



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS MILLCREEK CITY HALL, 1330 EAST CHAMBERS AVENUE, MILLCREEK, UTAH.

Present:

Maura Hahnenberger, Chair
Kurt Hegmann, Co-Chair
Adam Lenkowski
Becca Gerber
Brendan Smith
Charlie Luke
Craig Williams
Dan Zalles
Dani Poirier
Danny Richardson
Dennis Goreham
Doug Tolman
Faith Scheffler
Eva De Laurentiis
Hilary Arens
John Adams
Julie Faure
Kelly Boardman
Lexi Tuddenham
Mark Baer
Meaghan McKasy
Olivia Juarez
Patrick Morrison
Roger Borgenicht
Scott Hotaling
Shauna Hart

Staff:

Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Will McKay, Director of Public Affairs
Anette Garcia Fuentes, Communications and Outreach Intern

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2 **Opening**
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4 1. **Chair Maura Hahnenberger will Open the Public Meeting as the Chair of the**
5 **Stakeholders Council of the Central Wasatch Commission.**
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7 Chair Maura Hahnenberger called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council
8 Meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.
9

10 2. **Chair Hahnenberger will Call for a Motion to Approve the Minutes from the June 3,**
11 **2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting.**
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13 Co-Chair Kurt Hegmann noted that the June 3, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting agenda
14 mentioned Chair Hahnenberger. He suggested that this be amended, as she was not present.
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16 **MOTION:** Kurt Hegmann moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from the June 3, 2026,
17 Stakeholders Council Meeting, as amended. Shauna Hart seconded the motion. The motion passed
18 with the unanimous consent of the Council.
19

20 It was noted that Anette Garcia Fuentes is the new Communications and Outreach Intern. Ms. Garcia
21 Fuentes explained that she is from Mexico City and is attending school in Utah. She is a senior in
22 college and is majoring in Communications. Ms. Garcia Fuentes is excited to work with the CWC.
23

24 Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, introduced the newest member of the Stakeholders Council,
25 Charlie Luke. Mr. Luke reported that he is the Utah State Director for The Wilderness Society. Lexi
26 Tuddenham is another new member of the Stakeholders Council. She is the Executive Director of
27 the Healthy Environment Alliance of Utah and looks forward to participating on the Council.
28

29 **Past Meeting Recap**
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31 1. **Co-Chair Hegmann will Give a Recap of the June 3, 2026, Stakeholders Council**
32 **Meeting.**
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34 Co-Chair Hegmann shared information about the June 3, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting. There
35 were votes taken on the leadership of the Transportation System Committee and Environment System
36 Committee. The main action item on the Stakeholders Council Meeting agenda was a letter titled,
37 “Refinements to UDOT’s Phase I Transportation Improvements in Little Cottonwood Canyon:
38 Stakeholders Council Recommendation to the CWC Board.” This was approved and forwarded to
39 the CWC Board for consideration. A lot of the meeting was spent discussing capacity issues. During
40 the Breakout Session, there were several ideas brainstormed and shared with the rest of the Council.
41 There was also a discussion about the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area
42 Act (“CWNCRRA”). In addition, there was a suggestion to create a “Stakeholders Council Expertise”
43 spreadsheet. He asked that all Stakeholders Council Members add to that spreadsheet.
44

45 2. **Chair Hahnenberger will Give a Report on the August 17, 2026, CWC Board Retreat.**
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47 Chair Hahnenberger shared information about the CWC Board Retreat that took place on August 17,
48 2026. She appreciated that several Stakeholders Council Members were able to attend. The focus of

1 the retreat was the CWNCRRA, which will be discussed in more detail during the current Stakeholders
2 Council Meeting. The retreat was successful because there were representatives from the ski resorts
3 in addition to members of the CWC Board. In addition, there was a representative from Salt Lake
4 City Public Utilities in attendance. The CWC Board Retreat started with background information
5 about the Mountain Accord and CWNCRRA. There was also timeline information shared.

6
7 During the CWC Board Retreat, there was a discussion about the ski resort needs and what it will
8 take for them to support the legislation. Something that the ski resorts are interested in is water for
9 snowmaking. There was some discussion about whether or not additional water is a possibility.

10
11 Chair Hahnenberger reported that there was a detailed discussion about the potential impact. From
12 the Salt Lake City Public Utilities perspective, there appears to be some room for negotiation as far
13 as increased allocation of water for snowmaking. Chair Hahnenberger explained that another
14 discussion point had to do with ski area boundary expansion into privately owned land. The impacted
15 ski areas do not want their right to expand into private lands to be infringed upon through this process.
16 She informed Council Members that discussions about the CWNCRRA will continue. The outcomes
17 of those discussions will influence what the proposed legislation will look like in the future.

18
19 It was requested that CWC Staff share additional information about a Capacity Study. Executive
20 Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the CWC Board Members on the Capacity Committee
21 determined that a parallel effort of the CWNCRRA and Capacity Study was not the best use of time.
22 The Capacity Committee work has been paused for the time being in order to focus on the CWNCRRA.
23 John Adams shared information about the Capacity Committee Meeting discussions that occurred
24 back in July. He also discussed the CWC Board Retreat, which was facilitated by Commissioner
25 Christopher Robinson. Council Members were encouraged to listen to the recording of the retreat.

26
27 Kelly Boardman asked if the future iteration of the CWNCRRA will limit ski area expansion. She
28 wanted to know if there will be boundaries placed on possible future expansion. Ms. Nielsen
29 explained that the CWNCRRA involves certain exchanges. Since the time of the Mountain Accord,
30 many stakeholders in the mountains have been fearful of unfettered expansion of the permit use
31 boundaries from the ski resorts. However, in every iteration of the CWNCRRA, there has been a cap
32 on the boundaries. Ms. Nielsen reported that in the 2020 iteration of the CWNCRRA, the land
33 exchange component was removed due to a request from the ski resorts. It started with Alta Ski Area
34 in 2018 and then the other ski resorts followed suit, which resulted in the 2020 iteration of the
35 CWNCRRA. She noted that the current version of the CWNCRRA places a lock on the ski area
36 boundaries. The main goals have always been to balance the different interests and resolve conflicts.

37
38 Ms. Boardman asked for additional information about water for snowmaking, such as the amount that
39 will return to the watershed. Chair Hahnenberger reported that during the CWC Board Retreat, it was
40 stated that an estimated 80% of the water used for snowmaking returns to the local watershed.

41 **CWNCRRA Discussion**

42 **1. Executive Director Lindsey Nielsen will Introduce the CWNCRRA.**

43
44 Ms. Nielsen shared additional information about the CWNCRRA. She reported that the CWNCRRA is
45 something that the CWC has been working on since 2018. Council Members have been asked to
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47

1 review the 2020 iteration of the CWNCRRA because the CWC is interested in redrafting the bill. There
2 is uncertainty about the exact timeline, but the goal is to redraft before the end of the year.

3
4 Ms. Nielsen explained that there is work being done to add the land exchange component back into
5 the bill. Beyond that, there will be some language cleanup. For example, the 2020 iteration allows
6 for the reduction of Wilderness for the continuation of the multi-use trail. However, that was taken
7 care of in the bill from Senator John Curtis in 2022. Ms. Nielsen provided background information
8 about the CWNCRRA. She reported that it was a goal that came out of the Mountain Accord process.
9 That process culminated in 2015, when the Mountain Accord charter was signed. What was signed
10 in the Mountain Accord charter was essentially the first draft of the CWNCRRA. The main difference
11 between the charter and the first draft of the CWNCRRA is that it became more formal.

12
13 The Mountain Accord was a process where the focus was on recreation, economy, transportation, and
14 the environment. All of the different interests came together to discuss the future of the mountains.
15 The end result was the Mountain Accord charter, which led to the CWNCRRA. Ms. Nielsen reported
16 that a National Conservation and Recreation Area (“NCRA”) is a designation for the Federal lands in
17 the mountains. The area includes Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Millcreek
18 Canyon, and along the I-80 and Parleys Corridor. Ms. Nielsen explained that there have been several
19 iterations of the CWNCRRA. With each new draft of the legislation, public comments are received.
20 Over the years, there have been hundreds of public comments collected. She noted that while there
21 have been concerns expressed that this will impact private lands, which is not the case.

22
23 Ms. Nielsen highlighted what the CWNCRRA would do, which includes the following:

- 24
25
 - Establish an NCRA on existing Forest Service (Federal) land;
 - Establish a new Wilderness Area and expand existing Wilderness Areas;
 - Establish the White Pine Watershed Protection Area.28

29 Ms. Nielsen explained that the White Pine Watershed Protection Area is a different designation than
30 the NCRA itself and a different designation than a Wilderness Area. There are existing private
31 property owners who expressed concerns about the potential for a Wilderness Area designation there.
32 For that reason, it is not proposed to be Wilderness. There is also permitted heli-skiing there.

33
34 Ms. Nielsen clarified that the bill does not remove existing rights and does not seek to remove
35 permitted allowances. She added that there would be an area-specific Management Plan required.
36 The current Management Plan that provides the protocol for the management of the lands is from
37 2003. A lot has changed in this area since that was published. If the bill were signed into law, there
38 would be three years to create a Management Plan specific to the area. The Forest Service would still
39 be in charge of writing that. This bill does not change who owns or manages the land, but it would
40 propose a new Management Plan. That could result in updates to the management protocol.

41
42 The proposed CWNCRRA map was reviewed and discussed. Ms. Nielsen explained that there will be
43 an opportunity to ask questions about the CWNCRRA after the discussion group section of the meeting.
44 It was noted that there are a few questions Council Members would like clarified before the group
45 conversations occur. Doug Tolman noted that there is a difference between ski resort boundaries and
46 Special Use Permit boundaries. Ms. Nielsen confirmed this and explained that there are different
47 uses allowed on different areas of land. This bill specifies the locking of the Special Use Permit

boundaries, which are provided by the Forest Service through an application process. Discussions were had about privately owned land and Special Use Permit boundaries. Meaghan McKasy asked about the Lone Peak Wilderness area and the flight park. Ms. Nielsen offered to look into this further.

2. Director of Public Affairs Will McKay will Discuss Public Engagement for the CWNCR.

It was determined that the information about public engagement will be shared after the Breakout Session. Following the group discussions, Director of Public Affairs, Will McKay, shared information about the public engagement process for the CWNCR. He explained that the CWC will focus on the negotiation process ahead of the CWNCR redraft. The idea is to have a version of the CWNCR that can be introduced to the public in 2027. Once the new version of the CWNCR is shared, there will be a 30-day public comment period. The comments will be received, reviewed, and taken into consideration. There will then be additional work done on the CWNCR draft if necessary. If substantive changes are made, there will be another 30-day public comment period. Comments will be received and reviewed. The hope is that this will complete the redraft process.

Mr. McKay reviewed the plan for marketing. This fall, he will be working on a film campaign, which will provide information about the CWNCR. He hopes the Stakeholders Council will promote the film campaign and CWNCR either on an individual level or through their organizations. It is the role of the CWC and the Stakeholders Council to communicate information about the CWNCR. He asked that there be an effort made to promote the latest version of the CWNCR as well as the educational components. It would be meaningful to see a cohesive effort from all Council Members.

3. In Discussion Groups, Stakeholders Council Members will Discuss the CWNCR:

Ms. Kilpack reported that the Breakout Session on the Stakeholders Council Meeting agenda has to do with the CWNCR. There are four discussion questions that have been posed about the bill. Council Members will be given 10 minutes to discuss each question. Someone from each table will write down the answers and main takeaways on the sheet of paper that has been provided. Following the Breakout Session, it will be possible for Council Members to walk around and review the answers that have been written down. Ms. Kilpack explained that the online participants will form one group.

- a. **How Does the Bill Work to Address and Balance the Interconnected and Interdependent Functions and Interests in the Central Wasatch?**
- b. **As a Group, What are the Top Three Most Important Reasons to Support the CWNCR?**
- c. **What Challenges Do You See that would Hinder Passage of the Bill (that can be Addressed within the Bill)?**
- d. **How Can the Stakeholders Council Support the Passage of the CWNCR?**

The Stakeholders Council broke out into groups to discuss four questions related to the CWNCR.

1 **4. Council Members will Review the Notes Taken by Other Groups.**
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3 Following the Breakout Session, the discussion groups reviewed the notes that were taken. Chair
4 Hahnenberger reported that comments can be added to the written notes by other Council Members.
5

6 **5. CWC Staff will Answer Questions About the CWNCR.**
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8 Chair Hahnenberger asked if there are any outstanding Council Member questions about the
9 CWNCR. Dan Zalles mentioned some existing concerns and pointed out that there could be
10 difficulty reaching consensus. He asked how these issues will be addressed moving forward. Ms.
11 Nielsen explained that every part of the bill satisfies one's interest in exchange for the satisfaction of
12 a separate interest. If one party is not satisfied enough with what has been provided, then the
13 negotiations can fall apart. The Wilderness Area was a negotiated agreement and a benefit for the
14 environmental groups. That came in exchange for Wilderness offsets for the Bonneville Shoreline
15 Trail. However, that has since been addressed elsewhere, so the benefits for the environmental groups
16 have not yet been achieved. Mr. Zalles asked what the unified vision is. He would like to understand
17 how the CWNCR is different than what currently exists and why what currently exists is lacking.
18

19 Ms. Nielsen explained that the CWNCR would be a unified agreement, where all of the parties
20 agreed to the future planning and management protocol of the area. Right now, there is not a unified
21 agreement. The CWNCR focuses on agreement when it comes to the future of the mountains. She
22 reported that the CWNCR has always tried to achieve a unified vision and agreement. The intention
23 is to quell the conflict that exists between the different parties and interest groups. Mr. Zalles thought
24 this information should be clearly outlined as the process continues to move forward. Right now, it
25 feels like there are a lot of disconnected parts, so there needs to be additional clarity provided.
26

27 Additional discussions were had about the CWNCR. It was noted that one benefit of the CWNCR
28 would be predictability for all of the different interest groups. There is a desire to tie up the loose
29 ends that exist. Ms. Kilpack explained that the Stakeholders' Council can help the public better
30 understand the bill. The Breakout Session was designed to help Council Members process
31 information, ask questions, and raise issues. She hopes the Stakeholders Council will be prepared to
32 communicate information about the CWNCR as the engagement process moves ahead.
33

34 Mr. Adams liked the fact that the Stakeholders Council has been tasked with providing education and
35 clarification for others. It is important to stress the importance of the negotiations. There is a certain
36 amount of give and take associated with this process. The Stakeholder's Council has been asked to
37 learn as much as possible in order to better disseminate information. He shared comments about the
38 negotiation process and asked for clarity about what the parties other than the ski resorts want.
39

40 Ms. Nielsen asked if Council Members feel prepared to discuss the CWNCR as it currently exists.
41 Mr. Adams confirmed that he feels prepared to discuss what is currently in the bill. However, there
42 is still some uncertainty about the needs of other parties, outside of the ski resorts. Ms. Nielsen
43 reminded Council Members that the negotiations are scheduled to take place in the fall. There was
44 discussion about the different parties involved in the negotiation process. Mr. Adams shared
45 background information about SkiLink, which eventually led to concerns about expansion.
46

47 Ms. Nielsen reported that there are many pieces of the legislation that Council Members can discuss
48 with others without knowing what will be negotiated. In the future, there will be more clarity about

1 the negotiation process and the outcomes. Chair Hahnenberger pointed out that there have already
2 been a lot of negotiations to reach this point. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that the current version of the
3 bill is a reflection of the previously negotiated agreements, but there is still more to be done.

4 5 **Next Steps**

- 6
7 1. **Council Members will Review Any Interim Action Items and System Committee Work**
8 **to be Done After This Meeting.**
9

10 Chair Hahnenberger noted that the CWNCRRA discussions can continue within the subcommittees.
11 Ms. Kilpack stated that the notes taken during the Breakout Session will be shared after the meeting.
12

- 13 2. **Additional Comments and Questions may be Submitted via the Cards Provided or the**
14 **Online Form that will be Sent to Council Members After This Meeting.**
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16 It was noted that additional comments and questions can be submitted after the meeting.
17

18 **Staff Announcements**

- 19
20 1. **The Next Stakeholders Council Meeting will be on December 2, 2026.**
21

22 a. **What to Expect.**
23

24 The next Stakeholders Council Meeting will take place on December 2, 2026. Ms. Nielsen explained
25 that the plan is to have a draft of the CWNCRRA ready in early January 2027, but the timeline depends
26 on the negotiation meetings that will take place in the fall. If it appears there will be a bill ready in
27 January 2027, there can be a discussion about outreach during the meeting in December.
28

- 29 2. **The CWC Has Hired a New Communications and Outreach Intern.**
30

31 It was reiterated that Ms. Garcia Fuentes is the new Communications and Outreach Intern.
32

33 Ms. Kilpack introduced Julie Faure, who is a new member of the Stakeholders Council. Ms. Faure
34 is the President of Utah Mountain Adventures, which is a backcountry mountain guide service.
35

- 36 3. **The Next CWC Board Meeting will be on October 5, 2026. All are Encouraged to**
37 **Attend, and the Agenda will be Posted in the Coming Weeks.**
38

39 The next CWC Board Meeting is scheduled to take place on October 5, 2026. It is a public meeting,
40 and Council Members are able to attend. The meeting agenda will be posted in the next few weeks.
41

- 42 4. **Conflict Disclosure and Other Annual Forms Must be Completed by June.**
43

44 Ms. Kilpack will send out Conflict Disclosure Forms to members of the Stakeholders' Council.
45

46 Mr. Adams mentioned the Q&A document that was created for the CWNCRRA. He found it useful
47 and asked if it would make sense to continue adding to that document, as needed. Mark Baer agreed

1 that the document was useful. Ms. Kilpack reported that the written questions for CWC Staff can be
2 added to that document. There will also be an online form available to submit additional questions.

3
4 **Stakeholders Open Comment**

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6 There were no additional comments.

7
8 **Closing**

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

12
13 **MOTION:** Doug Tolman moved to ADJOURN the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Kurt Hegmann
14 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

15
16 The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting held on Wednesday, September 2, 2026.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes
6 T Forbes Group
7 Minutes Secretary
8

9 Minutes Approved: _____