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**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3,
2024, AT 3:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION
AT THE CWC OFFICES, LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311
SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

- Present:** Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Chair
Christopher Robinson
Mayor Roger Bourke
John Knoblock
Laura Briefer
- CWC Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

Opening

1. Chair Jeff Silvestrini will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.

Chair Jeff Silvestrini called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting to order at approximately 3:05 p.m. and welcomed those present.

Chair Silvestrini asked when the next CWC Board Meeting is scheduled. Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, reported that the next CWC Board Meeting will take place on October 7, 2024.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the August 16, 2024, Meeting.

MOTION: Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the August 16, 2024, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

1 **Board Retreat**

2
3 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Upcoming November 1, 2024, Board Retreat.**

- 4 a. **Agenda.**
5 b. **Facilitator Contract.**
6 c. **Venue Contract.**
7

8 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, shared information about the CWC Board Retreat scheduled
9 for November 1, 2024. She reported that work is being done with the retreat facilitator, Karen
10 Hevel-Mingo. The contract for that facilitator will be approved during the CWC Board Meeting
11 on October 7, 2024. Ms. Hevel-Mingo was previously recommended by Mayor Erin Mendenhall.
12

13 The intention is to create a dynamic, productive, and fun agenda for the CWC Board Retreat. As
14 requested by Mayor Monica Zoltanski at the last CWC Board Meeting, the location of the CWC
15 Board Retreat will be the River Oaks Golf Course in Sandy City. Ms. Kilpack explained that CWC
16 staff will visit the venue tomorrow and refine the agenda further. There is a contract ready with
17 the venue for the retreat space and catering. The CWC Board Retreat will start at 8:30 a.m. and
18 run until 6:00 p.m. There will be breaks and food service throughout the day of the retreat.
19

20 Chair Silvestrini thanked the CWC staff for the work that has been done in organizing the CWC
21 Board Retreat. Commissioner Christopher Robinson stated that he is looking forward to the event.
22 Ms. Nielsen reported that she spoke to Ben McAdams and he has agreed to attend the retreat and
23 share information about the events that led up to and took place during the Mountain Accord.
24

25 Ms. Nielsen reminded Committee Members that the CWC Board Retreat will take place on
26 November 1, 2024. Once there is a more defined agenda for the retreat, that will be reviewed with
27 the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. The facilitator contract and venue contract will be
28 reviewed and approved by the CWC Board during the October 7, 2024, CWC Board Meeting.
29

30 **Central Wasatch Symposium**

31
32 **1. The Committee will Discuss Progress on Planning the Central Wasatch Symposium.**

- 33 a. **Program.**
34 b. **Speaker Contract.**
35 c. **Catering.**
36

37 Ms. Nielsen shared information about the Central Wasatch Symposium. She reported that the
38 keynote speaker is Terry Tempest Williams. She will be in attendance on Thursday January 9,
39 2025, to deliver a 45 minute to 1 hour address to attendees of the symposium. Chair Silvestrini
40 reminded Committee Members that the initial cost was not feasible, but CWC Staff continued to
41 communicate and negotiate. He believes the keynote speaker will be a draw for the symposium.
42

43 Ms. Nielsen reported that invitations for speaker presentations have been sent out over the last
44 several weeks to major interest groups in the mountains. There will likely be two presentations
45 from the Unita-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The hope is that the Utah Department of
46 Transportation (“UDOT”) Avalanche Team and the Utah Avalanche Center can join as well to

1 share information about what is done when there is a canyon closure and to discuss what goes into
2 avalanche forecasting. The program for the Central Wasatch Symposium is not finalized at this
3 time. She asked Committee Members whether there is a desire to review the drafted program.
4

5 Mayor Roger Bourke wanted to know the Central Wasatch Symposium dates. Ms. Nielsen
6 reminded Committee Members that the Central Wasatch Symposium will take place on January 9
7 and 10, 2025. Chair Silvestrini asked for a brief overview of the draft program. Ms. Nielsen
8 reiterated that the Forest Service will be there to present and the hope is to involve the UDOT
9 Avalanche Team. Save Our Canyons and the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance will be there. The hope
10 is that Salt Lake City Public Utilities will be there to present their work. As for the ski resorts, the
11 intention is to host a resort panel with the four General Managers of the Cottonwood Canyon Ski
12 Resorts moderated by someone from Ski Utah. One of the symposium topics will be the Central
13 Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). She reported that Mr.
14 McAdams will be one of the presenters on the CWNCRA during the symposium.
15

16 Someone from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation will speak about their work in the
17 canyons. There might be a Policy 101 presentation as well. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a
18 desire to have the Wasatch Front Regional Council (“WFRC”) at the symposium as well as the
19 Salt Lake Chamber and Park City Chamber for a co-panel. Not all of these have been confirmed.
20

21 Chair Silvestrini suggested a panel of Mayors and Council Members in order to talk about the
22 impacts on communities next to the canyons. That information might frame some of the issues
23 and some of the proposed solutions. Ms. Nielsen loved the idea and offered to work on this. Mayor
24 Bourke agreed that it would be worthwhile to present that information. Chair Silvestrini pointed
25 out that local government has a perspective to share that might not always be considered.
26

27 Ms. Nielsen informed those present that the keynote speaker contract has been signed, but it will
28 be before CWC Board Members during the CWC Board Meeting on October 7, 2024. As for
29 catering, Ms. Kilpack reported that a catering quote has been received. Instead of a seated dinner,
30 there will be a box lunch and a standing/networking kind of dinner. The current quote is
31 approximately \$9,000. The hope is that a partnership will make it possible to negotiate a discount.
32

33 Discussions were had about the keynote speaker fee. Commissioner Robinson was thrilled that
34 the amount was reduced to make this part of the event possible. Ms. Nielsen reminded those
35 present that the original fee was \$20,000, which was not doable. Commissioner Robinson
36 expressed gratitude to CWC Staff and to Terry Tempest Williams. Ms. Nielsen reported that CWC
37 Staff is working hard on the Central Wasatch Symposium. She is very excited about the event.
38

39 **Legislative Field Trip**

40 41 **1. The Committee will Discuss the September 17, 2024, Legislative Field Trip.**

- 42 **a. Run Of Show.**
- 43 **b. Talking Points.**

44
45 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Legislative Field Trip will actually take place on September 19,
46 2024. She apologized for the last-minute change to the date, but lobbyist, Casey Hill, was having

1 difficulty obtaining commitments from Legislators, because there are a number of Legislative
2 leadership meetings on September 17, 2024. Changing the date to September 19, 2024, works
3 better for the Legislators. She apologizes if the last-minute change is difficult for other schedules.
4 However, it works for most of the CWC Board Members, ski resorts, UDOT, Utah Transit
5 Authority (“UTA”), and many other participants. Representative Robert Spendlove will also be
6 able to attend on September 19, 2024. Ms. Nielsen asked Commissioner Robinson to make the
7 opening remarks on the day of the Legislative Field Trip. Representative Spendlove can briefly
8 speak about his support for the CWC. He has been the sponsor for the appropriations requests.

9
10 Ms. Nielsen shared the 2024 Legislative Field Trip Run of Show document. It will start at the
11 Metropolitan Water District. Unfortunately, there will not be a time to tour the facility, but it will
12 be used as a convening location. Opening remarks will be made by Commissioner Robinson and
13 Representative Spendlove. From there, a representative from Salt Lake City Public Utilities will
14 speak about the watershed that originates in the canyons. Dave Whittekiend from the U.S. Forest
15 Service will then speak about the forest and his role. Additionally, he will touch on the CWNCR.
16 Ms. Nielsen reminded those present that the continued position of the Forest Service is that they
17 are neither against nor in support of the legislation. She discussed the drafted talking points.

18
19 Commissioner Robinson noted that there are speeches scheduled to take place during the bus ride
20 by Save Our Canyons and UDOT. He understands this is a good way to maximize the time, but
21 wonders whether everyone will be paying attention to the information. Ms. Nielsen stated that
22 there can be conversations about that if the Committee Members feel a change should be made.
23 She explained that the intention is to use every available minute. Commissioner Robinson
24 suggested that introductions take place on the bus instead. Chair Silvestrini noted that a
25 microphone on the bus will be important to ensure that everyone can hear what is being said. That
26 will also cut down some of the side conversations. Ms. Nielsen offered to rework the schedule.

27
28 Travel times have been mapped out and are included in the draft Run of Show. Ms. Nielsen
29 reported that once attendees arrive at Brighton Resort, everyone will hear from General Manager,
30 Mike Doyle. The Solitude leadership team is out of town for that entire week in September and is
31 unable to attend. While at Brighton Resort, the Chair of the Big Cottonwood Canyon Community
32 Association will speak. From there, attendees will travel from Brighton to Snowbird, which has a
33 travel time of approximately 45 minutes. On the bus, the proposal is to have a presentation from
34 Save Our Canyons. At Snowbird, there will be lunch. During lunch, the General Manager of
35 Snowbird, Dave Fields will speak, as well as the General Manager of Alta, Mike Maughan. The
36 resort managers will discuss issues facing the resorts as well as transportation and transit needs in
37 the canyons. Before leaving Snowbird, there will be a group photograph taken and then everyone
38 will get back on the bus to travel to the White Pine Trailhead parking lot. The bus will stop and
39 John Knoblock and Tom Diegel will speak about non-resort recreation at that trailhead and others
40 in the canyons. After that, it is a 15-minute bus ride back to the Metropolitan Water District. Chair
41 Silvestrini will meet everyone there to provide some closing remarks.

42
43 Mayor Bourke expressed concern that there is too much scheduled on the field trip. That being
44 said, he believes that everything scheduled is important. Commissioner Robinson wondered
45 whether there should be fewer stops made during the field trip. Chair Silvestrini suggested having
46 some of the talks at Snowbird. Commissioner Robinson pointed out that visiting both canyons

1 takes a lot of time. Ms. Nielsen stressed the importance of visiting both canyons but understands
2 the time concerns. Commissioner Robinson suggested that CWC Staff brainstorm possible
3 adjustments to the schedule based on the feedback received from the Committee Members. Ms.
4 Nielsen reported that CWC Staff will rework the Run of Show document and send the
5 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee an updated document for review by the end of the week.
6

7 Ms. Nielsen asked whether there is a desire to maintain the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
8 Meeting that is scheduled for September 16, 2024. She reminded those present that the current
9 meeting was rescheduled in order to talk about the Legislative Field Trip. Commissioner Robinson
10 and Chair Silvestrini were available on September 16, 2024, between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
11

12 Commissioner Robinson mentioned the location of the Metropolitan Water District. He wondered
13 whether it would be best to meet at the park and ride lot at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon,
14 get on the bus and visit Big Cottonwood Canyon. Most of the field trip could then be spent in
15 Little Cottonwood Canyon. Avoiding that transition might save some time. Ms. Nielsen made
16 note of the suggestion and reported that CWC Staff will update the document and send out options.
17

18 **Ex-Officio Membership Discussion**

- 19
- 20 1. **The Committee will Continue Discussions about the CWC's Ex-Officio Membership.**
 - 21 a. **Resolutions to Add Members.**
- 22

23 Ms. Nielsen reported that there have been previous discussions about Ex-Officio Membership.
24 Based on the CWC Board's direction, she has spoken to Save Our Canyons about representing the
25 conservation interest in the canyons. Spencer Shaver was excited about the prospect of
26 participating as an Ex-Officio Member. Additionally, she has spoken to Ski Utah and the ski
27 resorts, who were also receptive to the idea. There is formal confirmation from Save Our Canyons
28 that they would join as an Ex-Officio Member if invited, and she is waiting on resort confirmation.
29

30 Chair Silvestrini asked whether there are concerns from other environmental organizations about
31 Save Our Canyons serving in an Ex-Officio position. He believes there should be broad
32 environmental representation. Mr. Knoblock pointed out that the Nature Conservancy is well
33 aligned with the Save Our Canyons position. Chair Silvestrini suggested that Save Our Canyons
34 be collaborative with other environmental groups and recognize that they represent other interests
35 in the same community. Ms. Nielsen believed there could be draft resolutions by the next meeting.
36

37 **Central Wasatch Commission Environmental Dashboard Human Element**

- 38
- 39 1. **The Committee will Discuss Adding Data to the Human Element of the Central**
40 **Wasatch Commission Environmental Dashboard.**
- 41

42 Ms. Nielsen reported that Dr. Pheobe McNeally is from the DIGIT Lab at the University of Utah.
43 She and her team were the builders of the Environmental Dashboard. She requested that Dr.
44 McNeally put together a broad scope of work detailing the various phases that would be involved
45 in making additions to the Human Element. There are three phases proposed and an overview for
46 Phase I has been included in the scope of work memo. As for the data, there is a desire to see

1 included in the Human Element, not a lot of that currently exists. Phase I of the Human Element
2 buildout would largely be a cataloging of the data there is a desire to add to the Human Element
3 as well as a broad plan to obtain the data. This is an essential first step in building out the Human
4 Element. Ms. Nielsen explained that the data focus would be on human ecology. There would be
5 a partnership with former Stakeholders Council Member, Kirk Nichols, at the University of Utah
6 and potentially those from the Utah State University team who were part of the Visitor Use Study.
7

8 Ms. Nielsen informed the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee that the outline from Dr. McNeally
9 does not include cost estimates. The cost for the build is largely unknown at this time. However,
10 there are budgeted funds for the Environmental Dashboard in the current budget. Approximately
11 \$18,000 of the \$60,000 available is allocated towards the annual maintenance of the existing
12 Environmental Dashboard. That leaves a set amount of money that could be used for Phase I.
13

14 Laura Briefer asked for additional details about what is envisioned for the Human Element of the
15 Environmental Dashboard. Ms. Nielsen reported that the Human Element currently contains trail
16 use data that was collected by Dr. Jordan Smith and his team during the Visitor Use Study. What
17 this proposes to focus on is human ecology. For example, the impacts of trail use on riparian areas
18 or grasses in the canyons. Ms. Briefer wanted to better understand the scope of the Human
19 Element. Ms. Nielsen explained that the focus area for Mr. Nichols is human ecology. It looks at
20 how human interaction and human use of the resources interact with the ecosystems. It is possible
21 that the Human Element could become a significant part of the Environmental Dashboard in the
22 future.
23

24 Mr. Knoblock reported that there have been some discussions about the Human Element at the
25 Systems Committee level. One suggestion made was to move the car count data from Air Quality
26 and Climate into the Human Element so it is clearly known how many vehicles are going up and
27 down the canyon. It would also be possible to have the E. coli count in the stream water as part of
28 the Human Element. Ms. Briefer believes that water quality in general could be part of the human
29 element. Sometimes, there is E. coli that is naturally occurring in the ecosystem, but water quality
30 can still be incorporated. Ms. Nielsen explained that the current proposal is to focus on a small
31 part of the Human Element first. The goal would be to add to the Human Element in phases.
32

33 Ms. Nielsen noted that Dr. McNeally and Mr. Nichols could be asked to attend the CWC Board
34 Meeting on October 7, 2024. If there is a desire to use the allocated funds in the current fiscal year
35 budget, it is possible to start the build-out of the Human Element of the Environmental Dashboard.
36

37 Mayor Bourke pointed out that the Human Element is the most subjective. For that reason, it will
38 take the most consideration to make sure everything is accurately presented. Ms. Nielsen
39 explained that what the team has endeavored to do with the existing Environmental Dashboard
40 elements is provide raw data in a way that is accessible. The intention is for people to interact
41 with the data and interpret it on their own. There is no desire to provide commentary on the data
42 provided. She believes that will continue to be done with the Human Element data additions.
43 Mayor Bourke noted that whatever data is included will have some subjectivity. Chair Silvestrini
44 suggested that the CWC continue to look into other sources of data to supplement what exists.
45

1 Ms. Nielsen asked Committee Members whether there is a desire to add this item to the CWC
2 Board Meeting agenda for further discussion. Commissioner Robinson expressed support for
3 adding it to the agenda. Chair Silvestrini agreed that it should be discussed further at that time.
4 Mayor Bourke suggested that the organization be mindful of any additions made to the
5 Environmental Dashboard. Anything added to the Human Element needs to be highly defensible.
6 Ms. Nielsen reported that she will invite Dr. McNeally and Mr. Nichols to present at that meeting.
7

8 **Surplus Policy**

9 10 **1. The Committee will Discuss Adopting a Surplus Policy into the Bylaws.**

11 Ms. Kilpack reported that there is not a policy in place for disposing of surplus products. Since
12 there is nothing like that currently, CWC Legal Counsel, Shane Topham, recommended that
13 something be established. He has written a policy, which is similar to other municipal surplus
14 policies. She asked Committee Members to review the document and discuss whether there is
15 support for adopting the policy or something similar. Chair Silvestrini believed there should be a
16 surplus policy in place. He does not have an issue with what has been drafted and shared. It was
17 determined that Mr. Topham will bring a resolution to the CWC Board at the meeting in October.
18
19

20 **Stakeholders Council Discussion**

21 22 **1. The Chair and Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council will Discuss with the Committee** 23 **the Recent Activities of the Stakeholders Council.**

24
25 Mr. Knoblock shared information about the Stakeholders Council. He reported that the Systems
26 Committees continue to meet. There is a lot of engagement and interest. The Millcreek Canyon
27 Committee is continuing to discuss the Federal Lands Access Program (“FLAP”) grant work and
28 the potential for a canyon shuttle. The Economy Systems Committee has discussed having a
29 financial measure of how businesses are doing in the study area. The Recreation Systems
30 Committee and Environment Systems Committee both discussed the Visitor Use Study. There is
31 a desire to have visitor use data that shows the number of climbers versus backcountry skiers and
32 so on. The Transportation Systems Committee has had discussions about traction controls.
33

34 The Committee discussed traction controls. Mr. Knoblock reported that there has been some
35 brainstorming done at a Systems Committee level. For example, having security personnel pull
36 over vehicles that are obviously not equipped. This is not an easy issue to address, so those
37 conversations are continuing to occur and several ideas have been shared so far. Chair Silvestrini
38 encouraged the Transportation Systems Committee to continue to discuss that issue. He noted that
39 there has not been success with the rental car companies, because the companies are resistant to
40 outfitting their cars differently for Utah than in other areas. He would love it if the rental car
41 companies had a specific fleet of all-wheel-drive vehicles with snow tires reserved for the area.
42

1 **Staff Announcements**
2

3 **1. Proposed 2025 Meeting Dates Memo.**
4

5 Ms. Kilpack shared the 2025 Board and EBAC Meeting Dates Memo with those present. She
6 reported that there is a schedule proposed and ready to present to the CWC Board for next year.
7 The CWC Board Meetings are scheduled to be on the first Monday of every other month.
8 Previously, there have been two meetings in a row to account for the budget, with the Tentative
9 Budget in May and the Final Budget in June. Instead of that, the proposal is that the CWC Board
10 Meeting in July be moved back two weeks in order to approve the Final Budget in June before the
11 June 30, 2025, deadline. This will maintain the schedule to be every other month without
12 interruption. That means there would be meetings in September and November rather than
13 October and December.
14

15 Ms. Nielsen added that the proposal is to not have a CWC Board Meeting in August. She reminded
16 Committee Members that the meeting this past August was relatively light in terms of the agenda.
17 Committee Members expressed support for the CWC Board Meeting scheduled proposed.
18

19 Ms. Kilpack reported that for the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee, the proposed schedule is
20 similar to what is currently in place. However, the first two Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
21 Meetings fall on holidays. Instead of meeting on the following Friday when there is a holiday on
22 a Monday, the suggestion is to meet on the preceding Friday instead. This is closer to the original
23 date and ensures that the work remains on track. Chair Silvestrini reported that he has a standing
24 commitment to meet with constituents on Friday afternoons between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Ms.
25 Briefer wondered whether it would be possible to forward this to the assistant for Mayor
26 Mendenhall to double-check her schedule, as she might have some standing commitments.
27

28 Ms. Kilpack offered to change the meetings shifted holidays to 4:00 p.m. instead of 3:30 p.m. She
29 explained that she will send the memo to the assistant for Mayor Mendenhall for feedback. It can
30 then be brought to the CWC Board for consideration and discussion at the October meeting.
31 Commissioner Robinson suggested that the meetings shifted by holidays take place earlier in the
32 day. Chair Silvestrini stated that his Friday mornings tend to be more open. Ms. Nielsen informed
33 the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee that the feedback will be incorporated into the memo.
34

35 **2. District Board Member Training.**
36

37 Ms. Kilpack reported that there are still a few CWC Board Members who need to complete some
38 training. She has been sending out reminders to those who have not yet completed that training.
39

40 **3. 2023-2024 Audit Update.**
41

42 Ms. Kilpack reported that the 2023-2024 audit has occurred. The auditor visited the office and
43 there will be a presentation on the audit at the October 7, 2024, CWC Board Meeting.
44

1 **4. Youth Council Updates:**

2 a. **Youth Council/Stakeholders Council Social (September 11, 2024, 4:30 p.m. to**

3 **6:00 p.m. CWC Office).**

4 b. **Outdoor Film Festival (September 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Front**

5 **Climbing Club, Salt Lake City).**

6
7 Ms. Nielsen shared some CWC Youth Council updates with the Executive/Budget/Audit
8 Committee. She reported that there is a Youth Council/Stakeholders Council Social planned for
9 September 11, 2024. The first portion will be a new member orientation, which any new or
10 existing Stakeholders Council Members are welcome to attend. The second half will be the social
11 component where the CWC Youth Council and Stakeholders Council can interact. CWC Board
12 Members are welcome to attend. On September 18, 2024, there will be the Outdoor Film Festival.
13 She reminded those present that this was funded as a Short-Term Projects Grant. The CWC Youth
14 Council applied for a grant through the Short-Term Projects Grant Program and it was awarded.

15
16 **5. Next EBAC Meeting (September 16 or October 21).**

17
18 It was determined that the next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting will take place on
19 September 16, 2024, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. There will also be an
20 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting on October 21, 2024, at the normal meeting time.

21
22 **Other Business**

23
24 There was no additional business.

25
26 **Closing**

27
28 **1. Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**

29 **Committee Meeting.**

30
31 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to ADJOURN the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
32 Meeting. There was no second. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

33
34 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at
35 approximately 4:30 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 3,*
3 *2024.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9

10 Minutes Approved: _____