MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION ("CWC") EXECUTIVE/ BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026, AT 9:00 AM. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION AT THE CWC OFFICES, LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

Present: Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Chair
Mayor Roger Bourke, Co-Chair
Christopher Robinson
Laura Briefer
Maura Hahnenberger

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

OPENING

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

Chair Erin Mendenhall called the Central Wasatch Commission ("CWC") Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the June 11, 2026, Meeting.

MOTION: Christopher Robinson moved to APPROVE the June 11, 2026, Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Roger Bourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

BOARD RETREAT DISCUSSION

1. The Committee will Discuss the August 17, 2026, CWC Board Retreat.

a. Agenda.

Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, shared the draft agenda for the CWC Board Retreat that will take place next month. She explained that the agenda is a rough draft that was created by CWC Staff. The Executive/Budget/Audit Committee can provide feedback and make suggestions.

The CWC Board Retreat will take place in approximately four weeks at the Salt Lake City Public Library. It is scheduled for August 17, 2026, and will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is an ambitious agenda with discussion topics focused on the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act ("CWNCRA"). Co-Chair Roger Bourke noted that there might be another venue available, but it was clarified that the Salt Lake City Public Library has already been selected for the retreat. Discussions were had about possible venues for future CWC meetings.

Ms. Nielsen reviewed the draft agenda with the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. She reported that attendees can arrive as early as 7:45 a.m. Library staff and security have accommodated an earlier start time, as the library does not normally open until later in the morning. Retreat attendees will eat breakfast at the beginning of the CWC Board Retreat. There will be Board Business followed by introductions. In addition, there will be an icebreaker to start the day. She reminded Committee Members that at the retreat held a few years back, attendees were asked to share their best memory of being in the Central Wasatch. It was meaningful to hear the different answers, and it started the retreat off on a positive note, so there is a desire to do something similar.

The Mountain Accord history will be shared, and information will be provided that outlines the rationale for the CWNCRA. It was suggested that Commissioner Christopher Robinson and Laura Briefer lead that presentation, which is scheduled to take approximately 25 minutes. There will be time for discussion after the Mountain Accord presentation. During the discussion, it would be meaningful to walk through some of the common misconceptions about the CWNCRA. This will let CWC Board Members know what the most common misconceptions are. It will also prepare CWC Board Members to provide clarification to constituents and other members of the public. Ms. Nielsen reported that there will be a short break following the time allotted for discussion.

Chair Mendenhall believed there should be a discussion about decoupling a transportation solution from the CWNCRA. She asked if there are relevant constraints or guidelines in the Mountain Accord. Commissioner Robinson asked for additional clarification about this proposal, because the CWNCRA is not currently coupled with a transportation solution. Chair Mendenhall explained that she has been under the impression that in order to achieve the CWNCRA, there needs to be some sort of resolution on a transportation solution. Commissioner Robinson noted that while consensus on a transportation solution could be used as leverage to move the CWNCRA forward, he does not believe there is a specific policy outlined in the CWNCRA that needs to be adjusted.

Ms. Briefer believed the coupling happened when the original CWNCRA was taken to a Congressional Hearing. Someone on the Committee commented but clarified that this is not a condition of the CWNCRA. That being said, the CWNCRA is connected to all of the other negotiations in the Mountain A. rd. The ski resorts at the time felt that in order to agree with the CWNCRA, which would solidify the existing boundaries, there would need to be some other way to have economic growth and development outside of boundary expansion. A lot of the discussion and negotiation had to do with other economic opportunities at the base areas as well as a better transportation system. Commissioner Robinson suggested that rather than a decoupling discussion, there be a broader conversation about what it will take to move the CWNCRA forward.

Co-Chair Bourke asked if the term "transportation solution" references a gondola. Chair Mendenhall explained that the Utah Delegation might not want to be prescriptive about the transportation modality. She mentioned the current litigation. Commissioner Robinson does not know that the Legislation needs to be prescriptive about the specific transportation mode. He agrees that the Washington County lands bill was somewhat vague on the northern corridor. Committee Members further discussed transportation, conservation, and the CWNCRA language.

Chair Mendenhall acknowledged that there is litigation underway and there are ongoing resort negotiations. It is important to be sensitive to that during the CWC Board Retreat. There can be a disclaimer at the beginning related to protected conversations. Commissioner Robinson suggested that there be consultation with CWC Legal Counsel, Shane Topham, about a possible Closed Session with CWC Board Members. An alternative might be a smaller subset of members without a quorum. Since there has not been a broader discussion with the CWC Board, a Closed Session during the retreat might make the most sense. Guidance will be needed from CWC Legal Counsel. Chair Mendenhall noted that there could be a Closed Session during the lunch period.

Commissioner Robinson thought it would be better to have the Closed Session earlier on in the retreat. He also suggested the Mountain Accord history focus on how it relates to the CWNCRA. Chair Mendenhall pointed out that there are some newer members of the CWC Board who might need background information about the Mountain Accord process. Commissioner Robinson wants to make sure there is enough time to have candid discussions. Chair Mendenhall suggested that the Closed Session take place at 9:00 a.m. The Mountain Accord history presentation can take place first, and then there can be a Closed Session before logistics are discussed during the public meeting. Co-Chair Bourke sees this as a strategy session to move the CWNCRA forward. He asked how the agenda would change if this was approached as a strategy session rather than a traditional retreat. He has concerns that there is not enough time scheduled for discussion.

Chair Mendenhall believed that after the CWC Board Retreat, there will be more clarity about potential paths forward. There can be one-on-one conversations before and after the CWC Board Retreat takes place, but the CWC Board needs to meet and have a broader discussion.

Commissioner Robinson reiterated the need to speak to CWC Legal Counsel about a Closed Session. There is uncertainty about whether Stakeholders Council Members could attend that. Ms. Nielsen reported that in the past, non-voting members of the CWC Board have been invited into Closed Sessions. It was determined that there is no support to have smaller discussion groups.

Ms. Nielsen continued to review the CWC Board Retreat draft agenda. At 9:40 a.m., there is time scheduled to discuss the reason it makes sense to move forward with the CWNCRA at this time. The Closed Session will be added to the agenda at 9:00 a.m. and will end at 9:40 a.m. Commissioner Robinson suggested the Closed Session be one hour. Ms. Nielsen reported that Ben McAdams has expressed his commitment to the CWNCRA, as there was a letter submitted to the CWC Board. He has agreed to attend the CWC Board Retreat, but his attendance still needs to be confirmed. It was determined that Commissioner Robinson will act as the retreat facilitator.

Ms. Nielsen asked Chair Mendenhall to speak about the window of opportunity for the CWNCRA during the CWC Board Retreat. It is also possible to have a panel with Mr. McAdams and Staff from the Office of John Curtis so there can be information shared about the window of opportunity.

Chair Mendenhall would like clarity about whether Senator Curtis will be able to send a member of staff. She wants to make sure this is as partnered as possible. Additionally, the answer to the "why now" question might be more appropriate to discuss during the Closed Session. Ms. Nielsen asked if there is something else Committee Members would like to add in this section of the agenda. Chair Mendenhall thought it made sense to discuss the window of opportunity to some extent for the benefit of the Stakeholders and anyone else who might be listening to the retreat. Ms. Briefer noted that the discussion can be framed differently. For example, instead of the "why now" question, it could be: "What is at stake?" Chair Mendenhall expressed support for this.

Co-Chair Bourke pointed out that it will be a challenge to move the CWNCRA forward in an era where similar efforts are being targeted. Chair Mendenhall stated that Ms. Briefer and Co-Chair Bourke can be included in that particular presentation, so the question is oriented appropriately. She summarized some of the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee discussions. CWC Legal Counsel will be contacted to see whether a Closed Session is possible during the CWC Board Retreat. If it is possible to hold a Closed Session, it will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The "why now" question about timing will be addressed afterward and will include comments from Ms. Briefer. Other presenters might be added as well so different perspectives are shared.

Commissioner Robinson suggested that there be a discussion about what the CWNCRA offers different parties. Ms. Nielsen clarified that this will be reviewed during the section about the history and rationale. Commissioner Robinson believed the meeting should start with the history of the CWNCRA rather than the history of the Mountain Accord. The Mountain Accord should be discussed mainly as it relates to the CWNCRA. Instead of a presentation on the Mountain Accord history, the agenda will be revised to focus on the CWNCRA history. Committee Members expressed support for this change. The order of the agenda items was further discussed.

Ms. Nielsen stated that CWC Staff will make adjustments to the draft agenda based on the feedback provided by the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. She offered to email the updated version of the agenda to Committee Members so there can be additional review and feedback provided.

b. <u>Contract Approvals and New Stakeholders Council Members.</u>

Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, reported that contract approvals will be considered during the Board Business section of the CWC Board Retreat agenda. There will be a contract with the U.S. Forest Service for restroom maintenance. She explained that because of a delay, the contract was not ready in time for the last CWC Board Meeting, but the contract will still be effective as of July 1. In addition, there is at least one new member of the Stakeholders Council who will need to be formally added during the CWC Board Retreat. There will also be a contract to vote on for Central Wasatch Symposium event support. She noted that there will be a website contract to redo the CWC website and an employment contract for a new CWC intern as well. The intention is to move through those business items fairly quickly during that section of the retreat agenda.

Ms. Nielsen explained that parking will need to be paid for at the CWC Board Retreat venue. There are certain costs the CWC will incur between the CWC Board, CWC Staff, Stakeholders Council Members, and invited guests, but this is already included in the budget. Ms. Nielsen noted that there are also some catering options to consider for the CWC Board Retreat. Ms. Kilpack reported that the catering options are all comparable, but if more than 30 people RSVP, the cost will likely be more than $1,000, which is the limit in the procurement policy for the Executive Director to approve alone. As a result, there might need to be Chair approval for the catering.

OTHER ITEMS

There were no additional items discussed.

Closing

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

The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:41 a.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting held Thursday, July 23, 2026.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____________________