



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) BOARD RETREAT
HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026, AT 8:00 A.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED
BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS
THE SALT LAKE CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY, LEVEL 4 CONFERENCE ROOM, 210 EAST
400 SOUTH, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

Board Members: Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Chair
Mayor Roger Bourke, Co-Chair
Christopher Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer
Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion
Mayor Monica Zoltanski
Mayor Scotty John
Emily Gray
Bev Uipi
Bill Ciraco
Caroline Rodriguez (Ex-Officio)
Annalee Munsey (Ex-Officio)

Special Advisors: Amber Broadway
Jack Stauss

Staff: Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Will McKay, Director of Public Affairs
Shane Topham, CWC Legal Counsel

Other: Laura Briefer
Craig Williams
Danny Richardson
Claudia Wiese
Ryan Mecham
Charlie Luke
Carlton Christensen
Chris Cawley
Anette Garcia Fuentes
Mike Maughan
Mike Doyle
Dave Fields
Adam Shaw
Tom Ward

Doug Tolman
Ben McAdams
Maura Hahnenberger
Ralph Becker
Jessica Reimer
Jared Dallin
Jenney Rees

OPENING

1. Chair Erin Mendenhall will Call the Meeting to Order and Welcome CWC Board Members and the Public.

Chair Erin Mendenhall called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Board Retreat to order at approximately 8:00 a.m. It was noted that there are both online and in-person attendees.

2. Staff will Take Roll Call Attendance.

A roll call was conducted to determine those present at the CWC Board Retreat.

3. (Action) The Board will Consider Approving the Minutes of the June 22, 2026, CWC Board Meeting.

MOTION: Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the June 22, 2026, CWC Board Meeting. Bill Ciraco seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

BOARD BUSINESS

1. New Stakeholders. Consideration of Resolution 2026-22 – Appointing a Member of the Stakeholders Council.

Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, reported that Resolution 2026-22 relates to appointments to the Stakeholders Council. The Resolution will appoint Charlie Luke from The Wilderness Society as a member of the Stakeholders Council and will also confirm current Stakeholders Council membership.

Chair Mendenhall thanked Mr. Luke for his willingness to serve on the Stakeholders Council. Mr. Luke stated that he looks forward to working with Council Members in the future. He expressed interest in the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). Chair Mendenhall asked Mr. Luke to share his favorite location in the Central Wasatch. Mr. Luke reported that he enjoys hiking while in the Central Wasatch and has visited all three canyons. He also likes fly fishing, but it can be difficult to find suitable locations, so he focuses on small mountain streams.

MOTION: Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-22 – Appointing a Member of the Stakeholders Council. Emily Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

1 **2. Annual Meeting Schedule. Consideration of Resolution 2026-23 – Establishing an**
2 **Annual Meeting Schedule for the CWC’s Public Bodies for 2027.**
3

4 Chair Mendenhall reported that Resolution 2026-23 has to do with the annual meeting schedule for
5 the CWC. Commissioner Christopher Robinson was surprised to see this item on the meeting agenda,
6 as it might be too early to consider the meeting schedule next year. Executive Director, Lindsey
7 Nielsen, clarified that this item can wait until the next CWC Board Meeting, if desired. However,
8 scheduling can be difficult because all members of the CWC Board have busy calendars. That is the
9 reason the annual meeting schedule has been presented to the CWC Board at this time. It was
10 determined that the CWC Board will review the meeting schedule during the CWC Board Retreat.
11

12 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-23 – Establishing an
13 Annual Meeting Schedule for the CWC’s Public Bodies for 2027. Bill Ciraco seconded the motion.
14 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
15

16 **3. Website Redesign Contract. Consideration of Resolution 2026-24 – Approving an**
17 **Independent Contractor Agreement with Clarify Web Design, LLC, for Website**
18 **Redesign Services.**
19

20 Ms. Kilpack reported that Resolution 2026-24 is an Independent Contractor Agreement with Clarify
21 Web Design, LLC, for a redesign of the CWC website so it meets all of the ADA requirements.
22

23 **MOTION:** Emily Gray moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-24 – Approving an Independent
24 Contractor Agreement with Clarify Web Design, LLC, for Website Redesign Services. Monica
25 Zoltanski seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
26

27 **4. Employment Contract. Consideration of Resolution 2026-25 – Approving an**
28 **Employment Agreement with Anette Garcia Fuentes as a Part-Time Intern.**
29

30 Ms. Kilpack reported that Resolution 2026-25 is an Employment Agreement with Anette Garcia
31 Fuentes, who will serve as a Part-Time Intern. Commissioner Robinson pointed out that there are
32 two employment documents included in the Meeting Materials Packet. Director of Public Affairs,
33 Will McKay, explained that Anette Garcia Fuentes is from Mexico City and is an international
34 student. There are certain rules that must be followed, which means her internship must have a start
35 and end date for each semester. From the end of the fall semester to the beginning of the spring
36 semester, she will not be serving as an intern, as there must be adherence with specific calendar dates.
37

38 **MOTION:** Emily Gray moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-25 – Approving an Employment
39 Agreement with Anette Garcia Fuentes as a Part-Time Intern. Monica Zoltanski seconded the motion.
40 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
41

42 **5. Forest Service Restroom Contract. Consideration of Resolution 2026-26 – Approving a**
43 **Modification of Grant or Agreement with U.S. Forest Service, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache**
44 **National Forest, for Restroom Maintenance Funding.**
45

46 Ms. Kilpack reported that Resolution 2026-26 is a Modification of Grant or Agreement with the U.S.
47 Forest Service. This contract will make it possible to continue with the restroom maintenance. The
48 contract was not finalized before the last CWC Board Meeting, but this is effective as of July 1, 2026.

1
2 **MOTION:** Monica Zoltanski moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-26 – Approving a Modification
3 of Grant or Agreement with U.S. Forest Service, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, for Restroom
4 Maintenance Funding. Emily Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous
5 consent of the Board.

6 7 **INTRODUCTION/EXPECTATIONS**

8 9 **1. Commissioner Robinson will Discuss Expectations for the Day.**

10
11 Commissioner Robinson thanked everyone who has made time to attend the CWC Board Retreat. He
12 has enjoyed his involvement with both the Mountain Accord and the CWC. There is excitement that
13 there is such strong representation at the retreat, including representation from several of the ski
14 resorts. He noted that CWC Legal Counsel, Shane Topham, is also attending the CWC Board Retreat.

15
16 The main goal of the CWC Board Retreat is to discuss the CWCNRA and create an action plan.
17 Before those discussions start, there will be an icebreaker activity that attendees can participate in.

18 19 **ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY**

20 21 **1. Commissioner Robinson will Lead an Icebreaker Activity.**

22
23 Commissioner Robinson explained that the icebreaker activity will focus on a favorite memory in the
24 Central Wasatch. He shared a story about being 13 years old at Albion Basin and jumping through
25 very tall snow. More recently, there was a hike taken with the CWC from Alta over to Brighton. He
26 explained that for the icebreaker activity, attendees will be asked to share their favorite memories.

27
28 Chair Mendenhall grew up near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon and often visited the ski
29 resorts. She recalled being in school and skiing at Snowbird when one of her friends went down
30 wrong and had to be airlifted out. Co-Chair Roger Bourke explained that when he was in college, he
31 was told that Alta is a wonderful place. When he finished school, he was able to visit, and that was
32 his first connection to the area. Mayor Monica Zoltanski stated that her first contact with the Central
33 Wasatch started when she was living in northwest Ohio. She came to Utah to ski during a break while
34 in law school, and it was an incredible experience. She was fascinated by the beauty that the area had
35 to offer and spent time studying for the Bar Exam while enjoying the environment.

36
37 Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion reported that she loves to hike, bike, and ski in the canyons. During the
38 COVID-19 pandemic, she and her husband went on a hike and found there were no vehicles at Lake
39 Blanche. On the way down, there was a storm with hail, thunder, and lightning. It reminded them
40 that this is a wild and rugged space. Ex-Officio Member, Annalee Munsey, stated that her favorite
41 memory has been camping with her children at Spruces. Special Advisor, Jack Stauss reported that
42 the mountains provide recreation and watershed. The mountains have also impacted the collaborative
43 environmental work that is done. His favorite memory is skiing on Mount Superior at sunrise for the
44 first time with one of his childhood friends. There is a reason so many people love the area.

45
46 Mr. Topham explained that his parents moved to this valley from their small towns in Southern Utah
47 before World War II. After World War II, they were able to purchase a piece of property in east

1 Millcreek. He remembers being a child and looking up at Mount Olympus. It is the first memory he
2 has of where he actually noticed his surroundings. This started his lifelong love of the mountains.

3
4 Ms. Kilpack stated that her mom liked to drive up the canyons and look at the leaves in the fall. That
5 was her earliest exposure to the Central Wasatch. One of her more recent memories was a hike in
6 Donut Falls. This was her first winter hike, and it was a magical experience. Laura Briefer reported
7 that she has been a runner for many years. Once she found the mountains, trail running became her
8 passion. She has logged thousands of hours and miles running in the canyons over the years.
9 Ms. Nielsen stated that her most memorable experience in the Central Wasatch was when she was 16
10 years old. She went rock climbing for the first time in Draper and enjoyed the level of focus required.

11
12 Commissioner Emily Gray reported that she grew up skiing at Alta with her family and eventually
13 married someone who snowboards. She fondly remembers the years of teaching her children to ski
14 and snowboard. One of her favorite memories was hiking in Big Cottonwood Canyon during the fall
15 season. Mayor Scotty John stated that purchasing a house in Brighton was his most memorable
16 moment. There were a lot of lessons learned that first year, but it has been an incredible experience.

17
18 Commissioner Bill Ciraco shared some of his formative experiences, including his parents returning
19 home from a ski trip when he was a child. Even though his mom came home with an injury, the
20 overall experience was so magical that she still enjoyed the trip. As a senior in high school,
21 Commissioner Ciraco was able to choose the location for the family vacation, and he chose Park City.
22 The family spent a week in Park City. Something about the area continued to call him back.

23
24 Mike Doyle shared comments about Silver Lake and explained that he enjoyed fishing when he was
25 growing up. Mike Maughan shared a memory from early in his career at Alta Ski Area. He explained
26 that there was patrol work being done and the people he was with sang Happy Birthday while he
27 skied. Chris Cawley explained that he has worked in Alta for 21 years and there have been many
28 meaningful memories. The second time he came to Alta, he was still a senior in college. He shared
29 comments about the weather conditions during the trip and described the conditions at the ski resort.

30
31 Charlie Luke stated that his earliest memories of the Central Wasatch are from annual camping trips
32 with his parents and grandparents. He grew up running around the camp site. Mr. Luke also used to
33 fish after school in Big Cottonwood Canyon. He spent a lot of time in the area after school hours.

34
35 Carlton Christensen explained that one of his favorite memories is camping with his dad in Little
36 Cottonwood Canyon. His family has spent time in both Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little
37 Cottonwood Canyon. Ryan Mecham stated that he and his siblings have organized the family camp
38 out at Spruces for at least 20 years. These campouts now involve around 35 people, because the
39 family continues to grow. Danny Richardson reported that he learned to ski in North Carolina. He
40 came to Utah for school and then got a job at Snowbird. He has made many meaningful memories
41 hiking, skiing, and recreating. He is still involved in various aspects of the ski tourism industry.

42
43 Tom Ward reported that one of his favorite memories was in Alta when there were three baby
44 porcupines that ran across the road. He tried to take a photograph of the porcupines when one started
45 to crawl up his leg. There have been a lot of wonderful memories in the Central Wasatch. Jessica
46 Reimer introduced herself and shared a story about her mom, who grew up in the area. She was in
47 high school when Snowbird first opened and was part of a group of people who would lap the trail as
48 fast as possible. Ms. Reimer explained that she also has positive memories of the Central Wasatch.

1
2 Claudia Wiese moved from Montana to attend college and wanted to spend more time in nature while
3 in Utah. She had an afternoon off every Wednesday, so she went to Grandeur Peak to read her
4 textbooks. Adam Shaw stated that he is the Salt Lake District Ranger for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
5 National Forest. He grew up in the Wasatch and one of his earliest memories is cross-country skiing
6 in the area. One of his favorite memories is being in Mill D in early morning when no one else was
7 there. He heard animal noises and saw coyote prints. It reminded him of how wild the Wasatch is
8

9 Dave Fields explained that he grew up skiing in the area, but his most memorable experience was the
10 900-inch winter during the 2022-2023 season. He shared details about that experience, the timeline,
11 and the work that was done to clear the snow. Ms. Garcia Fuentes introduced herself to the retreat
12 participants and stated that her favorite memory was hiking for the first time with some of her friends.
13

14 Mr. McKay shared a photograph he took on his first day of ski guiding in the canyons. Craig Williams
15 explained that he serves on the CWC Recreation System Committee. He shared some of his
16 experiences of bike riding in the Central Wasatch. Doug Tolman grew up enjoying the view of Mount
17 Olympus and exploring different areas in Utah with his family. In his senior year of high school, he
18 decided to hike every mountain in the Wasatch and spent the next year or so focused on that.
19

20 Jenney Rees explained that she is the State Director for Senator John Curtis. She remembers in
21 elementary school, her best friend went into the mountains every weekend with her family. She would
22 often be invited to join them, so some of her earliest memories of the Wasatch were with her childhood
23 best friend. Ex-Officio Member, Caroline Rodriguez, reported that her most memorable experience
24 was snowboarding after moving to the area. Nothing she had done before compared to the awe-
25 inspiring views and the incline of the lift. Maura Hahnenberger explained that she is the Chair of the
26 Stakeholders Council. She shared a story about a memorable weekend that she spent in the area.
27

28 Commissioner Robinson thanked everyone for sharing their favorite memories. These stories
29 demonstrate how much the CWC Board Retreat attendees love and appreciate the Central Wasatch.
30

31 **CWNCRA HISTORY**

32

33 **1. Commissioner Robinson will Discuss the History of the CWNCRA.**

34

35 Commissioner Robinson asked Ms. Briefer to share information about the Mountain Accord process.
36 He reminded those present that the Mountain Accord led to the creation of the CWC. Ms. Briefer
37 explained that there was a lot that led up to the initiation of the Mountain Accord. There has always
38 been some level of conflict around how the mountains are used. For example, conflicts between
39 environmental protections, watershed protections, commercial uses, and dispersed recreation.
40

41 Ms. Briefer explained that there is a lot that happens within the Central Wasatch. In 2011, there were
42 proposals on the table for most of the ski resorts. In addition, there was a proposal for a new ski
43 resort, and there was a proposal to connect the Wasatch Back to the Wasatch Front through the
44 SkiLink process. She noted that Salt Lake City and other communities along the Wasatch Front rely
45 on the mountain ranges for the majority of the water supply. Over time, it has become clear that what
46 happens to the watershed happens to the water and what happens to the water happens to the people.
47

1 In 2011, there was a lot at stake, and this presented an opportunity to have conversations about the
2 future of the area. When the Mountain Accord process started, there were meetings with Federal
3 agencies, such as the Forest Service and the Council on Environmental Quality. There were also
4 meetings with stakeholders from State and local levels of government. Ms. Briefer reported that there
5 were meetings with recreation interests, both commercial recreation and dispersed recreation. In
6 addition, there were meetings with the environmental interests. The intention was to determine the
7 willingness of these different groups to sit down and discuss the issues together. It was meaningful
8 to witness how willing people were to listen, collaborate, and negotiate throughout the process.
9

10 Ms. Briefer explained that there were complex conversations during the Mountain Accord process
11 and a lot of investment went into facilitating the conversations with outside facilitators. Ralph Becker
12 appreciated the summary that was shared. The community came together in a meaningful way during
13 the Mountain Accord. He reported that there had been many decades of decision-making paralysis.
14 Many development proposals had been submitted and it soon became clear that there were increasing
15 challenges related to transportation. However, nothing was moving forward because there was
16 unhappiness with the different proposals. Frustration on all sides led to a willingness to come together
17 to have the Mountain Accord discussions. It took three years and a lot of work, but there was
18 eventually an agreement reached. The Mountain Accord was signed by virtually all parties and many
19 members of the public in 2015. The Mountain Accord eventually led to the creation of the CWC.
20

21 Mr. Becker acknowledged that a lot has been accomplished through the CWC. He reminded those
22 present that during the Mountain Accord process; people were willing to set aside their most desired
23 solutions to recognize that other people in the Wasatch had different needs. There was a willingness
24 to accept something that would work for all of the diverse users as well as the environment. He is
25 hopeful about the work that is being done by the CWC at this time. He pointed out that there is
26 another window of opportunity similar to what was seen during the time of the Mountain Accord.
27

28 **WHY DO WE WANT THE CWCRA?**

30 **1. Commissioner Robinson will Discuss Why the CWCRA is Important.**

31
32 Commissioner Robinson explained that during the CWC Board Retreat, there is a desire to discuss
33 what it would take to move the CWCRA forward. The CWCRA would provide a lot of
34 protections. It would add an additional layer of protection that could not be readily modified through
35 an administrative process. He asked that comments be shared about what is at stake. It would be
36 meaningful to highlight why the CWCRA is something there is a desire to move forward.
37 Commissioner Robinson reminded those present that there are National Recreation Areas and
38 National Conservation Areas, but this would be the first National Conservation and Recreation Area.
39

40 Co-Chair Bourke believed an appropriate question is: “What will happen if the CWCRA does not
41 move forward?” He pointed out that there are pressures everyone is feeling as far as population
42 growth and climate change. One of the consequences of population growth is the pressure to expand.
43 The CWCRA is a way to do something about the changes that are on the horizon. Special Advisor
44 Stauss explained that in the Wasatch, there are some meaningful protections, such as the Roadless
45 Rule. This passed in 2001 with widespread public support. However, it will likely be rescinded.
46 Knowing that it is possible some protections will be lost, it would be beneficial to have a practical
47 and collaborative Management Plan. He shared additional information about the Roadless Rule.

1 Something like the CWNCRRA would be beneficial, because it would provide additional protection.
2 He stressed the importance of ensuring there are resources for restoration and watershed projects.
3

4 Ms. Briefer shared comments from a water perspective. She agrees that population growth and a
5 changing climate are pressures that are facing the area. Beyond that, the Central Wasatch is the
6 primary water provider for nearly 500,000 people along the Wasatch Front. This includes Salt Lake
7 City, Sandy City, Millcreek, Holladay, Cottonwood Heights, and portions of Murray, Midvale, and
8 South Salt Lake. A significant portion of the population depends on what comes out of these
9 watersheds. What is at stake from a water perspective is maintaining the balance of protection. There
10 is a 100-year history of building resiliency and it is important to plan for the next 100 years. As water
11 becomes scarcer, stewardship and decision making about the Central Wasatch becomes more critical.
12

13 Ms. Briefer explained that if there is degradation of the watersheds through piecemeal decision
14 making or decisions that will lead to further degradation, there could be water shortages, unsafe
15 drinking water, uncertainty in the long-term water supply, unaffordable water, and an exacerbation
16 of the environmental conditions of The Great Salt Lake basin. She believes the CWNCRRA provides
17 a framework for watershed management as well as recreation management, which will continue to
18 provide a balanced approach to managing the watersheds. In the long-term, the CWNCRRA will add
19 more certainty that the lands are managed for the good of the public who depend on the water supply.
20 It will elevate the stewardship of water resources while continuing to support the balance of uses.
21

22 Commissioner Robinson shared information about the CWNCRRA bill, H.R. 5718, which was
23 introduced in 2016. There have been six redrafts of the CWNCRRA and there is currently work being
24 done on the seventh redraft. In order for a bill to have forward momentum, there needs to be broad
25 support. There have been discussions during the CWC Board Retreat about what is at stake, but it is
26 also important to hear from ski resort representatives. There were different versions of the bill that
27 had land exchanges included, but those land exchanges were eventually removed during the rewrites.
28

29 Mr. Fields explained that the idea of land exchanges and getting the Forest Service out of the business
30 of managing base area lands was first put forward by the Forest Supervisor many years back. The
31 pivotal moment in the land exchange discussion in his mind was following the Gold King Mine
32 disaster in Colorado. The Forest Service suddenly did not want any lands that had any kind of mining
33 impacts. In addition, no parcels with tunnels underneath could be envisioned for the land exchange.
34 At the time, he told Dave Whittekiend that this would not allow the land exchange portion of the bill
35 to move ahead, because it was so restrictive. That was a hurdle that faced the land exchanges. There
36 were also questions about how the land would be valued and the priority of lands received. Mr. Fields
37 informed retreat participants that there were a lot of unknowns with the land exchange component.
38

39 Commissioner Robinson asked what would happen if the land exchanges were able to move forward
40 in a way that Mr. Fields considered acceptable. He also wanted to know what elements of the
41 CWNCRRA would be beneficial to the ski resort and what there is a desire to see included. Mr. Fields
42 stated that the biggest issue for the ski resorts is water for snowmaking. He noted that there have
43 been later starts to the winter season. It is becoming harder to start the season. Additionally, it is
44 important that the CWNCRRA does not inhibit future transportation solutions in the canyons.
45

46 Mr. Maughan stated that from an Alta standpoint, the land exchange was something there was mild
47 interest in. There is not a lot of land at the base that can be developed. The ski resort is looking at
48 how to continue to remain viable, competitive, and relevant. He reported that there is a strong

1 relationship with the Forest Service. When it comes to the quality of water in Little Cottonwood
2 Canyon, it is cleaner and better than it has ever been, so significant progress has been made. There
3 is a commitment to preserving that. Mr. Maughan informed retreat participants that Alta Ski Area
4 won the Golden Eagle Award for Overall Environmental Excellence from the National Ski Areas
5 Association (“NSAA”) last year. There is a commitment to help care for the environment. Mr.
6 Maughan explained that there is not an interest in seeing the CWNCR overlay the ski area
7 boundaries, because the relationship between the Forest Service and ski area is healthy and positive.

8
9 Mr. Maughan explained that to remain competitive in the future, there might need to be an expansion
10 into some of their private land. He pointed out that the other ski areas in the Cottonwood Canyons
11 are part of conglomerates. The ownership at Alta Ski Area is committed to being independent, trying
12 to preserve the ski experience, and taking care of the environment. The CWNCR overlay is not
13 necessarily seen as beneficial. There is no interest in giving up private lands in Grizzly Gulch, as that
14 is an area where there might be future expansion in order to remain competitive. He stated that Alta
15 Ski Area intentionally restricts the number of people in the ski area to preserve the quality of the ski
16 experience. Mr. Maughan noted that there are some lands on the northern side of Little Cottonwood
17 Canyon that could be exchanged. He explained that there might be interest in exchanging some of
18 those lands in order to clean up some of the irregular boundaries in the Grizzly Gulch area.

19
20 Commissioner Robinson did not believe Mr. Maughan was opposed to an overlay that is outside of
21 the Special Use Permit. Mr. Maughan clarified that there is no opposition to an overlay that is outside
22 of the Special Use Permit and the private lands that are part of the current resort boundary.
23 Commissioner Robinson clarified that it does not affect the private lands. He asked if water is an
24 issue for Alta Ski Area as well. Mr. Maughan reported that all of the ski resorts are looking for more
25 snowmaking water. There is a desire to provide employment and establish a consistent start date.

26
27 Commissioner Robinson asked if it is possible to envision a scenario where an iteration of the
28 CWNCR would be supported by the ski areas. Mr. Maughan explained that it could be possible to
29 support the CWNCR as long as some of their goals can be accomplished. He mentioned preserving
30 the ski experience and the right to develop within private lands. Mr. Maughan clarified that there are
31 no immediate plans to develop further, but that is something that might be pursued in the future.

32
33 Mr. Doyle echoed some of the other comments made about water for snowmaking. There is a need
34 to make snow at a faster rate so there can be a solid and consistent season. He explained that the
35 conditions impact hundreds of employees, so a consistent start date is essential. This last season was
36 difficult and there were many employees lost because there was not enough snow to open everything.
37 He stated that when it comes to land exchanges, it is important that the exchanges are equitable. In
38 order to support the CWNCR, it will need to be possible to expand into their private lands.

39
40 Special Advisor, Amber Broadaway, explained that Solitude has changed a lot over time, including
41 ownership and the lands that are owned. However, the commitment to what is involved with the
42 Mountain Accord and CWC remains. This includes the interconnectedness of access and visitation
43 as well as the watershed and transportation needs. She acknowledged the improvements that have
44 been made in recent years. There has been progress in the quality of the watershed and the
45 management of visitation. Special Advisor Broadaway agreed that it is helpful that the CWNCR
46 overlay be outside of the areas that the ski resorts are in. The resort team and ownership group at
47 Solitude are still trying to think through the best use of the lands and what the needs are.

1 Transportation is a pressing issue, so it is encouraging that certain transportation improvements are
2 moving forward. Water for snowmaking is another issue that the resort is interested in, because as
3 the climate shifts, there are different needs. Special Advisor Broadaway mentioned boundaries and
4 explained that this is something that needs to be thought through, as it seems to be a common thread
5 throughout these conversations. An agreement to lock boundaries is not something that Solitude or
6 Alterra are interested in. There is a lot that it is possible to work through and support, but there are
7 other components of the CWNCRRA that there might not be as much support for. Solitude has some
8 parcels and there is a desire to own more of the base area and have more snowmaking water. If there
9 are opportunities to discuss potential ways to navigate that, then the conversations will continue.

10
11 Commissioner Robinson thanked the ski resorts for sharing comments about the CWNCRRA. He
12 asked that the ski resort representatives next speak about transportation. He liked the comment shared
13 by Mr. Fields earlier, which was that the CWNCRRA must not impede transportation. There are
14 transportation projects that are currently working through processes outside the influence of the CWC.
15 He asked if the ski resorts might be able to support a CWNCRRA that does not impede transportation.

16
17 Mr. Maughan stated that there is interest in anything that can improve transportation. There is a
18 wonderful skiing experience, but difficulties can arise when the roads are backed up and it takes a
19 long time for visitors to access the resort. From the Alta Ski Area perspective, there is a desire to see
20 transportation improvements that are sensitive to the environment, as demand is continuing to grow.

21
22 Mr. Doyle shared comments about traffic in Big Cottonwood Canyon. He acknowledged that the
23 traffic at the end of the day remains a challenge. Commissioner Robinson noted that Mr. Maughan
24 brought up an interesting question earlier, which is: "What is meant by transportation?" This is
25 something that can be discussed by retreat attendees after the scheduled CWC Board Retreat break.

26 27 **BREAK**

28
29 Retreat attendees took a short break before continuing to discuss CWC Board Retreat agenda items.

30
31 There was continued discussion about the ski resort representative comments. Commissioner
32 Robinson asked that CWC Board Retreat participants discuss water for snowmaking. In addition, he
33 would like there to be a discussion that further defines what is meant by the word "transportation."
34 He mentioned the previous statement that the CWNCRRA must not impede transportation. It would
35 be meaningful to talk about the land exchanges as well. If there is alignment, it might be possible to
36 state that this is in the public interest. He requested a robust discussion about the outlined items.

37
38 Chair Mendenhall asked about water and the connection to possible development. She pointed out
39 that there were comments made about wanting to be able to develop on private lands. It was clarified
40 that the ski resorts do not need additional water for development. Special Advisor Broadaway stated
41 that Solitude does not need more culinary water. Ms. Briefer reported that during the Mountain
42 Accord negotiations, the concept of additional culinary water was raised. This was to support transit
43 hubs in the canyons, particularly in the Town of Alta. Alta had also asked for additional development
44 in terms of lodging. She asked if that is no longer the case. Mr. Maughan stated that there is no
45 request for additional lodging at this time. Co-Chair Bourke informed those present that the amount
46 of private developable land is insignificant from a water consumption standpoint. Ms. Briefer pointed
47 out that the Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT") has asked for more water.

1 Special Advisor Broadway shared information about the new bus stop at Solitude, which will be
2 moved from inside the lot to the road. She believes UDOT wants water and restrooms there, but the
3 current map with Salt Lake City Public Utilities does not allow them to bring water across the bridge.
4 Solitude might be able to support that culinary need, but there would need to be an amended map. It
5 is possible that the Solitude culinary contract could absorb the need there, but she reiterated that it
6 would require an amended culinary map. Ms. Briefer appreciated the clarification. There have been
7 a lot of discussions about water to support the transit facilities. There is collaboration underway.

8
9 Special Advisor Broadway reported that Solitude already has the culinary water needed for the
10 entitlements that they have. There is future development that there is an intention to pursue, but more
11 culinary water is not needed to accommodate that development. Commissioner Robinson asked that
12 the pros and cons of water for snowmaking be shared. Ms. Briefer reported that the depletion rate for
13 snowmaking is at least 20%. This is factored in when snowmaking water is discussed. This is a time
14 when everyone on the system is being asked to use less water, because there is a dire situation with
15 The Great Salt Lake and there are long-range water supply plans in place. Water for snowmaking is
16 something that needs to be carefully considered. She stated that there is support for the ski industry.
17 It is recognized that there are a lot of challenges facing resorts because of the changing climate. There
18 are conversations that Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the ski resorts should have before the fall.

19
20 Commissioner Robinson asked for additional information about the system. He wanted to know if
21 there are open air storage reservoirs that are used for snowmaking. Ms. Briefer explained that Salt
22 Lake City owns and operates several reservoirs that are used almost exclusively by the ski areas.
23 Those are essential components of the ski areas snowmaking system. In addition to reservoirs, the
24 ski areas divert water directly from streams and springs. If those sources of water were not diverted
25 for use at the ski areas, it would make its way down to the treatment plant at the mouth of Little
26 Cottonwood Canyon or the treatment plant at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. Whatever is
27 diverted upstream is forgone in terms of the water that is used by residents in the Salt Lake Valley.
28 Commissioner Robinson believed this occurs during the winter season, which was confirmed.

29
30 Ms. Briefer reported that the use of those water resources is handled through a contract with Salt Lake
31 City. Those contracts have been in place for many decades. The terms of the contracts include items
32 such as compliance with the watershed regulations. The terms also provide that if the City has a need
33 for those water supplies, then the right is retained to provide 30 days' notice. Ms. Briefer clarified
34 that this has never been done. On a year-to-year basis, the ordinance allows the ski resorts to ask for
35 additional snowmaking water. When the resorts asked for that additional water, it has been allowed
36 in the past. That being said, there is a year-to-year determination that must be made. What has been
37 described by the resorts during the CWNCR conversation is something slightly different.

38
39 There was a comment made earlier that the windows are becoming shorter for snowmaking, because
40 it needs to be below 28 degrees. It is not possible to use any additives in the water that is put on the
41 hill, which is done in Park City. The additives make it possible to make snow at higher temperatures,
42 but this is not used in either Big Cottonwood Canyon or Little Cottonwood Canyon. As a result, the
43 windows for snowmaking are shrinking due to the weather conditions. Commissioner Robinson
44 believed the year-to-year determination might make it difficult to plan long-term. He asked about the
45 estimated amount of water for snowmaking that is requested annually. Ms. Briefer clarified that the
46 amount is different for each of the ski resorts. The other part of the contract has to do with areas
47 where the snow can be used. Additional discussions were had about the estimated amount of water.

1 Special Advisor Broadway noted that when the Mountain Accord was signed, the commitment for
2 additional snowmaking water was included in the signed agreement. She asked if Salt Lake City
3 Public Utilities conducted a water analysis of the existing reservoirs at that time to understand what
4 capacity would be available to potentially allocate for snowmaking water. She wanted to understand
5 if that analysis happened back in 2015. If the analysis was conducted, she asked that insights be
6 shared. It would also be beneficial to understand whether it is possible to build on that analysis.

7
8 Ms. Briefer does not believe there was an analysis conducted in 2015, but she thinks that was
9 envisioned to happen after the Mountain Accord was signed. The resorts did not state how much
10 more was needed and any analysis conducted would be based on that amount. Ms. Briefer reiterated
11 that there is a 20% depletion rate that is associated with snowmaking. She reported that there have
12 been many academic studies conducted on the depletion rate. The latest study that she reviewed was
13 based on Colorado resorts, which is more comparable to Utah resorts than some other studies.

14
15 Commissioner Ciraco asked what the depletion rate would be if there was a new reservoir built
16 somewhere that was filled with water. He wanted to understand the depletion rate that would be
17 caused by evaporation and whatever water seeped into the ground. Ms. Briefer explained that this
18 could vary based on the facility. It was pointed out that the depletion rate would not be zero in a
19 scenario like that. A question was asked about the consumption rate in Park City. Commissioner
20 Ciraco believed 85% is used. He reported that the longstanding agreement with Deer Valley was for
21 650-acre feet. Last winter, they came back and asked for an additional 300-acre feet. Since there is
22 a surplus in the winter, there was agreement to provide the additional amount that was requested.

23
24 Ms. Briefer explained that there are Salt Lake City ordinances that govern the way the water supply
25 is supposed to be managed. A long time ago, Salt Lake City made a concession to not restrict
26 snowmaking water as much as culinary water, because it was recognized that there is a benefit to the
27 snowpack. That recognition is already there. What is currently being discussed are the pros and cons
28 associated with an incremental increase. Ms. Briefer reported that snowmaking water was considered
29 during the Mountain Accord process. However, it was envisioned with the caveat that the additional
30 water that is allowed to be used outside of the water service area comes with some certainty that it
31 will not be used to expand the footprint of development in those watersheds. She clarified that
32 expanding the footprint of development means development that is outside of the existing boundaries.

33
34 Commissioner Robinson pointed out that during the CWNCR process, there will need to be some
35 compromises. He asked if it could theoretically be possible to deliver 140 million gallons per year
36 for additional snowmaking. Ms. Briefer clarified that she is not the decision maker for that.
37 Commissioner Robinson stated that the intention is to have general conversations about what might
38 be possible. He wants to figure out whether there might be a way to move forward. Ms. Briefer
39 confirmed that it would be possible. It was noted that Ben McAdams had arrived at the CWC Board
40 Retreat. Mr. McAdams explained that he is interested in the discussions about the CWNCR. He
41 stated that he is attending the retreat as a citizen, but is also a candidate for the United States Congress.
42 He has a passion for the canyons and uses them often as a hiker, mountain bicyclist, and skier.

43
44 Commissioner Robinson explained that no commitments have been made during the CWC Board
45 Retreat, but it has been meaningful to discuss the ski resort needs related to water. Additional
46 discussions were had about the amount of water that would be needed for additional snowmaking.
47 Ms. Briefer would like to see more information about the actual needs of the ski resorts. Each ski
48 resort has a different amount of acreage to cover, different infrastructure, and different needs. She

1 assumes the ski resorts have identified where there is a desire to have more coverage and at what time
2 of the year. It would be helpful for that to be communicated during the more technical conversations.

3
4 Commissioner Robinson asked the retreat participants to next discuss transportation. Attendees were
5 asked to raise their hand if they believe the CWNCRRA should prohibit cross canyon connections. Co-
6 Chair Bourke stated that a connection underneath is unreasonable, because of the toxic material that
7 could be exposed. He does not agree with the environmental cost of attempting to build a tunnel.

8
9 Special Advisor Stauss stated that it has been interesting to learn more about the different viewpoints,
10 goals, and challenges associated with transportation. There is a lot of momentum as far as
11 transportation. He noted that there are some meaningful projects moving forward that utilize already
12 impacted lands and do not involve breaking a lot of new ground. That being said, there have already
13 been some concessions made to enhance the current services that exist. He would like to see some of
14 those projects implemented before there are discussions about additional forms of transportation.

15
16 Commissioner Robinson explained that the intention is to write a bill that there is consensus on. The
17 bill will not include specific recommendations about transportation. There is a desire to clarify what
18 it means for the CWNCRRA not to impede transportation. It was suggested that the question be framed
19 as: "Can we talk about prohibiting transportation improvements as long as it improves the
20 environmental situation in the canyons?" Commissioner Robinson pointed out that the answers to that
21 would be somewhat subjective. Discussions were had about connections and transportation needs.

22
23 There is a desire to determine what the CWNCRRA should say about transportation. Commissioner
24 Robinson asked what the resorts would like to see in the bill as far as transportation. He noted that
25 Mr. Fields stated earlier that the CWNCRRA should not limit future transportation solutions. It was
26 clarified that no one is currently working on a ski link or interconnection. Mr. Fields explained that
27 the question is whether to bind successors to the removal of that option. This is something that is
28 being debated, because there might be a desire to implement something like that in the future. His
29 ownership has not expressed that desire, but it is unknown what a future owner might want to see.

30
31 Commissioner Robinson explained that a CWNCRRA would be more difficult to change, because it
32 would provide the highest level of protection possible. He informed those present that it is both
33 difficult to enact and difficult to change. Mr. Maughan stated that Alta owns Grizzly Gulch and
34 Honeycomb Canyon. It owns lands that Solitude uses. Special Advisor Broadway shared clarifying
35 comments about boundaries. As mentioned, there is currently a connection through private lands and
36 there is a desire to maintain that connection. She wanted to understand if there are stakeholders who
37 are asking resorts to lock boundaries on private lands. Her impression is that there is still an
38 expectation that resorts will agree to lock their boundaries as currently drawn on a map, even though
39 there are private land connections that the ski resorts might want to explore further in the future.

40
41 Commissioner Robinson asked that comments be shared about the Solitude and Alta connection and
42 potential expansion on private lands. A comment was shared to indicate that failing to limit expansion
43 could result in overdevelopment in the future, which would be difficult for the Wasatch to support.
44 There should be some kind of mechanism in place to limit overdevelopment. Co-Chair Bourke shared
45 comments about the current connections that exist. It has become more convenient to move from one
46 resort to another. At the same time, backcountry skiing has become more popular in the last several
47 decades. There are recreation trends that need to be taken into account during these conversations.
48 He believes additional connections will occur in the canyons unless there is some sort of intervention.

1
2 The retreat participants further discussed connections and available land. Commissioner Robinson
3 asked how many acres are in Grizzly Gulch. It was estimated that there are a couple hundred acres.
4 Commissioner Robinson believed the ski resorts want to maintain the land that is already owned.
5 There is interest in land exchanges that fill in some of the gaps. There is also a desire to have
6 additional water for snowmaking. He asked how others feel about this. Chair Mendenhall shared
7 comments about an interconnect. She explained that for Salt Lake City, that is the primary motivation
8 to continue to work on the CWNCRRA. She feels interconnecting should be prohibited through this.
9

10 Commissioner Robinson believed the SkiLink proposal wanted to create a private pathway. There
11 was some uncertainty about the details of that proposal, but it was noted that there are parcels that
12 could be connected. Commissioner Robinson reiterated the earlier question about what is meant the
13 term transportation. There appear to be two different discussions taking place: a transportation system
14 that moves visitors in and out of the canyon and the potential future connectivity of ski terrain.
15

16 Mayor Zoltanski noted that there has been a lot of discussion about hypothetical future plans, but
17 according to Mr. Fields, there is no current plan for a connection. She pointed out that the future
18 Congress always has the authority to amend past laws. There is not enough momentum to include
19 this matter in the bill. She reiterated that there is always the option to make changes in the future.
20 Right now, it appears there is opposition to an interconnected resort transportation system. It would
21 make sense to table that portion of the discussion during the remainder of the CWC Board Retreat.
22

23 Commissioner Robinson believed the issue needs to be better defined before it is tabled. He explained
24 that the intention is not necessarily to solve all of the outlined issues during the CWC Board Retreat,
25 but to start the conversations and create a broad framework. Ms. Nielsen reported that in the most
26 current iteration of the CWNCRRA, which is the 2020 version, the only mention of transportation is in
27 a small paragraph. The corridor was removed in earlier iterations at the request of UDOT.
28

29 Mayor Zoltanski asked how much of a priority interconnectedness is at the current time. She sees the
30 other issues as being higher priorities and does not want to create obstacles when it comes to achieving
31 consensus. Commissioner Robinson explained that over the years, there have been discussions about
32 what will happen with Grizzly Gulch and whether Solitude and Alta could connect in the future.
33 There have also been conversations about what that could mean for dispersed recreation.
34

35 Mr. Maughan reported that for years, Alta has allowed permissive use of Grizzly Gulch. As a result,
36 many people believe that it is public land, even though it is not. He stressed the importance of the ski
37 resort remaining viable and competitive. There is a desire to preserve all of the available options. He
38 added that Alta Ski Area ownership has stated that there is no interest in giving up Grizzly Gulch.
39

40 Commissioner Robinson explained that there is no desire to block or favor UDOT efforts through the
41 CWNCRRA. In theory, it is possible to create a bill that leaves that element of transportation alone,
42 but allows there to be compromises in other areas. The nature of those compromises need to be
43 further discussed. He clarified that this is not necessarily a new discussion, but the hope is to reach
44 consensus. Commissioner Robinson reiterated that there are certain compromises that will need to
45 be made in order for the CWNCRRA to move forward. Co-Chair Bourke mentioned the trends that
46 have been seen in recent years. It is inevitable that growth and development will eventually impact
47 the area. Discussions were had about boundaries and private lands. Commissioner Robinson shared
48 comments about climate change and the impacts it has had on the environment and recreation.

Commissioner Robinson shared additional comments about the CWCNRA. There is a desire to come together, make some compromises, and move something forward for consideration. Chair Mendenhall mentioned the uniqueness of the negotiations during the Mountain Accord process. There will likely be similar negotiations as the CWCNRA process moves forward. Everyone has their own perspectives and selfish desires, but there has to be a certain level of selflessness in order for there to be successful negotiations. It is possible to achieve certain protections by working together. Chair Mendenhall has been involved in a lot of negotiations over the years. There has not been a single experience where she received everything that she wanted, but that highlights how important compromise is when discussing these issues. This negotiation process is meaningful and requires a certain willingness to compromise. She appreciates that the retreat participants love the Wasatch and have positive memories in the area. She reiterated the need to focus on compromise.

Mr. Maughan asked if there is a general view that the ski areas have been stewards and are benefiting the environment or if there is a view that the ski areas are detrimental to the environment. Chair Mendenhall believes the ski resorts are good stewards, but wants to understand when it is enough in terms of growth. Mr. Maughan explained that there is a desire to strike a balance between the visitor experience and environmental protections. At the same time, the resort has to remain competitive and viable. Chair Mendenhall understands the desire to remain viable, but there is a point where it becomes too much. There is a certain amount of tension, as there is uncertainty about how much is too much. Mr. Maughan shared details about the parking reservation system in place at the resort.

CWC Board Retreat attendees shared comments about the window of opportunity that currently exists. Commissioner Robinson believes there is an opportunity to be unselfish and negotiate in a meaningful way. He suggested that retreat participants take a break and have an earlier lunch than is scheduled on the CWC Board Retreat agenda. There was support for that suggestion.

WHAT IS IN THE CWCNRA?

1. Executive Director Lindsey Nielsen will Discuss What is in the CWCNRA.

Following the lunch break, information about what is included in the CWCNRA was shared. Commissioner Robinson reported that there is additional information in the Meeting Materials Packet.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Possible Closed Session to Discuss Litigation, Property Acquisition/Leasing/Exchange, the Character and Professional Competence or Physical or Mental Health of an Individual, or Another Purpose Authorized by Utah Code Ann. 52-4-205(1).

There was no Closed Session.

2. Closed Session Ends, Lunch.

The lunch break took place earlier on in the CWC Board Retreat.

CWNCRA: THE PATH FORWARD

1. Commissioner Robinson will Discuss the Path Forward for the CWNCRA.

Ms. Nielsen thanked all of the CWC Board Retreat participants for their efforts and willingness to discuss the CWNCRA. She explained that work needs to be done now in order to redraft the Legislation in time for the 2027 Congress, which starts in January. Between now and January, there are certain items that need to be achieved in order to reach the goal of having redrafted Legislation.

The CWC Board Retreat is the starting point of the latest CWNCRA process. The focus has been on strategizing next steps and sharing information about the Legislation. A possible path forward will be presented in order to achieve the goal of redrafting the bill before the end of the year. Ms. Nielsen reported that the next possible step in this strategy is a more in-depth and concentrated renegotiation around land exchanges and water agreements. The main parties for the renegotiation include Ms. Briefer, Chair Mendenhall, and the General Managers of the ski resorts. This conversation is planned to take place in the fall. She clarified that the renegotiation is anticipated to take place in October or November. Chair Mendenhall stressed the importance of including UDOT in these negotiation discussions. CWC Board Retreat participants discussed other individuals who could also be invited.

Ms. Nielsen explained that the discussion in the fall will be focused on a water and land exchange agreement between the Cottonwood Canyons ski resorts, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, and the environmental interests. The Forest Service will hopefully be present. The environmental interests will be represented by Special Advisor Stauss and the recreation interests will be represented by Dani Poirier, who is the Director of the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance. At the end of these two concentrated days, the hope is that there will be a negotiated deal that everyone is satisfied with.

If there is an agreement after the negotiations take place in the fall, the Legislation can be redrafted. Ms. Nielsen explained that the land exchange component can be included in the document. She reminded those present that the land exchange section was included in the original version of the bill.

The goal is to have the Legislation redrafted by the end of December. Ms. Nielsen reported that the updates to the maps will coincide with the redraft of the Legislation, depending on the outcomes of the exchange agreements. Once the redraft is complete and the map has been updated, the hope is that it will be possible to release the latest draft to the CWC Board and the public. This can be reviewed during the CWC Board Meeting scheduled for January 4, 2027. That release will commence a 30-day public comment and review period where verbal and written comments will be collected from members of the public. CWC Staff will also undertake in a large-scale public engagement campaign. If there are no substantive comments received, the CWC Board can vote to finalize the Legislation. It can then be handed over to a potential House Sponsor for reintroduction into Congress.

If there are substantive comments received during the 30-day public comment period, there would be work done to incorporate the substantive comments. There would be a redraft and the updated draft would be released for comment. Commissioner Robinson noted that Jared Dallin has joined the CWC Board Retreat. He explained that Mr. Dallin is the Chief of Staff for Representative Mike Kennedy.

Commissioner Robinson would prefer a more frequent meeting cadence during the CWNCRA process. He asked if there is any interest in meeting in September in order to keep the momentum

1 going ahead of the two-day negotiations in the fall. Ms. Nielsen explained that there is a certain
2 amount of preparation that needs to be done ahead of the facilitated negotiations, which will include
3 some pre-meetings amongst the stakeholders. Commissioner Robinson pointed out that there could
4 be two separate meetings scheduled to discuss water and the land exchanges and connections. He
5 stated that the two meetings in September could include the entire CWC Board. The openness of the
6 CWC Board Retreat has been meaningful, even though there have been sensitive topics discussed.

7
8 It was noted that the challenge with the two proposed meetings in September comes down to
9 scheduling. The more people invited to these meetings, the more difficult it becomes to ensure that
10 everyone is able to attend. Commissioner Robinson suggested that the core participants be
11 determined. The schedule can be planned around their ability to attend. Others who are able to join
12 in on the meetings will be able to do so. When it comes to the water discussion, the core participants
13 will likely be representatives from Salt Lake City Public Utilities and the ski resorts. Ms. Briefer
14 noted that there will need to be parameters set for what will be discussed during those meetings.

15
16 Discussions were had about the two meetings that have been proposed. Commissioner Robinson
17 agreed that the two topics are connected to one another, but stated that it is possible to discuss the
18 issues separately. For instance, during the meeting about water, there can be discussions about the
19 amount of water, where it might come from, the potential impacts, and the depletion rate. Those
20 matters are somewhat separate from the land exchange component. Ms. Nielsen shared information
21 about the negotiations that are already planned to take place in the fall. Commissioner Robinson
22 pointed out that it is a long time to wait to start to have those conversations. He stressed the
23 importance of continuing to move the CWNCRAs discussions forward and building on the momentum.

24
25 Ms. Nielsen explained that the timeline that has been outlined could shift in the future. Based on the
26 conversations during the CWC Board Retreat and the openness of the comments shared, there appears
27 to be a willingness to find a path forward. She believes there is a way to make this work. If there is
28 support for the plan that has been discussed, she will send out another poll to determine availability.

29
30 Chair Mendenhall asked about transportation language in the CWNCRAs. She used to feel that a
31 transportation solution was needed in order to move forward with the CWNCRAs, but now she
32 believes that the CWNCRAs is needed in order to reach a transportation solution. Members of the
33 public might be upset that there are efforts being made to advance a version of the CWNCRAs that
34 leaves the door open for transportation solutions. Commissioner Ciraco referenced comments made
35 by Special Advisor Stauss earlier in the retreat. At that time, he mentioned that some existing
36 protections might be lost. Retreat attendees further discussed transportation and the CWNCRAs.

37
38 Commissioner Robinson noted that having Legislative support for this consensus work would be
39 valuable. Ms. Nielsen reported that Senator Kirk Cullimore was interested in the CWC Board Retreat
40 and planned to attend, but was unable to clear his schedule. Commissioner Ciraco believed there
41 appears to be some level of consensus about whether transportation language should be included in
42 the CWNCRAs. There are separate conversations that can happen outside of the CWNCRAs process.

43
44 Commissioner Robinson shared comments about resort connections. It appears the potential
45 connection between Alta and Solitude is the only one that exists. The other resorts do not seem to be
46 as straightforward to connect, as there are no private land connections elsewhere. Special Advisor
47 Broadaway reported that there is land that Solitude owns that is believed to be an important

1 connection piece for potential future aerial transit. This is Alterra owned land. Her company would
2 have some interest in understanding what the CWNCRRA may or may not limit as far as aerial transit.

3
4 Commissioner Robinson asked where that land would connect. Special Advisor Broadaway
5 explained that it would connect through Hidden Canyon, which is adjacent to Brighton.
6 Commissioner Robinson asked if that connection could take someone into the Wasatch Back, which
7 was confirmed. Special Advisor Broadaway noted that Alterra will want to consider whether there is
8 a future ability to connect with aerial transit. Commissioner Robinson pointed out that there would
9 be a whole new set of constituencies associated with a possible connection to the Wasatch Back.

10
11 Commissioner Robinson previously believed the only abutting private lands among the resorts was
12 the Alta and Solitude connection. However, if there is another way to connect to the Wasatch Back
13 all the way across private lands, that adds a new dimension to the discussions. Special Advisor
14 Broadaway clarified that there is resort connectivity and then there is transit connectivity. She
15 suspects Alterra would want to think about all possibilities before agreeing to permanent changes.

16
17 Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a CWC Board Meeting scheduled in October. It is possible to
18 continue the CWNCRRA discussions during that meeting. There is another CWC Board Meeting
19 planned for January 2027, but it is possible to schedule a Special CWC Board Meeting if it is needed.

20 21 **CLOSING**

22 23 **1. Chair Mendenhall will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the CWC Board Retreat.**

24
25 **MOTION:** Christopher Robinson moved to ADJOURN the CWC Board Retreat. Bill Ciraco
26 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

27
28 The CWC Board Retreat adjourned at approximately 12:31 p.m.
29

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Board Retreat held Monday, August 17, 2026.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____