



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, 2025, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS MILLCREEK CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 1330 EAST CHAMBERS AVENUE, MILLCREEK, UTAH.

Present: John Knoblock, Chair
Pat Shea
Brenden Catt
Dan Zalles
Ed Marshall
Kim Doyle
Mark Baer
Olivia Juarez
Sarah Bennett
Danny Richardson
Sally Kaiser
Meaghan McKasy
Adam Lenkowski
Patrick Morrison
Barbara Cameron
Ella Abelli-Amen
Doug Tolman
Mike Marker
John Adams
Kelly Boardman
Maura Hahnenberger

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

Other: Wendy Fisher
Cheryl Fox
Patrick Nelson
Carolyn Keighly
Brad DiLorio

1 **Opening**

2
3 1. **Chair John Knoblock will Open the Public Meeting as the Chair of the Stakeholders**
4 **Council of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

5
6 Chair John Knoblock called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council
7 Meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those attending in-person and online.
8

9 2. **Chair Knoblock will Call for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the February 26,**
10 **2025, Stakeholders Council Meeting.**

11
12 Chair Knoblock noted that at the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, there was discussion about the
13 ground rules for the Stakeholders Council. The goals and objectives were also reviewed.
14

15 **MOTION:** Barbara Cameron moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from the February 26,
16 2025, Stakeholders Council Meeting. Patrick Morrison seconded the motion. The motion passed
17 with the unanimous consent of the Council.
18

19 Chair Knoblock reviewed the Stakeholders Council Meeting agenda and explained that there will be
20 a recap of the February meeting. There will also be presentations related to a potential Mountain
21 Accord Land Acquisition Program. Next on the agenda is a U.S. Forest Service discussion about how
22 the Stakeholders Council can assist. The next agenda item relates to the Baseline Study process that
23 is underway. There will then be an opportunity for those interested in joining a System Committee
24 to do so. There are also a number of CWC Staff announcements that will be shared.
25

26 **February Meeting Recap**

27
28 1. **Chair John Knoblock and Co-Chair Tom Diegel will Give a Recap of the February**
29 **Stakeholders Council Meeting.**

30
31 Chair Knoblock reviewed the Stakeholders Council Meeting that was held on February 26, 2025. He
32 reiterated that there was discussion about the ground rules as well as a review of the goals and
33 objectives. It is important that all Council Members are able to share comments. Council Members
34 are asked to be concise when providing input and not dominate the discussion. As for the introduction
35 of new items, suggestions can be made for future meetings but it is not appropriate to ask that action
36 be taken on a newly introduced item that was not included on the meeting agenda.
37

38 Chair Knoblock shared additional highlights from the last meeting, which included conversations
39 about the Human Element of the Environmental Dashboard. Director of Operations, Samantha
40 Kilpack, reported that the Environmental Dashboard has since been renamed to the Central Wasatch
41 Dashboard. There were also discussions about land acquisition, the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan,
42 and the Baseline Study. Chair Knoblock reminded those present that one of the functions of the
43 Stakeholders Council is to collect data. During the Breakout Sessions, there was discussion about
44 trailhead improvements such as improved parking and snow plowing in the winter. In addition,
45 Council Members talked about the potential Millcreek Canyon shuttle and what is still needed.
46

1 **Mountain Accord Land Acquisition Program Presentation**

2
3 **1. Staff will Discuss the Mountain Accord Directive to Create a Land Acquisition Program.**

4
5 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reminded the Council Members that the Mountain Accord
6 charter calls for the government entity that was created to carry out the items outlined in the Mountain
7 Accord. The government entity that was created out of the Mountain Accord is the CWC. Certain
8 items are still being worked on, such as a Millcreek Canyon shuttle and the Central Wasatch National
9 Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). Another item for consideration is a CWC-led
10 program related to land acquisition from willing sellers for conservation protections. The land would
11 be used to steward recreational access and protect the land and water.
12

13 **2. Land Conservancies that Operate within the CWC’s Study Area will Each Give a 10-**
14 **Minute Presentation on their Respective Organizations:**

15
16 **a. Patrick Nelson, Salt Lake City Public Utilities.**

17
18 Ms. Nielsen introduced Patrick Nelson, Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Manager. Salt Lake
19 City Public Utilities is a drinking water utility that holds over 36,000 acres in various areas to protect
20 source water that flows down to the treatment plants. Drinking water is the reason the Salt Lake
21 Forest Reserve was created in 1904. Over the years, the City has been quietly purchasing lands. He
22 was best qualified to speak on what happens after purchase. If lands are acquired, it is important to
23 think about how the land will be funded and paid for. It is not possible to buy a piece of land and
24 then let it sit. Staff members are focused on noxious weed mitigation, trail work, and fuels reduction.
25 The complexity of what happens after the purchase is something that needs to be considered,
26 especially if the CWC looks into a program.
27

28 Salt Lake City Public Utilities has a fund that is generated through most of the water service bills.
29 Lands are purchased at fair market value and they are not allowed to pay more. Some of the more
30 recent purchases were reviewed. Mr. Nelson reiterated that the program does not stop after
31 acquisition. This is especially true in the tri-canyon area because the different user groups are very
32 passionate. Land acquisition involves a significant amount of staff time. Discussions were had about
33 how land acquisition occurs. Mr. Nelson explained that sometimes, a property owner contacts them
34 directly about a property and other times, there is outreach made to a property owner. Council
35 Members talked about water shares. Mr. Nelson noted that if property has a water share with it, that
36 is not normally separate. There are some occasions where it is separated out, but that is not common.
37

38 Chair Knoblock asked if there were any suggestions for the Stakeholders Council or the CWC in
39 terms of land protection and land acquisition. He wanted to know if this work is best left to the
40 existing agencies. Mr. Nelson believes that additional public interest in protecting lands is beneficial.
41 Chair Knoblock asked about funding sources. Mr. Nelson is not aware of any time Salt Lake City
42 Public Utilities has applied for outside sources of funding for parcels in his time working in this role.
43

44 **b. Cheryl Fox, Summit Land Conservancy.**

45
46 Ms. Nielsen introduced Cheryl Fox, Summit Land Conservancy Executive Director. Summit Land
47 Conservancy is the lands trust working in the Wasatch Back in Summit County and Park City.
48 Ms. Fox shared presentation slides with the Stakeholders Council. Summit Land Conservancy is a

1 non-profit land trust but is a regional land trust that works only in the Wasatch Back. Summit Land
2 Conservancy was accredited in 2011 and is a certified entity with the National Resources
3 Conservation Service (“NRCS”) because the organization has completed over 15 conservation
4 easements using Federal funding. Summit Land Conservancy recently completed their 17th easement
5 in the Park City area working with Park City Municipal on Treasure Hill. She shared a slide to
6 highlight the open space that the Summit Land Conservancy protects in and around Park City. The
7 organization is used to working with a municipal partner to save recreational lands.

8
9 Summit Land Conservancy holds nearly 1,000 acres under conservation easement in Round Valley.
10 Ms. Fox shared images of some of the protected lands. The organization works with all of the
11 communities in the Wasatch Back and is currently working on a five-mile path along the Weber River.
12 There was a partnership with the Ogden Valley Land Trust a few years ago to save the Historic
13 Monastery Farm. Summit Land Conservancy has also found ways to combine different uses of land.

14
15 Chair Knoblock asked about land inheritance. Ms. Fox reported that Summit Land Conservancy
16 works a lot with private landowners. Conservation is harder because it takes longer, there are multiple
17 funding sources, and there are often setbacks. When there is a purchase of a conservation easement,
18 Federal funding is often used. That can be a slow process. Negotiating this kind of situation with a
19 family takes a lot of trust, but nine different landowners have come back to the Summit Land
20 Conservancy. This speaks to the ability of the organization to listen to their needs. There is a desire
21 to work with landowners for a better community benefit. Chair Knoblock wanted to know if there
22 have been any trail easements handled. This was denied. Ms. Fox explained that other organizations
23 focus on trial easements whereas Summit Land Conservancy focuses on saving the land. Mark Baer
24 asked how individuals can assist land acquisition organizations. Ms. Fox reported that there are
25 around eight land trusts in the State of Utah. It is possible to make financial contributions to assist
26 with the work. Alternatively, she suggested talking about land conservation and focusing on
27 advocacy. There are a lot of ways individuals assist.

28
29 **c. Wendy Fisher, Utah Open Lands.**
30

31 Ms. Nielsen introduced Wendy Fisher, Utah Open Lands Executive Director. She reported that Utah
32 Open Lands handles land acquisitions across the State of Utah. Ms. Fisher shared some background
33 information and explained that Utah Open Lands was the first local land trust in the State of Utah.
34 This is the 35th year of operation as an organization. One of the bright spots in land protection over
35 the last decade was the protection of the Bonanza Flat Conservation Area. It started as 1,341 acres
36 and was comprised of many mining claims. There were a lot of non-profit organizations that were
37 engaged in the campaign for the Bonanza Flat Conservation Area. Three different counties, three
38 different cities, and two different agencies came to the table to protect the area. People choose to live
39 in and visit Utah to enjoy the scenic beauty and recreational opportunities.

40
41 Ms. Fisher shared information about what Utah Open Lands is doing in the Cottonwood Canyons and
42 areas within the Wasatch Front. There are some unique challenges when it comes to lands in Big
43 Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. For example, some landowners have certain
44 expectations about what their property is worth. Issues that Utah Open Lands has faced in the past
45 relate to zoning and annexation perceptions on value. She shared an example scenario about a piece
46 of property technically within the County and adjacent to Cottonwood Heights. If the property owner
47 believes that a piece of property could be annexed into Cottonwood Heights and receive a higher
48 density, there might be a perception that the value of the property is greater. However, when an

1 organization like Utah Open Lands looks at purchasing property, it is necessary to look at the as-is
2 value. The valuation cannot be based on a speculative value. That makes conversations with
3 landowners a little more difficult. She shared additional example scenarios and outlined other
4 difficulties.

5
6 When it comes to appraisal, Utah Open Lands wants to make sure that there is an independent
7 valuation, even when it comes to what the community would like to see. Ms. Fisher explained that
8 the process needs to be separate and independent. As for a purchase, this would involve a Letter of
9 Intent and there would need to be a clean title. Ms. Fisher noted that there would ideally be time to
10 fundraise and submit grant applications. The Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant Program is beneficial
11 and she applauded the Legislature for continuing to fund that. One of the issues that can arise in the
12 canyons relates to mine claims. She noted that exhaustive geologist reports have been done in Big
13 Cottonwood Canyon on a few properties, as mineral interests can result in additional complications.

14
15 Ms. Fisher shared information about the Cottonwood Heights Bonneville Shoreline Trail Preserve.
16 In 2018, there was work done with Cottonwood Heights to acquire this property. Over 450 people
17 contributed to the preservation of the 26-acre piece of property. There was an existing Development
18 Agreement with Cottonwood Heights and the agreement allowed the owner to have 13 units. In order
19 to have a qualified value for the property, it was necessary to understand the mineral interests, what
20 the Development Agreement stated, what the potential quid pro quo issues were, and whether or not
21 there was water. As it turned out, the will-serve letter was only for nine lots, so even though there
22 was a Development Agreement for 13 units, the appraisal was based on nine lots. It was an interesting
23 process to work with the landowners to reach a conservation solution. The value based on the
24 appraisal was \$4 million. There were grants and donations made, but there was a fundraising
25 campaign needed as well. Ms. Fisher explained that there were four different parties involved in the
26 transaction and \$2.8 million was raised. The community effort was so inspiring that the price was
27 lowered. When working with owners interested in conservation solutions, there is uncertainty about
28 how the owner will react, but there have been examples of owners being inspired by the process.

29
30 An image was shared with the Stakeholders Council and Ms. Fisher pointed out a parcel. She
31 explained that this is the acquisition that was done at the base of Little Cottonwood Canyon. There
32 is some land publicly owned that is adjacent and then there are two parcels on either side. There have
33 been conversations with the land owner and Cottonwood Heights. In order to have a trail go through
34 those parcels, there are some logistics to be determined. A lot of progress is being made. She noted
35 that there have also been conversations with the property owners for the properties that are shown in
36 blue. She feels there have been some productive conversations so far, but sometimes there is a
37 difference between the perceived value that the owners have and what can be achieved through
38 fundraising. Ms. Fisher noted that certain land would need to be acquired in order for there to be
39 connectivity. A comment was made that the private landowners are keeping everyone out of the north
40 and south area. This was confirmed. Ms. Fisher explained that this process is not easy and can be
41 time-consuming. Utah Open Lands applauds land owners who are willing to come to the table and
42 discuss options. She reiterated that there are challenges when it comes to land acquisition and this is
43 an example of that.

44
45 Ms. Fisher noted that there are a lot of land acquisition opportunities in the canyons. Utah Open
46 Lands is working with Salt Lake City on another acquisition that is a part of the Bonneville Shoreline
47 Trail. Utah Open Lands is an accredited organization and has been a land trust for 35 years. The
48 organization has a unique ability to provide resources and there is a willingness to work with the

1 CWC. Based on experience, it is important to set a good precedent, because there are a lot of
2 challenges, especially in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. Some factors can
3 complicate the process of moving forward and acquiring land, such as mining claim issues.

4
5 Chair Knoblock asked if there has ever been a situation where a city ordinance requires a trail
6 easement for development, but the development is not planned for another decade. Ms. Fisher
7 confirmed that there have been situations like that. In those cases, there is a Planning Commission
8 and City Council that have to evaluate all of the different elements and follow the existing processes.
9 Discussions were had about the land exchanges originally proposed as part of the Mountain Accord.
10 Ms. Nielsen clarified that the land exchanges were a component of the early iterations of the
11 CWNCRA. She offered to share details about the removal of the land exchanges at another time.

12
13 **d. Open Q&A.**

14
15 Chair Knoblock reported that in the Mountain Accord, there was a specific line item that mentioned
16 the development of a process for land acquisition. That has never come to fruition as a focused
17 process, but there is a desire to protect the land for water, nature, and recreation. He explained that
18 the reason for the Stakeholders Council Meeting presentations is to discuss potential ways to move
19 that forward. Discussions were had about how the acquisition process works. Mr. Nelson explained
20 the process occurs as opportunities arise. If there is something that meets the values of watershed
21 protection, a purchase may be pursued. There is not necessarily a list of desired lands. Ms. Nielsen
22 thanked Mr. Nelson, Ms. Fox, and Ms. Fisher for attending the Stakeholders Council Meeting.

23
24 **3. Open Discussion.**

25
26 A question was asked about the level of interest the CWC Board has in a land acquisition program.
27 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Mountain Accord laid out many directions for the CWC to carry out.
28 When the first CWC Staff Members were hired, the CWC Board directed them to focus on the
29 Legislation. That was a significant undertaking. The other goals in the Mountain Accord were also
30 important, but the initial focus was on the Legislation. There is still a lot to do within the CWC.
31 There is no specific subcommittee that talks about land acquisition at the Stakeholders Council level,
32 but there have been occasional conversations about it in the Millcreek Canyon Committee Meetings.
33 If the Stakeholders Council wants to create a subcommittee that is specifically focused on land
34 acquisition, that can be considered. At the CWC Board level, there is the Legislative and Land Tenure
35 Committee. She could envision something from a subcommittee being forwarded to that Committee.

36
37 Chair Knoblock asked if there is interest from Council Members in forming a Land Acquisition
38 Committee. Mike Marker wanted to understand how a new subcommittee would add value. Chair
39 Knoblock envisioned some sort of list of properties in the Central Wasatch that could be tracked or
40 pursued. It seems some of the other organizations that exist mainly focus on taking action when
41 opportunities arise. It could be beneficial for a Land Acquisition Committee to identify opportunities.

42
43 Mr. Nelson noted that if there is an identification of opportunities, he would like someone from Salt
44 Lake City Public Utilities to be part of those conversations. His concern is that this kind of list could
45 inflate the value of certain properties. Chair Knoblock pointed out that there might be willing sellers
46 out there who have not considered selling the property because it has been in the family for some
47 time. There could be outreach about possible protections. Additional discussions were had about
48 land acquisition. It was pointed out that during the presentations, individuals were encouraged to

engage the public and create public interest in conservation. Forming partnerships can also be beneficial. There are other ways the CWC can assist beyond finding properties or creating a list.

Dan Zalles shared a comment about the formation of a Land Acquisition Committee. He expressed support for the subcommittee because land acquisition comes up in other subcommittee meeting discussions, such as the Environment System Committee. The Land Acquisition Committee could look at ways to facilitate advancements in this area, including coordination with existing land acquisition organizations. Chair Knoblock asked for a show of hands to see how many Council Members are interested in the creation of a Land Acquisition Committee. There were some in favor.

Ms. Nielsen wondered whether this work would fit into one of the existing System Committees. Chair Knoblock noted that the Recreation System Committee, Environment System Committee, and Millcreek Canyon Committee have all spoken about land acquisition in the past. He pointed out that this work impacts several of the subcommittees. The work is tied to the environment, but can also impact recreation. For example, there have been issues associated with backcountry ski access in Cardiff Canyon. Ms. Nielsen feels this might fit into the work of the existing System Committees. She explained that it takes resources to form an additional subcommittee. John Adams noted that certain knowledge is needed for land acquisition discussions. Chair Knoblock reported that the Salt Lake County Assessor's Office told him how to conduct searches for these kinds of parcels. There was a suggestion made that this starts as a System Committee item. In the future, there can be another discussion about the creation of a Land Acquisition Committee. The following question was posed:

- What are the three most at-risk properties in the Cottonwood Canyons currently?

Kelly Boardman wondered whether land acquisition work would fit under the short-term projects umbrella. Ms. Nielsen reported that the Short-Term Projects Grant Program is small and the maximum request is \$20,000. However, there was a time when Utah Open Lands applied for Short-Term Projects Grant Program funding and it was awarded. Ms. Boardman pointed out that there could be an application submitted for the identification of potential properties. Chair Knoblock informed Council Members that there will be discussions with CWC Staff to determine next steps.

Carolyn Keighly reported that she is on the Town Council for the Town of Brighton. She made notes during the discussion. It would be beneficial for a municipality to have a list of potential properties.

Forest Service Discussion.

1. The Council will Discuss Potential Support for the Forest Service Amid Recent Cuts.

Chair Knoblock noted that there was a discussion during the Environment System Committee Meeting about the Forest Service cuts that have been made. Ella Abelli-Amen explained that she is with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and is a member of the Environment System Committee. There have been discussions with the Forest Service about ways to contribute in terms of stewardship. Save Our Canyons and the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation already have existing programs available. The intention is to support the Forest Service wherever possible. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has a trail crew and there are many volunteer days scheduled. Ms. Abelli-Amen is the Plant Stewardship Director and the plants program focuses on tasks like weed pulls and native plant restoration. There are more than 40 volunteer days planned for the season. Additionally, there are

1 education programs available. There is also a new program, which is called the Trail Steward
2 Program. The idea is to fill in some of the gaps with the Trail Steward volunteers.

3
4 Doug Tolman shared information about Save Our Canyons. He explained that the organization is
5 attempting to expand the existing programming. The first opportunity relates to wilderness recreation
6 site monitoring. There are certain locations that are seeing a lot of use and require monitoring. If
7 there is anyone interested in visiting a specific set of sites and then reporting back on the conditions,
8 it is possible to assist in that way. Mr. Tolman reviewed additional work done by Save Our Canyons,
9 such as the Wasatch Stewardship Program. A list was received from the Salt Lake Ranger District
10 that outlines the items there is a desire to receive additional assistance with this year. The list was
11 circulated to the Environment System Committee. Some gaps were identified between the
12 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and Save Our Canyons. He shared five items that the Salt Lake
13 Ranger District is open to receiving assistance with. Anyone interested in those items can reach out.
14 Mr. Tolman reported that there will be a CWC stewardship event held on May 17, 2025. Ms. Nielsen
15 explained that when the details are solidified, event information will be sent out to Council Members.

16
17 Chair Knoblock asked about the number of trail crews for the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation this
18 year. Ms. Abelli-Amen explained that the trail crew is approximately half the size that it normally is.
19 Chair Knoblock expressed concerns that the trail crews have been reduced at the same time there are
20 cuts at the Forest Service level. He asked if it is possible to receive funding from the Utah Division
21 of Outdoor Recreation to fill in some of the gaps. Patrick Morrison did not believe it was possible
22 for this season. Those who applied for grants will find out the results in the first week of May. There
23 is a State trail crew, which can provide some assistance. Chair Knoblock asked about the State trail
24 crew agenda. Mr. Morrison reported that there are four regionally based trail crews. The Salt Lake-
25 based crew is generally the busiest, but he does not have details about the planned work. He pointed
26 out that there are some unknowns about whether the current gaps will remain in perpetuity or if this
27 is a temporary situation. It is a lot of work to hire a crew, maintain a crew, and handle the tasks.

28
29 Discussions were had about the student education items that were shared. Some are broad and some
30 are more specific. A question was asked about the timeline and whether the student-focused items
31 are associated with a school. Mr. Tolman clarified that Save Our Canyons runs a student education
32 program called Save Our Canyons Kids (“SOCKids”). Their role is to partner a Ranger or some sort
33 of naturalist with a classroom. Save Our Canyons plays a facilitator-connector role. As for
34 classrooms looking for service projects, it might be possible for an undergraduate classroom to adopt
35 a restroom for a semester. There are different ways that interested students can participate.
36 Ms. Abelli-Amen shared information about the volunteer opportunities associated with the
37 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation as well as the educational components. There are a lot of
38 opportunities available.

39
40 Ms. Kilpack reported that calendar invitations for the stewardship event on May 17, 2025, will be
41 sent out tomorrow. There will be instructions about how to register. Once there is a location selected,
42 that location will be added to the calendar. She stated that all are welcome to attend the event. Chair
43 Knoblock asked if there was anything else the Stakeholders Council could be doing to assist with the
44 effort to support the Forest Service. Mr. Tolman referenced the list with five items, as those are
45 identified as gaps that still exist. If there is any way to focus on those items, that would be ideal.

46
47 Chair Knoblock asked if restroom maintenance is still handled under the umbrella contract. He
48 wanted to better understand what the needs are. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a contract in place

1 for restroom maintenance, but if the Forest Service has included this on the list, the assumption is that
2 there are other restrooms that still require maintenance. She offered to reach out about that need.
3 Barbara Cameron shared information about some of the efforts made by the Town of Brighton. Chair
4 Knoblock likes that the Town of Brighton is being proactive and is assisting with some of the needs.
5 Council Members discussed the restrooms that are not covered under the existing umbrella contract.
6

7 **Central Wasatch “Baseline Study” Discussion**

8 9 **1. Chair Knoblock will Discuss the System Committee's Progress on a “Baseline Study”** 10 **Data Gathering Effort to Document Current Visitor Use Data in the Canyons.** 11

12 Chair Knoblock reported that the Baseline Study has been discussed at the Transportation System
13 Committee and Recreation System Committee level. Volunteers offered to find certain data.
14 Mr. Marker was tasked with looking into vehicle counts, Danny Richardson was looking into bus
15 counts, and Mr. Baer was looking into Millcreek Canyon data. Chair Knoblock and Ian Reddell were
16 looking into parking spot counts. On the recreation side, Tom Diegel was tasked with looking into
17 data from the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance related to trail counters, Mr. Morrison was tasked with
18 looking into data from the ski resorts, and Sarah Bennett was tasked with looking into mountain
19 bicycle and road bicycle counts. Chair Knoblock explained that he would put together a spreadsheet
20 within the Google Drive folder for the Stakeholders Council. All of the information can be added in
21 there.
22

23 Mayor Jeff Silvestrini has stressed the importance of documenting the methodology. In order for
24 there to be repeatable results, it is necessary to have a clear description of the methodology used.
25 Mr. Baer believed that someone was supposed to reach out to him to assist with the Millcreek Canyon
26 data-gathering process. He has tried to find some information but has been unsuccessful so far. Chair
27 Knoblock offered to reach out after the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Ms. Boardman asked about
28 gathering numbers for businesses in the canyons. Chair Knoblock noted that there is a desire to
29 understand how many people are visiting for Oktoberfest, conferences, and other events. A comment
30 was made that resort data is competitive and there might be reluctance to share certain information.
31 Chair Knoblock asked whether someone from the Economy System Committee could look into this
32 further. He reminded Council Members that the idea of the Baseline Study is to have current data
33 that can be compared to future data to determine trends and changes that have occurred over time.
34

35 Some of the Council Members thought it made more sense to focus on a smaller set of data that is
36 accurate than to have a lot of data that is broader in nature. The importance of having quality data
37 was stressed. There was support for tracking the methodology. This will ensure there can be
38 comparisons made in the future. Chair Knoblock asked that work continue as part of the Baseline
39 Study process. There can be another check-in within the next few weeks. In a month or so, the
40 intention is to have some preliminary numbers available. He would like to have a Baseline Study
41 Report ready for review at the next Stakeholders Council Meeting, which will take place in June.
42

43 **Committee Membership**

44 45 **1. Stakeholders May Request to Join the System Committee.** 46

- 47 **a. Millcreek Canyon Committee.**
- 48 **b. Environment System Committee.**

- c. Transportation System Committee.
- d. Recreation System Committee.
- e. Economy System Committee.

Chair Knoblock asked if there is anyone who wants to join a subcommittee. This was denied.

Staff Announcements

1. Stakeholders Council, CWC Youth Council, and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation Volunteer Day.

Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a stewardship event that is scheduled to take place on May 17, 2025. It was reiterated that the calendar event will be sent out to Council Members tomorrow.

2. CWC Staffing Update.

There were no CWC Staff updates shared with the Stakeholders Council.

3. CWC Staff are Working with the Developers of the Central Wasatch Dashboard to Implement Changes that were Discussed During the February Storyboarding Workshop. Small Changes are Underway and Larger Changes (e.g. the Creation of a Landing Page Map, Additional Data, etc.) are Being Scoped by the Developers and will then be considered by the Board.

Work is taking place with the developers of the Central Wasatch Dashboard to implement some of the changes that were suggested during the Environmental Dashboard Storyboarding Workshop.

4. The CWC Submitted a Public Comment on UDOT's Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study as a Participating Agency in December. You May Read the CWC's Comment at cwc.utah.gov.

Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC submitted a public comment on the Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT") Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study back in December. It is available to review on the CWC website. The comment is under the Mountain Transportation section.

5. The CWC Received a \$100,000 Appropriation from the Utah State Legislature for the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year.

The CWC received a \$100,000 appropriation for the next fiscal year from the Utah State Legislature. The organization has approached the Legislature in the past for appropriations for items such as the Short-Term Projects Grant Program, Ski Bus Priority Access Program, restroom maintenance, graffiti removal, and other needs. There has been an appropriations request made every year since 2020. This time, the CWC requested appropriations of \$185,000, but there was \$100,000 awarded.

1 **6. Staff are Drafting the Tentative 2025/2026 Fiscal Year Budget with the CWC Treasurer**
2 **that the Commission will Consider During the May 5th CWC Board Meeting.**
3

4 Ms. Nielsen reported that budget season is currently underway. The Tentative Budget will be
5 reviewed during the CWC Board Meeting on May 5, 2025. The hearing will take place in June.
6

7 **7. Short-Term Project Proposals Have Been Evaluated and Funding will be Confirmed at**
8 **the May 5, 2025, CWC Board Meeting.**
9

10 The Short-Term Projects Committee met recently and made funding recommendations as part of the
11 Short-Term Projects Grant Program review process. The recommendations will be reviewed at the
12 CWC Board Meeting on May 5, 2025. The CWC Board will vote on the proposal at that time.
13

14 **8. The Board will Consider Contracting with Fehr & Peers to Update the Millcreek Shuttle**
15 **Feasibility Plan at their May 5, 2025, CWC Meeting. Pending Approval, Work Could**
16 **Begin in May.**
17

18 At the May 5, 2025, CWC Board Meeting, the CWC Board will consider contracting with Fehr &
19 Peers for an update to the 2012 Millcreek Canyon Shuttle Feasibility Plan. Pending consideration
20 and approval from the CWC Board, that work could start in May. Chair Knoblock asked if this would
21 utilize the unspent money from the current fiscal year. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a budget
22 surplus this fiscal year, so it is possible to use the surplus on the updated Fehr & Peers study.
23 Mr. Marker asked about the Cottonwood Canyons Transportation Investment Fund. Ms. Nielsen
24 explained that she has spoken to Senator Kirk Cullimore about this and he is receptive, but it comes
25 down to timing. Discussions were had about whether that could be used for a Millcreek Canyon
26 shuttle. Chair Knoblock pointed out that the fund appears to be focused on the Cottonwood Canyons.
27

28 **9. Youth Council Announcements.**
29

30 Community Engagement Coordinator, Mia McNeil shared updates about the CWC Youth Council.
31 The CWC Youth Council met last month and there have been subcommittee meetings this month.
32 For the Outdoor Access Committee, the Gear Shed was part of the Short-Term Projects Grant
33 Program last year. There was a launch party on April 5, 2025, which went well. Crystal Chen
34 spearheaded the project and has been working directly with the Gear Fund Collective as well as the
35 Mobile Moon Co-Op to put together the launch party. Ms. McNeil reiterated that the launch party
36 went well and a lot of community members attended. It was a notable event. The reports associated
37 with the Short-Term Projects Grant Program funding will be written shortly. It was noted that
38 Ms. Abelli-Amen is a CWC Youth Council liaison. Ms. McNeil expressed appreciation for her
39 efforts.
40

41 Ms. Nielsen reported that this is the last Stakeholders Council Meeting for Ms. McNeil. The CWC
42 Board Meeting on May 5, 2025, will be the last CWC Board Meeting that she attends as CWC Staff.
43 Ms. McNeil is graduating and will move on from the organization. Chair Knoblock noted that the
44 work Ms. McNeil has done as part of the In The Wasatch podcast has been spectacular. Ms. McNeil
45 stated that she would still be with the CWC until the end of May and asked for future podcast ideas.
46

1 **10. The Stakeholders Council Retreat will be on June 4, 2025, at Mill Hollow Park.**

2
3 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Stakeholders Council Retreat will take place on June 4, 2025.
4

5 **Stakeholders Open Comment**

6
7 A question was asked about Cottonwood Heights potentially leaving the CWC. Ms. Nielsen reported
8 that the Cottonwood Heights City Council considered this at their recent meeting. Many of the
9 Stakeholders Council organizations sent emails urging the City Council not to leave the CWC. Mayor
10 Silvestrini and Ms. Nielsen attended the City Council Work Session and there was agreement to
11 remain, so Cottonwood Heights will remain a member of the CWC for at least one year. Mayor Mike
12 Weichers has a full schedule and has not been as engaged in the CWC work and meetings as he would
13 like. As a result, he has asked a Cottonwood Heights Council Member, Ellen Birrell, to sit in as the
14 Cottonwood Heights representative on the CWC Board moving forward.
15

16 Chair Knoblock asked if there were any comments from members of the public. Brad DiLorio
17 explained that he is with Leaders for Clean Air and was interested in learning more about the CWC.
18

19 Ms. Nielsen shared a final CWC Staff announcement. The CWC is looking to hire a Research Intern
20 for the summer and a full-time Communications Director. The hope is to make offers soon and sign
21 employment contracts at the CWC Board Meeting in May. She encouraged interested Council
22 Members to attend the May 5, 2025, CWC Board Meeting, as it will have a full agenda.
23

24 **Closing**

25
26 **1. Chair Knoblock will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Stakeholders' Council Meeting.**

27
28 **MOTION:** _____ moved to ADJOURN the Stakeholders Council Meeting. _____ seconded
29 the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.
30

31 The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting held on Wednesday, April 16, 2025.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes
6 T Forbes Group
7 Minutes Secretary
8

9 Minutes Approved: _____