MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION ("CWC") STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS MILLCREEK CITY HALL, ADVENTURE HUB, 1330 EAST CHAMBERS AVENUE, MILLCREEK, UTAH.

Present: Kurt Hegmann, Co-Chair
Dennis Goreham
Mark Baer
Craig Williams
Morgan Mingle
Adam Lenkowski
Barbara Cameron
Becca Gerber
Kim Doyle
Dan Zalles
Doug Tolman
Meaghan McKasy
John Knoblock
Brenden Catt
Ayja Bounous
Jennifer Melton
Hilary Arens
John Adams
Kelly Boardman
Olivia Juarez
Roger Borgenicht
Sally Kaiser
Faith Scheffler

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

Opening

1. Chair Maura Hahnenberger will Open the Public Meeting as the Chair of the Stakeholders Council of the Central Wasatch Commission.

In the absence of Chair Maura Hahnenberger, Co-Chair Kurt Hegmann, called the Central Wasatch Commission ("CWC") Stakeholders Council Meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

2. Chair Hahnenberger will Call for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the March 18, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting.

It was noted that a vote will be taken on the Meeting Minutes once there is a quorum of the Stakeholders Council present. Once a quorum was present, the Meeting Minutes were discussed.

Co-Chair Hegmann noted that on Page 10 of the Meeting Minutes, the name of the individual who seconded the motion was left blank. He reminded Council Members to state their name when making or seconding a motion. It was suggested that the Meeting Minutes be amended to clarify the motion.

MOTION: Mark Baer moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from the March 18, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting, as amended. The motion was seconded with all others voting "Aye."

March Meeting Recap

1. Chair Hahnenberger will Give a Recap of the March 18, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting.

Co-Chair Hegmann shared information about the March 18, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting. It was determined that future Stakeholders Council Meetings will take place two weeks before the CWC Board Meetings. It was found that Council Members like the Breakout Sessions, so those will continue to be on Stakeholders Council Meeting agendas. There was a draft letter discussed at the last meeting, which could potentially be forwarded to the CWC Board. That letter will be reviewed further during the current Stakeholders Council Meeting. Co-Chair Hegmann reminded Council Members that the Millcreek Canyon Committee has disbanded. It is important for each of the subcommittees to consider issues relevant to Millcreek Canyon as well as the Cottonwood Canyons.

During the last meeting, there was a review of the resources available in the shared Google folder. There was a reminder shared about the Conflict Disclosure form and other annual forms that need to be completed. Council Members also participated in a Breakout Session at the last meeting.

Council Administration

1. Conflict Disclosure and Other Annual Forms Must be Completed by June.

Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, reported that there are still some annual forms missing from Council Members. She asked that those be completed and returned to CWC Staff. Paper copies of the forms can be distributed to those attending the Stakeholders Council Meeting in person. There are forms missing from Adam Lenkowski, Becca Gerber, Ella Abelli-Amen, Hilary Arens, John Knoblock, Kim Doyle, Mark Baer, Sally Kaiser, Roger Borgenicht, Patrick Morrison, Olivia Juarez, and Morgan Mingle. She asked those Council Members to submit them as soon as possible.

2. (Action) The Council will Appoint Leaders for the Transportation System Committee.

Ms. Kilpack explained that a new Chair and Co-Chair are needed for the Transportation System Committee. The previous Chair and Co-Chair have served two consecutive terms. She thanked Danny Richardson and Kurt Hegmann for serving in those leadership roles on the Transportation System Committee. Mark Baer will be Chair and Sally Kaiser will be Co-Chair of the subcommittee.

MOTION: Barbara Cameron moved to APPOINT Leaders to the Transportation System Committee, with Mark Baer serving as Chair and Sally Kaiser serving as Co-Chair. Brenden Catt seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

3. (Action) The Council will Appoint Leaders for the Environment System Committee.

Ms. Kilpack explained that there have been some challenges finding leadership for the Environment System Committee. She has spoken to the members of that Committee, but there has not been clear interest expressed in the Chair or Co-Chair position. Ms. Kilpack took a moment to thank Kelly Boardman and Dan Zalles for serving two consecutive terms. Ms. Boardman is willing to continue on in the Chair position on a temporary basis until someone else can take over. Ms. Juarez might be able to take on that role in the next few months, but a motion can be made for the temporary role.

MOTION: Olivia Juarez moved to APPOINT Kelly Boardman as the Temporary Chair of the Environment System Committee. Meaghan McKasy seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

Ms. Kilpack asked if there is anyone willing to Co-Chair the Environment System Committee. The Co-Chair of the subcommittee will run meetings when the Chair is unavailable. She noted that Jonny Vasic might be interested, but she has not received confirmation. She asked if anyone is willing to serve in the role on an interim basis. Meaghan McKasy offered to serve in the role temporarily.

MOTION: John Knoblock moved to APPOINT Meaghan McKasy as the Temporary Co-Chair of the Environment System Committee. Kim Doyle seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

Ms. Kilpack reported that there is an update to the leadership of the Economy System Committee as well. John Knoblock previously agreed to Co-Chair the Economy System Committee on a temporary basis, but there is now someone interested in the Co-Chair position. Brendan Smith is not at the Stakeholders Council Meeting, but has indicated an interest in serving in the Co-Chair position.

MOTION: John Knoblock moved to APPOINT Brendan Smith as the Co-Chair of the Economy System Committee. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

Proposed Letter to the CWC Board

1. Council Members will Discuss a Proposed Letter to the CWC Board Regarding Suggested Refinements to UDOT's Implementation of Phase 1 of the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement.

a. (Action) The Council will Vote on Whether to Deliver the Letter to the Board.

Co-Chair Hegmann reported that there was a discussion at the last Stakeholders Council Meeting about a draft letter to the CWC Board. The letter is titled, "Refinements to UDOT's Phase I Transportation Improvements in Little Cottonwood Canyon: Stakeholders Council Recommendation to the CWC Board." He thanked Ms. Boardman for the work that has been done on the draft letter.

It was noted that substantial changes were made to the letter to reflect the feedback received from Council Members. Ms. Boardman explained that there were some items beyond the scope of Phase I of the Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT") Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS") that were left out of the letter. Co-Chair Hegmann shared comments about the process and the changes that have been made to the letter since the last Council Member review.

Council Members wanted to know if there will be additional discussion about the letter or if a vote will be taken on the draft that has been presented. Mr. Knoblock pointed out that Council Members had the opportunity to provide input on the letter ahead of the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Co-Chair Hegmann acknowledged the difficulty of reaching consensus on a letter like this when there are many different opinions. He expressed appreciation for the work done by Ms. Boardman. Mr. Baer explained that he had some objections to the previous version of the draft letter. He thanked Ms. Boardman for incorporating the various changes that were requested by Council Members.

MOTION: Mark Baer moved to FORWARD the "Refinements to UDOT's Phase I Transportation Improvements in Little Cottonwood Canyon: Stakeholders Council

Recommendation to the CWC Board" letter to the CWC Board for consideration. Dennis Goreham seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

Group Discussion: Upcoming Board Meeting Topics

1. **In Groups, Council Members will Discuss the Agenda for the June 22, 2026, CWC Board Meeting. Agenda Topics are Included in Meeting Materials Packet.**

    a. **How Might the Stakeholders Council Support the Board's Endeavors?**
    b. **What Specialized Knowledge or Expertise Does the Stakeholders Council Hold that would Benefit the Board in their Discussions?**
    c. **Does the Stakeholders Council want to Bring a Topic to the Board's Attention, Either through Individual Public Comments or a Formal Letter?**
        i. **Individual Public Comments may be Submitted During the Public Comment Portion of the June 22, 2026, Meeting.**
        ii. **The Stakeholders Council Chair can give an Informal Report to the Board on the Sentiments Shared During this Meeting.**
        iii. **If a Formal Letter is Desired, it Needs to be Composed Before the Next Stakeholders Council Meeting and Voted on During that Meeting. It Could then be Presented at the October CWC Board Meeting.**

Co-Chair Hegmann reported that the first Breakout Session on the Stakeholders Council Meeting agenda has to do with the CWC Board. There are three questions that have been posed about the CWC Board and interaction with the Stakeholders Council. He asked that there be four minutes spent discussing each of these questions. There will be reports shared with the Council after the first Breakout Session. He asked that a representative from each group be prepared to share a summary of the discussion afterward. Ms. Kilpack explained that the online participants will form one group.

Report-Outs

1. **A Representative from Each Group will Give a Two Minute Recap of their Group's Conversations.**

Following the Breakout Session, a representative from each group shared a summary of the discussion. The first Breakout Session group liked the consensus letter that was voted on earlier in the meeting. There was a suggestion that someone from each subcommittee attend CWC Board Meetings moving forward. There could be a rotating schedule so this task is spread out among the members. One of the questions the group had was how the CWC Board sees the Stakeholders Council executing what was agreed to in the Mountain Accord. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, explained that this question can be asked directly to the CWC Board at a future meeting. For the second Breakout Session question, it was determined that there is a lot of knowledge and expertise on the Stakeholders Council. There are business owners, individuals with legal backgrounds, environmental backgrounds, transportation experience, and non-profit experience. For the third question, it was determined that there is support to share public comments and formal letters.

The second Breakout Session group shared their report with the Stakeholders Council. For the first question, there was a discussion about identifying potential sources of funding for transportation improvements as well as partners who could implement those improvements. In addition, there was a discussion about the Capacity Study. For the second question, there was time spent discussing the Visitor Use Study and the importance of an iterative process. Rather than externalizing the entire Capacity Study process, it makes sense to rely on Council Member expertise. It is possible to use the existing contacts that Stakeholders Council Members have in order to inform the process.

As far as new topics to bring to the attention of the CWC Board, there was a discussion about an increased emphasis on the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act ("CWNCRA"). There was some discussion about improving the services that are currently available and providing more services. As an example, there could be a focus on additional restrooms at popular trailheads. Mr. Knoblock suggested that there be an opportunity to engage in the Capacity Study process before the request for proposal ("RFP") has been released. Council Members want to make sure the right questions are being asked of the consultant rather than providing feedback after the fact. Throughout the process, it would be meaningful to have consistent Stakeholders Council review. This would ensure that the Capacity Study is something Council Members can support.

The third Breakout Session group discussed the CWC Board Meeting agenda. There were questions about what the Capacity Committee will look like long-term and what will happen with the CWNCRA in the future. As for the question about specialized knowledge, it was noted that Council Members can provide a lot of different perspectives about the same locations. The group also discussed the letter that was voted on earlier in the meeting. There is excitement for that letter to move forward.

The fourth Breakout Session group spent a lot of time talking about capacity. There was excitement about the newly formed Capacity Committee. There is a desire to emphasize the fact that the Stakeholders Council has a lot of expertise and can assist in the Capacity Study process. It is possible for Council Members to participate earlier on. For instance, there could be involvement in the request for information ("RFI") process. The Stakeholders Council has an awareness of different funding options, non-profit organizations, and methodologies. If there is a temporary Capacity Committee at the CWC Board level, it might make sense to have a temporary Capacity Committee at the Stakeholders Council level. Alternatively, there could be some Council Member participation on the Committee. There were also discussions about the CWNCRA and the economic value of wilderness.

The online Breakout Session group suggested that the CWC Board pose specific questions to the Stakeholders Council so there can be direct feedback provided. When it comes to knowledge and expertise, Council Members have access to a lot of existing data that could be useful for the Capacity Committee. There is information and research that Council Members are involved with outside of the Stakeholders Council, so there could be a call for information about specific subjects. Ms. Gerber reported that the group also discussed how to address drastic snow years. This year, there were drops in skier days, transient room tax, and sales tax in some of the resort areas. These decreases impact certain budgets, so it is important to think about stabilization. Ms. Arens informed the group that Snowbird is looking into projects that better maintain and preserve snowpack. There could be short-term items considered as well in order to address fluctuations and maintain vibrancy.

Co-Chair Hegmann was impressed with the ideas that came out of the first Breakout Session. Ms. Nielsen mentioned the questions raised about the Capacity Committee. She reported that the Committee will meet for the first time on June 8, 2026. Those interested can attend the hybrid meeting. There will be an anchor location at the CWC Office, but participants can also attend virtually. Since the Capacity Committee has not held its first meeting at this time, many of the Stakeholders Council's questions cannot be answered. There is uncertainty about how often the Committee will meet and how long the Committee will exist, but this will be discussed at the meeting.

A question was asked about whether the CWC Board has a formal stance on issues like climate change, drought, and greenhouse gas emissions. Ms. Nielsen did not believe so. She took a moment to thank Council Members for the comments and suggestions shared during the Breakout Session reports. Council Members were encouraged to attend the next CWC Board Meeting and share comments. Alternatively, it is possible to ask subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs to provide comments. The next CWC Board Meeting will take place at 3:30 p.m. on June 22, 2026.

Group Discussion: Connecting the Wasatch Front and Back.

1. **In Groups, Council Members will Discuss Problem-Solving in the Wasatch Front and the Wasatch Back as a Regional Central Wasatch System (as Opposed to Viewing the Wasatch Front and Back as Separate, Independent Areas).**

    a. **How do Transportation Issues in the Wasatch Front Relate to or Impact Transportation in the Wasatch Back, and Vice Versa?**
    b. **How do Environmental Issues in the Wasatch Front Relate to or Impact the Environment in the Wasatch Back, and Vice Versa?**
    c. **How do Recreation Issues in the Wasatch Front Relate to or Impact Recreation in the Wasatch Back, and Vice Versa?**
    d. **How do Economic Issues in the Wasatch Front Relate to or Impact the Economy in the Wasatch Back, and Vice Versa?**
    e. **What Opportunities Exist for Collaborative Problem-Solving Between the Wasatch Back and the Wasatch Front? What Groups, Organizations, Authorities, etc. Should be Involved?**

It was determined that the second Breakout Session will not take place during the current meeting.

Report-Outs

1. A Representative from Each Group will Give a Two Minute Recap of their Group's Conversations.

The second Breakout Session did not take place.

Next Steps

1. Council Members will Review any Interim Action Items and System Committee Work to be Done after this Meeting.

Co-Chair Hegmann acknowledged that there were a lot of comments about the Capacity Committee and the proposed Capacity Study. At the next CWC Board Meeting, Stakeholders Council leadership can inform the CWC Board that there is a desire to participate and share expertise when possible. He asked if there is something more the Council feels should be done, such as forming a Capacity Committee at the Stakeholders Council level or forwarding a formal letter to the CWC Board.

Mr. Zalles mentioned the transportation letter that was voted on earlier in the meeting. It is possible to create a position letter that focuses on a Capacity Study. The CWC Board could consider the contents of the letter during the RFP process. There is an opportunity for the Stakeholders Council to provide input. It was suggested that Council Members wait to see what is discussed during the first Capacity Committee Meeting before a decision is made about forwarding a formal letter.

It was noted that there appears to be Stakeholders Council agreement that a Capacity Study should be conducted. However, there should be a clearly defined rationale for the study. Council Members stressed the importance of determining clear goals and objectives during the first Capacity Committee Meeting. Ms. Boardman pointed out that when the Mountain Accord was released, there were references to capacity, but a study did not move forward. She would like to know the reason for that.

Barbara Cameron reported that the Central Wasatch Dashboard came out of the Mountain Accord process. Mr. Knoblock believed the Mountain Accord expressed a desire to understand the capacity of the environment to handle additional recreation. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that there was a reference to capacity in the Mountain Accord. In 2018, there was a Stakeholders Council subcommittee created. What came out of that process was the Visitor Use Study, which was a broader collection of data. That study was reflective of the will of the CWC Board at the time. The intention was to focus on data collection without setting thresholds. It will be interesting to see what comes out of the newly formed Capacity Committee work. She reiterated that Council Members can listen in on the meeting.

Co-Chair Hegmann believed the plan is to see what happens at the first Capacity Committee Meeting on June 8, 2026. After that time, it will be possible for the Stakeholders Council to determine whether a letter to the CWC Board is necessary. The letter could highlight interest in the study. It could also mention the desire to potentially start a Capacity Committee at the Stakeholders Council level.

Ms. Nielsen reported that a National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") process would take place if the CWNCRA were passed and implemented. The CWNCRA requires a Management Plan to be completed that is specific to these mountains, which would cause the NEPA process to occur. A Capacity Study would theoretically be part of the NEPA process if the CWNCRA passed. There is specific language written into the draft version of the bill. Ms. Boardman asked if the Capacity Study the CWC Board is currently looking into could be used for the CWNCRA. Ms. Nielsen explained that this is something that can be considered during the upcoming Capacity Committee Meeting.

Mr. Knoblock encouraged Council Members to re-read the Mountain Accord document to see what it says about capacity. It would also be beneficial to read the latest draft of the CWNCRA. He read the following language from the Mountain Accord and noted that NEPA is tied to transportation:

- It is recommended that either the NEPA process or a separate study analyze the capacity of the environmental resources (biological, flora, fauna, watershed) in the Cottonwood Canyons to remain healthy under increasing recreational use.
- The signers of this Accord will request that the applicable federal agencies initiate the NEPA process to study public transportation alternatives that better connect the Salt Lake Valley and the Cottonwood Canyons.

Additional discussions were had about potential action items and next steps. Dennis Goreham reported that the Recreation System Committee has discussed advocacy and the economic value of the preservation of wilderness. This is something that was addressed during the Central Wasatch Symposium, but there is still additional work to be done. The other Stakeholders Council subcommittees could focus on different components of the Legislation in order to build advocacy.

John Adams shared information about the Economy System Committee and explained that he reached out to Dr. Jordan Smith about his presentation at the Central Wasatch Symposium. A request was made for the presentation to be shared with Committee Members. Dr. Smith agreed to present and to answer Committee Member questions. It is possible to schedule a Joint Meeting with other subcommittees so all interested members can listen to the presentation. Alternatively, there could be a request made that Dr. Smith present to the full Stakeholders Council at a future meeting.

Ms. Nielsen informed Council Members that the CWC is a recommending body rather than an authority. The CWC Board is powerful because there are elected officials from several communities as well as Ex Officio Members and Special Advisors. The CWC Board acts in unison when making statements. She explained that the CWC has submitted public comments in the past. As an example, there was a comment submitted in opposition to the Parleys Mine proposal. There was a formal Resolution in opposition to the proposal. It is also possible to introduce a Resolution to the State Legislature if there is a specific need during a future Legislative Session. This was last done in 2019.

It was noted that there have been previous discussions about funds to purchase private lands. Mr. Goreham clarified that in the past, there were discussions about funding and identifying potential parcels for purchase. Council Members next discussed the specialized knowledge and expertise that is brought to the Stakeholders Council. It was suggested that there be a spreadsheet created to better define the areas of expertise. This will make it easier to provide comments and share knowledge. Co-Chair Hegmann pointed out that this will be especially useful during the Capacity Study process.

Ms. Kilpack offered to create a spreadsheet titled, "Stakeholders Council Expertise" with the name of each Council Member. She asked Council Members to add information about their specific areas of expertise. This document will be accessible to members of the Stakeholders Council. Ms. McKasy suggested that there can be a column created for knowledge and a column created for expertise.

Co-Chair Hegmann thanked Council Members for sharing suggestions about potential action items. The Stakeholders Council further discussed the Capacity Committee Meeting that is scheduled to take place next week. Some of the Council Member questions might be answered during that meeting. Ms. Boardman does not see how it is possible to plan a transportation system without knowing more about capacity. Building a gondola that moves more people into the canyon might not be appropriate due to environmental impacts and certain limitations. For example, there might not be enough trash receptacles, restrooms, or water rights available to accommodate that number of canyon visitors. Having a better understanding of capacity can inform the future transportation decisions.

Mr. Zalles noted that the capacity discussion has two components: gauging current use and establishing thresholds. It is possible to monitor changes in water quality and look at other environmental changes to determine whether there is too much use occurring. Mr. Adams noted that the Great Salt Lake is a relevant example. Once certain thresholds are crossed, it becomes difficult to reverse the conditions. He stressed the importance of understanding the different thresholds.

Co-Chair Hegmann explained that solid data creates a foundation. It is necessary to have data as a baseline in order to inform what happens in the future. Mr. Knoblock acknowledged that capacity is nuanced. For example, there is parking capacity, road capacity and trailhead capacity. He noted that there is also a difference between wilderness trailheads and mountain wilderness trailheads. An example of a wilderness trailhead is White Pine. The quality of wilderness needs to be preserved and protected. Without roadside parking available, a certain capacity could be established once the parking lot was full. It was reiterated that there will need to be solid data before decisions are made.

Mr. Adams explained that one of the challenges in the canyons is the fact that there are private businesses with a lot of data. However, there is an unwillingness to share a lot of that data publicly due to the competitive nature of the businesses. It is difficult to make decisions about transportation projects without all of the information available. Co-Chair Hegmann thanked

Council Members for providing comments. He appreciated the suggestions that were shared for future action items.

Staff Announcements

1. The Next Stakeholders Council Meeting will be on September 2, 2026.

The next Stakeholders Council Meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2026.

2. The Next Board Meetings will be on June 22 and October 5, 2026.

The first Capacity Committee Meeting will take place on June 8, 2026. There is a virtual option and the meeting will be anchored at the CWC Office. The Transportation Committee will meet on June 10, 2026. The Executive/Budget/Audit Committee will meet on June 11, 2026. The next CWC Board Meetings are scheduled for June 22, 2026, and October 5, 2026. The meeting on June 22, 2026, will take place at Our Lady of the Snows Center at Alta Ski Area. Ms. Kilpack reported that the Transportation Committee at the CWC Board level will continue to meet on a monthly basis.

Ms. Kilpack reported that there is an outgoing Stakeholder present. She thanked Brenden Catt for his participation and informed Council Members that he will be moving on after this meeting. Mr. Catt explained that personal and professional obligations are requiring him to relocate to another State. He will be resigning from the Stakeholders Council and the Environment System Committee, but he has enjoyed his time serving and expressed appreciation for all of the efforts that have been made.

Stakeholders Open Comment

There were no additional Council Member comments.

Closing

1. Chair Hahnenberger will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Stakeholders Council Meeting.

MOTION: Barbara Cameron moved to ADJOURN the Stakeholders Council Meeting. The motion was seconded with all others voting "Aye."

The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting held on Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____________________