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10 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
11 **COUNCIL MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING**
12 **WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR**
13 **LOCATION WAS MILLCREEK CITY HALL, 3330 SOUTH 1300 EAST, MILLCREEK,**
14 **UTAH.**

15
16 **Present:** John Knoblock, Chair
17 Tom Diegel, Co-Chair
18 Adam Lenkowski
19 Amber Broadaway
20 Barbara Cameron
21 Brenden Catt
22 Dan Zalles
23 Danny Richardson
24 Del Draper
25 John Adams
26 Kelly Boardman
27 Kurt Hegmann
28 Linda Johnson
29 Maura Hahnenberger
30 Michael Marker
31 Morgan Mingle
32 Patrick Shea
33 Patrick Morrison
34 Roger Borgenicht
35 Sarah Bennett
36 Spencer Shaver
37

38 **Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
39 Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator
40

41 **Opening**

42 1. **Chair John Knoblock will Open the Public Meeting as the Chair of the Stakeholders**
43 **Council of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

44 Chair John Knoblock called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council
45 Meeting to order at approximately 3:40 p.m. and welcomed those present.
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1 2. **Chair Knoblock will Call for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the May 16, 2024,**
2 **Stakeholders Council Retreat.**

4 **MOTION:** Linda Johnson moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from the May 16, 2024,
5 Stakeholders Council Meeting. Sarah Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the
6 unanimous consent of the Council.

7 **Mixed Breakout Groups**

10 Chair Knoblock reported that there will be two Breakout Sessions during the Stakeholders Council
11 Meeting. The goal is to interact with other members of the Stakeholders Council and discuss issues
12 in the Mountain Accord that still need to be addressed. The first discussion prompt relates to problems
13 that were identified in the Mountain Accord that still need to be addressed and potential solutions.
14 Chair Knoblock reminded Council Members that one of the main goals of the CWC is to implement
15 the Mountain Accord. The second discussion prompt relates to problems that exist in the Central
16 Wasatch beyond the ones that were identified in the Mountain Accord. He pointed out that new
17 issues, concerns, and problems have occurred since the Mountain Accord document was written.

19 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, informed those present that timers will be set for each discussion
20 prompt item. There will be roughly 25 to 30 minutes provided for each of the Breakout Sessions. In
21 between the Breakout Sessions, there will be a report shared from each table to highlight what was
22 discussed. Each table needs to identify someone who will share that information with the Council.
23 For the Council Members who are participating in the meeting virtually, there will be one person from
24 each group who will phone the virtual attendee to connect with them directly. She explained that
25 both in-person and virtual attendees will be able to participate in the Breakout Session discussions.

27 Ms. Nielsen noted that there are no Committee Reports listed on the Stakeholders Council Meeting
28 agenda. Council Members were instead sent the monthly digest, which now serves as the Committee
29 Reports. For in-person attendees, a printed copy has been provided as a reminder of the work done.

31 1. **Discussion Prompt:**

33 a. **What Problems Did the Mountain Accord Identify that Still Need to be**
34 **Addressed?**

35 b. **What Solutions Do you Envision for the Problems that the Mountain Accord**
36 **Identified?**

38 Chair Knoblock reminded those present that for the first Breakout Session, the intention is to consider
39 both of the discussion prompt questions. That includes problems identified in the Mountain Accord
40 that still need to be addressed and some possible solutions. Due to the late start of the meeting, the
41 Stakeholders Council was given 25 minutes to complete the first Breakout Session discussion.

43 Council Members spent approximately 25 minutes considering the first discussion prompt questions.

1 **Mixed Breakout Group Reports**

2 **1. Each Breakout Group will Summarize their Discussions for the Stakeholders Council.**

3 Following the first Breakout Session, a spokesperson from each breakout group summarized their
4 discussion. Chair Knoblock reported that his group discussed transit in Parleys Canyon. As far as
5 the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact
6 Statement (“EIS”), it is not clear how that study was done. It was also noted that private land
7 acquisition has not been done. Though there has been a lot of effort put into the Central Wasatch
8 National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”) it has not moved forward. There were
9 also discussions about the land exchanges between the ski areas and the U.S. Forest Service. Those
10 have not moved forward, because the value per acre did not work and there were mining
11 contamination issues. The long-term funding for the CWC was also discussed by the group. Nothing
12 has been done about Silver Fork Canyon access either and there was also a question about whether or
13 not the Visitor Use Study meets the capacity questions that were raised in the Mountain Accord.
14

15 Barbara Cameron shared information about the discussions from the second group. Group members
16 believe that year-round transit needs to be safe, efficient, and affordable. Mobility hubs were also
17 discussed. There is some excitement that this is being addressed through the Big Cottonwood Canyon
18 Mobility Action Plan (“BCC MAP”), as Environmental Pre-Scoping work will start in the winter.
19 Ms. Cameron reported that restrooms still need to be addressed in certain locations. As for cyclists
20 and pedestrians, this will likely be addressed through the mobility hub study. The group spoke about
21 snow tire regulations. They felt the regulations need to be changed so snow tires are required from
22 November through May in the canyon. Additionally, there needs to be identification of long-term
23 funding solutions for a transportation system. An acquisition of a private land program is also needed.
24

25 Sarah Bennett shared information about the discussions from the third group. She pointed out that
26 the actual implementation of transportation improvements has not occurred. There was reference to
27 a pilot shuttle service, but the Forest Service is not currently supportive of that effort. When it comes
28 to the development of a comprehensive trail and cycling plan, the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan has
29 done an excellent job of looking at user-created trails and has suggestions for needed connections.
30 As for the acquisition of private lands, some subcommittees have been discussing that issue, including
31 the Environment Systems Committee and Recreation Systems Committee. The Environmental
32 Dashboard was discussed, because it has been implemented, but that it is still a work in progress.
33

34 Information about the fourth group was shared. The group members largely agreed with the Mountain
35 Accord deliverables status table, with the exception of the green checkmark on transportation
36 improvements in the Cottonwood Canyons. The group ranked the top problems and listed
37 transportation issues as number one. The second highest-ranked problem relates to funding. The
38 other items included are private land acquisition, the Environmental Dashboard, the Visitor Use
39 Study, and CWNCRA. It was noted that the group discussed the big picture of what is missing. It
40 was determined that the plans in place are a decade old, the players have changed, and the dynamics
41 have shifted. As a result, it is not possible to state that there is a plan that is agreed to by the current
42 Legislature, County, ski resorts, businesses, and elected officials. It is hard to move the different
43 items forward when there is not a current plan that is agreed to by all of the involved parties.
44

45 Information about the fifth group was shared. Some solutions were discussed for a Millcreek Canyon
46 shuttle. Though there have been some issues with getting the pilot program started, some suggestions
47

were shared, including increasing the pass price to assist with shuttle funding. There were also discussions about Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon transit issues. The group believes there needs to be a coordinated effort from all of the ski resorts to disincentivize private parking. There could also be other incentives for transit ridership to increase the use of those services. Enhanced busing in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon was discussed, which could look like higher frequency. Priority bus lanes were discussed as well as advocating for better compensation packages for bus drivers in order to address some of the more recent staffing issues.

Mixed Breakout Groups

Ms. Nielsen informed those present that the second Breakout Session will now take place. Each Council Member has been given a number and needs to find others with the same number. The intention is to ensure that Council Members are able to speak with different participants. Chair Knoblock informed those present that this discussion prompt relates to problems in the Central Wasatch that are not identified in the Mountain Accord and some potential solutions for those issues.

1. Discussion Prompt:

- a. What Problems Exist in the Central Wasatch Beyond the Ones Identified in the Mountain Accord that Need to be Addressed?**
- b. What Solutions do you Envision for these Additional Problems?**

Council Members spent approximately 30 minutes reviewing the second discussion prompt questions.

Mixed Breakout Group Reports.

1. Each Breakout Group will Summarize their Discussions for the Stakeholders Council.

Following the first Breakout Session, a spokesperson from each group summarized their discussion. Morgan Mingle reported that her group talked about how the number of visitors who want cooler days in the mountains will increase over time. There were also discussions about transit systems between Park City and the Cottonwood Canyon economic area during the ski season as well as the prioritization of carrying capacity. The group discussed the fact that some of the ski resorts have changed, and it might make sense to reevaluate. There is also a need for benchmarks, targets, and clear metrics as part of the Mountain Accord. It is also wise to consider finances and allocation. Ms. Mingle stated that the group spoke about search and rescue and emergency response as an essential function in the canyons. With increased user numbers, increased emergency response becomes necessary. The idea of regionality was discussed by group members, as it impacts the use and needs.

Chair Knoblock shared information about the discussions from the second group. There were conversations about mitigating accidents, search and rescue, and those kinds of issues as well as mining waste site remediation, private land recreational access, and traffic conditions. One issue that was not envisioned during the Mountain Accord process was that there would one day be difficulty finding bus drivers. It is not possible to increase the number of buses without enough drivers. Water quality and quantity were also discussed by the group as was improved communication with the Legislature. Parleys Canyon recreational improvements could be beneficial and remove pressure from the Central Wasatch. Wintertime restrooms are important to consider to protect the environment from damage.

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2 Ms. Bennett shared information about the discussions from the third group. The group focused on
3 what is different now than when the Mountain Accord was written. One of the main differences is
4 population growth. There is a lot more on-road parking seen. The reservation systems, as well as
5 other factors, are pushing people onto the road. There is a different business paradigm seen with the
6 ski resorts now, where there are programs such as the Ikon Pass, which dramatically increases the
7 number of visitors in the canyons. Bigger-picture transportation planning is something that people
8 are trying to focus on now, but that was not present at the time the Mountain Accord was created.
9 The number of people moving in the north-to-south corridor needs to be addressed in order to solve
10 the canyon transportation issues. Ms. Bennett noted that there is also more awareness of
11 environmental impacts and the need for stewardship now than at the time of the Mountain Accord
12 process. In addition to population growth, the growth in recreation needs to be further considered.
13

14 Del Draper shared information about the discussions from the fourth group. Recreation use in the
15 canyons is completely different than it was at the time of the Mountain Accord. Some of that has to
16 do with population growth and some has to do with recreation growth. Driving in Little Cottonwood
17 Canyon on a Saturday near White Pine will see the roadside parking extend almost to Snowbird. It
18 is unbelievable how many people are there on a Saturday compared to what the parking lot is able to
19 accommodate. There has been a massive change in the number of canyon users. Issues like carrying
20 capacity should be looked at, but he noted that the Forest Service does not seem eager to do that.
21

22 Mr. Draper stated that a comprehensive transportation plan that utilizes newer technology is needed.
23 For example, in Millcreek Canyon, there could be a sign at the bottom to inform visitors that there is
24 no parking. The group did not believe the Mountain Accord fully addressed funding. There could
25 be a multi-canyon recreational area that taxpayers put money into in order to solve some of the
26 problems. It is possible there could be a more comprehensive way to raise funds to address
27 recreational needs. One option is to raise the Millcreek fee, but not turn all of the money over to the
28 Forest Service. Instead, the increased amount could be put into a fund for a future shuttle in Millcreek
29 Canyon. Mr. Draper stated that the Mountain Accord does not seem to address increased fire risks.
30

31 Barbara Cameron shared information about the discussions from the fifth group. Some of the
32 possibilities that the group considered are the creation of a Special District for transportation and
33 privatized transit in the canyons. As for funding, it was pointed out that the Legislature has
34 appropriated money for transportation. The group also highlighted the importance of addressing
35 barriers to access valley-wide as well as the impacts that are being made to climate, air, and water.
36

37 Ms. Nielsen thanked everyone who participated in the Breakout Sessions. She explained that the
38 intention was to do something different during this Stakeholders Council Meeting, so it was more
39 interactive and dynamic, especially since the Council only meets every other month. If the Council
40 likes the format of the current meeting, there can be additional Breakout Sessions held in the future.
41

42 Discussions were had about funds that have been appropriated. Patrick Shea noted that the CWC is
43 made up of elected officials. He suggested that the Stakeholders Council be able to send something
44 to the respective bodies involved in the CWC. Ms. Bennett asked whether other Council Members
45 liked the Breakout Session format. There seemed to be support. Community Engagement
46 Coordinator, Mia McNeil, explained that there could be a larger space used for this exercise next
47 time. Ms. Mingle suggested that there be a separate breakout group with all of the online participants.
48

1 **Committee Membership and Leadership**

2 **1. Stakeholders May Request to Join Systems Committees:**

3 a. **Millcreek Canyon Committee.**
4 b. **Environment Systems Committee.**
5 c. **Transportation Systems Committee.**
6 d. **Recreation Systems Committee.**
7 e. **Economy Systems Committee**

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9
10 It was noted that Council Members can request to join any of the Stakeholders Council
11 subcommittees. Ms. Nielsen explained that per the bylaws if Council Members want to join a new
12 subcommittee, that needs to be made known during a Stakeholders Council Meeting. Linda Johnson
13 asked to join the Economy Systems Committee in addition to the subcommittee she is already on.
14

15 **2. Announcement of Any Committee Leadership Changes.**

16 a. **Morgan Mingle and John Adams are the New Economy System Committee Chair**
17 **and Co-Chair.**
18 b. **Kurt Hegmann is the New Transportation System Committee Co-Chair.**

19 Ms. Nielsen reported that the new Chair of the Economy Systems Committee is Morgan Mingle and
20 the new Co-Chair is John Adams. The new Co-Chair of the Transportation Systems Committee is
21 Kurt Hegmann. She thanked everyone for their time and willingness to serve in those roles.

22 **Central Wasatch Symposium**

23 **1. The Stakeholders Council will Discuss the Poll Sent out to Stakeholders Regarding**
24 **Programming Ideas for the Central Wasatch Symposium.**

25 Ms. Nielsen reported that a Central Wasatch Symposium poll was sent out to Council Members. The
26 symposium will be hosted on January 9 and January 10, 2025. The location will be Millcreek City
27 Hall. The Central Wasatch Symposium will be a two-day conference-style event where there will be
28 workshops, presentations, and panels. There will be a keynote address from a notable speaker and
29 the symposium will end with a film screening and post-film talkback. She thanked those who
30 completed the poll. CWC Staff is in the middle of programming the Central Wasatch Symposium
31 and there is a desire to receive feedback from Council Members about what it is they want to see.

32 **Staff Announcements**

33 **1. Stakeholders Council Membership Updates.**

34 Ms. Nielsen reported that there are three vacancies on the Stakeholders Council. Nathan Rafferty,
35 Stuart Derman, and Kirk Nichols have all left the Council for various reasons. As a result, three new
36 Stakeholders Council Members will be added at the August 5, 2024, CWC Board Meeting. The first
37 meeting the new Stakeholders will attend will be the Stakeholders Council Meeting in September.

1 On the second Wednesday in September, there will be a second CWC Youth Council and
2 Stakeholders Council social held at the CWC Office. Ms. Nielsen asked Council Members to attend.
3 Before the social, there will be an orientation for new Council Members and any others interested.
4

5 Mr. Shea asked about the criteria used to select new Stakeholders Council Members. Ms. Nielsen
6 reported that there are criteria in place, such as whether the individual represents an interest group or
7 demographic that does not have representation on the Council, whether the individual lives within the
8 CWC study area, and if the individual has an interest in one of the four main tenants identified in the
9 Mountain Accord (transportation, economy, recreation, and environment). The last time that new
10 Council Members were added in February, there were a lot of incredible applicants, and a wait list
11 was created. The new Council Members were pulled from the previously created waitlist.
12

13 **2. Forest Service Staffing Update.**

14
15 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Salt Lake District Ranger has taken a new position in the Bridger-Teton
16 National Forest. The Forest Service will be filling the Salt Lake District Ranger position in the future.
17

18 **MOTION:** Linda Johnson moved that the CWC send Bekee Hotze a thank you note from the CWC.
19 _____ seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.
20

21 **3. New Park City Commissioner.**

22
23 Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a new Park City Commissioner. The current Commissioner from
24 Park City is Mayor Nann Worel, but due to her schedule, she has tasked one of her Council Members,
25 Bill Ciraco, to serve as a representative for Park City on the CWC Board. During the August 5, 2024,
26 CWC Board Meeting, Mayor Worel will be released, and Mr. Ciraco will be added via resolution.
27

28 **4. Youth Council Announcements:**

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30 **a. Tabling Opportunities.**
31 **b. Other.**

32
33 Ms. McNeil shared information about the CWC Youth Council. The Outdoor Access Committee is
34 working on the gear shed, which there was recently a soft launch. The Events and Outreach
35 Committee is working on their short-term project, which is a film festival. That film festival will take
36 place in late September 2024. The Environmental Dashboard Education Committee has been talking
37 about the Environmental Dashboard and appropriate education materials for that tool. The CWC
38 Youth Council will hold a meeting on July 25, 2024. Any Stakeholders Council Members who are
39 interested in attending can do so. The meeting will take place from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
40

41 If Council Members know of any events they are affiliated with that have tabling opportunities, Ms.
42 McNeil asked them to let her know. She informed the Council that the podcast episodes for the "In
43 The Wasatch" podcast will be released shortly. Ms. McNeil reported that she recently recorded an
44 episode with Dani Porier and Tom Diegel about the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance and backcountry
45 recreation. If there are Council Members interested in participating, she asked them to reach out.
46

1 **5. Next Board Meeting is August 5, 2024.**

2 Ms. Nielsen reported that the next CWC Board Meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2024.

3 **6. Thank You to Millcreek for Continuing to Host our Meetings.**

4 Ms. Nielsen thanked Millcreek for continuing to host the Stakeholders Council Meetings.

5 **Stakeholders Open Comment**

6 Dan Zalles asked how to access the podcast that was previously mentioned. Ms. McNeil reported
7 that she will be posting it on the CWC social media accounts, and it will also be linked in the
8 newsletter. She offered to send out a direct Spotify link to Council Members once the podcast is live.

9 Ms. Johnson noted that there are a lot of attendees at the current Stakeholders Council Meeting, but
10 there are a lot of Council Members who are not present. She suggested that the Meeting Minutes
11 from this meeting be sent to Council Members sooner than usual. That might encourage Stakeholders
12 Council Members who often do not attend to take time to attend the next meeting. Ms. Nielsen
13 confirmed that this can be done. In addition to being subscribed to the CWC newsletter, she
14 recommends that Council Members also subscribe to the CWC Board and Stakeholders Council
15 through the Utah Public Notice website, because that sends out auto-alerts when items are added.

16 Mr. Shea suggested that the CWC consider removal for someone who misses more than three
17 consecutive meetings. It seems that some people fail to participate. Ms. Nielsen stated that there is
18 a clause in the Rules and Procedures for the Stakeholders Council and enforcement can be considered.

19 Chair Knoblock reported that in Millcreek Canyon, the Forest Service is doing some fuel mitigation
20 work. Dead and down wood is being cut and piled so when the first snow comes in the winter, it will
21 be possible to safely burn the material to reduce wildfire hazards in the area. Chair Knoblock noted
22 that the Wasatch Wildflower Festival is taking place and will be at Snowbird and Alta this weekend.
23 He informed those present that the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride will be restriped by Salt
24 Lake County in the fall. The intention is to increase the parking capacity at that park-and-ride
25 location.

26 Chair Knoblock stated that Ms. Nielsen has been working on the 953 bus to see if it is possible to
27 have a bus bypass service for that. He reported that the Silver Lake Boardwalk project is moving
28 forward. Most of the boardwalk itself has been replaced. Trails Utah is working with the Forest
29 Service to redo the natural surface portion of the trail around the lake. That should be done in the
30 next six weeks. Additionally, trail work is taking place and is starting on the Big Water Trail.

31 **Closing**

32 **1. Chair Knoblock will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Stakeholders' Council Meeting.**

33 **MOTION:** John Knoblock moved to ADJOURN the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Sarah Bennett
34 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

35 The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central
2 Wasatch Commission Stakeholders' Council Meeting held on Wednesday, July 17, 2024.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes
6 T Forbes Group
7 Minutes Secretary

8
9 Minutes Approved: _____