



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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
Meaghan McKasy
Maura Hahnenberger
Jonny Vasic

Staff: Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Will McKay, Communications Director

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 asked the new Communications Director to introduce himself to the Environment System Committee.

Communications Director, Will McKay, reported that he has been in Salt Lake City since 2019, but he is originally from Iowa. He completed his undergrad in Environmental Science in Boulder, Colorado. He moved to Utah to work with Utah Mountain Adventures, which he did until 2023. After that, he transitioned to working in government and worked for the Utah Division of Emergency Management as one of the Public Information Officers. He also runs a company called Mountain Training Center, which is an online avalanche education platform that is used nationally. Until he started working for the CWC, he was also on the Board of the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the November 11, 2025, Meeting.

Once there was a quorum of the Environment System Committee, the Meeting Minutes were considered. Chair Boardman reported that during the meeting on November 11, 2025, there was a discussion about modifying visitor behavior in the Central Wasatch. The Committee also talked about the recent ski resort presentations on sustainability. There was also discussion about the Central Wasatch Dashboard and the Big Cottonwood Canyon Watershed Restoration Project.

MOTION: Kelly Boardman moved to APPROVE the November 11, 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 Identify Key Visitor Behavior Modifications that would Benefit the Environment in the Central Wasatch.**
2. **The Committee will Discuss Creating a Survey to Better Understand Visitor Attitudes and Associated Behaviors.**

Chair Boardman reported that the Environment System Committee previously discussed visitor behavior in the Central Wasatch. The Committee will now consider visitor behavior modifications that would benefit the environment in the Central Wasatch and discuss the possible creation of a survey. Chair Boardman recently reviewed the list that was provided by Maura Hahnenberger and selected four broader ideas to use as a guide for the visitor behavior modification discussion:

- Travel using public transit, ride share or shuttle;
- Visit during off-peak hours;
- Reduce impact to ecosystems (Leave No Trace principles, trail etiquette, etc.);
- Reduce impact to other visitors (be prepared with appropriate equipment and supplies).

Chair Boardman shared information about some of the social media posts she has seen recently, including one where people did not have a parking reservation for Brighton. The intention was to inform others about the need for a parking reservation. She asked for feedback from the Committee regarding visitor behavior modifications and the four broader ideas that were outlined. Meaghan McKasy noted that there are a lot of different routes that can be taken. After the last meeting, there was a discussion about the creation of a survey that posed questions to people either on a bus or waiting for a bus. It might be possible to ask them questions about how they view their own behaviors. There could also be feedback provided about the overall bus experience. That sort of information could lead to a campaign that is focused on improving the user experience in the canyons.

Chair Boardman explained that it is important to consider how information will be shared. She noted that information could be included in the materials the Recreation System Committee is putting together. In addition, there could be information shared on buses or at rental car company locations. Ms. Hahnenberger mentioned a potential survey with QR codes. She is always hesitant to send out a survey unless there are clear actions that can be taken. An example is the Central Wasatch Dashboard survey, where a lot of the information received made it possible to improve the resource for users. She does not think a survey in this case would be ideal unless the survey itself is the communication method. There are some surveys where the goal is not to collect information, but to give information.

Chair Boardman pointed out that some of the information gathered from the survey could be disseminated via the Recreation System Committee and the Transportation System Committee. However, she likes the idea of a survey that also educates respondents. Ms. Hahnenberger confirmed that one option is to have a survey that acts as an educational tool, but that is not her favorite option.

1 Co-Chair Dan Zalles wanted to better understand how a survey could be used as a way of conveying
2 information. Ms. Hahnenberger shared an example related to climate science and climate actions.
3 There could be a survey that asks what sustainable actions someone takes, such as owning an electric
4 vehicle, carpooling, and so on. Simply sharing a list of sustainable actions could be considered an
5 educational tool. After submitting an answer, there could be something that pops up to encourage
6 additional actions be taken. The goal of a survey is not always to receive information about the
7 actions that are being taken, but to inform respondents about different actions that could be taken.

8
9 Ms. McKasy mentioned the issue of survey fatigue. There is no desire to release a survey simply to
10 release one. However, there could be a two-prong approach taken in this case, where it is possible to
11 both gather and share information. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, reported that Utah Transit
12 Authority (“UTA”) was receptive to the idea of a QR code on the buses that would link to a survey,
13 so there is the potential for some level of partnership. Chair Boardman asked Committee Members
14 to think about the survey more. At the end of the meeting agenda, there will be a discussion about
15 the Committee goals for 2026. There can be a decision made about whether to pursue this further.

16
17 Ms. Hahnenberger likes the idea of pursuing specific messaging. As for what the end goal is, she
18 believes it is the modification of visitor behavior, but it is possible to be more specific than that. For
19 example, the goal might be to encourage more bus ridership or to encourage off-peak visits. There is
20 an opportunity to share the survey QR code at bus stops or on UTA buses, but that essentially
21 determines the audience, as it will focus on people who are already taking the bus. The Committee
22 needs to think about the key messages as well as the most effective communication methods for the
23 desired audience. She pointed out that social media posts are likely to reach a different audience than
24 a QR code on a bus. If there is a certain audience there is a desire to reach, the type of outreach should
25 be considered. Ms. Hahnenberger suggested that there be consideration of what partners to leverage.
26 The capacity of the Environment System Committee also needs to be taken into account.

27
28 Co-Chair Zalles noted that people riding the buses are a valuable audience to hear from. In that case,
29 the primary purpose would be to receive feedback about their experience riding the bus, find out how
30 often they ride the bus, and determine whether they will ride the bus again. In addition, there can be
31 education on broader issues. There could also be a QR code shared in other areas with questions that
32 are specific to that audience. He imagines different versions of the survey with different QR codes.

33
34 Ms. McKasy stated that anything gathered would be a convenient sample rather than a representative
35 sample. She agrees with the comments shared by Ms. Hahnenberger about focusing on the goals and
36 creating an outline from there. Thinking through the process, audience, and objective makes sense.
37 As for the comment about the capacity of the Environment System Committee, there is a class at the
38 University of Utah where students run campaigns for a community partner. It might be possible to
39 pitch the Committee as a community partner so the students could take on the preliminary work.

40
41 Chair Boardman noted that at the last meeting, there was a discussion about educating people on the
42 vision of the Mountain Accord. As an educational component of a survey, there could be a question
43 about familiarity with the CWC and the vision of the Mountain Accord. Ms. McKasy thought the
44 Committee should think about the overarching goal. It would make sense to determine whether this
45 is a knowledge campaign or a behavioral change campaign. It is okay to have a little bit of both, but
46 there needs to be some decisions made. Chair Boardman agreed that if this moves forward, there will
47 need to be decisions made about the goal and audience. She is excited about what this could become.

1 Jonny Vasic stated that surveys tend to work best when they are focused. The longer a survey is, the
2 less participation there tends to be. There could be some kind of incentive offered for those who
3 complete the survey, such as entry into a draw for ski resort passes or something similar.

4
5 Ms. McKasy agreed that it is best to aim for a five-minute survey. The longer a survey is, the less
6 likely it is that people will complete the survey. If there is an incentive offered, there will be more
7 people willing to take the survey. Ms. McKasy pointed out that it is possible to create some survey
8 flow. Some of the questions may be dependent on how someone responds. As an example, there
9 could be a question asking if the respondent is on a bus heading to Big Cottonwood Canyon. Based
10 on their answer, that could shift some of the questions. Chair Boardman noted that there could be a
11 question about the reason for the visit to the canyons. She asked Committee Members to continue
12 brainstorming ahead of the next meeting so that a determination can be made on the survey.

13
14 Chair Boardman asked about the Recreation System Committee pamphlet. Ms. Kilpack reported that
15 the Committee created a pamphlet of short historical hikes in the Central Wasatch. She is not sure
16 how that will be disseminated, but it has been created. Barbara Cameron took the lead on that. Ms.
17 Kilpack shared a copy of the pamphlet with the Environment System Committee. There is
18 information about how to prepare for a hike, etiquette, and there are links to different hikes. The
19 Recreation System Committee only meets every other month, but she offered to check in with them
20 to find out where the pamphlet has been shared. It might be possible to partner with the Environment
21 System Committee so there is additional reach. Committee Members reviewed the digital pamphlet.

22
23 Chair Boardman suggested that a link to the Recreation System Committee pamphlet be added to the
24 Central Wasatch Dashboard. Ms. Kilpack confirmed that this can be added. She reported that the
25 landing page map should be live on the Central Wasatch Dashboard in the next week or so. Chair
26 Boardman asked Committee Members to continue to think about the survey goal, audience, key
27 messages, and communication before the next Environment System Committee Meeting takes place.
28 Ms. McKasy noted that the survey might be something the Committee aims to launch next year.

29 30 **LEGISLATIVE AND LAND TENURE COMMITTEE MEETING ATTENDANCE** 31 **DISCUSSION** 32

33 **1. The Committee will Discuss Sending a Member to Attend CWC Legislative and Land** 34 **Tenure Committee Meetings.** 35

36 Chair Boardman explained that she looked for the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee meeting
37 schedule, but found that meetings occur on an as-needed basis. She asked if there is a meeting
38 planned. Ms. Kilpack denied this but believed there would be one held in the next few months. She
39 reported that it is possible to subscribe to the Utah Public Notice alert email. When a meeting is
40 scheduled and an agenda is posted, there is an automatic email sent out to subscribers.

41
42 Chair Boardman asked for additional information about the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee.
43 She noted that the website has a brief summary that states the Committee looks at the Central Wasatch
44 National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). However, the Environment System
45 Committee is curious about properties that might be of interest in looking into for conservation.

46
47 Ms. Kilpack stated that the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee has not met a lot in the time that
48 she has been with the CWC, because the Committee largely focuses on the CWNCRA. There will

1 be more meetings now that the CWCNRA is becoming more front of mind, but other conservation
2 easements have not been discussed. Having a member of the Environment System Committee
3 designated to attend the Legislative and Land Tenure Committees might make sense.

4
5 Ms. Hahnenberger asked if there is a Chair of the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee. Ms.
6 Kilpack believed the Committee had the same membership as the Executive/Budget/Audit
7 Committee. There is a limit of four voting Commissioners on the Legislative and Land Tenure
8 Committee, because the committee cannot have a quorum of the CWC Board. The membership
9 previously included Jeff Silvestrini, Christopher Robinson, and Erin Mendenhall. Mr. Silvestrini
10 recently stepped down, so the new membership of that Committee will need to be determined.
11 Ms. Kilpack reported that Mayor Roger Bourke from Alta is the new Co-Chair of the CWC Board.
12 It is possible that Mayor Bourke will join the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee, but he is not
13 required to do so. Additional discussions were had about the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee.

14
15 Chair Boardman asked if there is a member of the Environment System Committee interested in
16 attending the next Legislative and Land Tenure Committee Meeting and reporting back. Co-Chair
17 Zalles offered to attend future meetings of the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee and share
18 information about the discussions with other members of the Environment System Committee.

19 20 **2026 COMMITTEE GOALS DISCUSSION**

21 22 **1. The Committee will Discuss Ideas and Goals for 2026.**

23
24 Chair Boardman reported that the Environment System Committee will continue to have discussions
25 about modifying visitor behavior in the Central Wasatch in 2026. The survey can continue to be
26 considered. In addition, there will now be a liaison attending the Legislative and Land Tenure
27 Committee Meetings and reporting back to the Environment System Committee in the new year.

28
29 Discussions were had about the Central Wasatch Symposium for 2026. It was noted that some
30 potential Committee ideas might arise after attending the symposium. There are already ideas that
31 the Committee can continue to build on and there could be additional ideas after the symposium.

32 33 **2026 MEETING SCHEDULE**

34 35 **1. The Committee will Discuss its Meeting Schedule for 2026.**

36
37 It was noted that Ms. McKasy might have to attend meetings late in the future due to her schedule.
38 Chair Boardman asked what time she would be available to attend. Ms. McKasy reported that she
39 teaches until 3:20 p.m., so a 3:30 p.m. start time would work, or she can arrive at meetings slightly
40 late. Chair Boardman reported that 3:30 p.m. would work better for her schedule as well. Other
41 Committee Members expressed support for the 3:30 p.m. start time. Ms. Kilpack confirmed that the
42 meeting time can be changed. She offered to send out an email to the other Committee Members.

43
44 Ms. Kilpack reported that there is a Stakeholders Council Meeting scheduled for next week. During
45 a portion of the meeting, there will be a review of the Stakeholders Council's accomplishments from
46 the last year. The Environment System Committee has several accomplishments to highlight,
47 including the survey conducted on the Central Wasatch Dashboard and the resulting enhancements.

1 She asked that someone from the Committee be prepared to share a short summary of the work and
2 outcomes. Co-Chair Zalles offered to share information during the Stakeholders Council Meeting.

3
4 **NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

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

7
8 Discussions were had about the next Environment System Committee Meeting. Ms. Kilpack asked
9 if there is a desire to cancel the scheduled meeting on January 13, 2026. The CWC Board meets on
10 January 12, 2026, and the Central Wasatch Symposium will take place on January 8 and 9, 2026.
11 Chair Boardman is fine to meet on January 13, 2026, but the meeting can be canceled if other
12 Committee Members feel overwhelmed at that time. Other Committee Members thought it made
13 sense to cancel that meeting. The Environment System Committee will meet on February 10, 2026.

14
15 **OTHER ITEMS**

16
17 Ms. Hahnenberger reported that the Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Assessment has been
18 released and is currently receiving public comment. There are some open house and virtual meetings.
19 The meetings will take place next week and the public comment period will end in January 2026.

20
21 Ms. Kilpack reported that the call for short-term projects for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program
22 will open on January 13, 2025. It will be open from January 13, 2025, to February 10, 2025.
23 Additional information about the Central Wasatch Symposium was shared with the Committee.

24
25 **CLOSING**

26
27 **1. Chair Boardman will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Environment System Committee**
28 **Meeting.**

29
30 **MOTION:** Kelly Boardman moved to ADJOURN the Environment System Committee Meeting.
31 Maura Hahnenberger seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
32 Committee.

33
34 The Environment System Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Environment System Committee Meeting held Tuesday,*
3 *December 9, 2025.*
4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes
7 T Forbes Group
8 Minutes Secretary
9

10 Minutes Approved: _____