



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/  
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18,  
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  
Christopher Robinson  
Laura Briefer  
John Knoblock  
Spencer Shaver

**CWC Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director  
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

**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 3:36 p.m. and welcomed those present.

- 2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the October 21, 2024, Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the October 21, 2024, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

**Board Retreat Recap**

- 1. The Committee will Discuss the Outcomes of the November 1, 2024, Board Retreat.**

Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the Meeting Materials Packet includes the 2024 Board Retreat overview document. One of the goals of the CWC Board Retreat was to reorient CWC Board Members back to the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRRA”). It has been a few years since the CWC has put concerted effort behind moving the CWNCRRA forward. That decision was made because of a desire from the State to figure out some of the transportation work. The CWC Board Retreat was the first step in reorienting the

1 CWC Board back to the legislation. The retreat was held at The River Oaks Golf Course in Sandy  
2 City and lasted for a full day. The facilitator for the retreat was Karen Hevel-Mingo.

3  
4 There were small group discussions during the CWC Board Retreat. There was also a presentation  
5 from Ben McAdams about the events leading up to the Mountain Accord and what happened  
6 during the Mountain Accord. There was a presentation from CWC Staff about the CWC  
7 organization as well. There were several discussion prompts for the small group discussions. The  
8 first prompt was about the Mountain Accord and how it was designed to address the four key focus  
9 areas in the mountains in tandem with one another: transportation, environment, recreation, and  
10 economy. Participants were asked what needs to be considered or added to a new iteration of the  
11 bill.

12  
13 The next small group discussion topic was centered around coalition building for the CWNCR. It  
14 asked retreat participants to identify potential barriers. The final question was about what needs  
15 to be done to rebuild consensus around the legislation. Participants were asked what role the CWC  
16 Board, Stakeholders Council, and CWC Staff play in that consensus building. Ms. Nielsen  
17 reported that there were many opportunities for retreat participants to report after those small group  
18 discussions. Participants seemed ready to further discuss the CWNCR.

19  
20 Commissioner Christopher Robinson appreciated the summary that was included in the Meeting  
21 Materials Packet. The CWC Board Retreat was a positive use of their time and the focus on the  
22 CWNCR was especially valuable. There needs to be engagement with the ski resorts to build  
23 the legislation in a way that is attractive to them. Chair Silvestrini reported that he was able to  
24 attend the first half of the CWC Board Retreat. Since he attended the CWC Board Retreat virtually,  
25 it was difficult for him to hear a lot of the small group discussions. That being said, he appreciates  
26 all who participated and believes it is possible to move the work forward. John Knoblock  
27 wondered whether discussions on the CWNCR would be any different after the election results.  
28 Chair Silvestrini believes there is interest from a few additional legislators. If the CWNCR is  
29 fashioned with the ski resorts on board, it might be possible to move this forward. Representative  
30 John Curtis is an advocate and might be able to assist. He feels optimistic about the process.

31  
32 Commissioner Robinson explained that there needs to be support from the ski resorts and State  
33 leaders. Chair Silvestrini agreed that there has to be support at the State level. Based upon the  
34 level of appropriations that the CWC has received, there is some goodwill at the Legislature.

35  
36 Ms. Nielsen reported that there was a suggestion made at the CWC Board Retreat by Tom Ward,  
37 who is the Director of Sandy City Public Utilities. Mr. Ward thought it would be wise for CWC  
38 Staff to put together a gap analysis for the CWNCR through the lens of each of the interest areas:  
39 economy, recreation, environment, and transportation. Based on that suggestion, CWC Staff has  
40 been working on that analysis and it will be ready for the CWC Board Meeting in December.

## **Youth Council Travel Stipend**

### **1. The Committee will Discuss Offering a Travel Stipend as Needed to Members of the Youth Council.**

Ms. Nielsen explained that there have been conversations with Stakeholders Council Members and other community members about whether a stipend is provided to young people who may be in need in order to attend CWC Youth Council Meetings and other activities related to the Council work. Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, shared the CWC Youth Council Travel Stipend Memo that was included in the Meeting Materials Packet. She explained that there are a lot of resources available for members of the CWC Youth Council to reach the different meetings.

The proposition is to spread awareness of these methods, such as encouraging carpooling with fellow CWC Youth Council Members, using the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) free-fare zone downtown, using the free transit passes included with some university student IDs, and using reduced fare passes for those under 18. If CWC Youth Council Members do not know how to get to meetings and need resources, all of that information can be provided. If none of the resources are enough to assist, there is a request to provide a small travel stipend to those members through a UTA FAREPAY Card. It is between \$2 and \$5 for a roundtrip fare. If there is support from the CWC Board, it is possible to add small amounts to cards as needed for meetings and events.

Ms. Nielsen reported that there is not a high likelihood the stipend will be needed because of the other resources available. However, in the event that a CWC Youth Council Member does have a need, it would be nice to have a travel stipend available. There are funds available in the budget to cover the amount proposed. Commissioner Robinson pointed out that this is a small request that could be meaningful to members of the CWC Youth Council. He expressed his support. Chair Silvestrini does not have a problem with the request. It does not sound like the requested amount is high. He asked that a maximum amount be determined. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that a projected maximum will be determined ahead of the CWC Board Meeting scheduled for December 2, 2024.

## **Environmental Dashboard**

### **1. CWC Staff and the Stakeholders Council Environment System Committee are Planning a Stakeholders Council and Public Feedback Session and Storyboarding Workshop to Develop a Set of Usability Improvements to the Environmental Dashboard and a Plan for Implementation.**

### **2. The Committee will Discuss the Creation of an Expert Report Containing Proposed Data Collection to Add to the Environmental Dashboard.**

Ms. Nielsen reminded the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee that the CWC received State appropriations from the Legislature last session. That \$60,000 is to update the Environmental Dashboard as needed and to make additions to the Human Element. With the State appropriations, the organization needs to report back on how or if the appropriated funds were used. If the CWC does not use the \$60,000 that was appropriate for the maintenance updates and to make a more

1 robust Human Element, that will need to be reported back to the State. The two things the  
2 Stakeholders Council and CWC Staff proposes to do with the Environmental Dashboard are:

- 3
- 4 • Host a Storyboarding Session related to the Environmental Dashboard improvements;
- 5 • Expand the Human Element of the Environmental Dashboard.
- 6

7 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Storyboarding Session is anticipated to take place in February 2025  
8 after the Central Wasatch Symposium is over. It can be hosted by CWC Staff and potentially  
9 facilitated by the Environmental Dashboard creators. Ms. Nielsen reminded those present that the  
10 CWC Board previously heard from Phoebe McNeally about what could be included in the first  
11 phase of the expansion of the Human Element. The first phase would include the data that could  
12 be included and preliminary plans for collection of that data. Much of the data that would be  
13 reflected in a Human Element does not currently exist, so the data collection is necessary.

14  
15 Ms. Nielsen asked the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee if there is a desire to use the funds  
16 appropriated for the preliminary planning and outline of the Human Element expansion. Chair  
17 Silvestrini and Commissioner Robinson expressed support for this approach.

## 18 19 **Central Wasatch Symposium Budget**

### 20 21 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Central Wasatch Symposium Budget.**

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23 Chair Silvestrini reported that the CWC is slightly over on the budget for the food for the Central  
24 Wasatch Symposium. Commissioner Robinson noted that the overage is approximately \$2,500.  
25 Chair Silvestrini feels it is best to find money in the budget to accommodate that overage. Ms.  
26 Nielsen noted that there is contingency and some of that can be used to address this need.

27  
28 Commissioner Robinson asked if the \$12,000 listed for Terry Tempest Williams breaks down into  
29 \$10,000 for the honorarium fee and \$2,000 for travel and lodging, which was confirmed. He asked  
30 about the \$75 and \$125 ticket prices. Ms. Kilpack reported that 16 tickets have been sold so far,  
31 but she was recently informed that there was an issue with the discount code. That issue has since  
32 been fixed and it is anticipated that there will be more discount tickets sold as a result. Most of  
33 the tickets that have been sold so far are full-price tickets. CWC Staff has been assured by the  
34 event planners that it is common for people to wait until closer to the event to purchase tickets.  
35 Additionally, there will be some advertising done shortly, which is likely to increase ticket sales.  
36 Discussions were had about the advertising and outreach that has occurred so far.

37  
38 It was noted that Laura Briefer has joined the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting. She  
39 was asked to share comments about the CWC Board Retreat. Ms. Briefer thought there was a  
40 substantive discussion and Mayor Erin Mendenhall expressed that she was glad to have spent the  
41 day at the retreat. Ms. Briefer noted that work may need to be done amongst the CWC Board and  
42 Stakeholders Council as far as what role the legislation had in the overall negotiations and how the  
43 legislation reflected the various compromises. She appreciated the frankness with which people  
44 approached the different discussion items. It was a well-done retreat and it moved a lot of the  
45 discussions forward. Chair Silvestrini stated that Mayor Monica Zoltanski told him that she

1 learned a lot more about the CWC and its role during the CWC Board Retreat. She came away  
2 from the CWC Board Retreat energized and with more confidence in the organization.

#### 3 4 **December 2, 2024, CWC Board Meeting Agenda**

#### 5 6 **1. The Committee will Discuss Agenda Items for the December 2, 2024, Board Meeting.**

##### 7 8 **a. Continuation of Board Retreat Discussions on the CWCNCRA and Action** 9 **Items.**

##### 10 11 **i. Review Iterations of the Bill.**

##### 12 **ii. Discussion of Individual/Collective Jurisdictional Roles.**

##### 13 **iii. Gantt Chart.**

14  
15 Ms. Nielsen reviewed some of the items scheduled for the CWC Board Meeting on December 2,  
16 2024. She reported that there is a lot that will be discussed at that time. The first agenda item will  
17 be a continuation of the CWC Board Retreat discussions. Additionally, it makes sense to continue  
18 the discussion about a CWCNCRA strategy for 2025. At the end of the CWC Board Retreat, there  
19 was support for reopening the negotiation conversations with some of the major players, such as  
20 the ski resorts and the U.S. Forest Service. That can be talked about in more detail at the meeting.  
21 Ms. Nielsen noted that there will also be a discussion about the role of individual jurisdictions.

22  
23 Ms. Briefer asked about the Gantt chart. Ms. Nielsen explained that there would be a continuation  
24 of the timeline discussion that was had at the retreat. The chart will map out when certain items  
25 will be done in the year. She hopes there will be agreement about the timeline and steps.

##### 26 27 **b. Central Wasatch Symposium.**

##### 28 29 **i. Program Run-Through.**

##### 30 **ii. Budget Update.**

31  
32 During the next CWC Board Meeting, there will be a run-through of the Central Wasatch  
33 Symposium program. The program is mostly finalized, but the CWC is waiting to hear back from  
34 the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) about who they will send to sit on the  
35 Transportation Panel. There will also be a budget update shared with the CWC Board.

##### 36 37 **c. Election of Board and Committee Officers for Next Year.**

38  
39 Ms. Nielsen reported that the election of the Board and Committee Officers will take place.

##### 40 41 **d. Approval of Board and Stakeholders Council Meeting Dates for Next Year.**

42  
43 At the CWC Board Meeting, the CWC Board will set the meeting schedule for the next year.  
44

1           e.       **Environmental Dashboard Expert Report.**

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3 Ms. Kilpack explained that information about the Environmental Dashboard will be shared at the  
4 CWC Board Meeting. There will be a Resolution before the CWC Board for the Expert Report.  
5

6           f.       **Youth Council Travel Stipend.**

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8 The CWC Youth Council Travel Stipend Memo will be shared with the CWC Board.  
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10 **Stakeholders Council Discussion**

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12 1.       **The Chair and Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council will Discuss with the Committee**  
13 **the Recent Activities of the Stakeholders Council.**  
14

15 Mr. Knoblock shared information about the work of the Stakeholders Council. He reported that  
16 the Stakeholders Council subcommittees continue to meet, including the various Systems  
17 Committees and Millcreek Canyon Committee. As time goes on, relationship building and  
18 teamwork continue to improve. The next Stakeholders Council Meeting will take place this week  
19 and there will be a discussion prompt related to transportation. The Chairs of each subcommittee  
20 will be asked to share some accomplishments for the year and some goals for the year ahead.  
21

22 As for the Human Element of the Environmental Dashboard, that is something that both the  
23 Transportation Systems Committee and Recreation Systems Committee have discussed. There  
24 have been conversations about the Visitor Use Study and who the users of the canyons are. For  
25 example, the users are based on the actual use type, such as hikers, rock climbers, resort skiers,  
26 and so on. There is a desire to have a better dataset with respect to who is doing what in the  
27 canyons. That can be useful for recreational planning, and transportation planning, and could  
28 substantiate information to obtain Division of Outdoor Recreation grants. The Human Element of  
29 the Environmental Dashboard and the expansion of the Visitor Use Study are related. A letter is  
30 being drafted that will ask the CWC Board to provide advice and consent to expand the data that  
31 exists.  
32

33 **Staff Announcements**

34  
35 1.       **Youth Council Updates.**  
36

37 The CWC Youth Council met recently to discuss the upcoming winter season. This included  
38 discussions about transit and the traction law. The Environmental Dashboard Education  
39 Committee is working on educational materials and outreach. The Outdoor Access Committee is  
40 continuing to promote the Gear Shed and is compiling a list of outdoor winter gear to potentially  
41 purchase for the Gear Shed. The Events and Outreach Committee is preparing for the Short-Term  
42 Projects Grant Program and is considering the next project to submit an application for.  
43

1     **2.     Short-Term Projects Grant Cycle Begins in January.**

2  
3     The Short-Term Projects Grant Program cycle will open in January 2025. It usually opens in  
4     March, but the timeline has been shifted after a request from the Forest Service.

5  
6     **3.     The Next EBAC Meeting is on December 16, 2024.**

7  
8     It was determined that the next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting will not be held.

9  
10    **4.     The Next Board Meeting is on December 2, 2024.**

11  
12    The next CWC Board Meeting will take place on December 2, 2024.

13  
14    **Other Business**

15  
16    Spencer Shaver thanked those present for allowing him to participate in the CWC Board Retreat.  
17    He is still meeting a lot of the CWC Board Members and appreciates the opportunity to weigh in.  
18    Mr. Shaver will meet with a handful of representatives from the environmental community this  
19    week to share high-level takeaways from the CWC Board Retreat and the CWNCR work.

20  
21    **Closing**

22  
23    **1.     Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**  
24    **Committee Meeting.**

25  
26    **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to ADJOURN the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee  
27    Meeting. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of  
28    the Committee.

29  
30    The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at  
31    approximately 4:19 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 on Monday, November 18,*  
3 *2024.*

4  
5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes  
7 T Forbes Group  
8 Minutes Secretary  
9

10 Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_