



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025, AT 3:00 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: Kelly Boardman, Chair
Dan Zalles, Co-Chair
Adam Lenkowski
Maura Hahnenberger
Doug Tolman
Jonny Vasic
Meaghan McKasy
Brenden Catt

Staff: Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations

OPENING

1. Chair Kelly Boardman will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Environment System Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.

Chair Kelly Boardman called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Environment System Committee Meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. She thanked everyone who has made an effort to attend the Environment System Committee Meetings. Chair Boardman commented that the expertise and contributions from Committee Members are meaningful and make a difference. As visitor numbers increase and with the future Olympic Games on the horizon, it is especially important that the environment has a voice and remains a priority.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the September 9, 2025, Meeting.

Chair Boardman reviewed the Meeting Minutes from the Environment System Committee Meeting held on September 9, 2025. At that meeting, there was discussion about the data needed to show change over time. There was also discussion about a deliverable in the Mountain Accord, which was related to the development of an Adaptive Management Plan for the Central Wasatch. There might need to be a more qualitative interpretation of the data in order to meet that deliverable. In addition, the Environment System Committee talked about the Human Element of the Central Wasatch Dashboard. It was noted that it is possible to cross-reference data from other areas of the Central

Wasatch Dashboard. At the last meeting, the Committee learned that some budget challenges have slowed progress on the anticipated Central Wasatch Dashboard updates.

Chair Boardman reported that there was also discussion about the potential rescission of the Roadless Rule. Since then, the CWC Board unanimously passed a Resolution in opposition to this rescission. In the press release, it was noted that because the area could continue to face threats similar to the proposed rescission, the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”) is the best path forward. Chair Boardman noted that at the last Environment System Committee Meeting, there was a discussion about future projects for the Committee to focus on.

MOTION: Doug Tolman moved to APPROVE the September 9, 2025, Meeting Minutes. Meagan McKasy seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

VISITOR BEHAVIOR IN THE CENTRAL WASATCH

1. The Committee will Build Upon Discussions at the August Stakeholders Council Meeting Pertaining to Managing Visitor Capacity Through Modifying Behavior.

Chair Boardman reported that at the last Environment System Committee Meeting, there was discussion about visitor behavior in the Central Wasatch. This relates to the conversation the Stakeholders Council had at the meeting in August. She noted that modifying behavior might be one of the best ways to manage overcrowding in the canyons. One example of something modifying behavior is the parking reservation system. The system has encouraged carpooling and has managed visitor expectations. It also created an understanding that there is more demand than parking spots.

Maura Hahnenberger sent out an email to the Environment System Committee with ideas related to visitor capacity. Chair Boardman stressed the importance of sharing information with visitors so there is a better understanding of how individual choices impact the natural resources. Ms. Hahnenberger reported that she took some time to think about what actions the Committee could take to address carrying capacity in the canyons. Management decisions are not something the Environment System Committee has control over, so she wanted to focus on what could actually be achieved at a Committee level. However, she clarified that there might need to be partnerships with other organizations as well. She created a brainstorming document for the Committee to consider.

Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, reported that the email was only sent to the Chair, Co-Chair, and CWC Staff. She shared the list with Committee Members during the meeting for review. Co-Chair Zalles asked for clarification about the suggestion to travel using active transportation. Ms. Hahnenberger explained that active transportation includes bicycling, walking, and so on. This could mean bicycling to a trailhead to take a hike rather than driving a personal vehicle to a trailhead. Co-Chair Zalles thought that for the item related to durable surfaces, there should be additional information provided. For instance, the document could include some examples of durable surfaces.

Chair Boardman reported that she recently spoke to someone who works at the fee booth at Albion Basin. Some of the feedback from visitors there has to do with a sense of entitlement. An example is people getting out of their car to cut foliage. Some education can be done to inform visitors about the proper etiquette in the canyons. Co-Chair Zalles mentioned bicyclist behavior and trail etiquette. Chair Boardman thought that was a good suggestion and noted that a lot of people do not understand

1 the hierarchy on the trail. Mountain bicyclists are supposed to yield to hikers, but a lot of the time,
2 the hikers will yield first. Additional education about that could be beneficial.

3
4 Meaghan McKasy thanked Ms. Hahnenberger for the brainstorming document. If there is information
5 eventually passed on to the rental agencies, that could be a meaningful way to educate visitors. There
6 can always be improved knowledge for people who regularly recreate in the CWC study area, but the
7 impact from visitors is significant. She reiterated her support for connecting with rental agencies.

8
9 Brenden Catt could see another heading being added to the document. He suggested one related to
10 preparedness. This could include the equipment on vehicles and the equipment taken into an area.
11 Search and rescue efforts, as well as survival efforts, impact the environment, so preparedness is
12 important to consider when it comes to modifying visitor behavior. Chair Boardman noted that
13 another way to modify visitor behavior is to make riding the bus more appealing. She would like to
14 see the attitude around public transit change. There could be a campaign from the Utah Transit
15 Authority (“UTA”) that incentivizes transit use in the canyons. Mr. Catt believes that in order to
16 encourage more people to ride the bus, it is necessary to make the experience more enjoyable overall.

17
18 Adam Lenkowski explained that some of his friends ride the ski bus often. He tried to encourage
19 them to film something about riding the ski bus, but it never happened. However, that is something
20 that could be done at the Committee level. One day in the winter, some Committee Members could
21 meet and take the ski bus together. There could be a video filmed, and that video could be shared
22 with others. Chair Boardman liked that suggestion. She agreed with the earlier comment from
23 Mr. Catt that it is important to make the experience more enjoyable. This could be done by adding
24 more buses so each bus is not as full with people and gear. Something else she hears often is that
25 people can get a bus into the canyon, but it is harder to get a bus back down because the buses are
26 full.

27
28 Doug Tolman stated that if there is a desire to improve visitor use habits, it might be beneficial to do
29 a literature review to see what has already been done. This could include a review of materials from
30 the Wasatch Mountain Club, Friends of Alta, Salt Lake Ranger District, and the ski resorts. Once the
31 review has been conducted, the Environment System Committee can perform a gap analysis. Chair
32 Boardman suggested that there be educational stickers created. These could state, “Pack Your Trash,”
33 or include other educational language. Ms. Kilpack pointed out that this could be a short-term project.

34 **CANYON FUNDING NEEDS DISCUSSION**

35 **1. The Committee will Discuss the Economy System Committee’s Request for Input on** 36 **Funding Needs for the Canyons.**

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38
39 Chair Boardman reported that John Adams from the Economy System Committee sent out an email
40 last month asking that there be a review of a Google document. Important funding needs for the
41 Central Wasatch were asked to be added to that document. Chair Boardman suggested that there be
42 additional support for developing the Human Element of the Central Wasatch Dashboard. She asked
43 if other Committee Members submitted suggestions. Ms. Kilpack shared the document with the
44 Committee. It was noted that there were submissions from several Committee Members. Co-Chair
45 Zalles explained that his suggestion related to the change-over-time data. Mr. Lenkowski reported
46 that at a recent Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting, he mentioned some trailhead security issues.
47

1 It would be fairly simple to add cameras at popular trailheads so there were security measures in
2 place.

3
4 Chair Boardman stated that she has seen media that suggests people are anticipating toll booths in
5 Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. She asked if that is something that might
6 happen this season. Mr. Tolman reported that in Little Cottonwood Canyon, it is in Phase I of the
7 Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact
8 Statement (“EIS”). If the Phase I items are implemented, then they would be a part of that process.
9 His interpretation of the Big Cottonwood Canyon study is that tolling will be there in the future. It is
10 not anticipated that there will be tolling in either Big Cottonwood Canyon or Little Cottonwood
11 Canyon this season. He would expect that in the next five years or so, there will be toll booths located
12 there.

13
14 Chair Boardman expressed support for security cameras at trailheads. She discussed graffiti issues
15 and pointed out that cameras in the area might act as a deterrent for that kind of behavior.
16 Mr. Lenkowski discussed the parking areas and some of the security issues that have taken place.
17 Chair Boardman asked that interested Committee Members add additional suggestions to the
18 document.

19
20 **2. The Committee will Brainstorm Funding Sources for Potential Land Acquisitions.**

21
22 Mr. Tolman was concerned about two or three parcels in the Wasatch Mountains. For at least two of
23 them, there are people who would like to purchase those properties for conservation. It would make
24 sense to start with known local sources for parcels and then look into different grants. Chair
25 Boardman pointed out that each parcel would likely have unique funding sources. There might need
26 to be someone hired to conduct research to see if this is something the CWC is able to pursue. She
27 noted that this is an item in the Mountain Accord there has not been much progress on it.

28
29 Ms. Kilpack reported that land acquisition was discussed during the last CWC Board Meeting. It was
30 determined that there is already a Legislative and Land Tenure Committee at the CWC Board level.
31 That Committee will focus on this kind of work moving forward. There is renewed discussion about
32 addressing this part of the Mountain Accord, but at this time, it is unclear what that will actually look
33 like. There can be a conversation about how the Stakeholders Council can assist. In addition, it is
34 possible for the Stakeholders Council to share specific ideas with the CWC Board in the future.
35 Ms. Kilpack encouraged the Committee to brainstorm ideas, as this will likely be a collaborative
36 effort.

37
38 Chair Boardman pointed out that each property will have different needs. Having someone determine
39 the nuances of each parcel and the most appropriate approach will be important. Ms. Kilpack noted
40 that it is more likely the CWC Board will consider a partnership rather than raise funds to purchase
41 land. There was discussion about who sits on the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee.
42 Ms. Kilpack reminded Committee Members that it is possible to attend CWC Board Meetings and
43 make public comments. Co-Chair Zalles asked whether conservation easements will be considered.
44 This has been discussed at the Millcreek Canyon Committee level, specifically as it relates to the Boy
45 Scouts' land. He noted that John Knoblock might be someone worthwhile to speak to about this.
46 Mr. Tolman believed any land purchases that would be considered by the CWC would involve
47 conservation easements. He assumed that conservation easements will be part of that work.
48

Chair Boardman asked if the CWC has money available to acquire land, which was denied. In order to pursue something like this, there would need to be funding obtained. Co-Chair Zalles believed that some jurisdictions might have funding available as well as an interest in acquiring land for conservation. Individual members of the CWC Board would know more about their own jurisdictions and what might be possible. Chair Boardman believes additional information is needed about how land acquisition is normally handled. Mr. Lenkowski wanted to know if there could be a Short-Term Projects Grant Program application to start a fund for land acquisition. Ms. Kilpack reported that the maximum amount that can be applied for is \$20,000, but that funding can be part of a larger effort.

STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING PREPARATION

1. The Committee will Brainstorm Questions for the Canyons Ski Resorts at the October 15, 2025, Stakeholders Council Meeting.

Chair Boardman reported that there will be a Stakeholders Council Meeting on October 15, 2025, and there will be presentations from Alta, Brighton, and Snowbird. The meeting agenda states that there will be presentations related to sustainability initiatives. She asked for additional information about the format. Ms. Kilpack explained that each representative will present for 10 minutes and then there will be five minutes provided for the brief question and answer session. The representatives have been asked to discuss sustainability initiatives, goals, challenges, future plans, and the vision for resort operations in the canyons. Representatives have also been asked to touch on the interdependence of their businesses on the natural environment and the balance of the four different systems.

Chair Boardman discussed the question and answer session. It would be beneficial to think about some questions ahead of time to make sure the discussion is valuable. She shared some potential questions, such as “What is the single most important thing that all of the resorts could do to demonstrate environmental responsibility in this unique area?” Another potential question relates to how the ski resort business model aligns with environmental responsibility in the canyons. Additionally, there could be a question about how visitors are influenced by ski resort attitudes towards environmental responsibility and stewardship. There was discussion about the questions.

Ms. McKasy likes the idea of posing a question about commonalities. That would be a good question to start with to ensure the discussion begins on a positive note. Chair Boardman would love the question and answer session to remain positive and productive. She hopes other Council Members feel the same. It is important to ask questions that inspire others to think further about sustainability. She acknowledged the increased number of visitors to the canyons over the last several years. Most of the ski resorts have services all year round and influence the way visitors think of sustainability.

Ms. McKasy thought it might be beneficial to ask the ski resort representatives about the visitor behaviors they see that are positive and the behaviors that they would like to see change. That could inform some of the future work of the Environment System Committee. Mr. Lenkowski asked for additional information about the question and answer session. Ms. Kilpack reported that there are 45 minutes blocked out on the Stakeholders Council Meeting agenda for the presentations. That means 15 minutes for each of the resorts, with 10 minutes for the presentation itself and an additional five minutes to answer some of the Council Member questions. There can be a discussion about a panel at a future Stakeholders Council Meeting, so Council Members can ask questions in that format.

1 Chair Boardman stated that the resorts care about the canyons and are focused on environmental
2 responsibility and sustainability. She wants to understand what the resorts envision for their
3 businesses in terms of growth in the next five to 10 years. Additionally, she would like to know how
4 growth is planned to be accommodated in a sustainable manner. Ms. Kilpack asked whether the
5 Environment System Committee feels it would be more productive to ask a few questions in a panel
6 format where all three resorts answer, or if it would be better for more questions to be asked to
7 individual resort representatives. She is not sure the format can change at this point, because the
8 Stakeholders Council Meeting is tomorrow, but this is important to know for future presentations.
9 Co-Chair Zalles thought it would be preferable to pose questions to all of the representatives at one
10 time rather than individually. Ms. Kilpack offered to look into what can be done with the format.

11
12 There was additional discussion about the question and answer session. Mr. Lenkowski thought it
13 made sense to have time reserved so the resort representatives can answer questions together, but
14 there might also be something that is only applicable to one resort. Co-Chair Zalles noted that there
15 could still be a panel format, but there could be specific questions posed to individual resorts.
16 Ms. Kilpack noted that it might be easier to hear all three presentations and then have the question
17 and answer session at the end. She offered to speak to the rest of the CWC Staff about this matter.

18 19 **CENTRAL WASATCH DASHBOARD DISCUSSION**

20 21 **1. The Committee will Discuss Needs for the Central Wasatch Dashboard to Illustrate** 22 **Change Over Time.**

23
24 Chair Boardman expressed support for the work that Mr. Knoblock has done as far as collecting data.
25 However, in order to show change over time on the Central Wasatch Dashboard, there needs to be
26 defensible data. Co-Chair Zalles has been looking at some of the water quality data. Anything to do
27 with water quality, air quality, wildlife impacts, and other areas where change over time can be shown
28 should be the focus. Co-Chair Zalles pointed out that the water quality data is already on the Central
29 Wasatch Dashboard, but it is not being shown in a way that makes the change over time clear. He
30 reported that the Central Wasatch Dashboard has been down throughout the day. Ms. Kilpack was
31 able to access the Central Wasatch Dashboard, but asked that future issues accessing the resource be
32 shared. It was determined that one of the links on the CWC website needs to be updated in order to
33 access the Central Wasatch Dashboard. Ms. Kilpack stated that the link will be updated shortly.

34
35 Chair Boardman asked whether Co-Chair Zalles would be interested in looking at the water quality
36 data and brainstorming some ideas about how to present that data differently. She also asked if there
37 is anyone with expertise in air quality data who would be interested in looking at that information.
38 Co-Chair Zalles offered to take one particular location and create a spreadsheet as an example.
39 Anyone involved with the technical aspects of the Central Wasatch Dashboard understands what is
40 needed without a lot more time being dedicated to this effort. Chair Boardman clarified that she is
41 suggesting that the data in other areas of the Central Wasatch Dashboard be put into some sort of
42 graph that could be presented under the Human Element. It could highlight what the trends look like.

43
44 Ms. Kilpack reported that the CWC has obtained access to the back end of the Central Wasatch
45 Dashboard. Through that, it has become clear that there are not a lot of people who are utilizing the
46 resource. There have been discussions about how to increase the reach. There are some ideas that
47 the CWC Youth Council has considered, such as sharing information in different schools. As the

1 Committee considers improvements to the Central Wasatch Dashboard, she suggested also
2 brainstorming ways to increase the reach of the Central Wasatch Dashboard so that all additions are
3 useful. Chair Boardman explained that she would like to use the existing information on the Central
4 Wasatch Dashboard to illustrate some of the trends. Co-Chair Zalles believed there are two different
5 issues being discussed: increasing the use of the Central Wasatch Dashboard and showing the changes
6 over time. He believes that if there is clear information shown, the use of the resource will start to
7 increase.

8
9 Mr. Lenkowski believes that, based on CWC Staff feedback, some of the improvements to the Central
10 Wasatch Dashboard will be paused while the focus shifts to increasing the overall use of the Central
11 Wasatch Dashboard. Co-Chair Zalles reported that the item he submitted for the Canyon Funding
12 Needs document was funding to show time series data in order to easily see the trends.

13
14 Ms. Kilpack reported that the CWC has halted the expansion of the Human Element of the Central
15 Wasatch Dashboard and the planning phase of the data collection effort. This does not mean that
16 modifications cannot be made to the Central Wasatch Dashboard. If the modifications are minor in
17 scope, it is possible for them to be folded into the existing maintenance contract. That is what is
18 happening with the landing page map and other enhancements discussed by the Committee. There
19 are continued efforts to make minor changes. A time series plot is something that could be added.
20 Ms. Kilpack reiterated that the reach of the Central Wasatch Dashboard needs to be expanded.
21 Investing resources into the improvements will need to be balanced with the need for increased use.
22 Chair Boardman mentioned some of the UDOT traffic data that was collected and could be added. It
23 might be worthwhile for the Environment System Committee to think about increasing the outreach.

24
25 Mr. Lenkowski pointed out that the link to the Central Wasatch Dashboard is hard to find, and there
26 was also the broken link mentioned earlier by Co-Chair Zalles. If there is a desire to increase the
27 reach, it is important to highlight the resource on the CWC website. Mr. Lenkowski noted that there
28 is a winter trail counting program from the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance that could be added.

29
30 Jonny Vasic discussed the air quality data. He pointed out that the Utah Division of Air Quality has
31 a lot of important information on its website already, so it does not necessarily need to be replicated
32 on the Central Wasatch Dashboard. It makes sense to link to that information instead. Mr. Tolman
33 discussed the water quality information on the Central Wasatch Dashboard. There are links to
34 updated reports for the cities that the water quality data comes from, but most of those links are
35 outdated or non-existent. That is one small change that could be made to improve access to the data.
36 Chair Boardman reiterated that two datasets could be added to the Human Element: the traffic data
37 from UDOT and the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance trail counting program data.

38
39 Mr. Catt asked if there is any information about how Central Wasatch Dashboard visitors are
40 accessing the resource. For instance, it is being accessed through the CWC website, a Google search,
41 or something else. Ms. Kilpack offered to ask other members of CWC Staff about that. Co-Chair
42 Zalles reiterated the importance of the water quality data and looking at change over time. Chair
43 Boardman expressed support for presenting the water quality data in a more usable manner.

1 **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

2
3 1. **The Committee will Share Updates on Solitude Mountain Resort's Parking Lot**
4 **Proposal.**

5
6 Mr. Tolman shared an update about the Solitude Mountain Resort parking lot proposal that was
7 discussed previously. He reported that a Conditional Use Permit application was submitted in the
8 early spring, it was amended a few times, and then it was pulled. It appears there is a plan to resubmit
9 that application at some point in the future, but there is no application currently being considered. He
10 believes the Town of Brighton is considering a new ordinance that could impact a future application.
11 The proposed ordinance for the Town of Brighton would more or less lock in the ski resort boundaries
12 and make it so the Town Council would need to amend that for a ski resort to build facilities outside
13 of their boundaries. There will be a discussion about this at the next Planning Commission Meeting.

14
15 Chair Boardman was not aware that Solitude pulled its application for a Conditional Use Permit.
16 Mr. Tolman explained that the Conditional Use Permit application submitted was pulled voluntarily
17 because it was determined to be deficient. He reported that it was determined deficient twice. His
18 understanding is that the application was pulled to make changes and resubmit. Part of the reason the
19 CWC Board did not take a stance on this previously was that there was no active application.

20
21 Ms. Kilpack asked Mr. Vasic to share an update about the road that is being built in Parleys Canyon
22 to the proposed quarry. Mr. Vasic explained that a road is being legally built, but this work is scarring
23 the hillside and hundreds of trees have been removed. The land there is owned, and there is a permit
24 to do this work, but there is no permit for the mine that the owners have a desire to build in the area.
25 Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment are planning for an administrative challenge if the Utah
26 Division of Air Quality approves the mine. There are concerns about water and air quality. When
27 there are winds over 25 miles per hour, there is an exemption from fines related to fugitive dust.
28 There still needs to be suppression, but it is not that effective. He noted that Parleys Canyon is often
29 windier than that. Mr. Vasic shared additional information. He reported that there was a 20-acre
30 mine applied for, but it was initially 634 acres. He believes they will try to do 20 acres at a time.

31
32 **NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

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34 1. **The Committee will Discuss Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.**

35
36 There was discussion about what should be added to the next Environment System Committee
37 Meeting agenda. Chair Boardman pointed out that the Committee can discuss how to increase the
38 number of visitors to the Central Wasatch Dashboard. Co-Chair Zalles noted that there can be a
39 discussion about the ski resort presentations at the next Environment System Committee Meeting.

40
41 Chair Boardman believes it makes sense to continue discussions about modifying visitor behavior.
42 Ms. McKasy reiterated that it would be interesting to receive feedback from the ski resort
43 representatives as far as visitor behavior. That question can be posed and discussed at the next
44 meeting. Mr. Tolman thought it would be beneficial to discuss the upcoming Big Cottonwood
45 Canyon watershed restoration project, which includes fuel treatments such as prescribed burning. The
46 National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") process is taking place right now. If there are
47 resources, it will treat approximately 4,000 acres of forest in Big Cottonwood Canyon in order to

1 improve forest health and mitigate wildfire risks. He noted that there might be some delays due to
2 the government shutdown. Mr. Tolman stated that he can share an update at the next meeting.

3
4 **OTHER ITEMS**

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6 There were no other items discussed.

7
8 **CLOSING**

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10 1. **Chair Boardman will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Environment System Committee**
11 **Meeting.**

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13 **MOTION:** Kelly Boardman moved to ADJOURN the Environment System Committee Meeting.
14 Meaghan McKasy seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
15 Committee.

16
17 The Environment System Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Environment System Committee Meeting held Tuesday,*
3 *October 14, 2025.*

4
5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes
7 T Forbes Group
8 Minutes Secretary

9
10 Minutes Approved: _____