



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/  
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024,  
AT 3:30 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  
Mayor Roger Bourke  
Mayor Erin Mendenhall  
Christopher Robinson  
Laura Briefer  
Tom Diegel  
John Knoblock

**CWC Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director  
Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator

**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 3:33 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

**MOTION:** Erin Mendenhall moved to APPROVE the September 16, 2024, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Christopher Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

**Central Wasatch Symposium**

**1. The Committee will Discuss the Program for the Upcoming Central Wasatch  
Symposium.**

Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, shared information about the program for the Central Wasatch Symposium. She explained that the Central Wasatch Symposium will be on every Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting agenda until the event occurs in January 2025.

1 The Central Wasatch Symposium will start with a keynote address from Terry Tempest Williams  
2 followed by a break where attendees can eat and mingle. There will then be a panel specifically  
3 focused on the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”)  
4 that will be led by Ben McAdams and Ralph Becker. After that will be the breakouts for the day.  
5 On the first day, there are two breakouts planned per time slot. There is representation for each of  
6 the CWC focus areas. There will be representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Salt Lake City  
7 Public Utilities, Utah Avalanche Center, and Park City Chamber. The first day of the Central  
8 Wasatch Symposium will close with a Canyons Transportation Planning Panel. Confirmation has  
9 already been received from the Wasatch Front Regional Council (“WFRC”), the Utah Department  
10 of Transportation (“UDOT”), the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”), and High Valley Transit.

11  
12 The second day of the Central Wasatch Symposium will have a Mayor and Council Member Panel.  
13 The panelists will discuss the impacts of being located near the Central Wasatch mountains.  
14 Anyone interested in participating on the panel who is not already listed can let her know. From  
15 there, there will be a Resort Panel with the General Managers of each of the four Cottonwood  
16 Canyon ski resorts. The panel will be moderated by a representative from Ski Utah.

17  
18 Some of the possible breakouts include breakout sessions on a Millcreek Canyon shuttle, the Salt  
19 Lake Climbers Alliance, an Environmental Dashboard walkthrough, Plants and Animal  
20 Identification in the Central Wasatch 101, an overview of the Forest Plan, a presentation on the  
21 County fire mitigation work, a presentation from Save Our Canyons on Wilderness 101, and a  
22 presentation from the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation on Policy 101. The inaugural Central  
23 Wasatch Symposium will close with unstructured time and appetizers so attendees can mingle.

24  
25 Registration for the Central Wasatch Symposium is currently open. It is not a free event to attend  
26 and costs \$50 per ticket. Ms. Nielsen clarified that the intention is not to make money but to offset  
27 some of the costs associated with the event. Chair Silvestrini asked about registration so far. Ms.  
28 Nielsen confirmed that some have already registered to attend. Tom Diegel asked about the  
29 expected attendance numbers. Ms. Nielsen explained that this is a first-time event and there are  
30 no expectations as far as attendance. However, the capacity of the sixth floor of Millcreek City  
31 Hall is approximately 200. As a result, there will not be more than 200 attendees at the symposium.

32  
33 Mayor Erin Mendenhall asked if there are scholarship opportunities where someone can attend the  
34 Central Wasatch Symposium at no cost. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a discounted ticketing  
35 price with a sliding scale. Those who are in need of this can contact CWC Staff. Additionally,  
36 there is a student discount offered. There has been communication with some contacts at the  
37 University of Utah for outreach to specific clubs, so any interested students are able to attend.

38  
39 Commissioner Christopher Robinson asked how important the ticket price revenue is for the event.  
40 He pointed out that this is an inaugural event and there is a desire to encourage attendance. He  
41 does not want attendance to be low due to the costs. Ms. Nielsen reported that the Central Wasatch  
42 Symposium will cost the organization a fair amount of money and the ticket prices are intended to  
43 offset some of the associated costs. In the current fiscal year, the CWC has \$15,000 budgeted for  
44 the Central Wasatch Symposium. There is currently a contract with an event management firm  
45 for \$5,000. The honorarium fee for Terry Tempest Williams is \$10,000 and the catering for lunch  
46 and appetizers is approximately \$8,000. Without revenue, the organization is already over the

1 budgeted amount in the current fiscal year. In the last fiscal year, there was \$10,000 budgeted and  
2 it was not used at that time. Mayor Roger Bourke asked whether the intention is to break even.  
3 Ms. Nielsen denied this. She reported that the maximum capacity at Millcreek City Hall is a little  
4 over 200, so there will not be more tickets sold than the capacity. The CWC is not looking to  
5 break even on the Central Wasatch Symposium event, but to offset some of the associated costs.

6  
7 Commissioner Robinson would rather the event be a little over budget and have robust and  
8 enthusiastic attendance. Mayor Mendenhall agreed. She would prefer to bring a budget  
9 amendment request to the CWC Board than to have low attendance at the Central Wasatch  
10 Symposium. It is possible to solicit donations instead of there being a ticket price. Commissioner  
11 Robinson pointed out that there might be difficulties planning for food if it is a free event. He  
12 wondered whether a smaller fee might be appropriate. He feels \$50 could be too much of an ask.

13  
14 Chair Silvestrini asked whether sponsorships have been explored for the tabling. Ms. Nielsen  
15 reported that the tabling expo is not free and those interested need to purchase a ticket for  
16 admittance to the Central Wasatch Symposium. There is also a small table fee. In terms of event  
17 sponsorship from corporate sponsors, there have not been requests made, but there has been some  
18 outreach to Black Diamond and IME about a table at the event. She believes it will be possible to  
19 build upon the initial event and consider larger-scale sponsorships in the second year.

20  
21 Chair Silvestrini noted that it will likely be easier to sell sponsorships if the first Central Wasatch  
22 Symposium is a success. However, there are some entities, that occasionally have a budget for  
23 sponsored events like this. It might be worthwhile doing some outreach to see whether there is  
24 interest. Chair Silvestrini suggested informing the CWC Board that there might need to be a  
25 budget amendment. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a contingency fund in the current budget of  
26 \$60,000. At this point, it does not appear a budget amendment will need to be done for the year.

27  
28 Ms. Nielsen asked whether the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee wants the ticket price for the  
29 Central Wasatch Symposium to be reduced or removed. She explained that CWC Staff considered  
30 a free event, but the event planners stated that a ticketed event would be best, as it makes it easier  
31 for planning and food. Additionally, there tends to be more buy-in for attendees when a ticket is  
32 purchased. She reiterated that there is a sliding scale for the ticket cost for those who want or need  
33 it. There are no qualifications for the sliding scale price. The student cost for both days is \$10.

34  
35 Commissioner Robinson pointed out that Mr. Diegel left a comment in the Zoom chat box about  
36 a per-day fee since someone might want to attend one day of the event rather than both days. Chair  
37 Silvestrini pointed out that there could be a management issue with that. Mayor Bourke stated that  
38 the Committee feels \$50 is too high and \$0 is too little. It is possible to choose something in  
39 between. Mayor Mendenhall does not see anything on the website about admission on a sliding  
40 scale. There is a standard option or standard with a tabling spot. It is not clear how to receive a  
41 discounted rate. She asked that the website be updated to explicitly state that there is a desire for  
42 all interested to attend. There could be an email address provided for discounted ticket options.  
43 Ms. Nielsen reported that the website landing page, asks visitors to contact Director of Operations,  
44 Samantha Kilpack, to request a discounted or student ticket. However, it is possible to make that  
45 stand out more. It was noted that it is bolded on some browsers and not on others.

1 Mayor Mendenhall asked that the registration form reiterate the information about discounted  
2 rates. Ms. Nielsen reported that it was originally included there, but the event planners suggested  
3 removing it to simplify the page. It is possible to add that back in if desired by the Committee.

4  
5 Commissioner Robinson wondered whether the event planners advocated for the \$50 ticket price.  
6 Ms. Nielsen confirmed this. The event planners did not believe the price was too much or too  
7 little. That being said, the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee may have a different opinion.  
8 Discussions were had about an appropriate ticket price. Chair Silvestrini thought that cutting the  
9 amount in half was too much. If it is cut at all, the ticket price should at least be \$30, but he does  
10 not feel \$50 is too high for a two-day event. Mayor Mendenhall believes the CWC should highlight  
11 the other pricing options more. Chair Silvestrini suggested advertising that Terry Tempest  
12 Williams is the keynote speaker. Commissioner Robinson asked that there be clear bullet points  
13 on the website to outline the highlights of the Central Wasatch Symposium. It should be digestible.  
14 He asked that it look more like an invitation and that it also mention the catered lunch. Ms. Nielsen  
15 confirmed that those changes will be made so all of the information is clear and inviting.

16  
17 Mayor Mendenhall noted that if the attendance numbers are not high enough a couple of weeks  
18 before the event, there could be a campaign on social media that advertises discounted tickets. She  
19 wants there to be a strategy in place that will boost attendance numbers if that becomes an issue.  
20 Ms. Nielsen thanked the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Members for their feedback. Based  
21 on the discussions, the ticket price for the Central Wasatch Symposium will not be amended, but  
22 the information about the discounted tickets will be added back onto the ticketing page, and the  
23 landing page for the event will be reworked to further clarify all of the event information.

24  
25 Commissioner Robinson expressed support for the Central Wasatch Symposium program. Laura  
26 Briefer noted that Salt Lake County is missing as a jurisdiction. She knows that the County is no  
27 longer on the CWC, but other jurisdictions that are not on the CWC were invited. She wondered  
28 whether it would be worth reaching out to see if there is interest in participation. Ms. Nielsen  
29 reported that Jason Wolf will be at the symposium, but it is possible to invite Mayor Jenny Wilson.

## 30 **Board Retreat Agenda**

### 31 **1. The Committee will Discuss the November 1, 2024, Board Retreat Agenda.**

32  
33 Ms. Nielsen presented the CWC Board Retreat agenda. She reported that the CWC Board Retreat  
34 will take place on November 1, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a lot of work done  
35 in that time and it will be facilitated by Karen Hevel-Mingo. It will take place at the River Oaks  
36 Golf Course in Sandy City. The retreat will start with a Sandy City sustainability presentation  
37 from Mayor Monica Zoltanski, which will focus on some of the sustainability initiatives there.

38  
39 The facilitator will welcome the attendees and review the expectations for the day. Following that  
40 introduction, there will be an ice-breaker activity. From there, Ben McAdams will present a brief  
41 history of the Mountain Accord. Ms. Nielsen explained that during the CWC Board Retreat, the  
42 intention is to reorient back to the CWNCR. As a result, the history of the Mountain Accord will  
43 be reviewed as well as the various iterations of the CWNCR. There will then be breakout  
44 discussions. The first set of discussion prompts in the Run of Show document were reviewed:  
45  
46

- The Mountain Accord was created nearly a decade ago to address four key issues: environment, recreation, transportation, and the economy.
  - With the opportunity to reintroduce the CWNCRRA, what are the top priorities in each of these core areas? What other priorities have emerged that should be written into the CWNCRRA?
  - Map out a timeline, including key elements leading up to the introduction of the bill and successful passage.

Ms. Nielsen explained that the idea behind the first set of discussion prompts is to encourage participants to think about the CWNCRRA. It has been some time since the CWC put forward the motion behind the CWNCRRA. The goal of the retreat is to prioritize the movement of the bill.

Commissioner Robinson asked if the facilitator had reviewed the Run of Show document, which was confirmed. Ms. Briefer hopes when the breakout discussions take place, the four key issues will not be discussed as if these issues are separate from one another. She pointed out that these are interconnected issues. Chair Silvestrini reported that he will have to participate in the CWC Board Retreat remotely. It can be difficult to participate in small group discussions when attending remotely. He wondered whether it would be best to talk through the questions as one group. There was some support for that approach, as the discussion would then remain focused on the questions.

Mayor Mendenhall explained that it can be beneficial to talk through matters in small groups. The facilitator could choose a few participants at random to discuss one of the key issues and then bring the highlights of that discussion to the larger group. Commissioner Robinson suggested that a few minutes be provided to those selected participants. Ms. Nielsen reported that the small group breakout discussions were originally envisioned with five or six participants in each of the groups. She likes that group size, because it ensures that everyone is able to comment. Reports from each of the groups will then be shared with the rest of the retreat participants. Committee Members expressed support for the breakout discussion exercises described by Ms. Nielsen. Chair Silvestrini stressed the importance of allowing adequate time to review what has been discussed.

Ms. Nielsen reported that a lot of time has been provided for the breakout discussion. There is no desire to rush through that process since it is important for participants to have these conversations and report back to the other participants. After that first breakout discussion, there will be lunch and a short CWC trivia activity. From there, CWC Staff will present and hold a Q&A session on the founding of the CWC and the CWNCRRA. Then there will be another small group discussion. Ms. Nielsen shared the discussion prompt questions for that section of the CWC Board Retreat:

- Revisiting the timeline drafted this morning, expand on what needs to happen for passage of the CWNCRRA.
  - Who are the key stakeholders, including the Stakeholders Council, that are critical for success?
  - What needs to be in place for passage?
  - What barriers need to be addressed and what are the strategies to overcome the barriers?

1 Ms. Nielsen reported that there will then be a short break and then a final small group discussion:

- 2
- 3 • The CWNCRRA just passed! Now what?
- 4 ○ How can the Board and Staff focus their energy on CWNCRRA implementation?
- 5 ○ What role do member jurisdictions play, individually, and collectively?
- 6 ○ What role does the Stakeholders Council play? The larger public?
- 7

8 There will also be a gallery walk where ideas from the table conversation sessions will be  
9 reviewed. Those present will make notes on ideas that stand out, consider connections across  
10 jurisdictional boundaries, and discuss actionable items. Ms. Nielsen noted that more time can be  
11 allotted for this exercise if necessary. Chair Silvestrini thought it made sense to expand the time  
12 for that exercise. Mayor Mendenhall felt participants should regroup at the end of the CWC Board  
13 Retreat to discuss the key takeaways and what there is excitement to move forward with.

14

15 Mayor Bourke questioned the value of focusing on the CWNCRRA given the challenges.  
16 Commissioner Robinson noted that it would be worthwhile to brainstorm what needs to change in  
17 order to reach a consensus on the CWNCRRA. Chair Silvestrini agreed that State opposition needs  
18 to be overcome, so whatever is done must address that need. Mayor Mendenhall believes the  
19 organization is trying to evolve based on what did not work. Ms. Nielsen explained that  
20 Congressional Legislation takes a long time. The CWNCRRA is important and one of the goals of  
21 the CWC Board Retreat is to discuss it further. That includes the challenges mentioned by Mayor  
22 Bourke. There is a desire to reestablish momentum amongst Board Members and consider what  
23 may need to change. The removal of the land exchanges was a major change made previously.  
24 There are opportunities to add exchanges back in or find other ways to involve the ski resorts. She  
25 asked whether the discussion prompt should be amended to reflect the concerns expressed.

26

27 Commissioner Robinson thought there could be a discussion about what it would take to include  
28 the ski resorts. Until those interests are telling the State that they want to see the Legislation move  
29 forward, he does not believe it will go very far. Mayor Mendenhall suggested asking Mr.  
30 McAdams to talk about why the CWNCRRA did not work before to provide context. His experience  
31 is relevant and can be beneficial to the CWC. Ms. Briefer agrees with the suggestion and feels  
32 that would be useful. She reported that in the Mountain Accord, additional water for things like  
33 snowmaking was only available from Salt Lake City if there were certain protections in place.  
34 That was something the ski resorts valued in their previous support of the Legislation.

35

36 John Knoblock reported that during the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, an hour or so was spent  
37 breaking out into groups to discuss the pros, cons, challenges, and barriers to the CWNCRRA. The  
38 discussion summary is available for review in the CWNCRRA Discussion Summary document.

39

40 Ms. Nielsen noted that she has spoken to the General Managers from all of the Cottonwood Canyon  
41 resorts. Based on those discussions, land and water are still very important to them. As for the  
42 CWNCRRA, she has been speaking to the State lobbying team and there is a lot in the works. It  
43 was recommended that 2025 be spent rebuilding momentum and to submit a resolution of support  
44 for the 2026 State Legislative Session. Discussions were had about the Run of Show document.  
45 Mayor Mendenhall asked if there was time during the CWC Board Retreat to talk about the 2025

1 goal. Ms. Nielsen suggested that instead of, “The CWNCRRA just passed! Now what?” there could  
2 be discussions about 2025. For example, how to best focus on the CWNCRRA moving forward.

3  
4 Ms. Nielsen reported that the changes will be made to the document and shared with Ms. Hevel-  
5 Mingo. It will then be shared with the CWC Board and Special Advisors. She hopes the CWC  
6 Board Retreat will be productive and reiterated that it will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### 7 8 **Special Advisors Bylaws Amendment Update**

#### 9 10 **1. The Committee will Discuss an Amendment to the Bylaws to Appoint Special** 11 **Advisors to the Board of Commissioners.**

12  
13 Ms. Nielsen reported that Amber Broadaway, the President and CEO of Solitude Mountain Resort,  
14 will be added as a Special Advisor to the CWC Board and will represent the four ski resorts in the  
15 Cottonwood Canyons. The intention is to have all four systems represented. Ms. Broadaway will  
16 represent the economy system. Spencer Shaver from Save Our Canyons will represent the  
17 environment system. Ms. Broadaway and Mr. Shaver will attend and participate in the retreat.

18  
19 Ms. Nielsen explained that at the CWC Board Meeting on December 2, 2024, there will be a  
20 proposed amendment to the bylaws to create the Special Advisor positions. At that meeting, Ms.  
21 Broadaway will join as the economy system representative and Mr. Shaver will join as the  
22 environment system representative. Both will be released from their roles on the Stakeholders  
23 Council. The plan is for them to participate in the CWC Board Retreat on November 1, 2024, even  
24 though the official appointments will not occur until December 2, 2024. Commissioner Robinson  
25 pointed out that it might be possible to vote on the Special Advisors at the beginning of the retreat  
26 instead. It was determined that the vote would occur at the start of the CWC Board Retreat.

### 27 28 **Environmental Dashboard**

#### 29 30 **1. The Committee will Discuss a Survey Developed by the Stakeholders Council** 31 **Environment System Committee to Solicit Feedback on the Environmental** 32 **Dashboard.**

#### 33 34 **2. The Committee will Discuss a Storyboarding Workshop to Develop a Set of** 35 **Improvements to the Environmental Dashboard and a Plan for Implementation.**

36  
37 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Stakeholders Council Environment Systems Committee has  
38 developed a survey to solicit feedback on the Environmental Dashboard. It has not been sent out  
39 to members of the public at this time, but the survey is in support of a larger goal, which is to hold  
40 a Storyboarding Workshop. At that workshop, there will be discussions about what is currently  
41 on the Environmental Dashboard and how the Environmental Dashboard can be improved. Ms.  
42 Nielsen explained that the idea is to schedule the Storyboarding Workshop for February 2025. It  
43 will be a public meeting and the goal is to gather feedback on the Environmental Dashboard.

44  
45 Mayor Bourke asked if there is data on who is currently using the Environmental Dashboard and  
46 at what frequency. Ms. Nielsen explained that there is frequency use data available for review.

## **Stakeholders Council Discussion**

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

The Chair and Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council shared updates with the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. Mr. Knoblock reported that at the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, there were strong levels of participation both in-person and online. There were discussions about the CWNCR. CWC Staff put together a chart that summarizes the breakout discussions. Ms. Nielsen noted that the chart will be included in the CWC Board Retreat materials.

As for the subcommittees, those continue to meet on an as-needed basis. Mr. Knoblock reported that the Millcreek Canyon Committee did not meet this month, but the various Systems Committees met. He noted that the Economy Systems Committee continues to struggle, but the other Systems Committees have had some productive meetings. The Recreation Systems Committee has a lot of ideas about sharing information on short family-friendly hike locations. That Committee has also discussed accessibility with respect to private property that closes off-trail recreation. Some of that is taking place in the Central Wasatch already at Cardiff, but there is the potential for that to happen in other areas as well, such as the future Wasatch Crest Trail.

Mr. Diegel discussed the Cardiff Canyon issue. There was a long series of meetings with the County and that resulted in a list of recommendations to the U.S. Forest Service in the event that the Cardiff Canyon Owners Association applies for a Special Use Permit. There has not been an application submitted for a Special Use Permit at this time, but that might occur in the future.

## **Staff Announcements**

### **1. Youth Council Updates.**

Community Engagement Coordinator, Mia McNeil, reported that a new member was accepted into the CWC Youth Council. That new member heard about the Council through the “In The Wasatch” podcast. There are a lot of passionate individuals currently serving. The next CWC Youth Council Meeting will take place in November. Any interested Board Members may attend. Ms. Nielsen shared information about the “In The Wasatch” podcast and noted that CWC Staff recorded a verbal recitation of the most recent version of the CWNCR for an upcoming episode.

### **2. CWC Board Retreat on November 1, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

The CWC Board Retreat will take place on November 1, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### **3. The Next EBAC Meeting is on November 18, 2024.**

The next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting will be on November 18, 2024.



1     **4.     The Next CWC Board Meeting is on December 2, 2024.**

2  
3     The next CWC Board Meeting will be on December 2, 2024.

4  
5     **Other Business**

6  
7     There were no additional discussions.

8  
9     **Closing**

10  
11    **1.     Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**  
12    **Committee Meeting.**

13  
14    **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to ADJOURN the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee  
15    Meeting. Erin Mendenhall seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent  
16    of the Committee.

17  
18    The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at  
19    approximately 4:49 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 Monday, October 21, 2024.*  
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_