



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

Present:

John Knoblock, Chair
Tom Diegel, Co-Chair
Adam Lenkowski
Amber Broadway
Barbara Cameron
Brenden Catt
Dan Zalles
Danny Richardson
Del Draper
John Adams
Kelly Boardman
Kurt Hegmann
Linda Johnson
Maura Hahnenberger
Michael Marker
Morgan Mingle
Patrick Shea
Patrick Morrison
Roger Borgenicht
Sarah Bennett
Spencer Shaver

Staff:

Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator

Opening

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

Chair John Knoblock called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Meeting to order at approximately 3:40 p.m. and welcomed those present.

1 **2. Chair Knoblock will Call for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the May 16, 2024,**
2 **Stakeholders Council Retreat.**

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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

8 **Mixed Breakout Groups**
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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.
18

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.
26

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.
30

31 **1. Discussion Prompt:**
32

- 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?**
37

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.
42

43 Council Members spent approximately 25 minutes considering the first discussion prompt questions.
44

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 9 **Mixed Breakout Groups**

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

16 17 **1. Discussion Prompt:**

- 18
19 a. **What Problems Exist in the Central Wasatch Beyond the Ones Identified in the**
20 **Mountain Accord that Need to be Addressed?**
21 b. **What Solutions do you Envision for these Additional Problems?**
22

23 Council Members spent approximately 30 minutes reviewing the second discussion prompt questions.
24

25 **Mixed Breakout Group Reports.**

26 27 **1. Each Breakout Group will Summarize their Discussions for the Stakeholders Council.**

28
29 Following the first Breakout Session, a spokesperson from each group summarized their discussion.
30 Morgan Mingle reported that her group talked about how the number of visitors who want cooler
31 days in the mountains will increase over time. There were also discussions about transit systems
32 between Park City and the Cottonwood Canyon economic area during the ski season as well as the
33 prioritization of carrying capacity. The group discussed the fact that some of the ski resorts have
34 changed, and it might make sense to reevaluate. There is also a need for benchmarks, targets, and
35 clear metrics as part of the Mountain Accord. It is also wise to consider finances and allocation. Ms.
36 Mingle stated that the group spoke about search and rescue and emergency response as an essential
37 function in the canyons. With increased user numbers, increased emergency response becomes
38 necessary. The idea of regionality was discussed by group members, as it impacts the use and needs.
39

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

1
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.

Committee Membership and Leadership

1. Stakeholders May Request to Join Systems Committees:

- a. **Millcreek Canyon Committee.**
- b. **Environment Systems Committee.**
- c. **Transportation Systems Committee.**
- d. **Recreation Systems Committee.**
- e. **Economy Systems Committee**

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

2. Announcement of Any Committee Leadership Changes.

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

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

Central Wasatch Symposium

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

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

Staff Announcements

1. Stakeholders Council Membership Updates.

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

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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:**

- 29
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.

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

2
3 Ms. Nielsen reported that the next CWC Board Meeting is scheduled for August 5, 2024.
4

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

6
7 Ms. Nielsen thanked Millcreek for continuing to host the Stakeholders Council Meetings.
8

9 **Stakeholders Open Comment**

10
11 Dan Zalles asked how to access the podcast that was previously mentioned. Ms. McNeil reported
12 that she will be posting it on the CWC social media accounts, and it will also be linked in the
13 newsletter. She offered to send out a direct Spotify link to Council Members once the podcast is live.
14

15 Ms. Johnson noted that there are a lot of attendees at the current Stakeholders Council Meeting, but
16 there are a lot of Council Members who are not present. She suggested that the Meeting Minutes
17 from this meeting be sent to Council Members sooner than usual. That might encourage Stakeholders
18 Council Members who often do not attend to take time to attend the next meeting. Ms. Nielsen
19 confirmed that this can be done. In addition to being subscribed to the CWC newsletter, she
20 recommends that Council Members also subscribe to the CWC Board and Stakeholders Council
21 through the Utah Public Notice website, because that sends out auto-alerts when items are added.
22

23 Mr. Shea suggested that the CWC consider removal for someone who misses more than three
24 consecutive meetings. It seems that some people fail to participate. Ms. Nielsen stated that there is
25 a clause in the Rules and Procedures for the Stakeholders Council and enforcement can be considered.
26

27 Chair Knoblock reported that in Millcreek Canyon, the Forest Service is doing some fuel mitigation
28 work. Dead and down wood is being cut and piled so when the first snow comes in the winter, it will
29 be possible to safely burn the material to reduce wildfire hazards in the area. Chair Knoblock noted
30 that the Wasatch Wildflower Festival is taking place and will be at Snowbird and Alta this weekend.
31 He informed those present that the Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride will be restriped by Salt
32 Lake County in the fall. The intention is to increase the parking capacity at that park-and-ride
33 location.
34

35 Chair Knoblock stated that Ms. Nielsen has been working on the 953 bus to see if it is possible to
36 have a bus bypass service for that. He reported that the Silver Lake Boardwalk project is moving
37 forward. Most of the boardwalk itself has been replaced. Trails Utah is working with the Forest
38 Service to redo the natural surface portion of the trail around the lake. That should be done in the
39 next six weeks. Additionally, trail work is taking place and is starting on the Big Water Trail.
40

41 **Closing**

42
43 **1. Chair Knoblock will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Stakeholders' Council Meeting.**

44
45 **MOTION:** John Knoblock moved to ADJOURN the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Sarah Bennett
46 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.
47

48 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: _____