



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025, AT
3:30 PM. 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

Ex-Officio: Maura Hahnenberger, Stakeholders Council Chair

Public: John Knoblock
Jack Stauss

CWC Staff: Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations
Ben Kilbourne, Communications Director

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 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. He informed Committee Members that he did not look at the grant agreement for short-term projects, which was discussed during the last Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting, but will do so in the near future. If the grant agreements that were not completed need to be extended, there should be a Resolution at the CWC Board Meeting in September. Commissioner Christopher Robinson expressed support for this. Chair Silvestrini stated that it can be added to the CWC Board Meeting agenda.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the May 28, 2025 Meeting.

MOTION: Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the May 28, 2025, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

Review of Draft Board Meeting Agenda

1. The Committee will Review the Draft Agenda for the September 8, 2025, CWC Board Meeting.

Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, reported that minor changes were made to the Draft Agenda for the September 8, 2025, CWC Board Meeting. Chair Silvestrini reported that the agenda includes Additions to CWC Membership, which are Emily Gray from the Holladay City Council as a CWC Board Member and Jack Stauss, the Executive Director of Save Our Canyons, as a Special Advisor. There will also be the 2024-2025 Fiscal Year Audit Report and the 2024-2025 Short-Term Projects Report. During the Short-Term Projects Report section of the agenda, there can be a Resolution about the extension of the grant agreements that were not completed.

Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that during the 2024-2025 Short-Term Projects Report section of the agenda, the CWC Board will hear from two of the leads from funded projects. There will be one from the Wasatch Front and one from the Wasatch Back. There is also an item on the meeting agenda for a CWC Intern Land Designation Research Report.

CWC Staff will present the 2024-2025 CWC Annual Report. Ms. Nielsen asked if there is a desire to see a draft of the Annual Report now, which was confirmed. The document was shared with the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. There is a quote from Terry Tempest Williams, a contents page, Director's Message, a list of the Staff and CWC Board, Organization Chart, jurisdictional boundary information, Stakeholders Council information, project highlights, CWC Youth Council information, as well as details about the Short-Term Projects Grant Program and Central Wasatch Symposium. The report also includes the Mountain Accord deliverables and where the CWC is as far as accomplishing the items that were originally set out. In addition, the Legislative Field Trip is highlighted along with the CWC Board Retreat. There is also information about the Ski Bus Priority Access Program, Central Wasatch Dashboard, and In The Wasatch podcast. There is an overview of the finances in the CWC 2024-2025 Annual Report as well.

Commissioner Robinson asked who handled the formatting and graphics for the 2024-2025 CWC Annual Report. Ms. Nielsen reported that Community Engagement Coordinator, Mia McNeil, did some of the work when she was still with the CWC. Communications Director, Ben Kilbourne, also worked on the 2024-2025 CWC Annual Report. Commissioner Robinson liked the format and thought it looked professional. Chair Silvestrini thanked CWC Staff for their efforts.

Laura Briefer asked how the report will be distributed. Ms. Nielsen explained that it will be emailed out across the digital communication channels, and 200 copies will be printed. The printed copies will be mailed to CWC Board Members, Stakeholders Council Members, CWC Youth Council Members, presenters from the Central Wasatch Symposium, some agency partners, and all of the Council Members in the member jurisdictions. A lot of effort goes into the Annual Report, so the intention is for it to be seen and read by those who are connected to the organization.

The Millcreek Canyon Shuttle Feasibility Study update item will include raw comment data from the public comment period. There will also be a broad update about the consultant work. Ms. Nielsen reported that there will be a discussion with the new Chair of the Stakeholders

1 Council, Maura Hahnenberger, who is an Atmospheric Science Professor at Salt Lake Community
2 College and has been a member of the Stakeholders Council for four years. In addition, she is a
3 member of the Millcreek Canyon Committee and the Environment System Committee.
4 Commissioner Robinson asked how she has enjoyed being on the Stakeholders Council. Ms.
5 Hahnenberger did not know what to expect when she joined, but stated that it has been a positive
6 experience. She has been able to meet other Council Members and interact with issues that she
7 cares about. It has been meaningful to see how different decisions are made and how information
8 is communicated.

9
10 There was discussion about the selection of the new Chair of the Stakeholders Council.
11 Ms. Nielsen explained that CWC Staff asked for nominations from members of the Stakeholders
12 Council. Ms. Hahnenberger received many nominations and also expressed an interest in the
13 position. At this time, there is no Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council. The hope is that there
14 will be a Co-Chair determined by the time the CWC Board Meeting takes place in September.

15
16 Ms. Kilpack shared information about Stakeholders Council membership. Tom Diegel is leaving
17 the country, so someone will fill his spot on the Council. In addition, there are some other new
18 members who will fill vacancies. The CWC Board will vote on a Resolution at the next meeting.

19
20 The Board Business section of the meeting agenda was reviewed. Ms. Nielsen reported that the
21 technical charettes that are necessary to commence the work that the CWC has contracted for with
22 the DIGIT Lab could not take place before the end of the fiscal year due to scheduling conflicts
23 with the technical experts. As a result, the start of the work was delayed. There is also an Action
24 Item on the agenda related to a contract with Salt Lake County to continue the tri-canyon restroom
25 maintenance in partnership with the Forest Service. Due to the environment that the Forest Service
26 is currently working within, Salt Lake County has been invited to co-sponsor the contract for
27 restroom maintenance in the canyons. The Resolution should be finalized by the next meeting.

28
29 Chair Silvestrini referenced the memo on CWC license plates and expressed support for that idea.
30 Ms. Nielsen reported that Research Intern, Emory Schwieger, has done some research into existing
31 National Recreation Areas and National Conservation Areas. During this research, she
32 encountered the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, which has a license plate that helps to fund
33 the National Recreation Area. Ms. Schwieger brought this information to Mr. Kilbourne, who
34 liked the idea for the CWC. The idea is now being presented to the Executive/Budget/Audit
35 Committee.

36
37 Mr. Kilbourne shared some information from the memo. The Sawtooth National Recreation Area
38 license plate brings in approximately \$50,000 annually. He described the way the license plate
39 looks, but believes something a lot more interesting could be created for the Central Wasatch that
40 people would want to purchase. Chair Silvestrini wondered whether there should be a license plate
41 designed or a decal that can be placed on a vehicle. Either way, it is an interesting fundraising
42 idea. Mr. Kilbourne believed the license plate would encourage people to make a purchase. Chair
43 Silvestrini expressed support for continuing to look into this proposal. Ms. Nielsen reported that
44 this would need to be taken to the Legislature for their approval. Since the Central Wasatch
45 Symposium is scheduled to take place right before the start of the Legislative Session, there is an
46 opportunity to discuss the license plate concept before heading into the session.

1
2 The next item on the meeting agenda is to discuss the potential of a Member Contribution
3 Committee, which was previously suggested by Mayor Monica Zoltanski. There is also an item
4 related to Wasatch Back focused updates. Commissioner Robinson, Commissioner Bill Ciraco,
5 and Special Advisor, Caroline Rodriguez, will have a chance to speak to the CWC Board about
6 what is happening in Park City and Summit County. It will be on every agenda from now on.
7

8 The last item under the Board Business section will discuss how a potential new iteration of the
9 Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”) could address the
10 four systems. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a memo written that will be included in the
11 Meeting Materials Packet. The memo discusses the careful balance between the four systems:
12 economy, recreation, transportation, and environment. That balance made it into the CWNCRA
13 in the early iterations, but there have been changes made over the years. If there is another attempt
14 at a redraft contemplated, then there should be a conversation about how to rebalance the systems.
15

16 Another item on the Draft Agenda for the September 8, 2025, CWC Board Meeting is a
17 Transportation Work Session. Ms. Nielsen explained that there is a desire to talk about the
18 overarching transportation goals for the CWC. The Transportation Committee has scheduled a
19 meeting for August 27, 2025, and will have this discussion ahead of the CWC Board agenda item.
20

21 Chair Silvestrini reported that the next CWC Board Meeting after the meeting on September 8,
22 2025, is scheduled to take place on November 3, 2025. However, that is the day before elections,
23 so the meeting might need to be rescheduled since Mayor Zoltanski is running for re-election. It
24 is possible to ask Mayor Zoltanski and other Board Members about that at the next meeting.
25

26 **Research Intern Report Discussion**

27 28 **1. Staff will Discuss Progress on the CWC Intern’s Research Report on Land** 29 **Designations.** 30

31 Ms. Nielsen reported that Ms. Schwieger has been looking into existing National Recreation Areas
32 and National Conservation Areas to see what those designations mean practically for those areas
33 of land and the activities that take place there. She is fairly confident that it is possible to do what
34 the CWNCRA sets out to do without a novel designation. The thesis of her report will be that the
35 CWC can accomplish everything, including the conservation goals, environmental protections,
36 and water and land protections, with a National Recreation Area instead of a National Conservation
37 and Recreation Area. Ms. Nielsen asked those who were part of the Executive Committee during
38 the Mountain Accord process to share what went into that determination.
39

40 Commissioner Robinson stated that at that time, there was a belief that the designation would be
41 necessary, but it has been a long time since those discussions occurred. Ms. Briefer believed it
42 was largely political. The conservation organizations did not want it to be only a recreation area,
43 but there was also pushback for it being solely titled a conservation area. There is an openness to
44 look into this further. Additional discussions were had about the novel designation.
45

1 Ms. Nielsen reiterated that the research conducted so far indicates that it is possible to obtain
2 everything the CWNCRRA aims to achieve without having to convince people about the novel
3 designation. The full report from Ms. Schwiager will be shared at the CWC Board Meeting in
4 September and there can then be a more robust conversation about the findings of that report.

5
6 Chair Silvestrini thought this was something the Stakeholders Council and others might have
7 insight into. It would make sense to hear from them about this matter. Mr. Stauss recalled
8 speaking to Carl Fisher about this back in 2015 or 2016, specifically the naming and the back and
9 forth between conservation versus recreation. He asked if there was a reason that it would lean
10 towards a National Recreation Area as opposed to a National Conservation Area. Mr. Kilbourne
11 reported that it is more difficult to write everything into a National Conservation Area.

12
13 Ms. Briefer recalled that it was the ski resorts that pushed back on it solely being a National
14 Conservation Area. Chair Silvestrini asked Committee Members to continue to think back on the
15 Executive Committee discussions and share information at the CWC Board Meeting.

16 17 **Community Engagement Internship Discussion**

18 19 **1. Staff will Discuss the Need for a Potential Community Engagement Intern and How** 20 **the Role would be Funded.**

21
22 Ms. Nielsen reported that Mr. Kilbourne has been with the CWC for three months. It has become
23 increasingly obvious that there is too much work to be done, even though the previous Community
24 Engagement Coordinator position was only 20 hours a week and the Communications Director
25 position is 40 hours per week. For that reason, CWC Staff is asking the CWC Board to consider
26 allowing a call for applications for a Community Engagement Intern. The intern would relieve
27 Mr. Kilbourne of Central Wasatch Dashboard outreach. This would allow Mr. Kilbourne to focus
28 more on the CWNCRRA communications, increase the reach and quality of the outreach conducted,
29 and grow the CWC Youth Council in ways he is currently unable to due to time limitations.

30
31 Mr. Kilbourne explained that he has done some additional hours because of different weekend
32 events. Having someone take over tabling would be beneficial. It would also be useful to have
33 someone focus on outreach. There have been discussions about expanding the reach of the Central
34 Wasatch Dashboard, but that is not something that he has time to do right now. He wants the CWC
35 to be something people are paying attention to long-term. Brand building is difficult work that
36 does not focus on the immediacy of clicks. If he were able to delegate some of the tasks mentioned
37 to an intern, then he could focus more on the brand and some of the bigger projects that encompass
38 the entire vision of the CWC. Ms. Nielsen acknowledged that the budget for the current fiscal year
39 is tight. The 2025 Community Engagement Internship memo was shared. It lists compensation
40 as \$15 per hour, and the proposal is to have an intern work for approximately nine hours per week.

41
42 Ms. Nielsen reiterated that the budget is tight this year, so there have been discussions about how
43 to fund an intern. For six months, the intern would cost \$3,500. There are unallocated project
44 funds that could be used, but there have also been discussions about dissolving the Millcreek
45 Canyon Committee and discussing those topics during other System Committee Meetings. There
46 are different options for the CWC Board to consider. Commissioner Robinson hoped that it would

1 be possible to find the funding needed for an intern. He asked CWC Staff to outline some different
2 alternatives. He is uncertain about merging the Millcreek Canyon Committee. Chair Silvestrini
3 does not want to slow down the momentum that the Millcreek Canyon Committee has, especially
4 with the study update work that is happening for a potential Millcreek Canyon shuttle.

5
6 Commissioner Robinson wondered whether it made sense to remove \$3,500 from the Federal
7 Lobbying line item. Chair Silvestrini does not believe that it will be used this year. Ms. Nielsen
8 pointed out that the fiscal year goes until the end of June, so there might be a new draft by then.

9 10 **Upcoming Legislative Session**

11 12 **1. The Committee will Discuss Goals for the Upcoming Legislative Session.**

13
14 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Legislative Session is approaching, so she would like the
15 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee to think about this. The license plate concept that was
16 mentioned earlier would need to be presented to the Legislature. She reminded Committee
17 Members that the CWC makes an appropriations request each year. Last year, there was far less
18 received than requested during the Legislative Session, which was the first time that happened.
19 The explanation from the lobbying team was that it was a tight budget year. Chair Silvestrini
20 believed there would be another tight budget year. Letting the Appropriations Committee know
21 that the CWC is looking into creative alternatives, such as license plates, might be meaningful.

22
23 Ms. Nielsen explained that the CWC usually requests \$100,000 for the Short-Term Projects Grant
24 Program, \$35,000 for the Ski Bus Priority Access Program, as well as money for the Central
25 Wasatch Dashboard maintenance, trailhead restroom cleaning, and graffiti abatement. It is
26 possible to tighten up the appropriation request for next year. Chair Silvestrini and Commissioner
27 Robinson expect the budget will be tight during the upcoming session as well.

28 29 **Land Conservation Discussion**

30 31 **1. The Committee will Discuss Addressing the Land Conservation Program Laid Out in** 32 **the Mountain Accord.**

33
34 Ms. Kilpack reported that approximately six months ago, there was a suggestion made by Ms.
35 Briefer to discuss land conservation efforts and what role the CWC could play in those efforts.
36 Ms. Briefer referenced one of the recommendations in the Mountain Accord. She thought it made
37 sense to better understand the role of the CWC as it relates to land conservation. At one point,
38 there was a thought that the CWC could be a convener for a more regional conservation program.
39 It seems the short-term projects are largely focused on recreation management and transportation
40 issues. The conservation piece of the Mountain Accord could be enhanced moving forward.
41 Ms. Briefer noted that a Working Group with some members of the Stakeholders Council might
42 be appropriate. There could be opportunities in the future to focus on partnerships for
43 conservation.

44
45 Commissioner Robinson mentioned the land exchanges and Federal funding assistance from the
46 Legislation that would authorize the exchanges. He stressed the importance of the Federal

1 Designation. Ms. Briefer pointed out that there might be opportunities where the CWC is uniquely
2 positioned. She suggested that there be a discussion with Wendy Fisher at Utah Open Lands. It
3 is important to create a strategy in order to meet the objective outlined in the Mountain Accord.
4

5 John Knoblock explained that he has been an advocate for land conservation. He believes there
6 should be a strategy and a process in place to acquire lands from willing sellers. Right now, Trust
7 For Public Land is closing on a parcel that is on the alignment for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.
8 He added that several private properties access public lands. Those private properties could close
9 off access at some point. There are a handful of properties that should be acquired and put into
10 the hands of the public. He stressed the importance of a process.
11

12 Chair Silvestrini noted that it is possible to discuss a process, but those with the funding are the
13 ones who tend to control the process. Ms. Briefer explained that there can be a discussion about
14 how the CWC fits into land conservation opportunities and what the CWC values are for land
15 conservation. For instance, there could be a convening role where the CWC prioritizes types of
16 land. There could be an opportunity to work with others to determine what is appropriate. Ms.
17 Nielsen suggested that there be a discussion during the CWC Board Meeting in November. If that
18 is not soon enough, then there could be a Working Group that includes non-profit partners who
19 are focused on land conservation. Chair Silvestrini suggested that this be considered by the CWC
20 Board at the meeting in September. There can be some time dedicated to this topic in November.
21

22 Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC Board Meeting in September will likely be a two-and-a-half
23 to three-hour meeting since there has not been a meeting in many months. There are a lot of
24 important topics that need to be discussed at that time. Chair Silvestrini asked that the discussions
25 be as streamlined as possible. The land conservation item will be added to the meeting agenda.
26

27 **Stakeholders Council**

28 29 **1. Stakeholders Council Chair Maura Hahnenberger will Introduce Herself and, if** 30 **Applicable, Discuss Pertinent Activities of the Stakeholders Council.** 31

32 It was noted that Ms. Hahnenberger introduced herself to the Committee earlier in the meeting.
33 Chair Silvestrini reported that the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee was originally the
34 Budget/Audit Committee, and it focused on formulating the budget for the CWC. It has become
35 an Executive Committee as well, which is somewhat broader in nature. There have been efforts
36 made to avoid duplication of the CWC Board discussions. Stakeholders Council information
37 shared at this level is asked not to be repeated during the CWC Board Meeting. However, if there
38 are certain items that the Stakeholders Council leadership wants to discuss at this level, such as
39 the addition of an agenda item or a budget-related request, then that can be discussed during these
40 meetings.
41

42 Ms. Hahnenberger noted that the Stakeholders Council could potentially be involved in the land
43 conservation discussion. This is something that has been considered at a Council level. There
44 have been different ideas shared about what the Stakeholders Council could do, but there is
45 uncertainty about what would be effective to pursue as far as land conservation efforts. There is
46 no desire for the Stakeholders Council to take counterproductive actions, such as the creation of a

1 list of parcels that could be conserved. If that list was publicized, there is fear that this could
2 potentially increase the value of the properties. Ms. Hahnenberger requested that during the land
3 conservation discussion at the CWC Board Meeting in September, the role of the Stakeholders
4 Council be communicated. She wants to know how the Council can offer support.

5 6 **Mountain Accord 10-Year Anniversary**

7 8 **1. The Committee will Discuss the 10-Year Anniversary of the Signing of the Mountain** 9 **Accord.**

10
11 Ms. Nielsen reported that it has been almost 10 years since the Mountain Accord was signed.
12 CWC Staff is starting to plan the Central Wasatch Symposium program, and the 10-year Mountain
13 Accord anniversary will be one of the main themes. There will also be a series of In The Wasatch
14 podcast episodes talking about the Mountain Accord, including the events that led up to the
15 Mountain Accord, the negotiations that happened during the process, and the signing of the charter.

16
17 Ms. Briefer thought it would be useful for CWC Staff to work with her Public Engagement Team.
18 She would like to work with CWC Staff to highlight the Salt Lake City connection. Ms. Briefer
19 shared information about the Source to Tap tour, which draws the connection between what is
20 happening at the source and the tap. There are different steps that need to be taken in order for the
21 water to be reliable and clean. Ms. Nielsen noted that Salt Lake City Public Utilities could focus
22 on the Mountain Accord and the water connection at the Central Wasatch Symposium. Committee
23 Members discussed the In The Wasatch podcast and potential ideas for future episodes.

24 25 **Staff Announcements**

26 27 **1. Youth Council Updates.**

28 29 **2. Millcreek Canyon Shuttle Public Comment Survey Results.**

30 31 **3. Member Jurisdiction Invoices will be Going Out this Month.**

32 33 **4. New Podcast Episodes.**

34 35 **5. The Next EBAC Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, September 15, 2025, at 3:30 P.M.**

36 37 **6. The Next Board Meeting is on September 8, 2025, at 3:30 P.M.**

38
39 Ms. Nielsen reported that Staff Announcements will be shared at the CWC Board Meeting in
40 September. She noted that there is a new podcast episode that Committee Members can listen to.
41 Chair Silvestrini explained that he is not available on September 15, 2025, for the scheduled
42 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting. It was noted that it can be rescheduled or cancelled.
43 It was determined that the Committee Meeting will be cancelled, with a meeting held in October.
44

1 **Other Business**

2
3 There was no other business discussed.
4

5 **Closing**

6
7 1. **Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**
8 **Committee Meeting.**
9

10 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to ADJOURN the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
11 Meeting. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of
12 the Committee.
13

14 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at
15 approximately 4:38 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 Wednesday, August 18,*
3 *2025.*

4
5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes
7 T Forbes Group
8 Minutes Secretary
9

10 Minutes Approved: _____