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3 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/**
4 **BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 11,**
5 **2026, AT 8:00 AM. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION**
6 **AT THE CWC OFFICES LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311**
7 **SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

8
9 **Present:** Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Chair
10 Mayor Roger Bourke, Co-Chair
11 Christopher Robinson
12 Maura Hahnenberger

13
14 **CWC Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
15 Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
16 Will McKay, Director of Communications
17

18 **OPENING**

19
20 **1. Chair Erin Mendenhall will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the**
21 **Executive/Budget/Audit Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

22
23 Chair Erin Mendenhall called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”)
24 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.
25

26 **2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the March 16, 2026, Meeting.**

27
28 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the March 16, 2026,
29 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Roger Bourke seconded the motion. The
30 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
31

32 **REVIEW OF DRAFT TENTATIVE BUDGET**

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34 **1. The Committee will Review the Tentative Budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year.**

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36 Chair Mendenhall reported that the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee will review the Tentative
37 Budget for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, explained that the
38 version of the budget that was sent out to Committee Members included Sandy City. However,
39 another version was created that does not include Sandy. The two documents can be compared.
40

1 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the budget that was posted for the Budget
2 Hearing and Board Meeting included Sandy. The decision from Sandy is not final at this time.
3 There might need to be adjustments made depending on the City Council decision. Co-Chair
4 Roger Bourke believed the Council Members in Sandy City had already made up their minds
5 before the last City Council Meeting was held. He was able to attend that City Council Meeting
6 and hear the discussions. He expressed frustrations about the current situation with the Council.

7
8 Chair Mendenhall noted that there was a previous discussion about one-time bonuses for two CWC
9 Staff positions, but she does not see that included in the Tentative Budget document. Ms. Nielsen
10 explained that these can be added at the CWC Board Meeting if the CWC Board decides to award
11 the bonuses. The amount can be taken out of the surplus in the current budget. Chair Mendenhall
12 expressed support for that approach. There can be bonuses taken out of the surplus funds for Fiscal
13 Year 2025-2026. Commissioner Christopher Robinson thought that approach made sense. There
14 can be a budget amendment made at the next CWC Board Meeting for the CWC Staff bonuses.
15 Discussions were had about possible amounts for the bonuses. Commissioner Robinson suggested
16 a \$15,000 bonus for the Executive Director and a \$5,000 bonus for the Director of Operations.

17
18 Co-Chair Bourke pointed out that there is still uncertainty with Sandy City, so it might make sense
19 to discuss the bonus amounts further once more is known about their participation. Chair
20 Mendenhall thought it was important to move forward with the bonuses. The impacts from Sandy
21 are significant, but she is comfortable taking the amount from the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget.
22 Commissioner Robinson agreed that it makes sense to make a budget amendment at this time. The
23 next CWC Board Meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026, so the amendment can be made then.

24
25 Chair Mendenhall would be supportive of a slightly larger bonus amount. She suggested \$20,000
26 and \$10,000 instead of \$15,000 and \$5,000. Commissioner Robinson expressed support for this.
27 Chair Mendenhall pointed out that the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee cannot vote on this
28 item, because it is not included on the meeting agenda, but Committee Members can discuss
29 whether or not there is general support for what has been proposed. Commissioner Robinson and
30 Co-Chair Bourke expressed support for the proposed bonus amounts of \$20,000 and \$10,000.

31 **ORGANIZATIONAL STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

32 **1. The Committee will Discuss Communications, Outreach, and the CWCNRA.**

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35
36 Director of Communications, Will McKay, reported that there was a memo included in the
37 Meeting Materials Packet. There could be a public online petition created for the Central Wasatch
38 National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWCNRA”). After reviewing the CWC
39 records, it is clear that there has been a lot of input from ski resorts, public entities, local elected
40 officials, and stakeholders. Something that could create a strong level of support is an online
41 public petition. There could be an explanation of what the CWCNRA would provide and then
42 those who supported the proposal could sign the petition. This would also make it possible to
43 collect emails from those interested in the CWCNRA so additional outreach can be conducted.

44
45 Chair Mendenhall expressed support for the idea of an online petition. Mr. McKay explained that
46 an online petition website can be used, but the specifics can be determined at a later date. There

1 will need to be a marketing push in order to let people know about the survey. For instance, there
2 could be short form video interviews with CWC Board Members, Special Advisors, and others.
3 Information about the CWCNRA can be communicated alongside the actual online petition.
4

5 Co-Chair Bourke asked if there is a desire to receive a representative sampling. Mr. McKay
6 explained that there can be local input provided and zip codes can be collected. He pointed out
7 that there might be national interest as well, since many tourists like to visit the Central Wasatch.
8 If this is something with a more national reach, there will likely be larger numbers of people
9 signing the CWCNRA petition. It is possible to differentiate through the requirement of zip codes.
10

11 Chair Mendenhall acknowledged that the online petition could increase awareness about the
12 CWCNRA. Commissioner Robinson asked if the petition should identify the location of those
13 who choose to sign. Mr. McKay explained that there can be a discussion about whether or not this
14 is the approach the CWC would like to take in the future. There is merit in that approach, because
15 it would make it possible to differentiate someone more local that is interested versus someone
16 from another state that is interested. Commissioner Robinson reiterated support for the petition.
17

18 Chair Mendenhall asked if it would be possible to explore some pro bono video production. She
19 can also speak to the SLCTv team about obtaining drone footage of the CWCNRA area.
20 Mr. McKay explained that any resources that can be utilized at a low cost will be beneficial. He
21 has some film connections and can conduct some outreach as well. Chair Mendenhall offered to
22 reach out to Mr. McKay after the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting with suggestions.
23

24 **2. The Committee will Discuss Holding a CWC Board Retreat During the Summer.**

25
26 Ms. Nielsen reported that there will be some political changes after the election, as Commissioner
27 Robinson will be leaving after many years. This will be a loss for the CWC. She suggested that
28 the CWC Board consider hosting a summer retreat before the turnover happens so it is possible
29 utilize the institutional knowledge that Commissioner Robinson and others have. After the
30 elections in November, it will be possible to educate any new members about the CWC work.
31

32 There could be a CWC Board Retreat held in either July or August. Ms. Nielsen explained that
33 retreats are tools for reinvigorating a group around a single cause, such as the CWCNRA. With
34 the proposed online petition and communication strategy, it is important for the CWC Board to be
35 as unified and informed as possible. A CWC Board Retreat is a meaningful way to make that
36 happen. Commissioner Robinson liked the idea and asked that a date be set soon. Chair
37 Mendenhall reported that there are potential meeting spaces in Salt Lake City that can be used.
38

39 It was determined that the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee will introduce the idea of a CWC
40 Board Retreat during the CWC Board Meeting scheduled on June 22, 2026. Commissioner
41 Robinson thought the retreat agenda should be focused and strategic. Chair Mendenhall suggested
42 that the retreat start at 8:30 a.m. and run until 12:00 p.m. There can be lunches provided so retreat
43 attendees can either eat at the meeting space or take food with them when they leave.
44 Commissioner Robinson suggested there be a working lunch where the retreat ends at 1:00 p.m.
45

1 Ms. Nielsen explained that facilitation has been considered for the CWC Board Retreat. There
2 was outreach to a previous CWC Board Retreat facilitator, Karen Hevel-Mingo, who expressed
3 some interest. It is possible that she will be able to serve as the facilitator at the summer retreat.
4 Chair Mendenhall would love to see Commissioner Robinson facilitate the CWC Board Retreat
5 this summer so he is able to impart as much wisdom as possible on the CWC Board before he
6 leaves. Commissioner Robinson agreed to facilitate the retreat. Chair Mendenhall offered to
7 connect CWC Staff with Noah Baskett, the Library Director in Salt Lake City, to discuss a venue.
8

9 **REVIEW OF BOARD MEETING DRAFT AGENDA**

10 11 **1. The Committee will Review the Draft Agenda for the June 22, 2026, Board Meeting.**

12
13 The Executive/Budget/Audit Committee reviewed the draft agenda for the June 22, 2026, CWC
14 Board Meeting. Ms. Kilpack reported that the public comment has been moved to the start of the
15 meeting agenda. The Closed Session will directly follow that comment period. Commissioner
16 Robinson proposed that the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee proposal for the CWC Staff
17 bonuses be included in the CWC Board Meeting information that is sent out to Board Members.
18 It is possible to eliminate the Closed Session and consider the budget amendment for 2025-2026.
19

20 Commissioner Robinson will present the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget during the CWC Board
21 Meeting. There will be a public hearing opened and closed followed by a discussion about the
22 budget. The CWC Board will then vote on the budget. Chair Mendenhall noted that the agenda
23 includes changes to Board membership. It was confirmed that Jay Fox has consented to serve.
24

25 The CWC Board Meeting agenda includes several Committee updates, including updates from the
26 Short-Term Projects Committee, Transportation Committee, Capacity Committee, and
27 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. There are also several contract renewals listed on the agenda.
28 Ms. Kilpack clarified that those items relate to the restroom maintenance contracts. As of last
29 year, there is a contract with Salt Lake County instead of the U.S. Forest Service for the restroom
30 maintenance because of certain restrictions in place related to contracting. However, it is likely
31 that within the next year, the Forest Service will be able to contract directly with the CWC again.
32

33 Following those items, there will be a Stakeholders Council discussion where Chair of the
34 Stakeholders Council, Maura Hahnenberger, will share updates with the CWC Board. There is
35 also a Resolution on the meeting agenda to appoint some new members to the Stakeholders
36 Council. Discussions were had about the outlined timeline and the removal of the Closed Session.
37

38 **OTHER ITEMS**

39
40 Commissioner Robinson would like there to be time scheduled to brainstorm the CWC Board
41 Retreat agenda. He wants to finalize what there is a desire to accomplish during the retreat. It was
42 suggested that a poll be sent out to members of the CWC Board to determine an appropriate
43 meeting date. Once that has been selected, the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee can meet.
44

1 **Closing**

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3 1. **Chair Mendenhall will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**
4 **Committee Meeting.**

5

6 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at
7 approximately 8:43 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, June 11, 2026.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: _____