



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/  
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22,  
2025, AT 5:00 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  
Erin Mendenhall  
Maura Hahnenberger

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

**Opening**

- 1. Chair Jeff Silvestrini will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

Chair Jeff Silvestrini called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. and welcomed those present.

- 2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the August 18, 2025, Meeting.**

**MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the August 18, 2025, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

**Member Contribution Discussion**

- 1. The Committee will Discuss its Vision for the CWC, and How to Achieve it, Given the Emergent Trend of Jurisdictions Reducing their Contributions or Considering Leaving the CWC.**

Chair Silvestrini reported that Sandy City has once again reduced its membership contribution to the CWC. This time, the reduced amount is \$24,400. This is problematic with respect to the budget that was adopted for the fiscal year. He believes this issue needs to be addressed because

1 there cannot be a situation where members of the organization decide what they want to contribute  
2 arbitrarily and at the last minute. There needs to be more notice provided to the CWC.

3  
4 Chair Silvestrini has always felt that the CWC is a positive investment for Millcreek. However,  
5 with a smaller population, Millcreek is now paying more than three times what Sandy is  
6 contributing. Mayor Mendenhall echoed his frustration. She suggested soliciting opinions from  
7 municipal and county attorneys to determine how to create more surety in the contributions. Mayor  
8 Mendenhall mentioned the Jordan River Commission, to which Salt Lake City is also the biggest  
9 contributor. There is no expectation to see dividends of programming returns every single year,  
10 but there is an investment made in the Jordan River. She asked if there would be support to find  
11 out how to structure the CWC agreements with more surety. Chair Silvestrini confirmed this.

12  
13 Chair Silvestrini reported that there have been previous discussions about forming a committee to  
14 address the membership contributions. This was an idea originally presented by Mayor Zoltanski.  
15 He thought it made sense to involve her in that process. Mayor Mendenhall did not have an issue  
16 including Mayor Zoltanski in those discussions moving forward. Chair Silvestrini determined that  
17 the formation of a Member Contribution Committee will be discussed at the next CWC Board  
18 Meeting. In the meantime, it is possible for individual members of the Executive/Budget/Audit  
19 Committee to think about how to structure agreements with more surety.

20  
21 Chair Silvestrini pointed out that the work of the CWC directly benefits Sandy City and its  
22 residents with the Ski Bus Priority Access Program. At this point, the organization is paying more  
23 for that than the Sandy contribution adds. He reiterated that there will be additional discussions at  
24 the CWC Board Meeting. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that she has spoken to  
25 CWC Legal Counsel. Based on the current language, the contribution amounts are not enforceable.  
26 However, that could change if a decision is made to write a formal policy. CWC Staff has been  
27 thinking about ways to generate income for the organization and the idea of a CWC License Plate  
28 has been discussed. This is an idea that came out of the research conducted by the CWC Research  
29 Intern about existing National Recreation Areas and National Conservation Areas.

30  
31 There has also been discussion about a round-up donation at certain locations. Ms. Nielsen  
32 explained that sometimes, at places like REI and Black Diamond, there is an option to round up  
33 the dollar amount of a purchase. The change is then donated to a specific cause. She will conduct  
34 research to determine whether this is feasible for the CWC. It is also possible for CWC Staff to  
35 look into procuring grants. There are several ideas outside of the membership contributions.

36  
37 Chair Silvestrini expressed support for the CWC License Plate and the round-up donations. Mayor  
38 Mendenhall asked if Legislative action would be needed to pursue the license plate.  
39 Communications Director, Ben Kilbourne, denied this and explained that there have been recent  
40 changes. For the Great Salt Lake License Plate, it originally had to be introduced, but in the middle  
41 of that process, the requirements changed. There is now a License Plate Committee that approves  
42 designs. He has reached out to that Committee to discuss the next steps in this process.

43  
44 Chair Silvestrini shared additional comments about the round-up donation idea. It might make  
45 sense to reach out to REI and some other retailers. He has a relationship with a lot of the businesses  
46 on 3300 South in Millcreek. Even after he retires, he can reach out to the owners about the

1 possibility of a round-up donation program. Mr. Kilbourne reported that he has a relationship with  
2 backcountry.com that can be pursued as well. Mayor Mendenhall believed that if this program  
3 moves forward, there should be a CWC window decal created for the stores.  
4

5 Ms. Nielsen reported that there will not need to be a budget amendment to account for the lower  
6 membership contribution. Expenses have been decreased by pausing the expansion of the Human  
7 Element work with the University of Utah. This pause should cover the deficit created by Sandy  
8 City. Chair Silvestrini noted that it is possible to use some reserves for that work, but that might  
9 require a budget amendment. Ms. Nielsen explained that some of the reserves were used in the  
10 approved budget. It is not uncommon to have a Fund Balance appropriation, but this was the  
11 largest one the CWC has ever done. Commissioner Robinson felt it was necessary to clearly  
12 communicate the importance of the work the organization does to benefit the CWC study area.  
13

#### 14 **Upcoming Board Officer Vacancies**

##### 15 16 **1. The Committee will Discuss Filling the Board's Officer Roles when Current Terms** 17 **Expire on December 31, 2025.** 18

19 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Officers' terms end on December 31, 2025. She thanked those  
20 present for their many years of service. The Officer roles are more intense, as they include  
21 attendance at Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meetings, which occur more frequently than  
22 CWC Board Meetings. The issue is that many seasoned Commissioners have already served in a  
23 leadership role. She was unsure who might be best as the next Chair and Co-Chair. Ms. Nielsen  
24 explained that Mayor Zoltanski was being considered for the Chair position, but with the recent  
25 news about the Sandy membership contribution, there is some uncertainty.  
26

27 Chair Silvestrini spoke to Mayor Zoltanski about serving in the Chair position before he heard  
28 about the reduction in the membership contribution and she was non-committal about the idea. He  
29 asked if Mayor Mendenhall had served as Chair. Mayor Mendenhall clarified that she has not  
30 served in that position because of the schedule. Chair Silvestrini and Commissioner Robinson  
31 thought Mayor Mendenhall was the logical person to chair the CWC. It would be possible to  
32 reduce CWC Board Meetings to quarterly if that would better accommodate Mayor Mendenhall.  
33

34 Chair Silvestrini did not know who will be appointed to the CWC from his Council. He felt that  
35 the Mayor would be the preferred representative and he would make that suggestion. All of the  
36 other members of his Council support this organization, so someone will fill his role on the CWC  
37 Board. Commissioner Robinson asked how many new members there would be. He mentioned a  
38 replacement for Chair Silvestrini and a replacement for Mayor Weichers. Chair Silvestrini  
39 reported that Brighton and Alta will have new Mayors. He suggested that Commissioner Ciraco  
40 be asked if there is interest in serving in the Vice-Chair or Treasurer position.  
41

42 Mayor Mendenhall reported that the County is on a calendar-year fiscal budget. She asked if  
43 anyone had reapproached Mayor Wilson about the CWC. Ms. Nielsen confirmed this but stated  
44 that it has been unsuccessful so far. She appears concerned about the viability of the Central  
45 Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act ("CWNCRA"). Commissioner  
46 Robinson asked if Mayor Wilson would be more enthusiastic if she felt it was viable, which was

1 confirmed. Chair Silvestrini recalled a conversation he had with Mayor Wilson around the time  
2 Salt Lake County withdrew from the CWC. Concern came out of the gondola discussions that  
3 there might be some dilution of Salt Lake County's land use control if the CWC was perceived to  
4 have some sort of input. There were also concerns about the amount of time that was dedicated to  
5 the organization during the transportation discussions.

6  
7 Ms. Nielsen stated that the direction from the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee is to have  
8 quarterly CWC Board Meetings and Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meetings every other  
9 month, with Mayor Mendenhall serving as Chair. She suggested that one of the new  
10 Commissioners serve as Treasurer and Secretary, such as Council Member Gray from the City of  
11 Holladay. Chair Silvestrini noted that Mayor Rob Dahle felt that Council Member Gray was well-  
12 suited for the CWC Board position. She was one of the advocates for the City of Holladay joining  
13 the CWC.

14  
15 Commissioner Robinson reported that he will not run for office again next year, so the year 2026  
16 will be his final one as a County Council Member. He believes the Treasurer and Secretary roles  
17 would be well-suited to someone like Council Member Gray, who has an interest in the work.  
18 However, it might make sense to pause discussions until more is known about the new Mayors.

19  
20 Ms. Nielsen asked if there were any priority items the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee would  
21 like to focus on. Chair Silvestrini suggested the focus be on the CWCNRA, but he acknowledged  
22 that there is still work to do before it can realistically move forward. He believes the Central  
23 Wasatch Symposium is beneficial and he stressed the importance of continuing to expand that. He  
24 likes the idea of inviting Legislators to attend the Central Wasatch Symposium this year.  
25 Commissioner Robinson feels there should be a lengthier discussion about priorities.

26  
27 Mayor Mendenhall would like to think about the question more, but believes there is a Committee  
28 agreement that it is important to highlight the work of the CWC so cities understand the relevance.  
29 It is possible to capitalize on the public support that has been built over the years. Even though  
30 there was no CWC consensus about the gondola proposal, there was meaningful public dialogue  
31 throughout that process. She wondered if there might be some influential corporate partners  
32 interested in the CWC work and the CWCNRA who could bring in an additional voice. Chair  
33 Silvestrini noted that certain business interests could capture the attention of some Legislators.

### 34 35 **CWC License Plate Discussion**

#### 36 37 **1. The Committee will Discuss whether the CWC Should Pursue a License Plate in Time** 38 **for the 2026 Legislative Session.**

39  
40 There was no additional discussion about the CWC License Plate.

### 41 42 **Staff Announcements**

#### 43 44 **1. The Next EBAC Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2025, at 3:30 PM.**

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1 Ms. Nielsen reported that the next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting is scheduled for  
2 October 20, 2025. The next CWC Board Meeting will take place on September 25, 2025.  
3

4 **Closing**  
5

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

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

13 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at  
14 approximately 5:33 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday, September 22,*  
3 *2025.*

4  
5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes  
7 T Forbes Group  
8 Minutes Secretary  
9

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