



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) BOARD MEETING HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS MILLCREEK CITY HALL.

Board Members: Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Chair
Christopher F. Robinson
Bill Ciraco
Mayor Mike Weichers
Mayor Monica Zoltanski
Mayor Roger Bourke
Annalee Munsey, Ex-Officio Member

Staff: Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations
Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator
Shane Topham, CWC Legal Counsel

Others: Laura Briefer
Tom Diegel
Meaghan McKasy
Izzy Chick, CWC Youth Council
Jordan Smith, Utah State University

OPENING

1. Chair Jeff Silvestrini will Call the Meeting to Order and Welcome Board Members and the Public.

Chair Jeff Silvestrini called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Board Meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. and welcomed those present. He noted that the later start was due to the need for a quorum.

2. Chair Silvestrini will Welcome Park City’s New Commissioner to the Central Wasatch Commission and Thank Mayor Nann Worel for her Years of Service on the Board.

Chair Silvestrini welcomed the new Park City Commissioner to the CWC, Bill Ciraco. He expressed gratitude to Mayor Nann Worel from Park City for her work and service to the organization. Mayor Monica Zoltanski welcomed Mr. Ciraco and asked him to introduce himself. Mr. Ciraco explained that he is a Park City resident and was elected to the City Council in November 2023. He is pleased to be able to serve on the CWC and contribute to work that protects the resources and assets that exist.

3. (Action) The Board will Consider Approving Resolution 2024-19 - Approving Bill Ciraco as the New Member Commissioner Representing Park City.

MOTION: Chris Robinson moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-19 – Approving Bill Ciraco as

1 the New Member Commissioner Representing Park City. Mayor Zoltanski seconded the motion. The
2 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

3
4 **4. (Action) The Board will Consider Approving Resolution 2024-20 - Expressing Gratitude**
5 **to Mayor Nann Worel for Her Work and Service to the CWC.**

6
7 Chair Silvestrini explained that the next Resolution will thank Mayor Worel for her service. Chair
8 Robinson stated that Park City has had excellent members serve on the CWC and also during the
9 Mountain Accord process. He expressed gratitude for the efforts of Mayor Worel on the CWC and
10 stated that he is pleased Commissioner Ciraco will participate in the organization moving forward.

11
12 **MOTION:** Chris Robinson moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-20 – Expressing Gratitude to
13 Mayor Nann Worel for Her Work and Service to the CWC. Mayor Zoltanski seconded the motion.
14 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

15
16 **5. (Action) The Board will Consider Approving the Minutes of the CWC Board Meeting**
17 **Held on June 3, 2024.**

18
19 **MOTION:** Mayor Zoltanski moved to APPROVE the June 3, 2024, Meeting Minutes. Chris
20 Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

21
22 **OUTDOOR FILM FESTIVAL**

23
24 **1. Staff will Discuss the Youth Council’s Outdoor Film Festival Funded by the Short-Term**
25 **Projects Committee to be Held on September 18th, 2024, from about 6:30 p.m. to 9:00**
26 **p.m. at The Front Climbing Club in Salt Lake City.**

27
28 Community Engagement Coordinator, Mia McNeil, shared information about the CWC Youth
29 Council. She explained that the CWC Youth Council is putting together an Outdoor Film Festival,
30 which was funded through the Short-Term Projects Grant Program. The Events and Outreach
31 Committee has connected with The Front Climbing Club in Salt Lake City. The Outdoor Film
32 Festival will be held on September 18, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The plan is to have snacks
33 and seating for those interested in attending. The Outdoor Film Festival will involve the CWC Youth
34 Council and members of the community. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that The
35 Front Climbing Club is a climbing club specifically for members only, but the Outdoor Film Festival
36 event does not require membership. Other CWC Youth Council subcommittees are discussing a Gear
37 Drive for the Gear Shed project as well as some Environmental Dashboard education activities.

38
39 **UPDATED VISITOR USE STUDY**

- 40
41 **1. Staff will Discuss the Updated Visitor Use Study.**
42 **2. A Press Release will Go out Following this Meeting.**

43
44
45 Ms. Nielsen reported that Dr. Jordan Smith from Utah State University is attending the CWC Board
46 Meeting virtually to review the updates that have been made to the Visitor Use Study. Utah State
47 University was brought on in early 2021 to conduct the Visitor Use Study, which consists of three
48 main phases. The first phase, which happened in early 2021, was a scoping analysis. At that time, a

1 review of all the Legislation about managing outdoor recreation use was conducted. There were also
2 interviews with key stakeholders involved in outdoor recreation and tourism use across the Central
3 Wasatch. The second phase was the ecological and physical assessment, where over a period of 12
4 months, the trail conditions were monitored as well as the ecological conditions of the trails, trail
5 width, trail use, and the physical geography of trails. An analysis was conducted to look at how much
6 use was impacting the ecological conditions of the trails. That phase was done in October 2023.

7
8 Dr. Smith explained that he is present to share an overview of the social assessment. This involved a
9 Visitor Use Survey of recreationalists at all three major canyons within the Central Wasatch: Big
10 Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Millcreek Canyon. Dr. Smith reviewed the
11 timeline, which included some of the milestones for the Visitor Use Study work. As for the social
12 assessment, the survey work was intended to determine recreation use by canyon. Perceptions of
13 crowding and general levels of satisfaction were also considered. The research followed the National
14 Forest Visitor Use Monitoring protocol. Typically, the Forest Service reports the data at a forest
15 level. For instance, the entire Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. However, in this case, there
16 was surveying done for Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Millcreek Canyon.

17
18 Dr. Smith reported that the study was completed between October 2021 and September 2022. A full
19 12 months was spent capturing use. There were 1,400 surveys from the entirety of the Uinta-Wasatch-
20 Cache National Forest, an additional 1,200 surveys in Millcreek Canyon, 700 surveys in Big
21 Cottonwood Canyon, and 400 surveys in Little Cottonwood Canyon. He explained that the surveys
22 were conducted through the development of a sampling protocol. Surveys were done on days with
23 heavy use, moderate use, and low use. The intention was to capture the full spectrum of visitors.

24
25 Some findings from the survey report were reviewed. Dr. Smith shared a chart to illustrate the total
26 number of forest visits to sites within the Central Wasatch relative to the rest of the Uinta-Wasatch-
27 Cache National Forest. The rest of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, minus the three
28 canyons in the Central Wasatch, sees approximately 6.2 million visitors per year. He clarified that
29 this is the estimate for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. On the other hand, Big Cottonwood Canyon has
30 approximately 1.5 million recreation visits, Little Cottonwood Canyon has approximately 1.3 million
31 recreation visits, and Millcreek Canyon receives approximately 400,000 recreation visits per year.
32 This means there are more than 3 million recreation visits to the Central Wasatch each year.

33
34 Visitation was then broken out by site types and different activities. Dr. Smith explained that the way
35 the Forest Service classifies sites on Forest Service lands is through four distinct categories: day-use
36 areas, overnight sites, general forest areas, and wilderness areas. A chart was shown to indicate the
37 categories for each of the canyons in the Central Wasatch. He noted that there are very different types
38 of sites being used in Little Cottonwood Canyon and Big Cottonwood Canyon relative to Millcreek
39 Canyon. Day-use areas are between 70% and 73% of all of the visits in Little Cottonwood Canyon
40 and Big Cottonwood Canyon, whereas general forest area use accounts for 83% of Millcreek visits.

41
42 Dr. Smith explained that visitation was also broken out by specific activities. He shared charts to
43 highlight the different uses in each of the canyons in the Central Wasatch. Visitor use tends to be
44 dominated by skiing in Little Cottonwood Canyon. A similar pattern is seen in Big Cottonwood
45 Canyon as well, where skiing is shown to be the highest use. On the other hand, an estimated 77%
46 of the use within Millcreek is related to hiking and walking. The use is very different in that canyon.

1 The type of use happening within the Central Wasatch is distinct to each individual canyon, but one
2 consistent pattern seen across all three canyons is that the visitors are there a lot. For reference, the
3 average visitor reported that they visit Big Cottonwood Canyon 45 times per year and the average
4 visitor reported that they visit Millcreek Canyon 61 times per year. When trying to address issues of
5 perceived crowding or access, there is a different type of visitation trend happening in the Central
6 Wasatch than in other areas, where a visitor might come visit that area once or twice a year.

7
8 Dr. Smith shared information about perceived crowding. There is an assumption that sites are being
9 overused, so visitors were asked about their satisfaction with their visit. Across the entirety of the
10 Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, visitors are very satisfied with their recreation visits. Visitors
11 are slightly more satisfied with their visits to the three canyons located in the Central Wasatch. Even
12 though use is high and frequent, visitors are not reporting dissatisfaction with the recreation
13 experience. As for crowding, that was rated on a scale of 0 to 10 and the average level of perceived
14 crowding across all three canyons was below 4 on the scale. There is not a general perception of
15 crowding. A lot of the perceptions of crowding are driven by transportation to and from the sites as
16 opposed to the actual outdoor recreation experiences, such as when someone is on a trail.

17
18 Dr. Smith reported that there is additional information included in the Phase Three Survey Report
19 that is available to the CWC. He offered to answer any outstanding questions. Chair Silvestrini
20 wondered why there were more survey responses from Millcreek Canyon when the usage appears to
21 be less than in the other two canyons. Dr. Smith explained that more sampling is needed in the
22 recreation areas, like Millcreek Canyon, where the sites generally receive lower use. Typically,
23 oversampling is done in areas where use tends to be lower. He clarified that this does not mean the
24 survey responses in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon are less representative.

25
26 Tom Diegel explained that he is the Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council. He and the Chair of the
27 Stakeholders Council, John Knoblock, both noticed that resort skiing and cross-country skiing were
28 lumped together. He wondered how the data accounts for the growing population of backcountry
29 skiers in the Central Wasatch. Dr. Smith reiterated that the study had to follow the protocol that the
30 Forest Service mandates when intercepting visitors on Forest System land. In that protocol, there is
31 a defined list of activities that the Forest Service is interested in, which excludes backcountry skiing
32 and some other activities that happen within the Central Wasatch, such as climbing. Feedback has
33 been provided to the Washington Office. Those are recognized as important activities but are not
34 built into the established protocol that is used to quantify different types of outdoor recreation use.

35
36 Mayor Roger Bourke thought it was interesting that the satisfaction levels are so high. He pointed
37 out that the surveys are only conducted on visitors at the canyons and not those who choose not to
38 visit due to previous dissatisfaction. He asked if there is a way to learn more about those who are not
39 satisfied and, therefore, chose not to visit the canyons. Dr. Smith confirmed that this is something
40 that is acknowledged when it comes to on-site surveys. When visitors are dissatisfied with certain
41 recreation sites, they tend to visit other sites instead. Ultimately, it was determined that it was not
42 feasible within the scope of the Visitor Use Study to sample non-recreationists or recreationists who
43 might have at one time visited the Central Wasatch but no longer visit the canyons in the area.

44
45 Mayor Bourke noted that transportation and travel are the primary dissatisfaction points. He asked
46 for additional information about that. Dr. Smith explained that the data has to do with the general
47 perception of crowding. Actual levels of perceived crowding are less at the day-use sites than in the
48 general forest areas. People who are heading to areas that receive the most use have a realistic

1 expectation of what they will encounter on the way there and when they arrive. Dr. Smith stated that
2 people seem to be adjusting their expectations based on the site types they are choosing to visit.

3
4 Ex-Officio Member, Annalee Munsey, wondered whether visitors were asked how far they traveled
5 or where they had traveled from. Dr. Smith confirmed this and explained that the median travel
6 distance was examined for all three canyons. Approximately half of the visitors are coming from the
7 Salt Lake Valley or Wasatch Back. However, there are different profiles when looking at the total
8 travel distance for Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon versus Millcreek Canyon.
9 He pointed out that there was a shorter distance for Millcreek Canyon visitors and use was more local.

10 **HUMAN IMPACTS WORKSHOP AND ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD**

11 **1. Staff will Discuss Supplementing the Environmental Dashboard with Additional** 12 **“Human Element” Data with the Design of a Human Impacts Workshop.**

13
14 Ms. Nielsen reported that in the current fiscal year budget, there is \$60,000 allocated toward the
15 Environmental Dashboard. That includes approximately \$20,000 for annual maintenance. The extra
16 \$40,000 can be used to make additions to the Environmental Dashboard. The idea was always to
17 build out the Human Element. The data from the Visitor Use Study has been incorporated, which is
18 largely trails visitation data. There is now an opportunity to make the Human Element more robust.

19
20 Dr. Pheobe McNeally from the University of Utah and a former CWC Stakeholders Council Member,
21 Dr. Kirk Nichols, can build out the Human Element of the Environmental Dashboard if the CWC
22 Board is supportive of that. Ms. Nielsen explained that it is her understanding that there is not a lot
23 of human impact data in the area, so what the first phase of building out the Human Element would
24 entail would be adding a narrative for the human ecology components and then making a list of the
25 data that should be shown in the Human Element. From there, a plan can be created for data
26 collection.
27
28

29 **EXECUTIVE/BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATES**

30 **1. Chair Silvestrini will Discuss Goals for the Remainder of the Year and into 2025, as** 31 **Referenced in the Attached Goals Timeline:**

32 **a. Plans for an Upcoming Legislative Field Trip.**

33
34 Mayor Zoltanski expressed her support for the proposed Legislative Field Trip. She likes the idea of
35 bringing some focus to the work of the CWC. She suggested that a stop be added at the mouth of the
36 canyon so that Sandy City can present something on the traffic mitigation efforts. Mayor Zoltanski
37 pointed out that State funding was received from the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”).
38
39

40
41 Chair Silvestrini explained that there were discussions at the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee
42 level about how to reinvigorate the organization and move forward the Legislation to whatever extent
43 possible. One of the ideas was to invite key Legislators to attend a Legislative Field Trip. Some
44 confirmations from the ski resorts and members of the Stakeholders Council have been received as
45 far as participation. There will also be a tour of the water treatment facility, which makes it possible
46 to emphasize the importance of the area as it relates to the health of the watershed.
47
48

1 Ms. Nielsen reported that the date originally chosen by the State Legislators was September 17, 2024,
2 but it has been communicated that the entire Solitude Mountain leadership team will be out of the
3 state for that week. Currently, she is checking with the lobbyist to see if there is another potential
4 date that works for State Legislators for the field trip. What is seen in the 2024 Legislative Field Trip
5 Run of Show is still what is anticipated to happen on a field trip. Ms. Nielsen clarified that she does
6 not anticipate being able to move the proposed September 17, 2024, date, but an effort is being made
7 to accommodate the Solitude Mountain leadership team. The lobbyist will report back to the CWC.

8
9 If there is no other date that works for all involved, there is the potential for Brighton Resort to be the
10 Big Cottonwood Canyon anchor location rather than Solitude. Chair Silvestrini noted that three of
11 the four resorts have indicated that they would participate in this process. While he does not like that
12 there is a conflict with Solitude, it is important to prioritize whenever there will be the best Legislative
13 attendance. Mayor Zoltanski asked if it is possible to add a stop at the mouth of the canyon or add
14 time at one of the other stops for a conversation about the traffic mitigation efforts. It was noted that
15 there can be a presentation at the water treatment facility. There was support for that addition.

16
17 **b. Planning Status of the 2024 Board Retreat, Scheduled for November 1, 2024:**

18
19 **i. Proposed Resolution 2024-23 - Approving Venue.**

20 **ii. Seeking a Facilitator.**

21
22 Mayor Zoltanski asked about the CWC Board Retreat and the location at Homestead. Chair
23 Silvestrini reported that it is in Midway, which is in Wasatch County. Mayor Zoltanski explained
24 that she would prefer to hold the retreat at a CWC member location. She proposed holding it at the
25 golf course in Sandy. It makes sense for the businesses used to benefit the CWC communities instead.
26 In addition, she pointed out that a different location could be more convenient for some on the Board.

27
28 Chair Silvestrini reported that the CWC is considering a contract with Homestead for approximately
29 \$1,500 for the venue and the food. Mayor Zoltanski offered to reach out to the director at the golf
30 course to confirm what the proposed costs would be. Chair Silvestrini does not have a problem with
31 this but noted that timing needs to be considered. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a CWC Board
32 Meeting scheduled for October and the CWC Board Retreat is scheduled to take place on November
33 1, 2024. Timing is not an issue if the CWC Board wants to move away from the idea of hosting the
34 retreat at Homestead. She noted that the CWC hosted a retreat at Homestead in the past. The thought
35 behind holding it there was to take CWC Board Members off campus and away from their normal
36 routines. That being said, if the consensus is to hold the retreat somewhere closer, that can be done.

37
38 Commissioner Chris Robinson asked whether the golf course in Sandy has an on-site restaurant or
39 something similar. Mayor Zoltanski confirmed that there is catering available. She reiterated that
40 she will reach out to determine the costs and availability. Commissioner Robinson suggested that
41 Resolution 2024-23 be tabled and discussed at the next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting.
42 Chair Silvestrini wanted to know if the CWC Board is comfortable with delegating the decision about
43 the retreat location to the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. This was confirmed.

44
45 CWC Legal Counsel, Shane Topham, explained that under the Procurement Policy, this type of
46 expenditure does not necessarily need to come to the CWC Board, as it is below \$2,000. Items are
47 normally brought to the CWC Board so there is awareness, but it is possible for the
48 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee to make a decision about the location of the CWC Board Retreat.

1
2 **c. Revisiting the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act.**
3

4 Chair Silvestrini reported that it is a goal of the CWC to revisit the Central Wasatch National
5 Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCR A”). At the Legislative and Land Tenure
6 Committee, there have been discussions about the need for support from the Legislature. That is the
7 reason behind the Legislative Field Trip. The intention is to highlight the need to protect this area.
8

9 Ms. Nielsen reported that it has been a considerable amount of time since the original CWNCR A was
10 drafted. Most of the language is still relevant, but some conditions in the mountains have changed.
11 She believes it is necessary to affirm what is in the current version of the Legislation, renegotiate
12 parts that have been taken out in the various iterations, and discuss potential new components. Chair
13 Silvestrini suggested that this matter be discussed during the CWC Board Retreat in November.
14

15 **d. Planning Status of the Central Wasatch Symposium.**
16

17 **i. Proposed Resolution 2024-22 - Approving Venue.**
18

19 Chair Silvestrini shared information about the Central Wasatch Symposium. Originally, there were
20 discussions about a venue at Westminster College, but it was determined that the symposium can be
21 accommodated for free at Millcreek City Hall. Resolution 2024-22 will approve the License
22 Agreement that is required. He explained that there is no charge for the use, but it does set some rules
23 with respect to liability. Ms. Nielsen believes the venue will be a good fit for the first-ever Central
24 Wasatch Symposium. She reminded CWC Board Members that the symposium is scheduled to take
25 place on January 9 and January 10, 2025. There will be a formal announcement and save the date in
26 the coming months. She noted that the symposium is a conference-style event that will be a
27 distillation of the work of the CWC. The idea is to bring together all of the major stakeholders in the
28 mountains. There will be presentations from experts, updates will be shared, and there will be a lot
29 of engagement.
30

31 Chair Silvestrini asked if any progress has been made on the keynote speaker. Ms. Nielsen explained
32 that not enough progress has been made to make an announcement. She hoped to know that shortly.
33

34 **2. Chair Silvestrini will Revisit Discussions about Ex-Officio Membership on the CWC’s**
35 **Board.**
36

37 Chair Silvestrini reported that at the last CWC Board Meeting, there was a discussion about
38 potentially adding other Ex-Officio Members to the CWC Board. There was a further discussion
39 about that at the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee level. At the Committee Meeting, there was
40 uncertainty that this would be an appropriate choice. Commissioner Robinson noted that since the
41 last meeting, a letter was received to indicate that Ex-Officio Member, Dave Whittekiend, would
42 resign from the CWC. Based on the letter, it seems the Forest Service will still be involved, but it is
43 not anticipated that any Forest Service personnel will act as a substitute for Ex-Officio Whittekiend.
44

45 Currently, the Ex-Officio Members on the CWC Board are Ex-Officio Munsey, who represents the
46 Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, and Ex-Officio Member Carlton Christensen,
47 who represents the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”). In the Interlocal Agreement, the CWC Board
48 can have up to four Ex-Officio Members. Chair Silvestrini noted that in order to add more than that,

1 there would need to be an amendment made. During the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee, there
2 were concerns expressed about adding too many members. The consensus was that there is strong
3 representation of the existing CWC Board Members and Ex-Officio Members. Additionally, the
4 Stakeholders Council has been elevated so there is additional participation and communication.

5
6 Commissioner Robinson expressed opposition to amending the Interlocal Agreement to expand the
7 number of Ex-Officio Members. However, he is in favor of contemplating and appointing two
8 additional Ex-Officio Members so there are a total of four on the CWC Board. He recommended that
9 the CWC Board discuss the two available spots. He noted that there is a lack of involvement from
10 the ski resorts. A representative from the ski resorts and a representative from the conservation
11 community would be his recommendation. Mayor Bourke pointed out that the General Manager of
12 Alta Ski Lifts was previously part of the Stakeholders Council and decided that it was not worth
13 continuing to participate. He believed it would be worthwhile to sit down and ask him about that.

14
15 Ms. Nielsen reported that Brighton Resort, Solitude Mountain Resort, and Snowbird are currently
16 represented on the Stakeholders Council. Alta Ski Lifts removed themselves from the Stakeholders
17 Council in 2018. There is frequent contact with the three remaining ski resorts through the
18 Stakeholders Council and the other work that the CWC is doing, such as the CWNCRA and
19 transportation. Commissioner Robinson thought it would be valuable to select a ski representative to
20 be an Ex-Officio Member as well as someone who is involved in conservation or the environmental
21 community. It is possible to solicit applications and then the CWC Board can make a decision. Chair
22 Silvestrini stated that he would want there to be a consensus about the person representing the
23 interests.

24
25 Discussions were had about the potential for Ski Utah to represent the ski interests in the area. Laura
26 Briefer was not sure that Ski Utah was a signatory in the Mountain Accord process. That is something
27 to keep in mind when it comes to the selection and consideration of future Ex-Officio Members. Ms.
28 Nielsen offered to share a CWC Staff update at the next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting.
29 There could be a Resolution for consideration at the CWC Board Meeting scheduled in October 2024.
30 CWC Staff was given direction to invite interested representatives from the skiing and conservation
31 communities to apply for an Ex-Officio position on the CWC Board ahead of the next meeting.

32 33 **STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

- 34
35 1. **Stakeholders Council Chair and Co-Chair John Knoblock and Tom Diegel will Discuss**
36 **with the Board the Recent Activities of the Stakeholders Council, including:**
37
38 a. **Recent Leadership and Membership Changes, Including Proposed Resolution**
39 **2024-21 Approving the Membership Changes.**
40
41 b. **The Next Stakeholders Council Meeting will be September 18th, 2024.**
42

43 Mr. Diegel shared information about the Stakeholders Council. He reported that there were a few
44 recent resignations from the Stakeholders Council. Previously, there were a lot of extraordinary
45 applications received and it was difficult to make decisions. Some who were not selected at that time
46 were considered more recently. Mark Baer and Meaghan McKasy were selected to be new members.
47

1 Ms. McKasy introduced herself to the CWC Board. She is excited to join the Stakeholders Council
2 as she has lived in the Salt Lake Valley for 15 years. For the last five years, she has lived in Millcreek.
3 Ms. McKasy is an Assistant Professor of Public Relations and Strategic Communication at Utah
4 Valley University. She specializes in science and environmental communication. Additionally, she
5 is a frequent recreationist in the Central Wasatch and enjoys spending time in all of the canyons.

6
7 Mr. Diegel shared information about the different Stakeholders Council subcommittees. The
8 Recreation Systems Committee discussed the importance of recognizing cyclists, as bicycling is one
9 of the major forms of recreation in the canyons. He referenced the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan
10 that is moving forward. A lot of that has to do with mountain bike and pedestrian-oriented trails.
11 Something that may impact the CWC in the future is that Senator Mike Lee has introduced some
12 Legislation to Congress that would have a blanket allowance for mountain bikes in wilderness areas.
13 Mr. Diegel pointed out that some of the wilderness areas are fairly rugged and he is not sure that
14 mountain bikes would be viable there, but that is something that will need to be considered in the
15 future.

16
17 The Environment Systems Committee is revisiting the Environmental Dashboard as is the Economy
18 Systems Committee. Mr. Diegel reported that the Transportation Systems Committee is paying
19 attention to the fact that the UDOT is currently scoping for the Big Cottonwood Canyon
20 Environmental Assessment. As for the Millcreek Canyon Committee, there was a summary shared
21 of the Federal Lands Access Program (“FLAP”) grant work scheduled for the upper portion of the
22 canyon. From the Forest Service, there was a Finding Of No Significant Impact and a protest period
23 held. At this point, the project is now moving forward and construction will start next spring or
24 summer. The FLAP grant work will result in the closure of the upper canyon for two years.

25
26 Mr. Diegel discussed the possibility of a Millcreek Canyon shuttle. He reminded CWC Board
27 Members that one of the original Stakeholders Council subcommittees was the Millcreek Canyon
28 Shuttle Committee, which later evolved into the Millcreek Canyon Committee. It was clear from the
29 comments made more recently by Ex-Officio Whittekiend that the Forest Service is losing interest in
30 the shuttle. Millcreek Canyon Committee leadership met with CWC Staff to talk about the proposal
31 that was submitted last summer. At that time, the Forest Service was unconvinced about the parking
32 and financing. The Committee and CWC Staff are interested in identifying those issues and working
33 through them. The intention is to show the Forest Service that it is still possible to add a shuttle.

34
35 During the previous presentation from Ex-Officio Whittekiend, it was noted that the National Park
36 Service was reevaluating its shuttle systems, particularly in Zion. However, there was an
37 Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") done for Zion to improve the infrastructure and better
38 account for the shuttles there. There is also a new National Park System comprehensive study about
39 the shuttle systems around the country. There are approximately 20 different shuttle systems in the
40 country. Mr. Diegel explained that this is something the Millcreek Canyon Committee will review.
41 He added that Ex-Officio Whittekiend previously discussed the idea of timed entry for the canyons.
42 Millcreek Canyon is different from destination locations since is more commonly used by locals. A
43 timed entry program would be a difficult shift for local users who choose to recreate in the canyon.

1 **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

2
3 **1. Forest Service Staffing Update.**

4
5 Ms. Nielsen reported that District Ranger Bekee Hotze has moved on. The District Ranger position
6 will be filled at some point. For right now, the Acting District Ranger is Zinnia Wilson.
7

8 **2. Member Jurisdiction Invoices Sent Out.**

9
10 Ms. Nielsen reported that the 2024-2025 Member Jurisdiction Invoices have been sent out. She
11 thanked everyone for continuing to participate in the CWC and for supporting the organization.
12

13 **3. District Board Member Training.**

14
15 Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, reported that there is some District Board Member
16 Training that needs to be done by a few of the CWC Board Members. At the CWC Board Meeting
17 in June, the Annual Fraud Risk Assessment was discussed. One of the items on that assessment is
18 having all of the CWC Board Members complete this training every four years and when appointed.
19 She has sent out emails to the CWC Board Members who still need to complete this training.
20

21 **4. 2023-2024 Audit Has Begun.**

22
23 Ms. Kilpack reported that the 2023-2024 audit is underway and auditors will come to the CWC
24 Offices next week. The audit results will be presented at the CWC Board Meeting in October.
25

26 **5. Youth Council Updates and Introductions.**

27
28 Ms. McNeil reported that the CWC Youth Council met on July 25, 2024. The next meeting will be
29 in September. As for the subcommittees, the Outdoor Access Committee is continuing to work on
30 the Gear Shed. Most of the desired gear has been gathered and outreach is being done for the project.
31 The Events and Outreach Committee is working on the Outdoor Film Festival, which will take place
32 on September 18, 2024. The Environmental Dashboard Education Committee is working on
33 educational material that can be distributed at the Outdoor Film Festival and is discussing the
34 Environmental Dashboard itself as well as trail updates in the Central Wasatch. She introduced CWC
35 Youth Council Member, Izzy Chick. Ms. Chick explained that she is a student at the University of
36 Utah and is studying Environmental and Sustainability Studies as well as Political Science. She was
37 interested in joining the CWC Youth Council because she has an interest in conservation efforts and
38 environmental policy. One of the four Mountain Accord pillars she is most drawn to is recreation.
39

40 **6. The first "In the Wasatch" Podcast has been Released.**

41
42 Ms. McNeil reported that the first episode of the In The Wasatch podcast has been released. She is
43 the host of the podcast. It has been a fun adventure putting it together with the assistance of CWC
44 Staff. She informed CWC Board Members that the podcast is available to listen to on Spotify. In
45 addition, it will be added to the CWC website. Any CWC Board Members interested in speaking
46 about a particular subject can reach out to CWC Staff and a time to record can be scheduled. Ms.
47 Nielsen added that the music featured in the In The Wasatch podcast is original music that was created
48 by Andy Knoblock, who is the son of the Chair of the Stakeholders Council, John Knoblock.

1
2 **7. CWC Bi-Monthly Digest.**

3
4 There is now a bi-monthly CWC Digest where information across the organization is compiled. This
5 makes it possible to connect the CWC Board, Stakeholders Council, and CWC Youth Council and
6 stay up to date with all discussions. The next digest will be released at the end of the month.
7

8 **8. Donation Checking Account Use of Funds Update and Memo.**

9
10 Ms. Kilpack reported that there is a donation checking account. In the Meeting Materials Packet,
11 there is a memo outlining how those funds have recently been spent on the Environmental Dashboard
12 maintenance. She noted that this is the express purpose for collecting donations on the website.
13

14 **9. Thank You to the City of Millcreek for Hosting our Board and Stakeholders Council**
15 **Meetings.**

16
17 Ms. Nielsen thanked the City of Millcreek for hosting the CWC Board Meeting.
18

19 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

20
21 Mr. Diegel noted that there have been past discussions about Cardiff Fork and the ongoing issues
22 there. Dea Theodore from the Salt Lake County Council has a committee with the intention of finding
23 some common ground. The issue is closer to being resolved. The Cardiff Canyon Owners
24 Association has recognized that they need to have a new Special Use Permit. The committee is
25 working on identifying the details before the Special Use Permit is submitted to the Forest Service.
26

27 **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

28
29 There were no additional comments.
30

31 **ACTION ITEMS**

32
33 **1. (Action) Consideration of Resolution 2024-21 - Releasing and Appointing Members of**
34 **the Stakeholders Council.**

35
36 **MOTION:** Bill Ciraco moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-21 – Releasing and Appointing
37 Members of the Stakeholders Council. Chris Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed
38 with the unanimous consent of the Board.
39

40 **2. (Action) Consideration of Resolution 2024-22 - Approving a Facility Use License**
41 **Agreement with Millcreek for the 2025 Central Wasatch Symposium.**

42
43 Chair Silvestrini disclosed that he is the Mayor of Millcreek, where the host facility is located.
44

1 **MOTION:** Chris Robinson moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-22 – Approving a Facility Use
2 License Agreement with Millcreek for the 2025 Central Wasatch Symposium and Authorizing Mayor
3 Jeff Silvestrini to Act on Behalf of the CWC, and not as the Mayor of Millcreek City, to Sign the
4 Facility Use License Agreement with an Accountant Signature by the Secretary of the CWC. Bill
5 Ciraco seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
6

7 **3. (Action) Consideration of Resolution 2024-23 Approving an Agreement with Homestead**
8 **for the 2024 Board Retreat.**
9

10 It was noted that Resolution 2024-23 has been tabled to explore another potential retreat location.
11

12 **OTHER BUSINESS**
13

14 There was no additional business discussed.
15

16 **CLOSING**
17

18 **1. Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the CWC Board Meeting.**
19

20 **MOTION:** Chris Robinson moved to ADJOURN the CWC Board Meeting. Bill Ciraco seconded
21 the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
22

23 The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Board Meeting held on Monday, August 5, 2024.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____