



CWC DIGEST - JULY/AUGUST



CENTRAL
WASATCH
COMMISSION

BOARD AND STAFF

- The inaugural Central Wasatch Symposium has been scheduled for January 9-10 at Millcreek Common! This conference-style event will gather all the major interests of the Central Wasatch together over two days to hear from experts, network, and engage in interactive workshops. Mark your calendars!
- The 2024 CWC Board Retreat will be held at River Oaks Golf Course on November 1, 2024.
- The Transportation Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2024.
- We've launched a podcast! Check out our first two episodes of [In the Wasatch](#), available on Spotify. If you'd like to be interviewed on the podcast, please reach out to Mia.
- Staff is hosting a Stakeholders Council and Youth Council Social on September 11, 2024 from 5:00pm-6:30pm at the CWC office. Commissioners are also welcome!
- Our 2023-2024 fiscal year audit is underway and will be presented at the October 7, 2024 board meeting.
- Our Short-Term Projects Grant cycle will be changing next year. Instead of opening in the spring, the 2025 call for applications will be open from January 7 to February 7, 2025.

STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL

RECREATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE

- Wasatch Wildflower Festival was a huge success, attracting over 1000 visitors each day. It's a great outreach for environmen and recreation non-profits (thanks Cottonwood Canyons Foundation!)
- Silver Lake Boardwalk is almost complete (Cost \$3.5M-Annual visitation is 250,000) Thanks to USFS, Trails Utah, and the Town of Brighton.
- 49 Minute Hikes Pamphlet. Members will seek someone to help us create a list of short, family-friendly hikes. We will contact USFS for guidance, and possibly apply for a CWC Short-Term Project Grant in January.
- USFS Fees. Clarify where best to buy annual passes, what long-term passes are valid.

ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM COMMITTEE

- Reviewed a data set on the CWC Environmental Dashboard as a committee to improve the presentation and usefulness of the data. We want to identify current available data to see what is relevant and helpful in regards to the Mountain Accord.
- Discussed how to fully characterize the Human Element on the Environmental Dashboard. We considered the revised Visitor's Use Study and supplemental information that could help to fully represent the actual number of canyon users and trends. We discussed how impacts related to increased recreation, strained transportation systems and economic growth could be represented on the dashboard for planning purposes.
- Engaging the CWC Youth Council regarding their feedback and suggestions for the dashboard.
- Currently working on a survey to help us better understand who's using the dashboard and why. In addition to recommendations on how improve the platform to best support the of the vision of the Mountain Accord and CWC. This survey will be distributed to the Stakeholders council for review soon.

MILL CREEK CANYON COMMITTEE

- Millcreek Canyon shuttle concept discussions:
 - Reviewed and discussed Forest Service objections over the years (largely focused on funding, operation, and parking).
 - Identified parking solutions (land on either side of I-215 near 3800 S), though funding and operation of the shuttle remains a larger problem.
 - Joined by Jon Nepstad of Fehr and Peers in July to review the initial feasibility study and provide recommendations for moving forward.
 - Next steps: Create a clear problem statement and identify a champion for the project (perhaps Salt Lake County and/or CWC)
- Fire mitigation efforts:
 - After years of consistent efforts by stakeholder Ed Marshall, there have finally been some efforts in the Canyon to reduce the excess wood along the roadway to reduce the fire danger in the canyon.
- Road side fuels reduction is in addition to the very significant fuels reduction project that the USFS is completing in the upper canyon.



ECONOMY SYSTEM COMMITTEE

- Economic Committee Principles: Began the process of updating the Working Principles of the Economic Committee
- Canyon Carrying Capacity: Started a workstream to define additional data needed to understand better the limits to growth in the canyon, the inflows and outflows, and how to track where we might be approaching limits that have yet to be defined.
- Working to include and define important but sometimes ambiguous and bias-laden terms used when planning the future of the canyons such as;
 - Stewardship, Thriving, Growth, Biases, Embedded Economy (including land/environment input value and back-end externalities), Business stakeholders
- This work is leading towards making a contribution to the Environmental Dashboard that incorporates a more wholistic and interconnected view of the Economy

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE

- Animated, detailed, informative discussions, centered primarily on transportation options regarding Millcreek Canyon. Examples of Timed Entry, Shuttle Systems, County and State road jurisdiction, Parking Options and even the history of a Millcreek Shuttle concept (a 2012 commissioned study).
- The other Canyons are also in focus. In Big Cottonwood Canyon, UDOT has set up a “users” committee, including a number of BCC stakeholders. The committee is the BCC Environmental Study Shareholder Working Group. First meeting is August 21. Amber Broadway – Solitude, and a member of this Transportation Committee is on this new UDOT committee.
- The Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS plans are on hold, pending 20 claims in District Court, concerning Phase 1 enhanced bus service. 2024-25, UDOT and UTA plan to see bus service similar to last season, with a few tweaks and enhancements. Our committee will stay vigilant, monitoring the legal and the day to day.
- Continuing to look for cooperative way to work with the Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC), and the Millcreek Committee – we have some common themes and goals – and a few members in common!

YOUTH COUNCIL (CWCYC)

The CWC Youth Council will be meeting on Wednesday, September 25th from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Stakeholders -- please reach out to Mia if you have any interest in attending! Anyone is welcome!

OUTDOOR ACCESS COMMITTEE

- Putting on a Gear Drive at the CWCYC's Outdoor Film Festival to help further stock their Gear Shed Project.
- Most of the gear has been purchased with funds provided by the CWC's Short-Term Project Grant.
- Planning a construction day to help finish building the Gear Shed and another day to stock the shed.

EVENTS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

- Hosting its Outdoor Film Festival at the Front Climbing Gym in Salt Lake City on September 18th from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. This project was supported by the CWC's Short-Term Project Grant.
- Looking for local films to be screened. ***If you know of any filmmakers, please encourage them submit their outdoor short films.***

ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- Continuing discussion regarding updating the Human Element on the Central Wasatch Dashboard regarding trail and winter data.

LOCAL EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Wasatch Mountain Film Festival
 - September 19th - 22nd, 2024
 - Find tickets [here](#)
- CCF National Public Lands Day - Volunteer Opportunity
 - Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Recycle Utah Harvest Festival
 - Saturday, October 5th from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Oakley's Cattleman Hall

QUESTIONS?

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