



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/
BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 29,
2026, AT 11:00 AM. 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 Erin Mendenhall, Chair
Mayor Roger Bourke, Co-Chair

Commissioners: Mayor Scotty John
Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion
Mayor Cheri Jackson

Special Advisors: Jack Stauss

Stakeholders/Public: Jonny Vasic

CWC Staff: Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Will McKay, Communications Director

Opening

1. **Chair Erin Mendenhall will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

Chair Erin Mendenhall called the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and welcomed those present. She reviewed some of the items on the meeting agenda.

2. **Review and Approval of the Minutes of the December 15, 2025, Meeting.**

MOTION: Roger Bourke moved to APPROVE the December 15, 2025, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Scotty John seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

1 **Parley's Gravel Pit Public Comment Discussion**

2
3 **1. The Committee will Review and Discuss a Draft Public Comment from the CWC on**
4 **the Proposed Parley's Gravel Pit.**
5

6 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee will
7 discuss the drafted public comment on the proposed open-air gravel mine at the I-80 South Quarry.
8 Chair Mendenhall noted that the Meeting Materials Packet includes the letter that was submitted
9 on March 7, 2022. There is also a draft comment to the Utah Department of Air Quality without
10 a date. She assumes that comment will be dated for this month. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that there
11 is a Resolution in opposition from back in 2022. The latest draft letter is dated January 29, 2026.
12

13 Mayor Roger Bourke mentioned the fourth paragraph of the draft letter, which states: "These
14 communities already experience elevated levels of airborne pollutants due to inversions caused by
15 the geography of the valley." He suggested that "these communities" be amended to state "our
16 communities." There was support for this amendment. Mayor Cheri Jackson asked if there are
17 specifics included in the letter about the collection of data. One of the issues that Millcreek had
18 was that the data collection points were the Salt Lake City Airport and Hawthorne Elementary
19 School, which are miles away from the mouth of the canyon and the most impacted communities.
20 There could be a recommendation made that data be collected in the areas currently impacted by
21 the quarry operations. Chair Mendenhall expressed support for this language to be added to the
22 letter. It would make sense to add this to the fourth paragraph of the draft letter. It could state:
23

- 24 • As representatives of these communities, we would be pleased to work with the Utah
25 Department of Air Quality to locate air quality monitoring stations in areas that will provide
26 the necessary data to make better decisions moving forward.
27

28 Chair Mendenhall thought it made sense to send this letter to each of the Utah Department of Air
29 Quality Board Members. Though the Utah Department of Air Quality should distribute it ahead
30 of their meeting, it would be beneficial to send it directly to Board Members as well. As a former
31 Board Member, it was meaningful to hear directly from commenters. It was confirmed that this
32 can be done. Mayor Bourke pointed out that the second to last paragraph has strong language. To
33 also ask for better data measurements does not make sense. There would be a conflict if the letter
34 advocated for better air quality measures but then also suggested that this not move forward at all.
35

36 Mayor Jackson understood the comment made by Mayor Bourke and suggested that there be
37 language to state that the CWC recommends that this application be rejected based on the fact that
38 the measurements are not from the affected areas. Mayor Jackson reported that during the hearing
39 last night, there was a statement read, which explained that there is a desire to hear about specifics.
40

41 Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion reported that Laura Briefer raised a question related to water. She stated
42 that there is not water available for dust mitigation. Mayor Bennion asked if that is addressed in
43 the CWC letter. Ms. Nielsen explained that the letter mentions the strain on an already strained
44 water supply for the region, but it is possible to include additional specificity to the letter. The
45 letter can state that there is no water directly at the proposed location. Mayor Bourke commented
46 that the nearest water is two miles away. It was recommended that language be added to the third

1 paragraph of the letter. Mayor Bennion added that the Legislature required a study of the materials
2 across the region as well as the availability. That study found that there was not an imminent need.
3 She offered to share that study with CWC Staff so it can be referenced within the letter.
4

5 Mayor Jackson noted that there is still litigation with Salt Lake County over the restrictions and
6 zoning ordinance. At this time, there is not zoning approval, so seeking this Utah Department of
7 Air Quality permit is premature given that the other approvals are not in place. She noted that the
8 letter could ask that the Utah Department of Air Quality wait until the legal proceedings with Salt
9 Lake County are finalized. It was noted that it is possible to state that while the CWC strongly
10 recommends not issuing a permit at all, the request is for the Utah Department of Air Quality to at
11 least wait until the current litigation has been completed. Ms. Nielsen stated that the tone of the
12 last paragraph can be changed, if that is desired by the Committee, as there have been comments
13 about the strong tone. It was clarified that there is support for the strong tone in the last paragraph.
14

15 **2. (Action) The Committee will Vote on Whether to Approve and Submit the Public**
16 **Comment.**
17

18 **MOTION:** Scotty John moved to APPROVE and SUBMIT the Public Comment from the CWC
19 on the Proposed Parley's Gravel Pit, as amended. Gay Lynn Bennion seconded the motion. The
20 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
21

22 **Public Comment**
23

24 Chair Mendenhall opened the public comment period.
25

26 *Jonny Vasic* reported that he serves as the Executive Director of Utah Physicians for a Healthy
27 Environment. He is also on the CWC Stakeholders Council and the Environment System
28 Committee. Additionally, he is a member of the Parley's Canyon Working Group, who have been
29 meeting almost weekly for the last three or four years. Mr. Vasic reported that there was a public
30 hearing held last night and there were over 300 attendees with over three hours of comments. All
31 of the comments shared were in opposition of the mine. There was not one comment in favor.
32

33 Mr. Vasic shared some of the key points that have been discussed by the Working Group. The
34 Utah Department of Air Quality continues to use unrepresentative data and inaccurate
35 assumptions, as there is no Utah Department of Air Quality monitoring at the mine. The intention
36 of the application is likely to operate a much larger mine using a loophole under House Bill
37 ("H.B.") 355, which was passed last year by the State Legislature. Fugitive emissions from the
38 existing mine in Parley's Canyon demonstrate that the current Utah Department of Air Quality
39 approach does not effectively control fugitive emissions. Mr. Vasic added that the permit is
40 premature until a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") is granted. Even if the Utah Department of Air
41 Quality permit moves forward, it is not possible to do anything without the CUP from the County.
42

43 *Jack Stauss* was also at the hearing the previous night and there were hundreds of people present
44 to speak in opposition of the permit. It is powerful for the CWC to join in and comment on the
45 record. Mr. Stauss expressed support for the letter and all of the efforts made so far.
46

1 There were no further comments. The public comment period was closed.

2
3 Ms. Nielsen reported that CWC Staff will incorporate the requested additions and edits into the
4 letter. The public comment period ends on January 31, 2026, so the letter will be submitted soon.

5
6 **Closing**

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

10
11 **MOTION:** Gay Lynn Bennion moved to ADJOURN the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
12 Meeting. Roger Bourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of
13 the Committee.

14
15 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at
16 approximately 11:20 a.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 Thursday, January 29, 2026.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: _____