



8
9 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
10 **COUNCIL RECREATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY,**
11 **MARCH 12, 2026, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON**
12 **AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC OFFICES,**
13 **LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET,**
14 **SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

15
16 **Committee Members:** Patrick Morrison, Chair
17 Dennis Goreham, Co-Chair
18 Craig Williams
19 Barbara Cameron
20 Jennifer Melton

21
22 **Staff:** Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
23 Will McKay, Communications Director

24
25 **Public:** Joanna Wheelton

26
27 **OPENING**

28
29 **1. Chair Patrick Morrison will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Recreation**
30 **System Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

31
32 Chair Patrick Morrison called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council
33 Recreation System Committee Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. He
34 welcomed Jennifer Melton to the Recreation System Committee. Ms. Melton works for Alta Ski
35 Area and runs the Alta Environmental Center, which focuses on sustainability and restoration. The
36 Alta Environmental Center connects the community to the green initiatives in the ski area and
37 ensures that the work done is efficient and beneficial to the surrounding land.

38
39 **2. Review and Approval of the January 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes.**

40
41 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to APPROVE the January 15, 2026, Meeting Minutes.
42 Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
43 Committee.

1 **GOAL-SETTING FOR 2026**

2
3 **1. The Committee will Review and Discuss Takeaways from the December 2025**
4 **Stakeholders Council Meeting.**

5
6 Chair Morrison reported that there was a Stakeholders Council Discussion Summary chart sent out
7 to members of the Recreation System Committee for review. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack,
8 explained that this chart summarizes the notes made by each discussion group at the last
9 Stakeholders Council Meeting. There were four questions posed and Council Members took time
10 to talk about each one. At the next Stakeholders Council Meeting, the chart will be reviewed. The
11 idea is to make sure there is momentum, so the suggestions there is an interest in pursuing will be
12 highlighted. Ms. Kilpack added that the items will be assigned to different Stakeholders Council
13 subcommittees.

14
15 Chair Morrison thought it made sense to consider what can be done at the Recreation System
16 Committee level. He asked if anything on the chart stood out to Committee Members. Co-Chair
17 Dennis Goreham suggested focusing on something that can be accomplished this year. This could
18 be a specific task or it could involve collecting information that informs a specific task. Chair
19 Morrison asked Committee Members about their reason for participating in the Recreation System
20 Committee. There is value in connection and working together, but some Committee Members
21 might be more focused on outcomes and actionable tasks. Joanna Wheelton reported that the
22 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is interested in the visitor behavior modification campaign. The
23 foundation would love Committee support for the Trail Steward program, which focuses on trail
24 user education. The Trail Steward program educates users about how to use trails and make the
25 least possible impact. It also focuses on trail etiquette and sharing information about watershed
26 protection principles. The behavior modification campaign is something the Cottonwood Canyons
27 Foundation is especially interested in.

28
29 Co-Chair Goreham reported that there was a call recently with the various subcommittee Chairs
30 and Co-Chairs. During that call, the Environment System Committee representatives shared
31 information about a behavior modification survey. There have been discussions about behavior
32 modification at the Recreation System Committee level, as there were previous conversations
33 about signage. It can be a priority to look into visitor behavior. There can be work done with the
34 other subcommittees. Barbara Cameron pointed out that one of the original goals of the Recreation
35 System Committee was to focus on trail etiquette. That is the reason the document about trails
36 and trail etiquette was created.

37
38 Chair Morrison asked Ms. Wheelton for additional information about the Trail Steward program.
39 Ms. Wheelton reported that there was work done with the U.S. Forest Service last year. Any
40 volunteer in the forest has to be supervised, which created some complications. To address this,
41 there is a Volunteer Service Agreement with the Forest Service and a commitment was made that
42 the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation will check in and check out every volunteer. There is
43 someone on staff who ensures that every volunteer checks out at the end of the day. The Trail
44 Steward program volunteers have to be on officially designated Forest Service trails. She noted
45 that there are 81 different trails. The volunteers wear a green shirt for identification, because green
46 is the color that trail stewards and trail ambassadors wear across the country. Volunteers talk about

1 trail etiquette, provide education, and highlight watershed protection principles. The idea is to
2 have a friendly face on forest trails who is able to greet other visitors and talk to them about the
3 area. The volunteers are focused on education. For instance, it is possible to inform trail users
4 that there are rules about litter.

5
6 Co-Chair Goreham read in the AllTrails 2025 Impact Report that the Cottonwood Canyons
7 Foundation is partnering with them on some trail-related items. Ms. Wheelton clarified that this
8 is the program they are funding. A lot of time and effort have been put into the program so far.
9 This past winter, it was possible to have stationary trail stewards. There were volunteers sitting at
10 tables at Donut Falls. It was possible to greet and interact with many users during that time. She
11 reported that the volunteer portal opens on March 15, 2026. The intention is to further expand the
12 program.

13
14 Co-Chair Goreham asked what the Recreation System Committee can do to assist the Cottonwood
15 Canyons Foundation. Ms. Wheelton explained that the Committee can bring attention to the Trail
16 Steward program. Chair Morrison asked about the training process for the Trail Steward program.
17 Ms. Wheelton reported that there is a 10-module online training that volunteers must take. The
18 volunteers then go out with the trail and plants crews for a day. Then the volunteers are with a
19 Summer Naturalist for a day. There is de-escalation training to learn how to educate visitors in a
20 way that is non-confrontational. In addition, volunteers have prompts that are used to start
21 conversations.

22
23 Craig Williams wanted to know how to sign up for the Trail Steward program. Ms. Wheelton
24 reported that the volunteer portal will open on Sunday, and the website is
25 cottonwoodcanyons.org/volunteer. All of the open positions are listed with position descriptions.
26 The time commitment is also listed in the volunteer portal, as well as the training that is required.
27 Volunteers are given a t-shirt, and after 10 hiking days, they are given an embroidered hat that says
28 Trail Steward. Incentives can be effective for volunteer programs. Ms. Cameron asked if there
29 would be volunteers on weekends or throughout the week. Ms. Wheelton explained that the only
30 requirement is that volunteers be off the trail by 6:00 p.m. to check in. Ms. Cameron appreciated
31 the training the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation offers. Ms. Wheelton noted that a lot of people
32 have invested in the training provided.

33
34 Ms. Cameron reported that Committee Members have different ways of distributing information
35 about the Trail Steward program. She suggested that Committee Members promote the program
36 where possible. It was noted that something could be written for the Wasatch Mountain Club
37 magazine, The Rambler. Ms. Wheelton offered to send information out to Committee Members.

38
39 Mr. Williams asked if there is a limit to the number of volunteers for the program. Ms. Wheelton
40 explained that the only capacity limitation has to do with checking the volunteers out at night. If
41 a volunteer forgets to check out more than three times, then they are uninvited from the program.
42 There needs to be some sort of communication with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Chair
43 Morrison acknowledged that while on-site education is effective, it is resource-heavy. He is
44 excited about the Trail Steward program and pointed out that it dovetails well with a behavior
45 modification campaign.

1 The Recreation System Committee further reviewed the Stakeholders Council Discussion
2 Summary chart. Chair Morrison asked Committee Members to review the first column and
3 consider whether the items listed should be explored further by Committee Members. Co-Chair
4 Goreham noted that while a Little Cottonwood Canyon capacity study to inform transportation
5 might not be a priority for this Committee, it is still something of interest, because that work could
6 impact recreational capacity.

7
8 Co-Chair Goreham expressed an interest in continuing to discuss the Central Wasatch National
9 Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCR”). Chair Morrison shared information about
10 the Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance program, which is meant to fund studies and planning.
11 Items on the list related to buses, capacity studies, and wilderness could be refined and submitted
12 to that program for potential funding. He reported that this opens in April and runs through mid-
13 May.

14
15 Additional items from the Stakeholders Council Discussion Summary chart were reviewed. The
16 idea of better trail access and connectivity, especially in the foothills, is something the Recreation
17 System Committee can consider. Chair Morrison explained that one of the strengths of the CWC
18 is the network. It is possible to bring in guest speakers and guest presenters in order to learn more.
19 He asked what kind of representation there is from Salt Lake City Public Lands. There could be
20 some outreach conducted, and information about the foothills could be shared with the Committee.
21 Co-Chair Goreham noted that there tends to be a focus on the tri-canyon area, so he is not sure
22 whether this particular suggestion is relevant. Chair Morrison pointed out that this could impact
23 the distribution of recreators. The suggestion in the Stakeholders Council Discussion Summary
24 chart for land acquisition for conservation could be expanded to mention both conservation and
25 recreation.

26
27 Chair Morrison asked for Committee Member feedback about conservation from a Recreation
28 System Committee perspective. He wanted to know if it is possible to discuss recreation alongside
29 conservation. Committee Members pointed out that recreation and conservation can have
30 competing interests at times, but there can also be connections. Mr. Williams does not believe it
31 is possible to have recreation unless there has been some level of conservation. Chair Morrison
32 reported that another item on the Stakeholders Council Discussion Summary chart has to do with
33 planting wildflower seeds instead of grass seeds. Co-Chair Goreham thought it would make sense
34 for the Committee to look into this. As for the suggestion about stewardship, the Committee has
35 a role to play in that. Compiling a list of stewardship needs is something the Committee can focus
36 on.

37
38 The Committee discussed a suggestion about unmet Forest Service needs. Co-Chair Goreham
39 mentioned signage and noted that the Forest Service's attitude seemed to be that there was no desire
40 to discuss signage until after the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan was released. He pointed out that
41 the plan has been released, so it now makes sense to have additional discussions about signs.
42 Ms. Cameron wondered whether Zinna Wilson with the Forest Service could be invited to attend
43 a meeting. There could be information shared about trails the Forest Service is currently focused
44 on. Mr. Williams mentioned the Phase I work and the need to have signage based on those
45 priorities. Additional discussions were had about signs and the potential available funds to address
46 those needs.

1
2 Chair Morrison reported that at the next Stakeholders Council Meeting, there will be a discussion
3 about the different ideas on the chart. Council Members will assign those ideas to the appropriate
4 subcommittees. The Recreation System Committee has done some work to prepare for that
5 meeting.

6
7 **2. The Committee will Identify and Discuss Goals for 2026, including which Goals from**
8 **Last Year to Carry Forward.**

9
10 **a. The Committee will Discuss Potential Cross-Committee Endeavors.**

11
12 Chair Morrison asked the Recreation System Committee to discuss some of the goals from last
13 year and to identify goals for 2026. He noted that one goal can be to engage with the forest partners
14 and ask them to attend either Committee or Council meetings. There is a lot that depends on
15 having a strong partnership with the Forest Service. It is important to ask representatives to be in
16 the room and to be engaged in the discussions. The Committee reviewed the previous list of
17 Committee goals. One goal had to do with promoting bicyclist and pedestrian safety, which
18 remained on the list for 2026. Chair Morrison pointed out that this could be folded into the
19 behavior modifications discussion.

20
21 It was noted that John Knoblock previously stated he would reach out to someone at the Utah
22 Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) about a bicycle lane. Mr. Williams volunteered to assist
23 with this, but did not hear back from him. However, this goal can still be pursued by the
24 Committee.

25
26 Chair Morrison asked Ms. Melton about a goal she would be interested in. Ms. Melton noted that
27 a lot of the goals that were brainstormed previously seem to be about having a connection with the
28 proper partners. She stressed the importance of communication with others. It seems that a lot of
29 the Committee Members are well-connected. Ms. Wheelton suggested looking at the list and
30 determining where it is actually possible to make a change. The CWC does not necessarily have
31 the authority or capacity to handle certain items, so it makes sense to focus on areas where it is
32 possible to make an impact. She believes goals related to signage are appropriate to pursue. The
33 CWC can also encourage people to give back to the canyons by promoting the various volunteer
34 opportunities that exist. She pointed out that the CWC has a broad reach and can share relevant
35 information with others.

36
37 Chair Morrison reported that there is Committee Member support to contribute to a behavior
38 modification campaign. He asked the Recreation System Committee to think about how the
39 Committee can be most effective when it comes to moving signage discussions forward. Ms.
40 Wheelton believed it would be worthwhile to invite Ms. Wilson to a future meeting. There can be
41 a conversation about the signage plans and how the CWC can assist. Ms. Cameron would like to
42 see the Spruces Historical Tour built on. Something like that could be extended to other trails.
43 Committee Members discussed tours and free educational opportunities for the public.

44
45 Co-Chair Goreham noted that there could be an inventory of signs created. There could be pictures
46 taken of informative signs, as well as pictures of signs that could use some work. This is something

1 that Committee Member can do while they are recreating. The images can then be brought back
2 to the Committee. Chair Morrison pointed out that there might be grant funding opportunities
3 available. He liked the suggestion from Co-Chair Goreham about Committee Members creating
4 an inventory. It might be possible to speak to Chris Merritt from the Utah State Historic
5 Preservation Office.

6
7 **3. The Committee will Discuss Potential Speakers to Invite to Future Committee**
8 **Meetings.**
9

10 Chair Morrison explained that he would like to invite speakers to future Recreation System
11 Committee Meetings. These speakers could answer questions, provide information, and let the
12 Committee know how to be most effective while working toward certain Committee level goals.

13
14 **OUTDOOR ACTIVITY OR VOLUNTEER EVENT**
15

16 **1. The Committee will Discuss Coordinating an Outdoor Activity or Volunteer**
17 **Opportunity.**
18

19 Chair Morrison reported that he previously suggested the Recreation System Committee go out
20 and recreate together. There could be an experience planned where the Recreation System
21 Committee and Transportation System Committee agreed to meet at a park and ride, take public
22 transit to a recreation area, and participate in a recreation experience. It could be a meaningful
23 outing for the participating Committee Members. There could then be a report shared at a future
24 meeting. For example, there could be information shared about the transportation and recreation
25 experience.

26
27 Ms. Cameron informed the Committee that there is a volunteer opportunity for the Committee to
28 consider. The Forest Service has mentioned painting tables in the Redman Campground. Chair
29 Morrison noted that the Committee can also take enrichment hikes, such as a wildflower tour. He
30 likes the idea of the Recreation System Committee making time to recreate or volunteer in some
31 way.

32
33 Ms. Wheelton reported that last year, the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation hosted the
34 Stakeholders Council for a weed pull. She knows that Save Our Canyons will do some weed pulls,
35 and the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance has some volunteer activities as well. It is possible to look
36 into those. She invited the Stakeholders Council on a personalized tour with wildflower guides.
37 In addition, there are around 30 pairs of adult snowshoes available, so next winter, there could be
38 a moonlight tour.

39
40 Ms. Melton likes the idea of the Recreation System Committee recreating together. There could
41 be a review of the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan to see what some of the priorities are or to
42 determine what some of the most used trails are. The Committee can choose where to recreate
43 based on that information. Chair Morrison expressed support for this approach. He mentioned
44 the Alpenbock Loop Historical Hike from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance and noted that it is
45 something the Recreation System Committee could participate in. Chair Morrison reported that
46 the Recreation System Committee meets every other month. It is possible to recreate or volunteer

1 in the off month. As an example, the Recreation System Committee has met in March, so
2 Committee Members could recreate or volunteer in April. Participation is not a requirement, but
3 he feels it will be beneficial to all.

4
5 Chair Morrison offered to create a poll to determine Committee Member availability for recreation
6 and volunteer experiences. Mr. Williams wanted the Committee to recreate with a purpose. As
7 an example, the Committee could meet to recreate, but could also look at the signs in a specific
8 area.

9
10 Chair Morrison mentioned the earlier suggestion from Ms. Melton to review the Tri-Canyon Trails
11 Master Plan to better understand what is envisioned. He noted that there could be outreach with
12 different organizations to better understand the canyon's needs. Chair Morrison reported that the
13 Open and Public Meetings Act has certain requirements for meetings. He asked CWC Staff if
14 there are issues with what has been proposed. Ms. Kilpack explained that the Stakeholders Council
15 is treated as a public body, as are the subcommittees. Whenever there is a potential quorum, it is
16 formally noticed. She offered to look into this more and report back to the Recreation System
17 Committee.

18
19 Chair Morrison reiterated his suggestion that recreation or volunteer experiences take place every
20 other month. It might not always be possible to meet, but the goal could be to have four outings
21 per year. He clarified that those would be in addition to the Recreation System Committee
22 Meetings.

23 **COMMITTEE ROSTER DISCUSSION**

24 **1. The Committee will Consider what Voices may be Missing from the Committee and** 25 **Larger Stakeholders Council.**

26
27
28
29 Chair Morrison asked for information about how to bring someone onto the Stakeholders Council
30 and the subcommittees. Ms. Kilpack reported that there is some recruitment each year for the
31 Stakeholders Council, as there is turnover that happens every so often. There is currently a call
32 for applications open, so those interested in joining the Stakeholders Council are invited to apply.
33 CWC Staff and Stakeholders Council leadership review the applications. The goal is to maintain
34 a wide variety of community interests and demographics to make sure there are many different
35 voices.

36
37 As for the subcommittees, a member of the Stakeholders Council can communicate their interest
38 in joining a particular subcommittee. Chair Morrison believed participation in a subcommittee
39 requires membership on the Stakeholders Council, which was confirmed. Ms. Kilpack reported
40 that formal participation and voting require Stakeholders Council Membership, but it is possible
41 for others to attend and provide comments. Chair Morrison asked if there are areas or perspectives
42 the Stakeholders Council is currently missing. Ms. Kilpack stated that there have been discussions
43 about adding someone to the Council who represents some of the smaller recreation-based
44 businesses.

1 Ms. Kilpack shared information about the different organizations that are currently represented on
2 the Stakeholders Council. The more applications that are received, the easier it is to fill the
3 Stakeholders Council with a variety of voices. It is possible for Committee Members to let people
4 know that the call for applications is currently open. Discussions were had about other
5 representation that might be needed on the Stakeholders Council. Ms. Kilpack noted that
6 GreenLatinos might represent the west part of the valley, but she is not certain that there is a lot of
7 other representation for that area.

8
9 **OTHER ITEMS**

10
11 **1. The Committee May Discuss Other Topics, if Desired.**

12
13 Chair Morrison summarized the Recreation System Committee discussions that took place. The
14 Stakeholders Council Discussion Summary chart was reviewed. It seems there is a lot of support
15 to move forward with the behavior modification work. The Trail Steward program was exciting
16 to learn about and there was a Committee suggestion to focus on a signage inventory. The
17 inventory is something tangible that the Committee can create in the future. Chair Morrison
18 stressed the importance of working with the Forest Service. He explained that it would be
19 meaningful for there to be some engagement with either the Recreation System Committee or the
20 Stakeholders Council.

21
22 Co-Chair Goreham asked when the next Recreation System Committee meeting will be held.
23 Ms. Kilpack reported that it will be held on May 14, 2026. Ms. Melton expressed appreciation
24 that Chair Morrison took time to think about the different voices that might be missing from the
25 Stakeholders Council.

26
27 It was noted that some Committee Members have conflicts on May 14, 2026, and might be unable
28 to attend the next scheduled meeting. Chair Morrison wondered whether it would be possible to
29 switch the meeting date. It was noted that if it were rescheduled to May 21, 2026, that would work
30 better for Mr. Williams. Chair Morrison offered to create a poll with potential meeting dates and
31 share that with Committee Members. Ms. Kilpack noted that the Environment System Committee
32 might form a Working Group related to visitor behavior modification. Alternatively, there could
33 be a Joint Meeting scheduled between the Recreation System Committee and the Environment
34 System Committee.

35
36 Co-Chair Goreham pointed out that the Recreation System Committee meets every other month.
37 He suggested that the agenda for the next meeting be created as soon as possible. This will give
38 Committee Members time to think about the discussion items and share information as appropriate.

39
40 Co-Chair Goreham asked if there are any items on the Stakeholders Council list that should be
41 prioritized by the Committee. Chair Morrison believed a lot more would be known after the
42 Stakeholders Council Meeting. After that meeting, the Recreation System Committee will have a
43 better understanding of what the Council feels should be addressed at this level. At the next
44 Committee Meeting, there can be a discussion about the Stakeholders Council Meeting and the
45 outcomes. There should also be a conversation about the Committee excursion in April.

1 Ms. Cameron asked if Committee Members attended the presentation from Scott Hotaling during
2 the Central Wasatch Symposium. He presented to the Big Cottonwood Canyon Community
3 Council recently as well. Mr. Hotaling is with Utah State University and has shared interesting
4 information about water and the climate. She reminded Committee Members that he discussed
5 rock glaciers at the symposium. Committee Members expressed interest in the rock glacier
6 information.

7
8 Chair Morrison asked which subcommittee has the most members. Ms. Kilpack reported that the
9 Transportation System Committee and Environment System Committee currently have the most
10 members. Chair Morrison thanked all Recreation System Committee Members for their
11 participation.

12
13 **CLOSING**

14
15 **1. Chair Morrison will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Recreation System Committee**
16 **Meeting.**

17
18 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to ADJOURN the Recreation System Committee Meeting.
19 Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
20 Committee.

21
22 The Recreation System Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Recreation System Committee Meeting held Thursday,*
3 *March 12, 2026.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9

10 Minutes Approved: _____