



MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) BOARD MEETING HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS MILLCREEK CITY HALL, COMMUNITY FORUM, LOCATED AT 1330 EAST CHAMBERS AVENUE, MILLCREEK, UTAH, 84106.

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

Special Advisors: Jack Stauss
Amber Broadaway

Staff: Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
Will McKay, Director of Public Affairs
Anette Garcia Fuentes, Communications and Outreach Intern
Shane Topham, CWC Legal Counsel

Other: Maura Hahnenberger, Stakeholders Council
Kurt Hegmann, Stakeholders Council
Laura Briefer
Nichol Bourdeaux

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 Meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. She asked someone who is attending in person to run the meeting. Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion offered to run the CWC Board Meeting, as she is attending in person.

1
2 **2. Staff will Take Roll Call Attendance.**
3

4 A roll call was conducted to determine those present.
5

6 **3. (Action) The Board will Consider Approving the Minutes of the August 17, 2026,**
7 **CWC Board Meeting.**
8

9 **MOTION:** Erin Mendenhall moved to APPROVE the Minutes of the August 17, 2026, CWC
10 Board Meeting. Emily Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent
11 of the Board.
12

13 **PUBLIC COMMENT**
14

15 There were no public comments.
16

17 **PRESENTATION OF 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT**
18

19 **1. Ron Stewart of Gilbert & Stewart CPAs will Present the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Audit**
20 **of the CWC.**
21

22 Ron Stewart from Gilbert & Stewart CPAs introduced himself to the CWC Board. He was present
23 to review information from the 2025-2026 Fiscal Year Audit that was conducted. Mr. Stewart
24 explained that a number of tests were performed on the balances. For example, there were
25 confirmations sent out to banks, member cities, and others. The intention was to determine
26 whether the balances shown within the organization matched the balances seen elsewhere.
27

28 During the audit process, a random sample of invoices were chosen to ensure the checks matched
29 and were posted in the proper period. The idea was to determine whether the controls were being
30 followed. Mr. Stewart reported that there were a number of invoices pulled after the end of the
31 year to see that when an expense happened, it was recorded properly. As an example, there might
32 be a situation where an expense happened in June, but it was not actually paid until July or August.
33

34 Analytical reviews occur during the audit process. Mr. Stewart explained that the auditor will look
35 at numbers from this year and compare them to the previous year. This is done at the beginning
36 of the audit, as individual balances are tested, and when the financial statements are written. There
37 are a number of calculations done on the financial statements for payroll and pension liabilities.
38 The balances are recalculated to make sure accounting standards are followed. The transactions
39 of the CWC were reviewed and individual accounts were looked through to make sure the
40 reasoning for the expenses could be determined. Mr. Stewart read the following language:
41

- 42 • In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material
43 respects, the financial position of the business-type activities of Central Wasatch
44 Commission as of June 30, 2026, and the change in financial position and where applicable
45 cash flows, for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally
46 accepted in the United States of America.

1
2 Mr. Stewart explained that this is considered a clean opinion or unmodified opinion. That is the
3 best opinion the organization could receive. It means the financial statements meet accounting
4 standards, are materially correct, and can be relied upon. Mr. Stewart reported that the audit
5 process also looks at the internal controls. There is not necessarily an opinion issued on those
6 controls, but the internal controls are evaluated to ensure everything is working effectively. This
7 is determined through interviews, walkthroughs, questionnaires, and samples. If there was
8 something without controls or the controls were not working appropriately, that would be
9 considered a significant deficiency or material weakness. Based on the evaluation, it was
10 determined that the CWC is in compliance with internal controls. There were no issues raised.

11
12 During the audit, State compliance is considered as well. Mr. Stewart explained that this year,
13 budgetary compliance, Fund Balance, Fraud Risk Assessment, and Utah Retirement Systems
14 (“URS”) were all considered. The State Auditor has certain procedures that must be followed and
15 certain areas to look into. Some of those are annual and some are rotated on a two- or three-year
16 basis. Certain procedures are performed to determine compliance. The CWC is in compliance.

17
18 Mayor Bennion thanked Mr. Stewart for sharing information about the audit process.
19 Commissioner Christopher Robinson asked how many years Gilbert & Stewart CPAs have been
20 performing the audit for the CWC. Mr. Stewart reported that this is the third year handling the
21 audit. Discussions were had about the dates included in the Independent Auditors Report.

22 23 **ANNUAL REPORT REVIEW**

24 25 **1. CWC Staff will Review the 2025-2026 Annual Report.**

26
27 Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reviewed the CWC 2025-2026 Annual Report. This was
28 included in the Meeting Materials Packet. There are also hard copies available for those attending
29 the meeting in person. She noted that the photographs included in the report were taken by Director
30 of Public Affairs, Will McKay. There was a lot of work done by CWC Staff to create the report.

31
32 Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC 2025-2026 Annual Report starts with a quote from
33 Commissioner Robinson, who will retire at the end of this year. She reviewed the contents page
34 and highlighted some of the information in the report, such as the jurisdictional boundary map.
35 The organizational chart displays all of the different entities, including the Board of
36 Commissioners, Stakeholders Council, and Youth Council. There is also a Stakeholders Council
37 spotlight included in the report as well as a list of the represented stakeholder organizations.

38
39 The CWC 2025-2026 Annual Report includes information about the Central Wasatch National
40 Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). It is reflective of the most current iteration,
41 which is from 2020. The report outlines what is in the bill and what it would do. Ms. Nielsen
42 reported that Research Intern, Emory Schwieger, worked with the organization last year. A chart
43 of the different Federal land designations was included in the report document. The CWC 2025-
44 2026 Annual Report includes information about Wilderness and the White Pine Watershed
45 Protection Area. The report also highlights the second Central Wasatch Symposium. This year,

1 the keynote speaker was Darren Parry. She noted that there were substantial updates made to the
2 Central Wasatch Dashboard. In addition, the Millcreek Canyon Feasibility Study was updated.

3
4 Information about the Youth Council is included in the CWC 2025-2026 Annual Report as well
5 as information about the Short-Term Projects Grant Program. There was \$110,000 dispersed last
6 year through the program. The list of grants is included in the report and the Anchor Maintenance
7 project from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance has been highlighted. Information about community
8 engagement is included in the report as well. There is also financial information provided.

9
10 Mayor Roger Bourke asked whether it would be possible to distribute the CWC 2025-2026 Annual
11 Report to others. He wanted to understand the plan to share the report. Mr. McKay explained that
12 approximately 150 additional copies were ordered this year. Those will be handed out at the
13 various tabling events the CWC will be involved in. The intention is to share this when possible.

14
15 Chair Mendenhall thanked CWC Staff for their efforts creating the CWC 2025-2026 Annual
16 Report. It is beautiful and has a lot of useful information. Her copy will be in an accessible
17 location, but she wondered if it would also be possible to share this with members of the Federal
18 Delegation. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that copies have been mailed to members of the Federal
19 Delegation. It is possible to share additional copies with Salt Lake City or other member
20 jurisdictions. Chair Mendenhall asked if a copy was sent to the Mayor of Salt Lake County and
21 Carlos Braceras from the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”), which was confirmed.

22
23 Commissioner Bill Ciraco asked if the CWC 2025-2026 Annual Report exists in a digital format.
24 This was confirmed. It is available to review on the CWC website. Commissioner Ciraco wanted
25 to know if the report has been sent out to the attendees of the Central Wasatch Symposium. Ms.
26 Nielsen noted that the report was sent out to the mailing list, which includes symposium attendees.

27 **BOARD BUSINESS**

28 **1. The Board will Consider Resolution 2026-27 - Approving an Agreement with** 29 **Pathway Associates, L.L.C. for Event Management Services.**

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31
32
33 Mayor Bennion reported that Resolution 2026-27 is an agreement with Pathway Associates, LLC,
34 for event management services. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, explained that this
35 Resolution will approve engagement with a contractor for the Central Wasatch Symposium,
36 Pathway Associates, LLC. This is the same organization that has assisted with the symposium the
37 last two years. Pathway Associates, LLC, will provide support and coordinate the volunteers.

38
39 **MOTION:** Emily Gray moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-27 – Approving an Agreement
40 with Pathway Associates, LLC, for Event Management Services. Bill Ciraco seconded the motion.
41 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
42

1 **2. The Board will Consider Resolution 2026-28 - Approving Engagement of a Caterer**
2 **for the 2027 Central Wasatch Symposium.**
3

4 Mayor Bennion reported that Resolution 2026-28 has to do with a caterer for the 2027 Central
5 Wasatch Symposium. Ms. Kilpack reported that there was a caterer in Park City chosen to provide
6 lunch on the day of the Central Wasatch Symposium. The venue will be slightly smaller this time,
7 so the amount for catering services will likely be reduced. The caterer will be Hill's Kitchen.
8

9 **MOTION:** Bill Ciraco moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-28 – Approving Engagement of a
10 Caterer for the 2027 Central Wasatch Symposium, as amended. Emily Gray seconded the motion.
11 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
12

13 **3. The Board will Consider Resolution 2026-29 - Approving an Agreement with**
14 **Northwest Cascade Inc. d/b/a Honeybucket for Restroom Maintenance.**
15

16 Mayor Bennion reported that Resolution 2026-29 is an agreement with Northwest Cascade Inc.
17 doing business as Honeybucket. Ms. Kilpack explained that this is a new contract for the
18 organization. The U.S. Forest Service has requested that the CWC act as a pass-through entity and
19 administer a contract for portable toilet maintenance at Mill B and Mill D in Big Cottonwood
20 Canyon. Honeybucket will provide the portable toilets. The CWC will cover those costs and then
21 be reimbursed in full by the Forest Service. There is a memo in the Meeting Materials Packet.
22

23 Mayor Monica Zoltanski asked why the Forest Service needs the CWC to act as a pass-through
24 entity. Ms. Nielsen stated that the Forest Service often partners with community groups like the
25 CWC to provide assistance administering a contract. This process will provide a lot of assistance.
26

27 **MOTION:** Emily Gray moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-29 – Approving an Agreement
28 with Northwest Cascade Inc. d/b/a Honeybucket for Restroom Maintenance. Bill Ciraco seconded
29 the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
30

31 **4. The Board will consider Resolution 2026-30 - Approving an Agreement with Sandy**
32 **City for 2026-2027 Ski Season Traffic Control.**
33

34 Mayor Bennion reported that Resolution 2026-30 is an agreement with Sandy City for 2026-2027
35 Ski Season Traffic Control. Ms. Kilpack explained that this is a continued agreement with Sandy
36 City. It will allow the CWC to cover the cost of the overtime that the Sandy City Police
37 Department incurs when there are canyon closures that happen on weekends or overnight.
38

39 **MOTION:** Bill Ciraco moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-30 – Approving an Agreement
40 with Sandy City for 2026-2027 Ski Season Traffic Control. Christopher Robinson seconded the
41 motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
42

CWNCRA DISCUSSION

1. Staff will Discuss the Timeline for Re-Drafting the CWNCRA.

Ms. Nielsen shared the timeline to redraft the CWNCRA, which was originally provided during the CWC Board Retreat. She reminded the CWC Board that there was a retreat held in August where there was a discussion with the CWC Board, ski resort representatives, and stakeholders.

The CWC Board Retreat discussion focused on the feasibility of a redraft of the CWNCRA, which was last redrafted in 2020. By the end of the retreat, it was determined that business development, environmental land protection, and watershed are all important. There was agreement at that time to focus on negotiations related to the CWNCRA. Since the CWC Board Retreat was held, there have been several meetings with the ski resorts and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to assess whether there is interest in engaging in negotiations around water. Based on the conversations, there is interest in engaging in these negotiations. Ms. Nielsen reported that there are negotiations with stakeholders, including Save Our Canyons, Wasatch Backcountry Alliance, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, and all four Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts scheduled to take place later this month. If this results in a negotiated agreement, it will be possible to move forward with redrafting the CWNCRA. There is an ambitious timeline, but it is possible as long as an agreement is reached.

Once the redraft has taken place, the CWNCRA will be circulated to the CWC Board and public during the CWC Board Meeting in January. The release of the CWNCRA during that meeting would then start a 30-day public comment period. The comments would be reviewed, and substantive comments would be incorporated. If there are no substantive comments, the CWC Board could vote to finalize the CWNCRA. From there, it could be shared with a sponsor.

Commissioner Ciraco asked for additional information about sponsorship. He pointed out that bills are often co-sponsored or there are numerous sponsors. Ms. Nielsen explained that the hope is that the home delegation will sponsor the CWNCRA. The goal is that there will be sponsors in the House and Senate. Ben McAdams won his primary in the summer. If he wins the general election for the newly created Congressional District 1, then he will go back to Congress in 2027. Mr. McAdams has previously expressed enthusiasm for the reintroduction of the CWNCRA in the House. From there, the hope is that Senator John Curtis, who has always expressed support for this Legislation, would be the sponsor in the Senate. However, there are conditions that his support is predicated on. Commissioner Ciraco wanted to know if it would be beneficial to have additional sponsors in the House. Ms. Nielsen stated that there could be additional discussions about this.

Commissioner Emily Gray noted that the timeline has been referred to as ambitious. It sounds like there are some key meetings scheduled in the next few weeks. She asked if there was optimism about the negotiations at this point. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that there is optimism. She pointed out that the stakeholders are willing to have these discussions. It seems there is a certain amount of alignment at this time. This will not be a simple process, but she does see a path forward. Laura Briefer agreed with the comments shared and expressed appreciation that the ski resorts have been willing to spend some of their valuable time discussing water, snowmaking, and other issues.

1 Ms. Nielsen reported that the next time the CWC Board meets will be on January 4, 2027. If all
2 goes according to plan, there could be a draft of the CWNCRRA ready for Board Member review.
3

4 **2. The Board will Discuss Public Engagement for the CWNCRRA.**

5

6 Mr. McKay shared information about the public engagement that is planned for the CWNCRRA.
7 He is working to schedule interviews for the engagement campaign, which will include short-form
8 videos about the CWNCRRA. This will increase awareness of the CWNCRRA, encourage others to
9 read the bill, and encourage public comments once the public comment period is open. The idea
10 is that the interviews will be filmed with various stakeholders in October. The interviews will be
11 edited in November and December and released once the redrafted CWNCRRA is ready.
12

13 **STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

14

15 **1. Stakeholders Council Chair Maura Hahnenberger will Discuss the Recent Activities** 16 **of the Stakeholders Council.**

17

18 Chair of the Stakeholders Council, Maura Hahnenberger, shared information about the recent
19 activities of the Stakeholders Council. She reported that during the latest meeting, the focus was
20 on the CWNCRRA. During the meeting, CWC Staff shared updates abouts the CWNCRRA timeline.
21 Ms. Hahnenberger also took time to provide information about the CWC Board Retreat. There
22 were some resources provided by CWC Staff and Council Members who broke out into discussion
23 groups. The Stakeholders Council cares a lot about the CWNCRRA, but there are still some
24 outstanding questions. She hoped some will be answered as the negotiations move ahead.
25

26 Ms. Hahnenberger explained that the Stakeholders Council wants to be involved during the
27 CWNCRRA process. The CWNCRRA would result in renewed collaboration and would also move
28 forward the goals of the Mountain Accord. She acknowledged that the Mountain Accord is
29 important to a lot of Council Members. Council Members are hopeful that the CWNCRRA will
30 establish protections with more stability. There has been a lot of recent instability due to changes
31 happening with public lands. The hope is that the CWNCRRA could create more stability and allow
32 for future planning. Council Members have noted that the CWNCRRA could potentially establish
33 Utah as a leader in this new approach to public lands, as what is proposed is a new designation.
34

35 During the Stakeholders Council Meeting, there was a discussion about potential challenges.
36 Some of the potential challenges include resistance to change and resistance to new regulations on
37 land. Council Members recognized that the bill does not solve all of the challenges facing the
38 Central Wasatch. It is one piece of the puzzle, but this is clearly addressed in the goals of the
39 Mountain Accord. There were concerns expressed that some recreation uses could be impacted,
40 such as motorized or mechanized recreation. Council Members discussed possible changes and
41 how to best communicate those changes to user groups as the CWNCRRA moves forward.
42

43 Ms. Hahnenberger discussed the ways the Stakeholders Council would like to be involved. There
44 is a desire to submit comments during the public comment period, but there is also a desire to focus
45 on public awareness of the bill. Potential opposition could be identified so education can then be

1 provided. The Stakeholders' Council has discussed potential ways to share the CWNCRRA but
2 would like direction about potential future outreach from CWC Staff and the CWC Board.

3
4 Mayor Bourke asked if the outreach efforts should be handled at the Stakeholders Council level or
5 if this is something that CWC Staff should focus on. Ms. Hahnenberger clarified that the
6 Stakeholders Council will not engage in outreach unilaterally. It needs to be done in collaboration
7 with CWC Staff and the CWC Board. Mr. McKay reported that he will author and produce the
8 campaign. He will rely on the Stakeholders Council to expand the message out further.

9
10 Stakeholders Council Co-Chair, Kurt Hegmann, shared additional comments with the CWC
11 Board. He mentioned Log Haven and noted that he has spoken to the State Fire Marshal's Office.
12 The proposed Wilderness boundaries are near there, so protection for that area is important.
13 Mr. Hegmann reported that a cabin burned down in Mill D. Normally, there are problems with
14 rebuilding on national recreation land, so what is allowed or not allowed should be clarified.
15 Mr. Hegmann pointed out that there are certain issues that should be considered during this
16 process.

17
18 **2. (Action) The Board will Consider Resolution 2026-31 - Releasing a Stakeholders**
19 **Council Member.**

20
21 Mayor Bennion reported that Morgan Mingle will be released from the Stakeholders Council. She
22 noted that Ms. Mingle has been serving on the Council since December 2018. The CWC Board
23 expressed appreciation for her efforts and for the others who serve on the Stakeholders' Council.

24
25 Ms. Nielsen stated that Ms. Mingle has been an excellent Stakeholders Council Member. She
26 served in a leadership role on the Economy System Committee. However, representation from the
27 Park City Chamber is not being lost, as Becca Gerber is still serving on the Stakeholders Council.

28
29 **MOTION:** Bill Ciraco moved to APPROVE Resolution 2026-31 – Releasing a Stakeholders
30 Council Member. Emily Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous
31 consent of the Board.

32
33 **YOUTH COUNCIL UPDATE**

34
35 **1. Youth Council Chair Dylanger McKissen will Discuss the Youth Symposium.**

36
37 Mr. McKay reported that Chair of the Youth Council, Dylanger McKissen, is not present at the
38 CWC Board Meeting. He shared updates in his absence. Mr. McKay explained that the Youth
39 Symposium was one of the Short-Term Projects Grant Program recipients. There is a location
40 confirmed for February 12, 2027. The Youth Symposium is an event that will provide information
41 about the CWNCRRA to attendees, but it will also serve as an outdoor and environmental job fair.

42
43 Chair Mendenhall asked about the age range for Youth Council participants. Mr. McKay reported
44 that the Youth Council age range is currently set from 16 to 30. He explained that for the Youth
45 Symposium, anyone from high school to an early career professional is welcome to attend.

1 **STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS**

2
3 1. **A Report on the Short-Term Projects Completed During the 2026 Fiscal Year is**
4 **Included in the Meeting Materials Packet.**

5
6 Ms. Kilpack explained that there is a memo about the completed short-term projects included in
7 the Meeting Materials Packet. The memo is titled, 2025-2026 Short-Term Projects Outcomes.
8

9 2. **The Central Wasatch Symposium will be on January 15, 2027.**

10
11 The Central Wasatch Symposium for 2027 will take place on January 8, 2027, rather than
12 January 15, 2027. There was a save the date sent out to CWC Board Members with this date.
13

14 3. **The Next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting will be on December 7, 2026.**

15
16 The next Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting will be held on December 7, 2026.
17

18 4. **The Next CWC Board Meeting will be on January 4, 2027.**

19
20 It was noted that the next CWC Board Meeting will be held on January 4, 2027.
21

22 **OTHER BUSINESS**

23
24 Commissioner Ciraco shared information about Transit Is Your Trailhead. It is possible to ride
25 the 9 Purple Route in Park City to reach certain trailheads. There were 743 riders this past week.
26

27 **CLOSING**

28
29 1. **Chair Mendenhall will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the CWC Board Meeting.**

30
31 **MOTION:** Emily Gray moved to ADJOURN the CWC Board Meeting. Bill Ciraco seconded
32 the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.
33

34 The CWC Board Meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Board Meeting held Monday, October 5, 2026.*
3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____