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**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2025, AT
9:30 A.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
Mayor Erin Mendenhall
Laura Briefer
John Knoblock
- CWC Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations
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 9:35 a.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the November 18, 2024, Meeting.

MOTION: Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the November 18, 2024, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

Central Wasatch Symposium Recap

1. The Committee will Debrief and Discuss the Central Wasatch Symposium.

Chair Silvestrini reported that many people told him how wonderful the Central Wasatch Symposium was. There was education provided as well as clarification of the positions of various interest groups, such as the ski resorts, U.S. Forest Service, environmental groups, and several others. At the next symposium, it will be possible to explore these issues on a deeper level, to talk about what has caused division, and to look into consensus building. He expressed appreciation to CWC Staff and noted that the Central Wasatch Symposium was well organized and on schedule.

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2 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, thanked Chair Silvestrini for the feedback. She also thanked
3 those who attended and participated in the Central Wasatch Symposium. Commissioner
4 Christopher Robinson stated that the symposium exceeded expectations on every level. It had
5 excellent content, was well organized, had strong attendance levels, and delivered high-quality
6 speakers. He heard a lot of positive feedback about the two-day event. Terry Tempest Williams
7 was a wonderful keynote speaker. Her connection to the Central Wasatch made her words
8 especially meaningful. Chair Silvestrini had the opportunity to speak to Terry Tempest Williams
9 before the symposium. She was thrilled to participate and thought the event was well run.

10
11 Laura Briefer liked that the Central Wasatch Symposium started with the keynote address from
12 Terry Tempest Williams. Her words set the tone for the entire event and aligned well with the
13 principles of the CWC. The keynote speaker was an excellent choice. Commissioner Robinson
14 asked if it would be possible to obtain a recording of the keynote address. Ms. Nielsen explained
15 that CWC Staff asked to record that portion of the event, but the keynote speaker said no. As a
16 result, it is not possible to share a transcript or recording. Chair Silvestrini reiterated that the
17 keynote address was meaningful and it seemed to impact all of the symposium attendees.

18
19 Chair Silvestrini asked if any areas could be improved for the next Central Wasatch Symposium.
20 Ms. Nielsen reported that the audience wanted more time for the question-and-answer sections.
21 She is in the process of writing handwritten thank-you notes to all of the presenters. In addition to
22 those thank-you notes, the CWC will send out a thank-you email to all symposium attendees. That
23 email will contain a link to a survey that attendees can take. That survey will provide the
24 organization with feedback about the event. There will also be links provided to the recordings of
25 the different breakout sessions. This means anyone who missed a breakout session or panel will
26 be able to listen to the recording. She reiterated that there is not a recording of the keynote address,
27 because Terry Tempest Williams did not permit a recording.

28
29 The revenue for the Central Wasatch Symposium was \$700 more than what was anticipated. Over
30 200 tickets were sold for the two-day event. Ms. Nielsen thanked Millcreek for hosting the
31 symposium. The volunteers were excellent and many came from the CWC Youth Council.
32 Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, agreed that the volunteers did incredible work. The
33 event planner for the symposium also did a lot. Valuable guidance was received and having the
34 planner attend the event helped to create a smooth experience overall. Ms. Nielsen commented
35 that it was essential to have the event planner and her team there. Though she was hesitant about
36 hiring an event planner in the beginning, it was ultimately the best choice for the first symposium.

37
38 Chair Silvestrini stated that members of the CWC who attended the Central Wasatch Symposium
39 were impressed by the event. He had a conversation with Mayor Monica Zoltanski about the
40 symposium. Between that event and the CWC Board Retreat, she has a much better understanding
41 of the purpose of the organization. Mayor Zoltanski offered to reach out to the Mayor of Draper
42 to find out why Draper is not a participant in the organization. He would love to see cities like
43 Draper and Holladay involved in the CWC moving forward. It was noted that Mayor Erin
44 Mendenhall had joined the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting. Mayor Mendenhall
45 noted that she was unable to attend the Central Wasatch Symposium due to meetings with potential
46 partners. She apologized for her absence but noted that she had heard some positive comments.

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2 Ms. Nielsen noted that there is a report from the event planner that CWC Staff will fine-tune. Once
3 that is finalized, it will be sent out to the CWC Board. The final budget numbers will also be ready
4 ahead of the next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting. She appreciates the comments
5 that were made about the cities of Draper and Holladay. As far as Draper is concerned, former
6 Draper City Council Member and new State Representative, Cal Roberts, attended the Legislative
7 Field Trip in the fall. He was impressed with the work of the CWC, so that might be a starting
8 point. Chair Silvestrini reported that a Draper resident approached him at the Central Wasatch
9 Symposium. The resident stated that they would reach out to the Mayor about the organization.

10 11 **Donation Account**

12 13 **1. The Committee will Discuss Broadening the Purpose and Use of the Zions Donation** 14 **Account and Clover Platform to Receive Donations for Use on All CWC Projects.**

15
16 Ms. Kilpack reported that the 2025 Purpose and Use of Zions Donation Account Memo was
17 included in the Meeting Materials Packet. She explained that there was a desire to have CWC-
18 branded hats this year that were available to the public for a suggested donation amount. The
19 organization was unable to receive the hats in time. Additionally, it would have been difficult to
20 collect donations for the hats, because the donation account was set up specifically to collect
21 donations for the Environmental Dashboard. After some conversations with CWC Legal Counsel,
22 it was confirmed that the use and purpose of the donation account can be expanded. This would
23 allow the organization to accept donations for CWC projects and general purposes, without
24 needing the donations received to be specifically tied to the Environmental Dashboard.

25
26 There are a few reasons for the suggestion outlined in the memo. One of the main reasons is that
27 the CWC now requests appropriations for the maintenance and improvement of the Environmental
28 Dashboard. When there are funds that are donated for the Environmental Dashboard, it can take
29 some time to use them, because the funds are not needed as often with the appropriations. Ms.
30 Kilpack noted that a Resolution could be brought to the next CWC Board Meeting to expand the
31 use and purpose of that account. Commissioner Robinson likes the idea and supports it being
32 discussed by the full CWC Board. Mayor Mendenhall agreed. Chair Silvestrini suggested that
33 CWC Legal Counsel prepare a Resolution that can be considered at the next CWC Board Meeting.

34 35 **2025-2026 Appropriations Request**

36 37 **1. The Committee will Discuss the CWC's 2025-2026 Appropriations Request.**

38
39 Ms. Nielsen reported that the 2025 Legislative Session will start next week. She has been in
40 discussions with the State lobbying team, which includes Casey Hill. The 2025 CWC State
41 Appropriations Request in the Meeting Materials Packet is the scope of the request that will be
42 submitted for the 2025 session. Mr. Hill has expressed his support for the request. However, this
43 is not final, so if there are any concerns from Committee Members, those should be expressed.

44
45 Commissioner Robinson noted that the request is a little bit lower than it has been in prior years,
46 but believes the overall request is fine. There are some recurring themes. Chair Silvestrini pointed

1 out that this will be a lean budget year for the State. The appropriations request has been pared
2 down in order to accommodate that. Ms. Nielsen reported that the ask for the Ski Bus Priority
3 Access Program was reduced. After a significant snow year, the snowfall has decreased and has
4 not been at the same level. That means less has been spent on the program. In previous years, the
5 request was \$60,000 for the Ski Bus Priority Access Program. This year, the request is \$40,000.
6

7 John Knoblock asked whether money for the Ski Bus Priority Access Program can come from the
8 Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”). He pointed out that UDOT receives \$20 million
9 per year. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that it is possible to ask if UDOT has an interest in contributing.
10

11 **Stakeholders Council Discussion**

12 13 1. **The Chair and Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council will Discuss with the Committee** 14 **the Recent activities of the Stakeholders Council.** 15

16 Mr. Knoblock shared Stakeholders Council updates. He reported that there are continued
17 discussions about some of the transportation issues. It seems like the traction control efforts are
18 going well so far. The Transportation System Committee will continue to focus on that. Mr.
19 Knoblock noted that the Stakeholders Council and the various System Committees are working on
20 a methodology for a baseline conditions report that could enhance the existing Visitor Use Study.
21

22 Chair Silvestrini mentioned the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance presentation at the Central Wasatch
23 Symposium. It covered what they have done to measure trail use for dispersed recreation. That
24 presentation was valuable as are the efforts made by the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance. That kind
25 of data will be beneficial. Chair Silvestrini asked if any feedback has been received from
26 Stakeholders Council Members as far as the Central Wasatch Symposium. Mr. Knoblock has
27 heard positive feedback so far. He has not asked Council Members what they would like to see
28 done differently next year, but he believes attendees enjoyed hearing from different interest groups.
29

30 Chair Silvestrini noted that while the Central Wasatch Symposium was educational, it also showed
31 attendees that the interest groups are all working to further different goals. The event highlighted
32 the complexities and also the forward momentum. Mr. Knoblock pointed out that the different
33 interest groups are talking to one another and are working together, which is meaningful to witness.
34 It is also meaningful for the Forest Service, UDOT, Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”), and others
35 to see that the public cares about these matters. That can be a motivator for future conversations.
36

37 **Staff Announcements**

38 39 1. **Youth Council Updates.** 40

41 Chair Silvestrini asked what the CWC can do to thank the CWC Youth Council Members who
42 volunteered at the Central Wasatch Symposium. He would like to do something nice for them.
43 Ms. Nielsen suggested gift cards to a restaurant or something similar. Mayor Mendenhall liked
44 the idea and noted that consumables are excellent gifts. Ms. Nielsen reported that Terry Tempest
45 Williams was gifted a jar of local honey and she was pleased with that. Something similar could
46 be gifted to members of the CWC Youth Council Members, like a locally made consumable item.

1
2 Ms. Nielsen reported that Andrew Gruber, who moderated the Transportation Planning Panel,
3 loved the Central Wasatch Symposium. He was also impressed by Millcreek City Hall.
4 Commissioner Robinson praised Mr. Gruber and his work moderating the panel. He had a lot of
5 energy and was one of the highlights of the Central Wasatch Symposium. CWC Staff agreed.
6

7 Community Engagement Coordinator, Mia McNeil, shared additional CWC Youth Council
8 updates. Several members volunteered at the Central Wasatch Symposium. All of the volunteers
9 did a wonderful job. The Short-Term Projects Grant Program has opened and the CWC Youth
10 Council will meet this month to discuss potential projects. Last year, two of the CWC Youth
11 Council suggested projects were funded, so there is hope that another will be funded this year.
12

13 Chair Silvestrini suggested that the CWC Youth Council provide some follow-up information
14 about how the Gear Shed worked. There were some reservations about how impactful that project
15 would be, so there is interest in hearing how many people utilized the service. Mr. McNeil noted
16 that one of their connections with the Mobile Moon Co-Op has switched positions, so there is a
17 transition at the moment, but a finalized report will be prepared to highlight what the Gear Shed
18 program looked like during the fall, winter, and early spring seasons. It is necessary to put together
19 that kind of report to determine how effective the Gear Shed project actually was.
20

21 Ms. Nielsen pointed out that every proposal that is funded through the Short-Term Projects Grant
22 Program is required to submit a report to the CWC. There are reports from all previously funded
23 programs or projects. Funded projects from last year need to submit reports by the end of this
24 fiscal year. Ms. Nielsen reported that City Cast Salt Lake, the podcast and newsletter, picked up
25 the CWC announcement of the Gear Shed and published it on social media and in the newsletter.
26

27 **2. Upcoming Staffing Changes.**

28

29 It was reported that Ms. McNeil will leave the CWC when she graduates in May. Chair Silvestrini
30 thanked her for her hard work. Commissioner Robinson stated that she will be missed by everyone
31 in the organization. Mayor Mendenhall asked what she had planned next. Ms. McNeil stated that
32 she plans to do an ecology study abroad for three weeks in Ireland to obtain fieldwork experience
33 in environmental science. She would also like to travel in Europe. After that, she wants to focus
34 on internship experiences that are related to GIS and environmental science. From there, she might
35 look into Graduate School or Law School. Her focus is environmental policy and management.
36

37 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Members informed Ms. McNeil that she can always reach out
38 to them for assistance. Ms. McNeil stated that she has gained a lot working for the CWC. Ms.
39 Nielsen has been an incredible mentor and is someone that she looks up to. Ms. McNeil has
40 become more confident in her abilities and is even more passionate about the Central Wasatch
41 mountains than before. Ms. Nielsen expressed her appreciation for everything Ms. McNeil has
42 added to the CWC. The Executive/Budget/Audit Committee will see a proposal in the future to
43 turn the part-time Community Engagement Coordinator position into a full-time Communications
44 Director position. CWC Staff will work on that job description and share it at the next meeting.
45

1 **3. Budget Season is Approaching.**

2
3 Ms. Kilpack explained that the budget season will start soon. CWC Staff will think about the new
4 Communications Director position and will organize the final numbers from the Central Wasatch
5 Symposium. That information will be brought forward to Committee Members in the future.
6

7 Ms. Nielsen reported that there have been discussions about research into recreation and
8 conservation areas. Through that discussion, it was determined that the research could be
9 meaningful for an intern to tackle. That will potentially be brought to the Executive/Budget/Audit
10 Committee for consideration as well as the full-time Communications Director position.
11

12 Chair Silvestrini noted that Mayor Dan Knopp and Barbara Cameron have expressed reservations
13 about Brighton being involved in the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area
14 Act (“CWNCRA”). However, a member of the Town Council in Brighton, Carolyn Keigley, is in
15 favor of the CWNCRA. She has done some research on other recreation areas. If Brighton is
16 concerned with maintaining autonomy while being within the boundaries, that can be negotiated
17 and written into the management agreement. Something may need to be put into the Statue so
18 there is comfort. There is no intention to tread on their autonomy unnecessarily. Research into
19 what other recreation areas look like would be valuable to show others that the management of the
20 area can be thoughtfully designed. He likes the idea of an internship so additional research can be
21 done.
22

23 Mr. Knoblock shed some light on the concerns previously expressed by Ms. Cameron. One of her
24 main concerns is that it will attract more people to the Central Wasatch, but there will not be
25 funding for the needed infrastructure. For example, needed trailhead development and restrooms.
26

27 **4. Short-Term Projects Grant Cycle Begins in January.**

28
29 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Short-Term Project Grant Program cycle is currently open. There
30 have been some inquiries about eligibility and timing. It looks like there will be a good number
31 of applicants this year. The grant cycle is open until February 9, 2025. She reminded those present
32 that the grant cycle date was moved from March to January to accommodate the Forest Service.
33

34 **5. The Next EBAC Meeting is Scheduled for Friday, February 14, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.**

35
36 The next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting will take place on February 14, 2025.
37

38 **6. The Next CWC Board Meeting is on March 3, 2025.**

39
40 The next CWC Board Meeting will take place on March 3, 2025.
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42 **Other Business**

43
44 Mr. Knoblock shared information about the status of the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan. Chelsea
45 Phillippe with the Forest Service has sent out a matrix to stakeholders of all the potential trail

1 projects. She is reaching out to stakeholders to receive input about priorities and funding. The
2 intention is to have the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan finished by mid-summer.

3
4 **Closing**

5
6 1. **Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**
7 **Committee Meeting.**

8
9 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at
10 approximately 10:18 a.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 Friday, January 17, 2025.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____