



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL RECREATION SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2026, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC OFFICES LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

Committee Members: Patrick Morrison, Chair
Dennis Goreham, Co-Chair
Craig Williams
Ayja Bounous
Jennifer Melton
Julie Faure
Barbara Cameron

Others: Meaghan McKasy

Staff: Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations

OPENING

1. Chair Patrick Morrison will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Recreation System Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.

Chair Patrick Morrison called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Recreation System Committee Meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed those present. He reported that there was collaboration on the meeting agenda and that there are many interesting topics the Committee will discuss. He reached out to Forestry, Fire, and State Lands, but did not hear back. Zinnia Wilson and Chelsea Phillippe from the U.S. Forest Service will attend the next meeting.

2. Review and Approval of the July 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Dennis Goreham moved to APPROVE the March 12, 2026, and July 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Craig Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM COMMITTEE TRIVIA PROJECT

1. Meaghan McKasy from the Environment System Committee will Share a Trivia Project for the Committee's Feedback and Suggestions.

Meaghan McKasy from the Environment System Committee shared information about a trivia project that the Committee has been working on. She explained that there was a meeting held on Tuesday, and there was interest expressed in receiving feedback from the Recreation System Committee.

The idea was to create something short, fun, and to the point. Originally, there was a discussion about creating a survey or quiz, but it was eventually determined that trivia would be more appropriate. This is intended to take approximately five minutes to complete. The Environment System Committee drafted several trivia questions that provide information, but it is also possible to learn more about the CWC and other relevant organizations. Ms. McKasy asked if Committee Members have reviewed the questions. Co-Chair Dennis Goreham stated that he has reviewed the content.

Ms. McKasy shared her screen and provided an overview of the drafted questions. After the meeting, the Recreation System Committee can further review the questions and provide additional feedback. It is possible for Committee Members to access the shared folder. She asked that edits not be made directly to the form, but to submit comments and feedback about what has been proposed.

The trivia document was reviewed. Ms. McKasy reported that it starts with an introduction and then people will be asked how they travel to the Central Wasatch. The idea is to have a QR code for the trivia project on buses and signage so it will be easy to access. If someone states that they are traveling to the Central Wasatch via bicycle or shuttle, there will be a statement that says: "Great! Public transit and human-powered options reduce air pollution and traffic congestion." It will also highlight the fact that there will be more enhanced winter transit in 2028. If someone selects single-occupancy, multiple occupancy, or rideshare, there will be information about public transit provided.

The next question asks what someone is doing in the Central Wasatch. Ms. McKasy explained that there is a desire to determine whether people are skiing, hiking, and so on. Information will be provided to state that there are many ways to explore, recreate, and connect. After that question, the trivia portion will begin, which is intended to test knowledge about the Central Wasatch. The first trivia question asks what wildlife lives in the Central Wasatch. It is possible to check all of the answers that apply. The correct answers will be provided, as well as information about what to do if wildlife is encountered. She reported that there is another question about which canyons it is possible to bring dogs into. If anything other than Millcreek Canyon is selected, it will state, "Unfortunately, that is incorrect. In the Central Wasatch, dogs are only permitted in Millcreek Canyon." There will then be information provided about leashes. The idea is to have trivia questions that inform visitors.

Ms. McKasy reported that the next question is about wild plants. There will be information about invasive species provided. There is then a question about possible volunteer activities. If someone chooses firefighting, the response will state: "There are many ways to volunteer in the Central Wasatch. However, activities such as wildlife tagging and firefighting are not volunteer opportunities because they require specialized training and certifications due to safety and legal requirements. At the end of this quiz, we will share some great ideas about how you can get involved and make a difference in the Central Wasatch." She tried to keep the information fairly minimal, because she assumes most people will be doing the trivia on their phones. There will also be information about

1 water quality, off-road vehicles, wildflowers, personal drones, campfires, and riding bicycles on trails
2 in designated Wilderness. In addition, there will be information about right-of-way and trail etiquette.

3
4 After the trivia questions are answered, those interested in learning more about the area are
5 encouraged to get involved with organizations that support the health of the Central Wasatch.
6 Ms. McKasy explained that different organizations can be linked in this section. There is a desire to
7 reach out to the broader Stakeholders Council to see what organizations might be interested in being
8 linked. There is also a question that asks for ideas to better the Central Wasatch. The trivia ends with
9 information about the Mountain Accord and CWC, but she has debated moving it to another location.

10
11 Ms. McKasy offered to share the link to the form and the link to the corresponding Google Document.
12 She asked the Recreation System Committee to provide feedback, comments, and corrections. Co-
13 Chair Goreham noted that this has come a long way and expressed support for what has been done.
14 He asked about the timeline for the trivia project. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, explained
15 that CWC Staff can provide outreach support once the Environment System Committee is ready. She
16 does not believe a solid plan has been established for distribution. Ms. McKasy stated that one goal
17 is to partner with the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”) so the QR code can be on some of the buses.
18 It would also be meaningful to have information posted at trailheads. She acknowledged that there
19 are limitations to where signage can be placed. Chair Morrison suggested that Committee Members
20 brainstorm some locations that are not as restrictive. He pointed out that there could be incentives to
21 encourage people to participate in the trivia. Ms. McKasy expressed support for that suggestion.

22
23 Co-Chair Goreham noted that the trivia would not be anonymous if there was personal information
24 submitted for an incentive prize. Chair Morrison explained that it could be voluntary to submit that
25 information. There was discussion about where signage for the trivia can be placed. It was suggested
26 that there be QR codes in the valley as well. Ms. McKasy noted that the question about reaching the
27 Central Wasatch could be rewritten to ask: “How did you get to your Central Wasatch destination
28 today or on your most recent trip?” Barbara Cameron reported that the Wasatch Mountain Club has
29 a lot of hikes. The QR code could be shared during some of those hikes. Julie Faure added that the
30 mountain guides could share the QR code as well. Co-Chair Goreham asked about the longevity of
31 the trivia project. Ms. McKasy explained that this is a knowledge-building campaign. There is no
32 clear end date in mind, so it is possible for the trivia to be posted as long as desired.

33
34 Ms. McKasy noted that on Instagram, community partners could choose to include a link to the trivia
35 project in their bios. Chair Morrison asked if the trivia will link back to the Environmental Dashboard,
36 which was denied. He suggested that it be included as one of the additional resources. Chair Morrison
37 reported that Seven Canyons Trust used to do trivia nights that were a lot of fun. It provided
38 meaningful education opportunities. The trivia project created by the Environment System
39 Committee is another example of a fun way to educate others. Educational messaging is important.

40
41 It was reiterated that the trivia documents will be shared with the Recreation System Committee
42 following the meeting. Ms. McKasy expressed appreciation for the suggestions about distribution.
43 Ayja Bounous stated that she serves on both the Recreation System Committee and Environment
44 System Committee. She asked about some of the major events that happen in the Cottonwood
45 Canyons, such as Snowbird’s Oktoberfest. A lot of the people attending these events are not the
46 typical Central Wasatch users. It might be meaningful to educate the more casual visitors as well.

Chair Morrison asked Ms. Bounous and Ms. Faure to share additional information about their professional backgrounds. Ms. Bounous introduced herself and explained that she is relatively new to the Stakeholders' Council. She is a writer and grew up in the skiing community in Little Cottonwood Canyon. She also works for Wasatch Adaptive Sports. Ms. Faure stated that she moved to the Wasatch in 1987 and worked at Alta Lodge for 12 years. She spent a lot of time walking, running, climbing, bicycling, and backcountry skiing in the Wasatch. She started as a guide and then started running Utah Mountain Adventures in 1996. For many years, she has been focused on outdoor recreation. There are approximately 30 mountain guides currently working for Utah Mountain Adventures. There is a lot of interest in dispersed recreation and the accessibility of the Wasatch.

Other members of the Recreation System Committee introduced themselves. Ms. Cameron is on the Big Cottonwood Community Council. Co-Chair Goreham reported that he is the Conservation Director for the Wasatch Mountain Club. Craig Williams explained that he is listed as a Park City resident but is also the Biking Director of the Wasatch Mountain Club. Chair Morrison works for the Division of Outdoor Recreation as a Program Director. Within the Central Wasatch, he spent five years as the Trails Director for the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation and is now a Board Member.

CWNCRA DISCUSSION

1. The Committee will Discuss Takeaways from the September 2, 2026, Stakeholders Council Meeting.

2. The Committee will Discuss the CWNCRA through a Recreation Lens.

Chair Morrison shared comments about the recent Stakeholders Council Meeting. He thought the meeting was excellent and noted that the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act ("CWNCRA") seems to be in a positive position right now. Removing transportation was a smart strategic move. The Stakeholders Council Meeting was engaging and increased the overall understanding of the CWNCRA. Mr. Williams pointed out that the Council Members are not the negotiators in this case, but it is possible to focus on education and communication. Ms. Faure noted that it can also be worthwhile to consider what the other side will want during the negotiation process.

Co-Chair Goreham likes where the legislation is right now as far as the focus on dispersed recreation and preservation. There was some discussion at the Stakeholders Council Meeting about whether Wilderness is needed, but that was part of the Mountain Accord negotiations. He shared information about the Mountain Accord negotiation process and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act.

Mr. Williams stated that it is possible to bike ride in Millcreek. He stressed the importance of Millcreek remaining open to bicyclists. Co-Chair Goreham confirmed that it would remain open and shared clarifying information about the Wilderness area proposed. Ms. Faure asked how paragliding could be impacted by the CWNCRA. During the Stakeholders Council Meeting, there was a flight park that was mentioned. She knows several people who enjoy paragliding but does not know the rules and regulations that are in place. Co-Chair Goreham believed the flight park is to the west of what has been proposed. Discussions were had about the popularity of paragliding in the area.

Ms. Bounous reported that she was unable to attend the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, but it has been interesting listening to the Recreation System Committee discussion about the meeting. She has been reading through the CWNCRA and is learning more about what is envisioned. Her first

1 impression is that it seems beneficial, but there is a lot that needs to be taken into consideration. She
2 will continue to focus on education as the CWNCRRA discussions continue. Ms. Faure read through
3 the thesis of the intern from the University of Utah. It was an interesting and educational document.
4

5 Ms. Cameron stated that there has been a longstanding concern about the CWNCRRA because of the
6 transportation. The Community Council endorses the CWNCRRA, but the transportation-related
7 concerns have remained. She pointed out that the Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action Plan
8 (“BCC MAP”) kickstarted a lot of transportation work. Chair Morrison asked the Recreation System
9 Committee to consider the CWNCRRA through a recreation lens. Whenever Wilderness is designated,
10 there is a lot to consider, such as climbing management. He mentioned some of the complications
11 associated with anchor replacement. There are certain recreation impacts to consider.
12

13 Co-Chair Goreham pointed out that most of the climbing routes and bicycle routes are not in
14 Wilderness. As a result, he believes there will be minimal impacts on those. Additionally, people
15 have been using non-power drills to put in bolts in Wilderness areas for decades. This can continue
16 to be done. The Committee further discussed Wilderness and rock-climbing areas. Ms. Faure
17 explained that every Ranger District is different as far as whether it allows guiding in Wilderness.
18

19 Ms. Kilpack offered to look further into paragliding. She believed a permit would be needed to do
20 something like that. At the time the bill was drafted, it did not interfere with any existing permits.
21 Ms. Faure noted that there is no permit needed to hike in the Wasatch as an individual. If someone
22 is instructing, then a permit is needed. When it comes to paragliding as an individual, she is not
23 certain what is required for takeoffs. Ms. Kilpack stated that she will conduct additional research.
24

25 Chair Morrison reported that if the CWNCRRA is passed, the Forest Service will need to create a new
26 Forest Management Plan. He works with the Forest Service a lot, and there is a lack of resources.
27 He asked what it would mean if that effort cannot be properly funded and supported. Ms. Faure asked
28 if he is concerned about the three-year timeline for the plan. Chair Morrison stated that he is uncertain
29 that the work could realistically be done in that amount of time. Mr. Williams asked why a new
30 management plan would be needed. Chair Morrison explained that the management will be complex.
31

32 Ms. Kilpack asked if the concern has to do with the amount of time between the bill being signed and
33 the completion of a new management plan. Chair Morrison confirmed this. There are questions about
34 when the designation will go into effect and what enforcement will look like. Three years is not a
35 long time for the Forest Service to create a plan. Co-Chair Goreham noted that there is language in
36 the CWNCRRA currently that provides some clarification. Ms. Kilpack explained that the land would
37 continue to be managed as it is currently until the new management plan was completed. It was
38 clarified that the proposed Wilderness will become Wilderness as soon as the bill has been passed.
39

40 Ms. Faure believed the CWNCRRA involves two Ranger Districts. It is mostly in the Salt Lake Ranger
41 District, but there is the Pleasant Grove Ranger District as well. Those districts have somewhat
42 different rules. Ms. Kilpack asked if those districts currently manage Lone Peak Wilderness together.
43 Ms. Faure believed so, but that is something the Committee can look into further.
44

TRI-CANYON TRAILS PLAN DISCUSSION

1. The Committee will Discuss the Tri-Canyon Trails Plan and Related Questions for the Forest Service.

Chair Morrison explained that he wanted Ms. Wilson and Ms. Phillippe from the Forest Service to attend the current Recreation System Committee Meeting, but they will be at the next meeting instead.

Mr. Williams reported that there is a Summer 2026 update on the Tri-Canyon Trails Plan website. It states that work began on constructing the Gloria Falls Trail and the Elbow Fork-Pipeline Connector Trail. There was also repair work done on the White Pine Bridge flood damage. There are trail designs in progress for Millcreek (Maple Grove connections with the Pipeline and Terraces trails), Big Cottonwood Canyon (Twin Lakes Trail, parts of the Lake Mary Trail), and Little Cottonwood Canyon (Cecret Lake Loop). He shared information about the Phase I work that was proposed. Mr. Williams wanted to know the cause of the delay for the items that were initially listed. In addition, he would like to know if those outstanding items are on the agenda for next year or the next phase.

Chair Morrison would like to talk to the Forest Service representatives about the planning process. He is interested in hearing more about that process and what completion will look like. Mr. Williams wanted to know how Phase II will be impacted since not all the outlined Phase I work was completed. Co-Chair Goreham reported that there were previous Committee discussions about signage, such as interpretive and directional signs. There are many areas that lack clear signage. For years, the Forest Service stated that there was no desire to talk about signage until the plan was done. The plan has now been completed, so he would like to discuss improved signage.

Chair Morrison pointed out that when the plan was in the process of being created, there was a very different administrative landscape than there is now. He wondered whether this has extended the intended timeline. Ms. Cameron explained that she had hoped to see something happen at Donut Falls this year. She reported that there are management issues at Donut Falls. Chair Morrison acknowledged that Donut Falls is an important first visit, but there appear to be some cross-jurisdictional issues. Ms. Cameron clarified that the desired work included fencing or guardrails. It was noted that Ms. Faure left the Recreation System Committee Meeting at approximately 3:05 p.m.

Additional discussions were had about signage. Co-Chair Goreham reported that the Committee focused a lot on signs in the past. More recently, the Committee discussed the creation of a sign inventory for all of the trail-related signage in the Central Wasatch. Chair Morrison suggested there be outreach to Mike Roberts, who has served on the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation trail crew.

ROADLESS RULE RESCISSION DISCUSSION

Co-Chair Goreham explained that there is not necessarily a lot to discuss about the Roadless Rule rescission. This agenda item is intended to be a reminder that last year, the CWC released a Resolution in opposition to the rescission. The deadline for comments is September 21, 2026. Nationwide, there are 45 million acres, but in the Central Wasatch, there are approximately 30,000 acres at risk.

In 2001, when the Roadless Rule was originally passed, there were approximately 1.5 million comments received, and 99% were in support of the Roadless Rule. Co-Chair Goreham stressed the

1 importance of submitting comments about the potential rescission. Mr. Williams stated that he sent
2 in a comment that pointed out that this will not help with fire protection but will create more risks.

3
4 Co-Chair Goreham has seen a lot nationally from hunter and angler organizations, and those
5 organizations expressed support for the rule, as it exists. Co-Chair Goreham asked if the State has an
6 official position on the Roadless Rule. Chair Morrison explained that when this was first discussed,
7 he reached out to the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office to better understand what was
8 proposed. With or without this, there will still be processes in place. He reported that there are several
9 states that have unique agreements in place, so it is possible to look into some of those.

10
11 Ms. Cameron reported that she submitted an editorial to The Salt Lake Tribune, “The Wasatch
12 Mountains Need the Roadless Rule.” She offered to send the editorial to the Recreation System
13 Committee. There was a lot of pushback received from the Cardiff Canyon Owners Association.

14 15 **MILLCREEK CANYON DISCUSSION**

16 17 **1. The Committee May Discuss Recreation-Related Topics Pertinent to Millcreek Canyon.**

18
19 Chair Morrison reported that the CWC used to have the Millcreek Canyon Committee. However,
20 that Committee disbanded, and now there is an agenda item on all of the System Committee Meeting
21 agendas related to Millcreek Canyon. Ms. Kilpack explained that this is an opportunity for anyone
22 with information about Millcreek-related topics to share comments. Co-Chair Goreham noted that
23 the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance had a winter shuttle in 2026. He asked if there will be one in 2027
24 as well. Chair Morrison believed there was CWC Short-Term Grant Program funding for that shuttle.
25 Ms. Kilpack reported that the shuttle was awarded grant funding for the next winter season as well.

26
27 Chair Morrison shared information about the Outdoor Recreation Initiative (“ORI”). Trails Utah
28 received Bonneville Shoreline Trail Master Plan funding, so there will be GIS work done as well as
29 work to identify landowners, gaps, and other information. In addition, the Cottonwood Canyons
30 Foundation received money for engineering work for two bridges on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

31
32 Co-Chair Goreham asked how far someone can currently drive into Millcreek Canyon to access the
33 trailheads. Committee Members were not certain but noted that it is possible to look further into the
34 canyon access. Chair Morrison understood that Elbow Fork is the cutoff point.

35 36 **OTHER ITEMS**

37 38 **1. The Committee May Discuss Other Topics, if Desired.**

39
40 Ms. Cameron reported that a lecture titled “The Geology of Big Cottonwood Canyon: Ancient Seas
41 and Ice Sheets” is scheduled to take place this month. It will be hosted by the Brighton Institute and
42 presented by Harrison Patton. The lecture will take place on September 24, 2026. Ms. Cameron
43 informed the Committee that the REVEL marathon is scheduled to take place on Saturday morning.
44 She also shared information about a tour of the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility
45 (“CVWRF”). That tour is scheduled to take place on October 6, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
46 Committee Members interested in any of these events can reach out to her for additional information.
47

1 Co-Chair Goreham noted that the Environment System Committee might be interested in the CVWRF
2 tour, because at the latest meeting, there was a presentation about the water that comes out of the
3 canyons. There might be Committee Member interest in the tour and he suggested letting them know.

4
5 **NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

6
7 **1. The Committee will Discuss Priorities, Ideas, and Desired Topics for the Next Meeting**
8 **Agenda and Upcoming Meetings.**

- 9
10 a. **Fuels Mitigation Guest Presentation.**
11 b. **Tri-Canyon Trails Plan Presentation.**
12

13 There was discussion about the next Recreation System Committee Meeting agenda. Chair Morrison
14 thanked Committee Members for the collaborative approach on the latest agenda and asked if there
15 would be additional communication ahead of the next scheduled meeting. Committee Members can
16 reach out with suggestions, questions, and possible speakers to invite to future Committee Meetings.

17
18 Co-Chair Goreham asked when the next Recreation System Committee Meeting is scheduled. Chair
19 Morrison reported that it will be held on November 12, 2026. He thanked everyone who participated
20 in the current meeting. Ms. Bounous stated that she plans to attend future meetings in person.

21
22 **CLOSING**

23
24 **1. Chair Morrison will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Recreation System Committee**
25 **Meeting.**

26
27 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to ADJOURN the Recreation System Committee Meeting.
28 Craig Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
29 Committee.

30
31 The Recreation System Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Recreation System Committee Meeting held Thursday,*
3 *September 10, 2026.*
4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes
7 T Forbes Group
8 Minutes Secretary
9

10 Minutes Approved: _____
11