

**Approved: 9/9/2024**

## UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

**May 6, 2024**

### **UDOT Lester Wire conference room & Google Meets**

Committee members at UDOT:	Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative Russ Oberlander, Vice-chairman, Engineer Jeff West, Ski Area Representative
Committee members Google Meets:	Jill Koford, Public Representative Curt Panter, U.S. Forest Service Representative
Committee members absent:	Robert Miles, Ex-officio Member Steve Thygerson, Public Representative
Staff:	James Godin, Assistant Attorney General Brian Allen, UDOT
Others at UDOT:	Steve Kirner, Alterra
Others (Google Meets):	Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park Brandon Conlin, Alpine Engineering Jason Davis, Alta Seth Wallace, Forest Service Zach Doyle, Brighton Julie Jag, Salt Lake Tribune

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

#### **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

Following the review Jeff West made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings and Russ Oberlander seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **II. Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding**

A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) needs to be signed. They are good for years, and it is time to review and act on the new document. It was discussed that the details of the new MOU are essentially the same as previous versions. The review from the Attorney General's office didn't identify any concerns. Following the discussion Curt Panter made a motion to approve the new MOU, and Rich Taxwood seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **III. Ropeway Inspector discussion**

At previous meetings the Committee has discussed the possibility of changing the rules to not require a ropeway inspector to be a licensed engineer. This would potentially increase the number of inspectors available to the resorts. The Committee was considering establishing experience requirements for inspectors.

Since the last discussion we had looked at the inspection program for the amusement ride safety committee. The amusement ride safety committee does not require an inspector to be a licensed engineer, but they are required to be certified by one of two organizations (NAARSO or AIMS) that establish the criteria for an inspector and provide education and certification for the inspectors.

Discussions since the last meeting with UDOT staff and counsel from the Attorney General's office identified concerns that the Committee would be increasing its liability as a result of the proposed changes.

The result of the discussion was that work to change the requirements for inspectors would not be continued at this time.

## **IV. Lift Registration Fees**

Registration fees will be the same this year. Fees were last increased in about 2017. As the ropeway program budget is reviewed there is a possibility that a fee increase for future years may be necessary.

## **V. Forest Service / Area & Manufacturer Updates**

The areas and manufactures present gave brief updates as to their recent activities.

## **VI. Open Discussion / Questions**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.