferred to identify some items that could be focused on. He liked the idea of working towards the SHRED Act and shared some information about that. Mr. Fisher thought that an education session on the SHRED Act would be worthwhile for the full Stakeholders Council. Mr. Rafferty confirmed that this information could be shared in the future.

Co-Chair Mingle pointed out that in a lot of the Mountain Accord, Summit County was an afterthought in almost every category. Chair of the Stakeholders Council, John Knoblock, noted that the Economy Systems Committee overlapped a lot with the transportation work. There was a lot of time spent during the Mountain Accord process talking about the Parleys Canyon Corridor and trying to get some sort of transportation between Park City and the Cottonwood Canyons. However, that had proven to be a difficult task. Some data about that might be useful to review and consider.

Chair Fields noted that a suggestion had been made to create a list of actionable items. There had also been a suggestion to consider amending the document through a third party. It sounded like Mr. Rafferty was not in support of rewriting the Idealized Economy System document at the current time. Instead, he felt it made more sense to focus on what could be done and what could be recommended to others. Mr. Marshall thought that was a good idea. Chair Fields asked that all Committee Members think about actionable items that could be discussed during the next Economy Systems Committee Meeting. Those actionable items could diversify what was in the current document, both geographically and business-wise. That particular goal could be achieved through action items.

It was suggested that for the next meeting, all Committee Members share three actionable items from the Mountain Accord documents. From there, it would be possible to determine whether there was any overlap and the Committee could create an action plan. Co-Chair Mingle thought it was a small enough Committee that the approach made sense. Everyone could come to the table with some ideas and there could be a discussion about how to best proceed. She felt that the Idealized Economy System document was old enough that the present-day scope would not fit within the document, but there was no reason to slow the process down by spending time to edit or rewrite the document.

**ARRANGEMENT OF MEETING SCHEDULE**

1. **Committee Members will Decide on Regular Meeting Schedule for Future Economy Systems Committee Meetings.**

There was discussion about the meeting schedule for the Economy Systems Committee moving forward. Ms. Nielsen reminded those present that Stakeholders Council leadership determined that the Systems Committee Meetings would take place on the opposite month that the Stakeholders Council met. The Stakeholders Council was scheduled to meet during the last week in November. That meant that the next Economy Systems Committee would technically take place in December, but that was a difficult month for some. If there was no desire to convene in December, the next month for the Economy Systems Group would be in February as the Council would meet in January.

Chair Fields asked what the rules were with regard to emails between Committee Members. Ms. Nielsen explained that the Committee could meet as frequently or as infrequently as desired. If there was a need to hold a meeting in November, that could be done. It was also possible to hold a meeting in December. It all came down to what the Committee Members wanted to do. All of the correspondence between Committee Members and CWC Staff could be obtained through a Government Records and Management Act (“GRAMA”) request. If Committee Members communicated with one another via email, she asked that they copy at least one CWC Staff Member on those emails. The only thing that was not permissible by email was voting. There could not be motions made via email and no action could be taken via email.

There was discussion about when the next Economy Systems Committee Meeting would take place. Chair Fields believed monthly meetings via Zoom would be the best way to move action items forward. It was determined that the next meeting would be held on November 28, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.

**CLOSING**

1. **Chair Fields will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Economy Systems Committee Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Morgan Mingle moved to ADJOURN the Economy Systems Committee Meeting. Ed Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

***I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Economy Systems Committee Meeting held Tuesday, October 31, 2023.***

**Teri Forbes**

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Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_