



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) BOARD RETREAT
HELD FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024, AT 8:30 A.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED
BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS
THE CLUBHOUSE AT THE RIVER OAKS GOLF COURSE, 9300 RIVERSIDE DRIVE,
SANDY, UTAH**

Board Members:

Chair Jeff Silvestrini
Christopher F. Robinson
Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Mayor Dan Knopp
Mayor Mike Weichers
Mayor Roger Bourke
Mayor Monica Zoltanski
Bill Ciraco
Carlton Christensen, Ex Officio
Annalee Munsey, Ex Officio
Amber Broadway, Special Advisor
Spencer Shaver, Special Advisor

Staff:

Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations
Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator

Others:

John Knoblock
Tom Diegel
Laura Briefer
Dave Whittekiend (U.S. Forest Service Supervisor, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
National Forest)
Adam Shaw (Acting District Ranger, Salt Lake Ranger District)
Kim Bell (Deputy Mayor, Sandy City)
Tom Ward (Public Utilities Director, Sandy City)
Dan Medina (Parks and Recreation Director, Sandy City)
Jamie Tsandes (Former Planning Commissioner and Landscape Architect,
Sandy City)
Ben McAdams
Karen Hevel-Mingo (Retreat Facilitator)

1 **OPENING**

2
3 1. **Chair Jeff Silvestrini will Call the Meeting to Order and Welcome Board Members and**
4 **the Public.**

5
6 Chair Jeff Silvestrini called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Board Retreat to order at
7 approximately 8:30 a.m. and welcomed those present. He attended virtually.
8

9 2. **(Action) Consideration of Resolution 2024-31 - Amending the CWC Bylaws.**

10
11 Chair Silvestrini reported that Resolution 2024-31 – Amending the CWC Bylaws is before the CWC
12 Board for consideration. The proposal is to amend the bylaws to allow there to be Special Advisors.
13 Once the Action Items are passed, the new Special Advisors can actively participate in the Retreat.
14 He explained that there is a desire to involve the environmental and recreation communities as well
15 as the ski resorts for economic interests. The idea is for the CWC Board to receive broad input. Chair
16 Silvestrini reported that the Special Advisors will be non-voting members of the CWC Board.
17

18 **MOTION:** Monica Zoltanski moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-31 – Amending the CWC
19 Bylaws. Christopher Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent
20 of the Board.
21

22 3. **(Action) Consideration of Resolution 2024-32 - Releasing and Appointing Members of**
23 **the Stakeholders Council.**

24
25 Chair Silvestrini reported that Resolution 2024-32 – Releasing and Appointing Members of the
26 Stakeholders Council relates to Stakeholders Council terms. He took a moment to thank those who
27 have served on the Stakeholders Council and welcomed the new members of the Council.
28

29 **MOTION:** Erin Mendenhall moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-32 – Releasing and Appointing
30 Members of the Stakeholders Council. Monica Zoltanski seconded the motion. The motion passed
31 with the unanimous consent of the Board.
32

33 4. **(Action) Consideration of Resolution 2024-33 - Appointing Special Advisors to the CWC**
34 **Board of Commissioners.**

35
36 Chair Silvestrini discussed Resolution 2024-33 – Appointing Special Advisors to the CWC Board of
37 Commissioners. He stated that Amber Broadaway and Spencer Shaver will be appointed. Mr. Shaver
38 will represent recreationalists and environmentalists and Ms. Broadaway will represent the ski resorts.
39

40 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE Resolution 2024-33 – Appointing Special
41 Advisors to the CWC Board of Commissioners, which includes Spencer Shaver who is the Executive
42 Director of Save Our Canyons, and Amber Broadaway who is a representative for Ski Utah. Dan
43 Knopp seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
44

45 Commissioner Christopher Robinson pointed out that it is important to identify the Special Advisors
46 by name because the next representatives of the environmental community or resorts may not be the
47 same individuals. At this point, it makes sense to identify the two individuals appointed. Chair

1 Silvestrini agreed that it is appropriate to identify the Special Advisors by name. Mayor Dan Knopp
2 noted that the Resolution language states that up to four Special Advisors can be added.

3 4 **SANDY CITY SUSTAINABILITY PRESENTATION**

5
6 Mayor Monica Zoltanski welcomed CWC Board Retreat participants to the River Oaks Golf Course
7 in Sandy City. She thanked everyone for attending and explained that there will be a brief
8 sustainability presentation. Exciting projects are happening in Sandy City. She reviewed some of
9 the projects taking place in the City and thanked the CWC for their assistance with the Ski Bus Priority
10 Access Program. That program has been beneficial on canyon closure days. She hopes that everyone
11 will enjoy their time in Sandy City. Wetlands presentation slides were shared.

12
13 Parks and Recreation Director, Dan Medina, and Landscape Architect, Jamie Tsandes, reviewed the
14 wetlands presentation materials. Mr. Medina introduced himself to the CWC Board and shared
15 information about the wetlands area. He pointed out the old wetlands and new wetlands. Ms. Tsandes
16 reported that the existing wetland is to the north of Sandy City Hall. It is a highly urbanized area and
17 it was an existing mitigation wetland. The City wanted to move it to allow for future expansion.
18 When there is already a wetland that has been mitigated, it is difficult to move that wetland, because
19 typically there are deed restrictions that are placed on it. However, this particular wetland did not
20 have those. This work began back in 2011 and it took a long time for it to be permitted and mitigated
21 to a new location. The new location is south of the location of the CWC Board Retreat. It is in a
22 better location because there are open water bodies that help to support the wetland. Ms. Tsandes
23 shared information about the fishery and how it relates to the mitigation of this wetland relocation.

24
25 Some construction activities needed to be accommodated, including an eight-inch water line.
26 Ms. Tsandes shared images of the wetlands and pointed out some of the plantings. She noted that the
27 invasive species have been removed. When invasive species take over, those species then impact the
28 habitat. A split rail was put in so people could look at the wetlands from a distance. A boundary has
29 been created with that fence, but it also adds a nice aesthetic element to the design.

30
31 Ms. Tsandes reported that when more desired species are introduced, this encourages both riparian
32 and wildlife habitats to use and benefit from the area. As for water conservation, wetlands are
33 beneficial for stormwater. There is an educational component to an environment like this in an urban
34 setting. Mr. Medina added that it is a wonderful amenity and encouraged attendees to look at the
35 wetlands following the CWC Board Retreat. The plan is to have a ribbon cutting in the spring. Mayor
36 Zoltanski shared additional information about the wetlands and the work that has been done. She
37 thanked all involved in the process and Mr. Medina and Ms. Tsandes for the presentation.

38
39 A short video was shared with attendees to review some highlights of the work done in Sandy City.

40 41 **INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THE DAY**

42
43 Retreat Facilitator, Karen Hevel-Mingo, introduced herself to the attendees. She was excited about
44 the Retreat and believes there will be a lot of beneficial conversations. Ms. Hevel-Mingo
45 acknowledged that many of the CWC Board Retreat attendees know one another already, but there
46 would be a short round of introductions. Commissioner Bill Ciraco introduced himself and stated
47 that he is on the Park City Council. In December, Mayor Nann Worel asked him if he would be
48 interested in participating on the CWC Board. Ex Officio Member, Carlton Christensen, serves as

1 the Chair of the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) Board of Trustees. Laura Briefer serves as Director
2 of the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. Mayor Roger Bourke introduced himself as the
3 Mayor of Alta. Mayor Mike Weichers introduced himself as the Mayor of Cottonwood Heights.
4 Dave Whittekiend is the Forest Supervisor for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Tom Diegel
5 introduced himself as Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council.

6
7 Ms. Broadaway is the President/COO of Solitude Mountain Resort and one of the newly appointed
8 Special Advisors to the CWC Board. Commissioner Robinson is on the Summit County Council.
9 John Knoblock is Chair of the Stakeholders Council. Mr. Shaver introduced himself as the Executive
10 Director of Save Our Canyons and the second newly appointed Special Advisor. Mayor Dan Knopp
11 stated that he is the Mayor of Brighton. Adam Shaw reported that he is the Acting District Ranger
12 for the Salt Lake Ranger District.

13
14 Ex Officio Member, Annalee Munsey, is the General Manager at the Metropolitan Water District of
15 Salt Lake and Sandy. Mayor Erin Mendenhall is the Mayor of Salt Lake City. Ben McAdams
16 expressed his gratitude for being at the Retreat. CWC Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, identified
17 herself as a member of CWC Staff. Tom Ward is the Public Utilities Director for Sandy City. Mayor
18 Zoltanski is the Mayor of Sandy City. Other Retreat attendees included Chair Silvestrini, Director of
19 Operations, Samantha Kilpack, Community Engagement Coordinator, Mia McNeil, and Deputy
20 Mayor of Sandy City, Kim Bell.

21
22 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reported that the next few minutes will be spent capturing the expectations for the
23 day. She asked attendees to share some of their goals for the CWC Board Retreat. Ex Officio
24 Christensen believes the Retreat is an opportunity to come together and discuss how to achieve some
25 of the original goals of the organization. Mr. Knoblock referenced the Mountain Accord document.
26 There was additional discussion about the intentions for the CWC Board Retreat agenda items.

27
28 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reviewed the guidelines for the CWC Board Retreat. She stressed the importance
29 of contributions from all attendees. All attendees' thoughts and experiences are an important part of
30 the conversation. She asked that attendees listen for insights and ways to connect ideas. It is possible
31 to agree to disagree but to do so with a level of curiosity. She hoped this would be a fun experience
32 for everyone. Information about the idea garden for the CWC Board Retreat was shared. Ms. Hevel-
33 Mingo asked that all cell phones be put on silent and placed out of sight during discussions.

34 35 **ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY**

36
37 It was noted that there will be an icebreaker activity to start the CWC Board Retreat. Ms. Hevel-
38 Mingo asked attendees to share a comment about their first experience in the Central Wasatch. She
39 reported that she came down as a freshman at the University of Utah and discovered Millcreek
40 Canyon. Commissioner Ciraco’s first experience in the Central Wasatch was in his senior year of
41 high school.

42
43 Ex-Officio Christensen stated that as a child, his father often took the family camping in Big
44 Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Those were fond memories for him.
45 Ms. Briefer explained that in 2002, she received a call from the former Mayor of the Town of Alta
46 about a job interview. She remembered what it was like to see the area for the first time. Mayor
47 Bourke stated that when he finished school, his family moved to the area and he experienced Alta.
48 Mayor Weichers shared a story about the job that he had in sixth grade. Mr. Whittekiend commented

1 that he grew up enjoying the outdoors and learned to ski at Snowbasin as a child. Mr. Diegel shared
2 a memory about visiting Upper Silver Fork and the time spent with his family. Ms. Broadway stated
3 that in 2017, her husband went on a ski trip out west with her brother and nephew. She heard a lot
4 about the trip, and a few years later, she received an email about a new President needed for Solitude
5 Mountain Resort. She applied for the position and her first trip to the area was associated with that
6 process.

7
8 Commissioner Robinson reported that the first time he visited the Central Wasatch was in the late
9 1970s at a cabin at Albion Basin. Mr. Knoblock stated that he hiked Mill B North and was amazed
10 that it was possible to be in the city but be able to hike somewhere like that from a trailhead. Mayor
11 Zoltanski was between her second and third year of law school and received an invitation to see Alta
12 for winter break. She spent 10 days skiing and loved the experience because it was a very different
13 area than the one that she grew up in. That experience was one of the many reasons she was compelled
14 to work hard to preserve the principles of the Mountain Accord. Mr. Shaver shared his experience at
15 Grizzly Gulch and talked about backcountry skiing. Mayor Knopp reported that he moved to the area
16 46 years ago and visited Snowbird. Mr. Shaw explained that one of his first memories was cross-
17 country skiing at Spruces and Cardiff. He has had a lot of incredible experiences in the area.

18
19 Ms. Munsey noted that one of her most vivid memories was when the students were able to ski in
20 middle school. Mayor Mendenhall shared information about her childhood and experiences in the
21 Central Wasatch. Mr. McAdams remarked that he was able to experience the Central Wasatch from
22 a young age. Chair Silvestrini grew up in Michigan and learned to ski at a place called Mt. Brighton.
23 He moved to Utah in 1976 for law school. The next year, he went skiing with some law school
24 friends. The first run he was taken on was The Cirque at Snowbird where he fell in love with the
25 Central Wasatch. The mountains are an amazing resource and they have enriched his life. Ms. Hevel-
26 Mingo thanked everyone for sharing their stories. It is impressive that everyone has a meaningful
27 story about the Central Wasatch. The passion the attendees have for the area is clear based on the
28 stories shared.

29 30 **HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN ACCORD PRESENTATION AND Q&A**

31
32 Ms. Nielsen reported that Mr. McAdams was involved in the Mountain Accord process and has an
33 impressive resume. He was present at the CWC Board Retreat to review some history of the Mountain
34 Accord and to answer outstanding questions. Mr. McAdams recalled that the Mountain Accord work
35 was underway when he was elected the Mayor of Salt Lake County. At that time, he joined the
36 conversations about what would be done with the Wasatch. In the State of the County address in
37 2014, he described this process and talked about alternate futures for Salt Lake County.

38
39 There is a future that is decided by circumstances, litigation, and legislation, which is essentially a
40 future that is forced upon others. However, there is also a future that is decided based on reactions to
41 smaller situations. The Wasatch area will look very different 10, 20, and 100 years from now than it
42 does today. There is a future that chooses the area and a future that others can choose. Mr. McAdams
43 commented that it is important to think about the future there is a desire to choose for the Wasatch.

44
45 During the initial Mountain Accord process and discussions, there were some broad categories
46 identified including recreation, transportation, economy, and environment. These categories have
47 different interests but there is overlap between all of them. When thinking about who has the authority
48 and power to make decisions about the Wasatch, it was found that the authority was fractioned across

1 many different entities. Different entities had land use authority and many transportation decisions
2 were made by the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) and UTA. There was no ability at
3 that time for all of the different entities to come together, take action, and implement the desired
4 future as a collective. The different stakeholders felt they had no choice but to fight tooth and nail
5 for every policy that they cared about. There was no compromise or collaboration taking place.

6
7 Those involved in the early part of the process saw a future that was choosing the area rather than a
8 future that was thoughtfully chosen. There was a desire to come together to fight for a future that was
9 chosen. This process required coordination and collaboration. Mr. McAdams explained that it
10 became possible to compromise and negotiate certain items based on different priorities. There was
11 suddenly potential to come together and move different items forward. During consensus-building
12 exercises, it was identified that there were arguments about positions. It was determined that a step
13 back would be taken to identify values rather than individual positions. While there might be different
14 positions about the area, there was often commonality with the actual values.

15
16 The Mountain Accord came out of the desire to find commonality in values. Mr. McAdams reported
17 that there were Systems Groups that identified the priorities and values associated with that particular
18 area of interest. This was a lengthy process, but in 2015, the Mountain Accord was signed. It was a
19 consensus of various stakeholders and many entities came together through the process.

20
21 Mr. McAdams explained that Mountain Accord was not overly detailed, but there were several
22 recommendations. One recommendation was the creation of the CWC. All of the stakeholder groups
23 having a forum to sit together and discuss different matters is especially meaningful. Mr. McAdams
24 is pleased to see that the CWC work continues to move forward. There is now a forum for sharing
25 and consensus building, which is something positive that has come out of the Mountain Accord.

26
27 One element of the Mountain Accord was the idea that it is not possible to accomplish everything
28 there is a desire to accomplish without pursuing legislation. Major land holdings and decisions are
29 made by the Federal Government and there was a desire to engage with the United States Congress
30 to achieve the best outcome and solution. Mr. McAdams noted that in 2017, the CWC was created.

31
32 The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRRA”) draft process
33 began and in late 2016, there was a hearing for the legislation. The hearing exposed some work that
34 needed to be done. There was a commitment after that hearing to continue work on the legislation.
35 There was some hope that the legislation would pass, but it ultimately did not pass in the remaining
36 days of the 2016 session. Soon after that, Representative Jason Chaffetz, announced his resignation
37 from Congress and things went in a different direction. At that time, there were discussions about
38 windows of opportunity. There was a window of opportunity back then because there was a coalition
39 of leaders who were willing to step outside of their comfort zones and champion compromises. That
40 window more or less closed at the end of 2016. Though the legislation has been continually pursued,
41 it has been a difficult road. Legislation is the way to achieve the maximum objectives for the Wasatch,
42 but it is not the only way. As a result, some other work has been done through the CWC.

43
44 Since 2016, there has been continued work on the CWCNRA. Mr. McAdams believes another
45 window may be opening shortly. The circumstances have changed since 2016 as has the Wasatch.
46 With a new window opening, he hopes that the CWC will be able to reinvigorate the legislation
47 discussions. Mr. McAdams stated that the future Wasatch will look different than the present, due to
48 population growth, transportation needs, growing recreational users, climate change, conservation

1 pressures, development pressures, and so on. Whether the future is essentially chosen because
2 everyone is reacting to what is happening or the future is mapped out thoughtfully remains to be seen.
3 Mr. McAdams is pleased to know that the CWC and others continue to look to the future.

4
5 Mr. McAdams was asked to speak about some of the characteristics that indicate the window of
6 opportunity is reopening. He explained that passing legislation is never an easy task. This will require
7 local consensus. If there is local consensus achieved, he believes it will be much easier to move this
8 process forward. As for the proposed gondola, he pointed out that it is an action-forcing proposal.
9 He added that no one is only focused on one element. Many have an interest in more than one or
10 even all of the different systems, including transportation, economy, recreation, and environment.

11
12 Ms. Briefer thanked Mr. McAdams for sharing the background information on the Mountain Accord
13 and CWNCRRA. A lot has changed since the 2014-2017 timeframe. She wonders how much the
14 watershed and pressures facing the area have impacted the situation. Mr. McAdams stated that there
15 are opportunities to have discussions about the Wasatch. Canyon management is changing as far as
16 what that will require. As a result, it is possible to have continued discussions about the future.

17 **BREAK**

18
19
20 The CWC Board Retreat participants took a short break ahead of the first small group discussion.

21 **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

22
23
24 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reported that the next portion of the CWC Board Retreat will focus on a small
25 group discussion. She explained that there will be a discussion question posed to the table groups.
26 There will be two rounds of this question. Approximately 20 minutes will be allotted for this activity.
27 There is a process chart available to guide some of the discussions. She will provide a five-minute
28 warning for participants. The main points from the discussions should be written down on the paper
29 provided so the information can be shared later. For each table, she asked that one person remain in
30 that location for both the first and second rounds. The person who remains at the table will take a
31 few minutes to review the previous table conversation. From there, the information can be built upon.
32 When the second round is finished, there will be a report from each table to the full group.

33
34 The first questions that will be considered during the small group discussion are as follows:

- 35
36 • The Mountain Accord was signed almost a decade ago and there were four key interdependent
37 issues determined (environment, recreation, transportation, and economy) in the Central
38 Wasatch. As the CWC is looking at the reintroduction of the CWNCRRA, what are the top
39 priorities in each of these areas? What has changed since the drafting of the CWNCRRA? What
40 other priorities have emerged that should be included in the new version of the CWNCRRA?

41
42 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reiterated that the small discussion groups will have 20 minutes to discuss.

43
44 After approximately 15 minutes of discussion, a five-minute warning was provided to the small
45 discussion groups. Ms. Hevel-Mingo later asked the pre-determined individual to remain at the table.
46 Everyone else was asked to move to a different table and create a new group. The individual who
47 remained behind read out highlights from the previous discussion. She encouraged attendees to build

1 onto the priorities for environment, recreation, transportation, and economy before the report came
2 out.

3 4 **REPORT OUT**

5
6 Following the small group discussion, one member from each group shared a report that summarized
7 the conversations. The key points from the first group were shared by Mr. Whittekiend. It was stated
8 that there were discussions about the land exchanges and some of the issues related to that. There are
9 options to do land exchange and purchase. If Congress designates authority to the U.S. Forest Service
10 to sell property, that is something that can be pursued, but it takes some sort of legislation for that to
11 occur. In the legislation, if that authority was granted, it would be best if the money remained within
12 the Forest land. He pointed out that ski areas are still looking for land. As for recreation, a more
13 robust trail network was discussed in the upper Cottonwood Canyons. This includes additional trails
14 as well as better-developed trails. There could also be user-designated trails. For example, mountain
15 bicycle-only trails or directional trails. Mr. Whittekiend stated that the discussion also had to do with
16 additional wilderness areas and additions to the existing wilderness areas.

17
18 For transportation, there is no infrastructure in the canyons to support mass transit outside of the ski
19 areas. Trailheads would need to be developed in a way that it becomes possible to accommodate
20 mass transit. There were also discussions about carrying capacity, which includes physical capacity.
21 Based on some conversations that Mr. Whittekiend has had, the trails have not reached the physical
22 capacity at this time. However, there is also social capacity to consider. The use in the canyons is
23 not reducing and continues to increase, but the social capacity is changing based on expectations. The
24 Central Wasatch and Uinta-Wasatch-Cache are available all day every day, so there is always
25 someone out there doing something. That needs to be taken into consideration.

26
27 Ms. Hevel-Mingo asked for the second group to share information about their discussions. Mr. Shaw
28 stated that there were a lot of similar discussions as the first group. He noted that there were
29 conversations about transportation and the possibility of reservations in the canyons. The group also
30 noted that labor at the resorts has a seasonal component. There was additional discussion about
31 recreational activities, transportation, and National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) policies.

32
33 Commissioner Robinson shared information about the third group discussions. The group talked
34 about the future Olympics and how that can impact some of the work that will be done. Additionally,
35 there were conversations about the need for equitable access to the canyons, environmental initiatives,
36 and the increase in visitation to the canyons. It was pointed out that resort ownership has changed
37 over the years. Group members talked about the CWNCR and what it would take to succeed. He
38 stressed the importance of consensus and continuing to move the CWNCR forward in some way.

39
40 Ms. Briefer discussed the CWNCR and what needs to happen as part of that timeline. One vital
41 component is determining who needs to be at the table for the CWNCR discussions and consensus
42 building. Due to the changes that have occurred over the last 10 years as well as visitation numbers,
43 it might also be worthwhile to reconsider the boundaries of the CWNCR. It is necessary to
44 determine whether those boundaries are still effective and make the most sense. The land exchanges
45 were discussed as well. There were also conversations about the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan effort
46 and the transportation planning efforts. Despite other systems being well represented in some of this
47 work, it is difficult to point to anything related to environmental protection that is moving forward at
48 this time. She reminded everyone that the environment is critical to all of the different systems.

Ms. Hevel-Mingo stated that Ms. Nielsen would give each table a chart. The next exercise will focus on a timeline that starts in 2025. She asked attendees to focus on the key elements needed to coalition build, to think about the introduction of the CWCNRA, and to think about what it would take for the CWCNRA to pass. She reiterated that the exercise asks attendees to map out a timeline on the paper provided by CWC Staff. Ms. Hevel-Mingo clarified that the exercise will take place at the current tables attendees are sitting at. Following the timeline exercise, there was a lunch break provided.

LUNCH

CWC Board Retreat participants took a break for lunch at approximately 11:30 a.m. Ahead of lunch, Mayor Zoltanski introduced Mitch Stone from the River Oaks Golf Course and explained that he would share information about the course. Mr. Stone reported that the course was built in 1999 and Sandy City purchased it in 2002. There are 18 holes of golf available, but it is also a teaching facility and there is a two-sided driving range. He stated that there are 125 acres total and six full-time employees.

Ms. Nielsen asked CWC Board Retreat participants to ensure that they were back in their seats by 12:30 p.m. She explained that attendees can take the time to eat, chat, and look at the facilities.

CWC TRIVIA

Following the break for lunch, CWC Board Retreat attendees were asked to find their name tags. The placement of the name tags determined the table that participants would sit at for the time being. Ms. Kilpack explained that the next portion of the CWC Board Retreat agenda is dedicated to CWC trivia. She asked those who knew the answer to raise their hand or simply call out the answer first.

The first question was: "In what year was the Interlocal Agreement for the CWC signed?" Commissioner Robinson guessed 2015 and Ms. Briefer guessed 2017. Several other attendees also shouted out 2017. It was stated that the correct answer is 2017. The second question was: "Why was the CWC formed?" The first answer stated was to carry out the Mountain Accord. This was confirmed. The next question was: "During what years did the Mountain Accord process take place?" Several guesses were shared, but initial discussions started in 2013 with the document signed in 2015. It was added that the Mountain Accord Final Report was released in September 2016.

The next question was: "What is the name of the new CWC podcast?" Several attendees stated that it is called the In the Wasatch podcast. Ms. Kilpack asked the next trivia question, which was: "What project has the Stakeholders Council Millcreek Canyon Committee been working on since the inception of the Committee?" Mr. Knoblock stated that it was a Millcreek Canyon shuttle. Ms. Kilpack explained that the next question has two possible answers: "The CWC Youth Council was awarded funding from the CWC Short-Term Projects Grant Program for two projects. Name either one." One answer was shared for the Gear Shed project and another was shared for the Outdoor Film Festival.

Ms. Kilpack asked the next question: "When will the CWC's inaugural Central Wasatch Symposium take place?" Several attendees stated that it would take place on January 9 and 10, 2025. Another trivia question was shared: "How many subcommittees of the CWC Board are there?" There were several guesses, but she reported that four is the correct answer, with the Executive/Budget/Audit

1 Committee, Transportation Committee, Legislative and Land Tenure Committee, and Short-Term
2 Projects Committee. The last trivia question was shared, which was: “What is the name of the CWC
3 Meeting Minutes transcriber?” The correct answer was shared, which was Teri Forbes.

4 5 **FOUNDING OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION**

6
7 Ms. Nielsen welcomed back all attendees and thanked them for their participation in the CWC trivia
8 activity. She reminded those present that earlier in the Retreat, Mr. McAdams shared information
9 about the events that led to the Mountain Accord and CWNCR. She will now share information
10 about the founding of the CWC, what the CWC does, and what the organization achieves year-to-
11 year. Ralph Becker was the previous Executive Director of the CWC and he circulated a short
12 informational document entitled, “Why the Central Wasatch Commission?” earlier in the week. She
13 hoped all participants had an opportunity to read the document ahead of the CWC Board Retreat.

14
15 As heard earlier in the day, the Mountain Accord was a groundbreaking collaborative process where
16 stakeholders from all of the major interest groups in the Central Wasatch mountains met with a desire
17 to devise some plans for the long-term protection and sustainability of the area. The Mountain Accord
18 achieved a lot and it included a directive to create a government body that was able to carry out the
19 plans devised under the Mountain Accord. That government body is the CWC.

20
21 The Mountain Accord Charter was signed by over 80 stakeholders in 2015. It was a groundbreaking
22 consensus document. Creating a government entity out of thin air is a lengthy process, so between
23 2015 and 2017, work was done to determine who and what would be part of the CWC. Ms. Nielsen
24 reported that the CWC was officially created in 2017. Utah State Code allows for a coalition of
25 governments to create a new government, which is what the CWC is. It is an interlocal governmental
26 entity. When the CWC was created in 2017, it took some time to staff the organization. Mr. Becker
27 was the first Executive Director and retired shortly after the Communications Director. The directive
28 from the CWC Board in 2018 was to put all efforts into the legislation. That was the primary focus
29 during the early days of the CWC. Attempts were made to move the CWNCR forward.

30
31 In addition to advocating for the CWNCR and coordinating amongst all of the interest groups, the
32 CWC was there to address issues in the Central Wasatch mountains. Ms. Nielsen explained that the
33 CWC is a unique effort because there are not a lot of organizations that bring people from different
34 areas together to build consensus. At the end of the day, the goal is to convene and resolve conflict.

35
36 Ms. Nielsen shared a list of all the CWC Board members, including the two new Special Advisors.
37 There are Commissioners, Ex Officio Members, and Special Advisors. The membership brings
38 together all of the important decision-makers and those with jurisdictional boundaries within or
39 adjacent to the Central Wasatch. In addition to the CWC Board, there is the Stakeholders Council,
40 which includes members of the public who represent different organizations and interests. The
41 representation on the Council mainly covers the focus areas identified in the Mountain Accord.

42
43 In addition to the CWC Board and Stakeholders Council is the CWC Youth Council. In an effort to
44 expand who the organization is hearing from, the CWC more recently created the CWC Youth
45 Council for younger people to gather, talk about issues, and devise plans to benefit the study area. As
46 mentioned during the CWC trivia activity, two of the CWC Youth Council subcommittees obtained
47 some Short-Term Projects Grant Program funding for the Gear Shed and Outdoor Film Festival.

1 The CWC has a consensus-based approach and the aim is to ultimately enact some watershed land
2 protection to facilitate transportation improvements and decision making. In addition, there is a
3 portfolio of projects that have been successful over the years. This includes the Ski Bus Priority
4 Access Program, Short-Term Projects Grant Program, Visitor Use Study, and Environmental
5 Dashboard. There is also the Central Wasatch Symposium that is planned to take place in January.

6
7 Ms. Nielsen shared a list of the various CWC transit and transportation projects over the years. This
8 includes involvement with the Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action Plan (“BCC MAP”) and
9 shuttles. She shared additional information about the Ski Bus Priority Access Program. There was a
10 visual graphic shared to illustrate where the flow of traffic is around Wasatch Boulevard on canyon
11 closure days. That program was initiated in 2020 and has been successful. This year, the hope is to
12 expand the Ski Bus Priority Access Program into Cottonwood Heights. During previous years, the
13 program has been focused primarily on Little Cottonwood Canyon. Though the closure days are less
14 frequent in Big Cottonwood Canyon, there are still impacts that need to be considered in that area.

15
16 A list of the 2024 Short-Term Projects was shared with Retreat attendees. Ms. Nielsen explained that
17 it included support for the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance anchor maintenance project and support for
18 various shuttle programs. There was also continued support for graffiti abatement and community
19 partners. Ms. Nielsen next discussed the Environmental Dashboard. The Human Element has
20 incorporated the trail data from the Visitor Use Study that was recently completed and updated.

21
22 The cornerstone project for the CWC is the CWCNRA. Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWCNRA
23 proposes to enact many things in the canyons. Most notably, it would facilitate transportation
24 solutions, place permanent protections on the watershed that originates from the Cottonwood
25 Canyons, place permanent protections on the public lands in the canyons, and facilitate year-round
26 robust recreational opportunities. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, there seems to be a window
27 of opportunity opening for the CWCNRA. She believes 2025 is the year to plan a path forward.

28
29 Mr. Knoblock asked if there is a new map of the CWCNRA area. The map that has been around for
30 a long time may not still be accurate. If there was a GIS map, it would be possible to zoom in and
31 see more of the details. He stressed the importance of having the details figured out. Ms. Nielsen
32 reported that the most recent version of the map and the CWCNRA language are available for review.
33 She liked the suggestion shared by Mr. Knoblock and asked attendees to think about what a more
34 detailed map would look like. There were no additional questions about the CWC or CWCNRA.

35 36 **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

37
38 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reported that there will be another small group discussion. Based on some
39 conversations during the lunch break, the format will be changed slightly. Originally, the plan was
40 to have two rounds, similar to what was done in the morning. However, that will not be the case in
41 the second small group discussion activity. The questions this time focus on consensus building:

- 42
43 • How can the CWC Board and CWC Staff focus their energy on the CWCNRA
44 implementation? What role do member jurisdictions play, individuals and collectively? What
45 role does the Stakeholders Council play and what role does the larger public play?

46
47 With consensus building in mind, there will likely need to be some deeper conversations. Instead of
48 having two rounds of 20-minute conversations, she suggests having the conversations at the current

1 tables for approximately 40 minutes. From there, it will be possible to report to the larger group about
2 the discussions that were had at each of the tables. There was support for that approach. Attendees
3 were given time to discuss consensus building and consider all of the questions that were posed.

4 5 **REPORT OUT**

6
7 Following the small group discussions, one member from each group shared a report that summarized
8 the conversations. Mayor Mendenhall reviewed some of the discussions that were had in her group.
9 There was a suggestion for additional CWNCR map details. Without a refocus on conversations
10 with the ski resorts, it is unlikely that the legislation will be able to move forward. Ms. Hevel-Mingo
11 encouraged attendees to write down the main group takeaways on the available poster.

12
13 The second group shared information about their discussions. Some of them had to do with the
14 Congressional Delegation. There were also conversations about incremental improvements. It was
15 pointed out that a lot of improvements have happened over the last couple of ski seasons in terms of
16 the flow. UDOT has also implemented the traction program with enforcement. There have been
17 some incremental improvements that have had an outsized impact on the traffic in the canyons. The
18 CWNCR might not necessarily be what is needed if there is progress seen elsewhere. It might be
19 possible to make enough progress through these incremental changes that the legislation is not needed.
20 Perhaps the effort, money, and time do not need to be spent pursuing the legislation when some of
21 the other things that are being done might be effective and meaningful to the CWC study area. Mayor
22 Knopp pointed out that whatever legislation is presented will likely come back looking different than
23 what was proposed. He feels this is important for those involved in the CWNCR work to consider.

24
25 Ms. Briefer reviewed the highlights from discussions in the third group. She noted that there is an
26 opportunity for locals to tell the Federal Government how they want to see Federal lands managed.
27 There are clearly some different perspectives on what Federal Legislation means and can do. The
28 group talked a lot about the focus of the CWC Board, CWC Staff, and the roles of member
29 jurisdictions. Something else that was discussed was substantive changes to the stakeholders.
30 Whether there are new owners for the ski areas or different leaders at the State level, it is important
31 to identify when there are substantive changes so there can be re-engagement with those key
32 stakeholders. She mentioned stakeholders that dropped off over time, such as Salt Lake County and
33 UDOT. The conversation also focused on Federal support and what that might look like.

34
35 Ms. Hevel-Mingo asked if there were any additional thoughts that attendees would like to share.
36 Mayor Zoltanski reported that the group she was in talked about the importance of maintaining
37 individual relationships between CWC Board Members and the ski resort. There may be
38 opportunities for the resorts to engage in conversations even if there is no desire to attend a formal
39 CWC Board Meeting. She stressed the importance of keeping people at the table and continuing
40 conversations when possible. Once the conversations end, that is when it becomes difficult to work
41 together and collaborate. It was suggested that the organization work to reestablish some lines of
42 communication.

43
44 Mr. Diegel asked whether the Forest Service can implement some of the ideas that have been
45 brainstormed. Mr. Shaw reported that land designations have to come from Congress, but some of
46 the other pieces in the CWNCR might be possible to explore. There could be discussions about
47 some of the transit solutions, such as a future shuttle, bus stops, and so on. The Forest Service
48 planning process might be a bit different, but there might still be some overlap in the objectives.

1
2 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reported that there would be a break before the next small group discussion. After
3 the break, there will be a conversation about barriers and strategies to navigate some of those barriers.
4 She encouraged attendees to sit at a different table when they return from the break.

5
6 **BREAK**

7
8 CWC Board Retreat participants took a short break ahead of the next small group discussion.
9

10 **SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION**

11
12 Ms. Hevel-Mingo reported that this would be the last small group discussion. She reminded those
13 present that the discussion will relate to barriers and solutions. Attendees were asked to consider the
14 timeline drafted earlier that morning and what needs to happen for the passage of the CWNCRA:
15

- 16 • Who are the key stakeholders that are critical for success? What needs to be in place for
17 passage? What barriers need to be addressed and what are some strategies to overcome them?
18

19 Ms. Hevel-Mingo explained that approximately 30 minutes had been allotted for the discussions.
20 After that time, one representative will share highlights from the discussions with the full group.
21

22 Mayor Mendenhall noted that during some of the other small group discussions, there were comments
23 about whether or not it makes sense to pursue the CWNCRA or if other incremental improvements
24 might make more sense. The questions posed presume that there is a desire to move the CWNCRA
25 forward. She explained that Salt Lake City is here because of the CWNCRA. She hopes that if some
26 do not want to seriously pursue the CWNCRA, then there will be a clear discussion about that in the
27 near future. There needs to be a consensus about the approach that will be taken.
28

29 There was additional discussion about the CWNCRA. Mayor Mendenhall explained that the
30 CWNCRA addresses certain issues and there is no other vehicle that will address those issues in that
31 manner. In her opinion, the only way to resolve some of the issues is through the CWNCRA.
32

33 Mr. Knoblock referenced the Forest Plan and those present discussed how often it is revised. It was
34 stated that amendments are made to the plan periodically. The plan revision process can be lengthy
35 and may not reflect the desires of the new administration right away. Ms. Briefer believes there is
36 administrative discretion in how a Forest Plan is administered. She has been working in the Wasatch
37 for 20 years and has seen the way different Forest Supervisors implement different plan elements.
38 She shared an example where the Forest Supervisor was under a lot of political pressure to interpret
39 the Forest Plan in a certain way. Administrative discretion can impact the way the Forest Plan is
40 implemented. The intention of the CWNCRA is to have something that clearly speaks to the needs.
41 It would provide some elements of certainty. The Central Wasatch is unique because it is a small
42 place with a lot of competing interests. That is why the CWNCRA is so important. The
43 administrative decision-making that has been made and continues to be made does not necessarily
44 think through the consequences on all of the different systems. Ms. Briefer reiterated that there is a
45 desire to have some level of certainty, which is why the CWNCRA makes a lot of sense.
46

Ms. Hevel-Mingo pointed out that some of the comments shared by Ms. Briefer highlight some barriers. Those can be discussed further during the small group discussions as well as any other barriers and solutions. She asked attendees to start the small group discussion and then report back.

REPORT OUT

Following the small group discussions, one member from each group shared a report that summarized the conversations. Mr. Knoblock stated that his group talked about educating and advocating to the Governor, Federal Delegation, and State Legislature. There is an educational component associated with those groups because it needs to be clear why the CWNCR is important and what is in the language. The CWNCR protects the watershed from expanded ski area development. There needs to be definitive input received from the ski resorts on what they need to support the legislation. Additionally, there needs to be other proposals explored so the land exchange piece can be fulfilled. It is possible to take the opportunity ahead of the Olympic Games to move the legislation forward.

Ms. Briefer shared additional information about the educational component. This is not only for the Governor, Federal Delegation, and State Legislature. It is also needed for stakeholders and those involved with the CWC. She stressed the importance of additional education and collaboration.

Ms. Nielsen reviewed the highlights from the second small group discussion table. Participants talked about the need for the CWNCR and that being a potential barrier. The way to move past that barrier is for the CWC to educate others who are uncertain about why the CWNCR is important. Additionally, there were discussions about barriers such as exchanges and the proposed gondola.

The third group shared some of their discussion highlights. It was noted that all stakeholders need to benefit and all stakeholders must see that the bill is enforced. There was a suggestion that the map be updated to have additional information. Commissioner Robinson pointed out that there needs to be a good product. All information shared needs to be clear and compelling. When it comes to land exchanges, the needs of the ski resorts must be considered. The resorts need to be on board. Ms. Broadaway expressed her excitement to be involved in the CWC Board. There is engagement from others, but at a fundamental level, there needs to be more communication with the four ski resorts. She believes there can be more of those kinds of discussions in the future.

GALLERY WALK

Ms. Hevel-Mingo thanked everyone for their participation in the small group discussions. She explained that attendees would now walk around and look at all of the highlights that were written down throughout the CWC Board Retreat. Any thoughts that were not captured can be added. She asked attendees to look for any connections in what has been written down as well as any items that stand out. Following the gallery walk exercise, Ms. Hevel-Mingo asked that takeaways and overall thoughts about the CWC Board Retreat be shared. Mayor Bourke suggested that there be a list created with contact information for all of the CWC Board Members. This will allow there to be communication outside of the meetings between individual members if that is needed.

Additional comments were shared by Retreat attendees. Mr. Diegel suggested that there be a document that outlines what the CWNCR is, why it is important, and why it is important at this time. To have that information in a document that is easily digestible would be worthwhile. Ms. Nielsen reported that the most recent episode of the In The Wasatch podcast is a recitation of the

1 latest version of the CWNCRRA. That was done for a few reasons, including providing the information
2 in an audio format but also educating others on what the CWNCRRA is intended to do. She reiterated
3 that it is possible to listen to that reading on the latest version of the podcast. The next episode in the
4 CWNCRRA series will be a section-by-section explanation of the language to outline what is
5 contemplated. There will also be a review of the changes that have been made throughout the different
6 versions of the bill.

7
8 It was suggested that there be clarity about what each stakeholder will essentially get out of the
9 CWNCRRA. Making it clear what the wins are for the different stakeholders could be beneficial and
10 potentially increase support. There can be some sort of analysis conducted to determine that
11 information. Ms. Briefer shared comments about the ski resorts and what is needed there. Mr.
12 Knoblock noted that during the discussion portion of the CWC Board Retreat, it was stated that a lot
13 of work went into the Mountain Accord negotiations. People worked hard on the negotiations for a
14 long time. He stressed the importance of re-reading the Mountain Accord regularly because
15 everything comes back to that. The Mountain Accord states: "The signers of the Accord agree to
16 pursue Federal action for land designations, land exchanges and transit/transportation solutions. The
17 Accord signifies unanimous support for passage of a comprehensive compromise conservation
18 package that can only be carried out by U.S. Congress." He felt that language was significant. CWC
19 Board Retreat attendees shared additional comments about the discussions had during the day.

20
21 Ms. Hevel-Mingo thanked everyone again for their participation. There were a lot of excellent
22 conversations, which will be useful to the organization as some of the next steps are pursued.

23 24 **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

25
26 Ms. Nielsen took a moment to thank all of the attendees for their dedication. She noted that there
27 were some productive conversations. The latest version of the CWC Digest is available for those
28 interested. It was noted that Chair Silvestrini had left the CWC Board Retreat. She asked Mayor
29 Mendenhall to close the meeting in his absence. Ms. Nielsen thanked Ms. Hevel-Mingo for her
30 efforts. Attendees also took a moment to thank Mayor Zoltanski for the CWC Board Retreat location.

31
32 Ms. Kilpack reminded those present that the Central Wasatch Symposium will take place on January
33 9 and 10, 2025. Registration is currently open and it is possible to purchase tickets. There are also
34 discounted tickets available for those who request them. Anyone with questions about the Central
35 Wasatch Symposium can reach out to CWC Staff. She hopes to see everyone at the two-day event.

36
37 The Executive/Budget/Audit Committee will meet on November 18, 2024, and the Transportation
38 Committee will meet on November 20, 2024. Ms. Kilpack shared additional information about the
39 In the Wasatch podcast. She reiterated that information about the CWNCRRA is being shared there.
40 The intention is to make the CWNCRRA information more accessible to those listening to the podcast.
41 Anyone interested in participating in the podcast can reach out to Ms. McNeil for more details.

42
43 Ms. Kilpack reported that the Fiscal Year audit has been completed and that information was shared
44 at the last CWC Board Meeting. Everything came out well and there were no concerns. As for the
45 Short-Term Projects Grant cycle, the timing will change this year. Normally, applications are
46 submitted in the spring, but the call for applications will open in January this year instead. She
47 explained that this is to meet timelines the Forest Service has and to make it easier on them. Anyone
48 interested in applying for the grant program can look out for announcements in the newsletter or on

1 social media. Once the application window opens, all of that information will be shared. The next
2 CWC Board Meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2024, where there will be continued discussions.

3
4 Ms. McNeil stated that the CWC Youth Council will meet on November 13, 2024, from 5:30 p.m. to
5 7:00 p.m. It was originally intended to be hosted at the CWC Office, but it might be held elsewhere
6 so Council Members can see the Gear Shed project and all of the work that has been done there. The
7 Outdoor Access Committee has been working on outreach for that. Most of the gear that has been
8 provided for the Gear Shed, with the assistance of the Gear Fund Collective and the Mobile Moon
9 Co-Op, has been put into the Gear Shed itself. Ms. McNeil shared information about the work the
10 Events and Outreach Committee has done. She also reported that the Environmental Dashboard
11 Education Committee is continuing to discuss the Human Element of the Environmental Dashboard.

12
13 Anyone with questions about the CWC Youth Council or their work can reach out to Ms. McNeil.
14 The CWC Youth Council Meetings are always open and it is possible for those interested to listen in.

15
16 Ms. Briefer reported that there is a potential agenda item that might be worthwhile for the CWC
17 Board. She referenced the Jordan River Commission and noted that it would be beneficial to have
18 the Jordan River Commission, Jordan River Watershed Council, and CWC Board meet and share.
19 There might be opportunities to collaborate, especially when it comes to the CWNCR work.

20
21 Commissioner Robinson thanked CWC Staff for their efforts in organizing the CWC Board Retreat.

22 **CLOSING**

23
24
25 In the absence of Chair Silvestrini, Mayor Mendenhall asked for a motion to adjourn the Retreat.

26
27 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to ADJOURN the CWC Board Retreat. Roger Bourke
28 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

29
30 The CWC Board Retreat adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

31 **BREAK, AND RETREAT ACTIVITIES END**

32
33
34 Following the adjournment of the CWC Board Retreat, there was a break before dinner took place.

35 **DINNER**

36
37
38 After the break, the CWC Board Retreat attendees had dinner at approximately 5:00 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Board Retreat held on Friday, November 1, 2024.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____