



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL RECREATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC OFFICES LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

**Committee Members:** Patrick Morrison, Chair  
Dennis Goreham, Co-Chair  
Mark Baer  
Sarah Bennett  
Barbara Cameron  
John Knoblock  
Tom Diegel

**Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director  
Ben Kilbourne, Communications Director

**Public:** Emily Salle, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation  
Maria Moncur  
Julie Jag

**OPENING**

**1. Chair Patrick Morrison will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Recreation System Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

Chair Patrick Morrison called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Recreation System Committee Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**2. Review and Approval of the March 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION:** Barbara Cameron moved to APPROVE the March 13, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Dennis Goreham seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

## **SHORT-TERM PROJECTS UPDATE**

### **1. Staff will Review Projects Funded for the 2025-2026 Short-Term Projects Grant Cycle.**

Chair Morrison shared information about the Short-Term Projects Grant Program and noted that short-term projects are an exciting component of the CWC work. He asked CWC Staff to share information about the projects that were funded in the latest grant cycle. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the sixth cycle of the Short-Term Projects Grant Program recently took place. The program was initiated back in 2020. The Short-Term Projects Funding Memo was shared.

There was \$100,000 available in the latest grant cycle. However, the total requested amount was \$190,000. That means approximately half of the grant requests were able to be funded. Ms. Nielsen reviewed the projects that received either full or partial funding and noted that 12 out of the 20 submissions were funded in some manner. The Short-Term Projects Committee met in April 2025 to discuss the different projects. Committee Members included Mayor Mike Weichers, Mayor Monica Zoltanski, Mayor Roger Bourke, and Annalee Munsey. Ms. Nielsen explained that proposals are reviewed by the water manager and land manager when appropriate. For example, if there is a short-term project that is proposed to occur on U.S. Forest Service Land, it is reviewed by the Salt Lake Ranger District before it is considered by the Short-Term Projects Committee. Some of the awarded proposals have been consistently funded over the last six years of the program while some are new.

Co-Chair Dennis Goreham pointed out that some of the short-term projects were funded fully while others were only partially funded. He asked whether the Short-Term Projects Committee checks with the applicants to determine whether partial funding is still useful. Ms. Nielsen explained that communication is handled via email. In the past, CWC Staff has reached out to applicants about the awarded grant amount. If there is an issue, then it is communicated during that correspondence. There is a stipulation in the grant language that unused funds must be returned to the CWC. That happened once before when a private resident requested funding for bicycle rack installation at Rattlesnake Gulch. He overestimated the cost and the remaining funds were returned to the CWC.

John Knoblock asked about the Folsom Trail Hidden Waters Project that was funded. He wanted to know if there were geographic limitations in place. Ms. Nielsen reported that Folsom Trail is in Salt Lake City. She noted that Salt Lake City is a member jurisdiction and that was enough of an eligibility marker for the Short-Term Projects Committee. This was a project that certain Committee Members were interested in because it allowed the CWC to expand its reach and impact because it is on the west side of Salt Lake City. Mark Baer wondered where the money for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program comes from. He also wanted to know if it is possible to fundraise and expand the program. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that there are opportunities to expand, but the CWC is a government entity, so there are rules about fundraising and soliciting funds. She explained that the CWC is funded by the member jurisdictions and the State. The Short-Term Projects Grant Program is specifically funded through the State appropriations. In the upcoming fiscal year, the State appropriations are less than anticipated. There has been some assurance from

1 the State lobbying team that the amount received is excellent news given what the State budget  
2 looks like this year.

3  
4 There was a CWC Board Meeting held on May 5, 2025, and during that meeting, the CWC Board  
5 approved a Tentative Budget. It is possible to see the impact of that lower State appropriation in  
6 that budget. It essentially means there is less money available for the Short-Term Projects Grant  
7 Program next year. Mr. Baer discussed the opportunities available to raise money for short-term  
8 projects. He shared some suggestions with the Recreation System Committee. Ms. Nielsen stated  
9 that she can speak to him about his ideas after the meeting or there can be a future Committee  
10 discussion about fundraising efforts. She noted that many of the short-term projects have  
11 recreational impacts.

12  
13 Chair Morrison expressed support for the list of awarded short-term projects. He noted that many  
14 of them seem to be recreation-focused or recreation-adjacent. Discussions were had about  
15 donations. Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC can accept contributions for specific projects, but  
16 not for operational costs. Chair Morrison thought a fundraising conversation would be meaningful,  
17 as there is a clear connection to recreation. The Committee can discuss this at a future meeting.

18  
19 Chair Morrison asked the new member of CWC Staff to introduce himself to the Recreation  
20 System Committee. Communications Director, Ben Kilbourne, explained that he was born in  
21 Kanab and has been in Salt Lake for half of his life. He has been recreating in the Wasatch for a  
22 long time. As for his work experience, he was a Wilderness Ranger with the Forest Service and  
23 handled trail work and trail maintenance. Additionally, he worked at a 501(3)(c) doing  
24 communications work. Mr. Kilbourne was excited when he read the job description for the  
25 Communications Director position because podcasting was part of the role and he has that  
26 experience. He also has done some marketing.

## 27 28 **SHORT HIKE IN THE CENTRAL WASATCH**

### 29 30 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Status of the Short Hikes Guide Project and** 31 **Determine Desired Outcomes and Action Items.**

32  
33 Chair Morrison reported that the Recreation System Committee has discussed short hikes in the  
34 Central Wasatch during previous meetings. It seems there is still a desire to focus on this. Barbara  
35 Cameron explained that she has collected a lot of information about the available hikes. This  
36 includes resources from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and the Wasatch Mountain Club.  
37 Several links have been collected so it is possible to quickly find information that is already out  
38 there. The Recreation System Committee expressed an interest in trail etiquette information as  
39 well, so she also collected resources related to that. She is open to hearing suggestions about the  
40 document she created.

41  
42 Co-Chair Goreham thanked Ms. Cameron for all of the work she has done. It is a one-page  
43 document, but it is clear that a lot of time and effort was put into collecting the relevant resources.  
44 He is curious about how to move this forward in some way. Ms. Nielsen reported that the  
45 information can be added to the Central Wasatch Dashboard. Co-Chair Goreham suggested one  
46 more round of small edits before that occurs. He likes everything on the etiquette side but feels

1 there is a bit of redundancy in some of the other sections. Ms. Cameron expressed support for the  
2 additional editing suggested. Sarah Bennett asked that the document be shared via email with the  
3 Recreation System Committee Members attending the meeting virtually. Co-Chair Goreham  
4 pointed out that the original idea was to focus on 50-minute hikes. He asked if that should be  
5 incorporated into the document as well.

6  
7 Chair Morrison asked how the new road construction will impact equestrian riders. Emily Salle  
8 explained that any non-watershed protected trails are open to equestrians, but the user group is so  
9 small that it is not very advertised. Old Red Pine Road is the most used trail and receives the most  
10 visibility. However, she reported that Old Red Pine Road will be closed until December 15. There  
11 are three trails included in the Federal Lands Access Program (“FLAP”) grant closures. Ms. Salle  
12 reported that there are trails in Draper that are often recommended due to the well-built network  
13 as well as the signage and parking that makes equestrian use easier. The tri-canyons are not  
14 necessarily designed with equestrian use in mind so that use is not advertised as much in the area.

15  
16 Chair Morrison believes the information collected by Ms. Cameron can be shared with different  
17 partners. He loves the idea of it being housed on the Central Wasatch Dashboard as well.  
18 Ms. Bennett stated that Trails Utah would be willing to create a link on the website to connect to  
19 this resource. Trails Utah recently revamped their trail etiquette section and there is now more  
20 information about that on the website. It was determined that there would be one more round of  
21 edits made to the document before it is distributed, but there was support expressed for the  
22 document overall. Co-Chair Goreham pointed out that this information does not need to be limited  
23 to one page when it is shared online.

24  
25 It was noted that Ms. Salle left a comment in the Zoom chat box. Ms. Salle stated that it might be  
26 possible to consult with Ashley Brown when it comes to consolidating the information. Ms. Brown  
27 published the Urban Trails Salt Lake City guide, which includes ways to access the tri-canyons  
28 with a highlight on public and active transportation. Ms. Nielsen reminded the Recreation System  
29 Committee that there is a Stakeholders Council Retreat scheduled to take place on June 4, 2025.  
30 It is possible to share the document in that Meeting Materials Packet and reference it at the retreat.

31  
32 Ms. Cameron reported that she will reformat the document and will address some of the  
33 redundancies. She asked Committee Members to share additional resources and suggestions  
34 before it is finalized. The Short Hikes in the Central Wasatch document will be revisited at the  
35 next Committee Meeting.

## 36 37 **RECREATION MANAGEMENT NEEDS**

### 38 39 **1. The Committee will Discuss and Identify Ways to Support the Recreation** 40 **Management Needs of the Forest Service.**

41  
42 Chair Morrison reported that there is some uncertainty when it comes to the land managers and  
43 their needs. There is a desire to understand how Committee Members can assist in addressing  
44 some of those needs. During the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, there were some discussions  
45 about this matter. It was noted that Adam Shaw with the Forest Service was invited to attend the

1 Recreation System Committee Meeting, but it does not appear that he is currently present at the  
2 meeting.

3  
4 Co-Chair Goreham asked about the handout that was received about the Forest Service, Save Our  
5 Canyons, and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Ms. Nielsen clarified that it is not a CWC  
6 document, but she believes it has up-to-date information about where the Forest Service needs  
7 assistance. Chair Morrison wanted to know if there are updates that Ms. Salle can share with the  
8 Recreation System Committee. Ms. Salle stressed the importance of amplifying true and accurate  
9 information and noted that Trails Utah has been sharing the FLAP grant related trail closures. The  
10 Forest Service currently has no opportunity to engage in new contracts or new purchasing, which  
11 might slow some projects down. She suggested being sensitive to the fact that certain timelines  
12 might be extended. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is thrilled to still have a trail crew this  
13 season thanks to the funding that has been received. The foundation is taking on a lot of the trail  
14 maintenance work at this point, so volunteer presence will be especially meaningful. The  
15 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is doing some fundraising to support some of the smaller  
16 projects that need funding but cannot be purchased through the Forest Service. One example  
17 project is pumping out the restrooms. It is possible for anyone interested in assisting with the  
18 necessary work to volunteer time or make a financial donation.

19  
20 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Stakeholders Council has been invited to volunteer with the  
21 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation on May 17, 2025. The invitation has been sent out to Council  
22 Members already. Chair Morrison stated that the Salt Lake Ranger District is lucky to have the  
23 assistance of the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for this crucial work. He asked whether it  
24 might be appropriate to share information about donating to the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation.  
25 It was clarified that the CWC is unable to do that, but different organizations can direct those  
26 interested in the foundation.

27  
28 The Committee discussed the volunteer capacity for the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation.  
29 Ms. Salle reported that a volunteer leader role has been created within the volunteer population so  
30 it is possible to delegate tasks into smaller groups on the larger volunteer days. That structure has  
31 been put into place in order to manage larger volunteer groups effectively. The intention is for it  
32 to remain fun and productive. Mr. Knoblock asked about the high school mountain bicycle teams.  
33 He noted that there are a few thousand students who are required to put in trail work hours.  
34 Ms. Salle confirmed that there has been communication with them. There are some challenges in  
35 the tri-canyons due to parking and the available times, but some work has been done with them on  
36 invasive weed management.

37  
38 Ms. Cameron asked about the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan. Chair Morrison reported that he  
39 spoke to Chelsea Phillippe earlier in the day. He believes there will be an update on that in the  
40 near future. Mr. Knoblock noted that at the trails conference, Ms. Phillippe stated that it is still  
41 being worked on, but due to reduced staffing levels, there might be some delays. The Tri-Canyon  
42 Trails Master Plan was originally planned to be released in late summer or early fall. That might  
43 not be the case now.

## **CANYONS VISITATION AND CAPACITY**

### **1. The Committee will Discuss Cataloguing Canyon Visitation in Collaboration with the Transportation System Committee.**

Chair Morrison reported that there have been discussions about the Visitor Use Study that was conducted as well as a desire to collect Baseline Study data. The Recreation System Committee has assigned different Committee Members to certain data collection tasks. He shared a list of information Committee Members have offered to look into, including backcountry skier estimates, resort skier data, mountain bicycle data, rock climbing data, Wildflower Festival counts, and so on. He asked Committee Members whether any progress has been made on the data collection.

Ms. Cameron reported that she submitted some data related to roadside parking. Discussions were had about how to best share information with one another. Chair Morrison stated that he has been trying to track down some data that is specific to the ski resorts but has not had a lot of luck. The ski resorts are protective of certain information. However, there is the Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute data from last year for the total skier days across the State. It is possible to extrapolate a decent amount of information, but it is not necessarily a reliable data source. As for the climbing numbers, there is data available from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance. Mr. Knoblock shared a list of information that the Transportation System Committee and the Recreation System Committee are working to collect. Ms. Bennett suggested that campers be added to the list of data to collect because both Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon host campgrounds. Mr. Knoblock stressed the importance of documenting how the data is collected. He suggested that the process be written down so it is possible to reproduce the Baseline Study data collection in the future.

Tom Diegel reported that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance has done comprehensive counts over the last few years. The counters are currently being taken down so the information can be downloaded. Data is going back to 2018 that the latest set of data can be compared against. He has also been in touch with Ms. Phillippe because the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance loans those trail counters to the Forest Service in the summer. As a result, it might be possible to obtain similar information about the trailhead use in the summer months. He offered to share the raw data from the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance after the Recreation System Committee Meeting. Mr. Diegel noted that he spoke to Will Becker about bicycle-specific counters. He was informed that there is technology that can isolate bicycles. That could be valuable in terms of collecting detailed data.

Co-Chair Goreham commented that the table Mr. Knoblock created with all of the data the Committees want to collect is useful. He is curious about who the lead is on the Baseline Study since the Recreation System Committee, Transportation System Committee, and Stakeholders Council are all involved. Mr. Knoblock stated that as Chair of the Stakeholders Council, he is technically the lead.

## **NEXT MEETING**

### **1. The Committee will Discuss Priorities and Desired Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.**

1  
2       **a.       Priority Land for Recreation Purposes.**

3  
4       **b.       Central Wasatch Dashboard Recreation Enhancements.**

5  
6 Chair Morrison asked that future items for Recreation System Committee Meeting agendas be  
7 shared with the Chair, Co-Chair, or CWC Staff. He feels it would be worthwhile to discuss priority  
8 land for recreation purposes. It would also be meaningful to discuss how to use the Central  
9 Wasatch Dashboard as a recreation resource. As for the length of the meetings, an hour and a half  
10 might allow for more robust discussions rather than the hour that is scheduled. That can be  
11 considered next time.

12  
13 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Stakeholders Council Retreat is scheduled for June 4, 2025. The  
14 next Recreation System Committee Meeting is scheduled to take place on July 10, 2025. Chair  
15 Morrison suggested that there be communication between Committee Members via email in the  
16 meantime. He apologized that he will be out of town when the Stakeholders Council Retreat takes  
17 place.

18  
19 **OTHER ITEMS**

20  
21 There were no other items discussed.

22  
23 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

24  
25 *Maria Moncur* stated that she handles Communication and Public Relations for the Northwestern  
26 Band of the Shoshone Nation. The reason she is attending the meeting is to see how these meetings  
27 are run and to see whether there are ways to support the mission of the Recreation System  
28 Committee. The Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation supports the organization and  
29 environmental work. She reported that the headquarters are located in the Ogden area. Committee  
30 Members thanked Ms. Moncur for attending the Recreation System Committee Meeting and  
31 encouraged her to attend in the future. Discussions were had about different events that have  
32 happened in the past. Ms. Moncur thanked the Recreation System Committee for allowing her to  
33 listen and share comments.

34  
35 **CLOSING**

36  
37 **1.       Chair Morrison will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Recreation System Committee**  
38 **Meeting.**

39  
40 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to ADJOURN the Recreation System Committee Meeting.  
41 Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the  
42 Committee.

43  
44 The Recreation System Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Recreation System Committee Meeting held Thursday,*  
3 *May 8, 2025.*

4  
5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9  
10 Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
11