



Central Wasatch Commission Board Retreat

November 1, 2024

Agenda

8:30 A.M. Opening

1. Chair Jeff Silvestrini will call the meeting to order and welcome Board members and the public.
2. Review and approval of the minutes from the October 7, 2024 Board meeting. Resolutions.

8:40 A.M Welcome by Mayor Zoltanski. Update on Sandy City sustainability initiatives.

8:50 A.M. Introductions and expectations for the day.

9:10 A.M. Ice breaker activity. What was your first experience of the Central Wasatch?

9:30 A.M. Presentation and Q&A – History of Mountain Accord; Ben McAdams

9:50 A.M. Break

10:05 A.M. *Small Group Discussion* - The Mountain Accord was created nearly a decade ago to address four key interdependent issues – environment, recreation, transportation and the economy in the Central Wasatch Mountains. As the CWC works to reintroduce the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (CWNCRA), what are the top priorities in each of these core areas? What has changed since the original drafting of the CWNCRA?

Discussion 2 Timeline - Map out timeline starting in 2025 that includes key elements and needed coalition building leading up to the introduction of the bill, and successful passage.

11:30 A.M. Lunch

12:30 P.M. CWC trivia co-hosted by Lindsey and Sam

12:45 P.M. Presentation and Q&A – Founding of Central Wasatch Commission; Lindsey Nielsen

1:15 P.M. *Small Group Discussion* - Revisiting the timeline drafted this morning, expand on what we need to do to re-build consensus around the legislation?

- a. How can the Board and staff focus their energy on CWNCRA passage?
- b. What role do member jurisdictions play, individually and collectively?
- c. What role does the Stakeholders Council play? The larger public?

2:30 P.M. Break

2:45 P.M. *Small Group Discussion* - Continue the discussion around coalition-building around the CWNCRA by identifying and discussing any potential barriers that should be addressed as the CWC works to re-introduce the CWNCRA in 2025, and how they can be overcome. What needs to be in place for passage? What barriers need to be addressed?

What strategies can we employ to overcome the barriers?

4:00 P.M. Gallery Walk – Review ideas from the table conversation sessions. Make notes on what ideas stand out, connections across jurisdictional boundaries, and **actionable items** (emphasize this).

4:30 P.M. Staff Announcements

4:45 P.M. Break, Retreat Activities End

5:00 P.M. Dinner

6:00 P.M. Closing

Introductions and Expectations



Expectations:

- *Re-engage everyone about CWNCR*
 - *Invigorated about CWC and its goals*
 - *Building relationships*
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Guidelines:

Everyone contributes their thinking and experience.

Listen for insights and connect ideas

It's okay to disagree, but do so with curiosity, rather than hostility

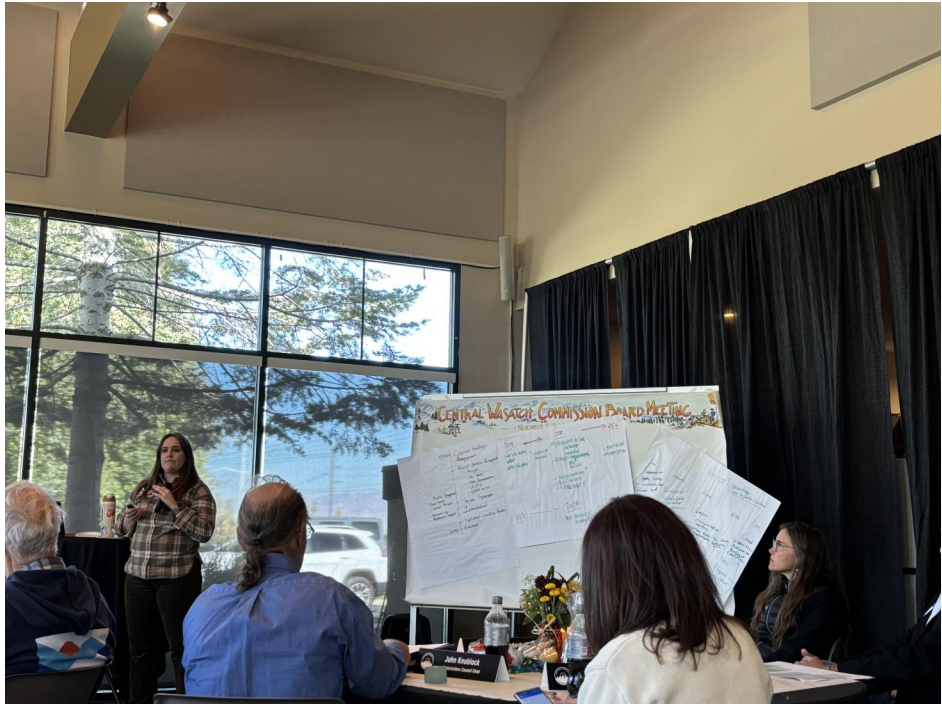
Be responsible for the energy you bring into the room

Discussion 1: The Mountain Accord was created nearly a decade ago to address four key interdependent issues – environment, recreation, transportation and the economy in the Central Wasatch Mountains. As the CWC works to reintroduce the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (CWNCRA), what are the top priorities in each of these core areas? What has changed since the original drafting of the CWNCRA?

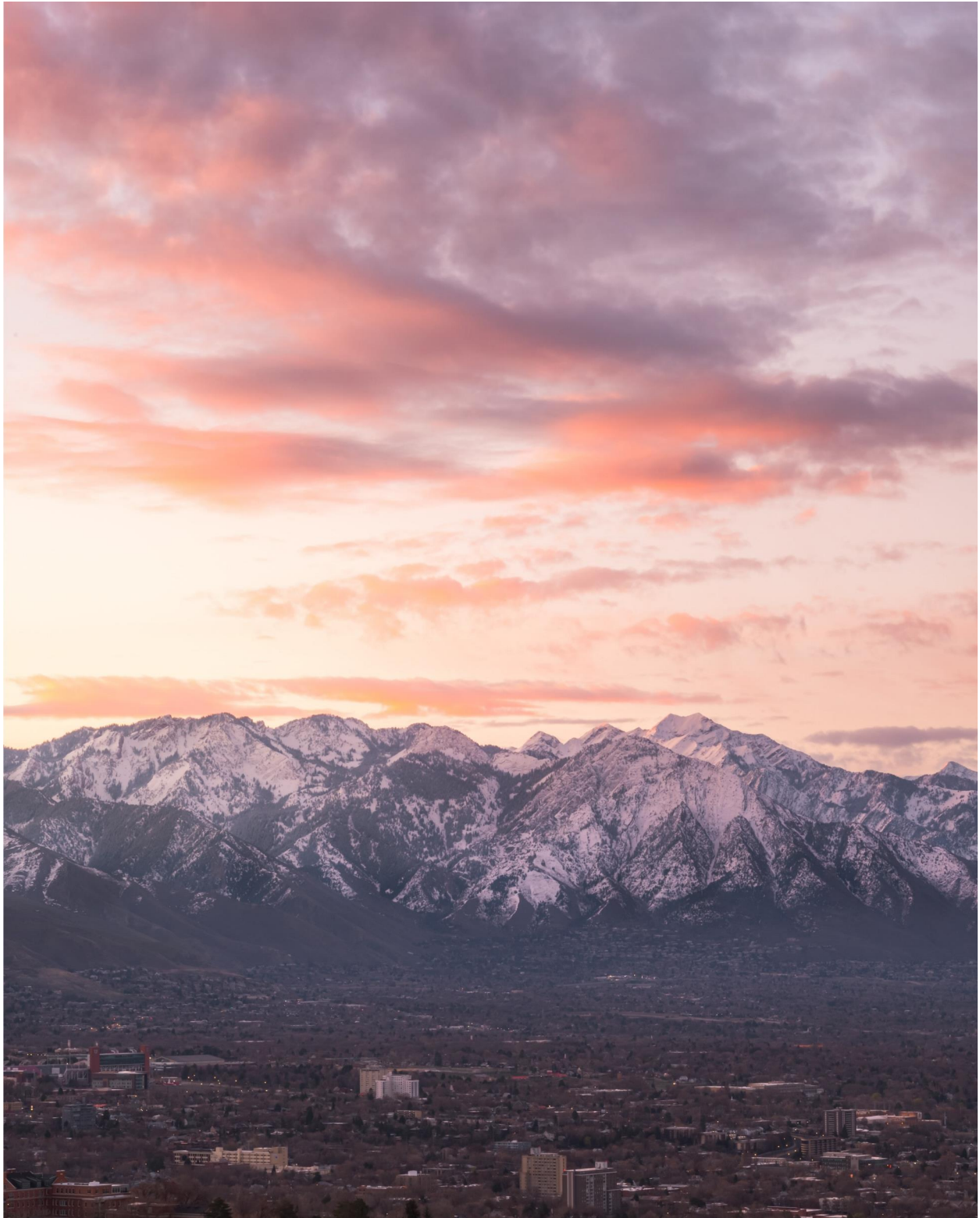


- Land exchange issues, land purchases and wilderness areas consideration. Ski areas looking for land. NEPA authority with proposed actions. New boundaries of the CWNCRA.

- More robust trail network including additional trails, mountain bike specific trails and trail improvement.
- Carrying capacity includes physical capacity, such as trails and water, and social capacity – canyons are not the same; not as much solitude; not everyone wants solitude and instead want more people around them; changing demographics; satisfaction. People are always in the forest-year around which impacts seasonal activities and recreation fees may need to be reassessed. Population has grown a lot and recreation has not kept up with the pace resulting in the need to protect from overuse including human waste and ski wax concerns. Increased fire risk and need for mitigation. How people live, work and access the canyons has changed. Funding and capacity of the Forest Service.
- Ski resorts issues include job and labor pool, ski passes that have driven demand.
- Transportation has become a trigger and controversy. Gondola as a wedge issue. Transportation initiatives move forward faster than environment. Lack of sufficient mass transit for the carrying capacity. Discussions need to include electric buses, developing pull-throughs, employee shuttles and reservations.
- Olympics could be a great opportunity for the NCRA.
- Stakeholders - Partnerships have evolved. Some have strengthened while others have disintegrated. UDOT and Salt Lake County are gone. New Town of Brighton. Some local businesses replaced by big business. NCRA benefits to our stakeholders and what it means to our economy. There's a need to incentivized people to go back to their corners and have consensus among every group. Identifying who needs to be back at the table.
- Focusing more on environment and recreation. Not a lot of environmental efforts moving forward compared to the other systems.



Discussion 2: Revisiting the timeline drafted this morning, expand on what we need to do to re-build consensus around the legislation? a) How can the Board and staff focus their energy on CWNCRA passage? b) What role do member jurisdictions play, individually and collectively? c) What role does the Stakeholders Council play? The larger public?



"The stakes are high and conflicts are not going away."

- Ski resorts and UDOT needs to be at the table.
- Need to be realistic and passable.

- UDOT traction program and other improvements going on.
- Possibility that CWNCR is NOT what they want to do.
- Might not need the designation to achieve what they want.
- What we propose to the federal government might not be what we send.
- Focus of Board and staff and the role of member jurisdictions ○ Do we have substantive change in stakeholders?
- Leadership on state level.
- Re-engage with key stakeholders.
- Some that have dropped off over time (i.e. Salt Lake County).
- Core values and goals.
- How to consider each of the systems?
- Focusing strategically on federal support.
- Congressional delegation.
- States or regions with similar interests and challenges.
- Change of governors since the Mountain Accord was signed.
- Salt Lake City would potentially pull out of the CWC if the CWNCR is not further pursued.
- Discussion revolving around this topics and what would substitute the designation.
- CWNCR is important because it is stronger than a forest plan.
- The stakes are high and conflicts are not going away with so many competing interests.



Discussion 3: Continue the discussion around CWNCR coalition-building by identifying and discussing any potential barriers that should be addressed as the CWC works to re-introduce the CWNCR in 2025, and how they can be overcome. What needs to be in place for passage? What barriers need to be addressed? What strategies can we employ to overcome the barriers?



- Educate and advocate with the governor and other legislators.
- Educate that the CWNCR protects lands with certainty.
- Protects land from ski area development.
- Educate stakeholders and commissioners about the CWNCR and the layers that have evolved over the years.
- Get definite input on what ski resorts need to support this.
- Other proposals on how to buy resort base area lands from the forest service so the land exchanges are fulfilled.
- Convince the legislature that the state of Utah is taking sustainable action with local consensus.

- Disagreement about the need for the CWNCRRA.
- Potential barrier.
- CWC educating those concerned about the CWNCRRA and why it is important now.
- Land exchanges.
- Working to address potential for land exchanges and buying land.
- Gondola
- Entrenched various parties and polarization.
- Need a willingness to have conversations.
- Resolve litigation by working with Carlos.
- Poison pills.
- Not starters – Grizzly Gulch and the Gondola.
- Draft bill that involves all stakeholders and reaches common ground.
- Everyone gets something and enthusiastically endorses the bill.
- Concerns over the map that needs to be updated.
- “We need to have a good product”.
- We can’t sell a lousy product (the CWNCRRA).
- Amber Broadway discussed her position as a special advisor and how the other resorts support her.
- Needing to get everyone into the room for starters.
- See what people can throw into the pot.

Key Takeaways



"We need resorts back at the table."

"Transportation infrastructure is lacking."

"Public Utilities, Forest Service, ski resorts - get in the same room."

"Gondola - Get various parties together. Resolve litigation."

"Resolve transportation problems."

Appendix



[CWC Board Retreat Audio Recording Part 1](#)

[CWC Board Retreat Audio Recording Part 2](#)

[CWC Board Retreat Audio Recording Part 3](#)

[CWC Podcast](#)
