MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION ("CWC") STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2026, AT 3:30 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: Kelly Boardman, Chair
Meaghan McKasy, Co-Chair
Dan Zalles
Charlie Luke
Ayja Bounous
Adam Lenkowski
Maura Hahnenberger
Ella Abelli-Amen

Staff: Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations

OPENING

1. Chair Kelly Boardman will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Environment System Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.

Chair Kelly Boardman called the Central Wasatch Commission ("CWC") Stakeholders Council Environment System Committee Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those present.

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

MOTION: Maura Hahnenberger moved to APPROVE the August 11, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Ella Abelli-Amen seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

3. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the September 8, 2026, Meeting.

MOTION: Maura Hahnenberger moved to APPROVE the September 8, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Ella Abelli-Amen seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

VISITOR BEHAVIOR SURVEY WORKSHOP

1. The Committee will Continue Work on a Visitor Behavior Survey.

a. The Committee will Discuss Making Transit-Focused Additions to the Survey.

b. The Committee will Make a List of Organizations to Help with Survey Distribution.

Chair Boardman reported that the Environment System Committee will continue to discuss the Visitor Behavior Survey, which is intended to provide educational trivia. The Committee will discuss whether the Utah Transit Authority ("UTA") should still be involved in distribution. Based on feedback from UTA, the draft survey did not have enough transportation data gathering. As a result, there was uncertainty expressed about assisting with the distribution of the Visitor Behaviour Survey.

Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, clarified that UTA does not necessarily need assistance with data gathering, but wanted there to be a direct tie to transit. UTA felt there should be information in the Visitor Behavior Survey that is directly related to transit or more directly promotes transit use.

Co-Chair Meaghan McKasy stated that the Visitor Behavior Survey is at a crossroads. It seems UTA thought the survey would be predominantly transit-focused. She attended the Recreation System Committee Meeting last month, and there was a discussion about the survey. The Recreation System Committee noted that if the survey remained as drafted, there were many potential avenues for distribution. It was explained that the QR code could be shared during hikes, Oktoberfest, and other events. Co-Chair McKasy explained that it is possible to rewrite the survey so it is more in line with what UTA is looking for, but it is also possible to pursue other distribution opportunities.

Charlie Luke asked if there has been outreach to the Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT"). He noted that UDOT will take over the busing in future years. It would make sense to reach out to them before something is redrafted and tailored to UTA preferences. Chair Boardman asked the Committee if there is a desire to include more transit information or leave the survey as drafted.

Dan Zalles pointed out that it would be possible to have a discussion with the Transportation System Committee about what might make sense to include in the Visitor Behavior Survey. The Transportation System Committee can let them know what might be useful to include in the survey as far as transit education. There could potentially be questions about fares and how often the buses run. However, he noted that the Visitor Behavior Survey is not intended to take too long to complete.

Maura Hahnenberger stated that her initial reaction was to step away from a partnership with UTA and for the survey to remain similar to the latest draft. She likes that the survey is a little bit broader, because it considers all of the different focus areas of the CWC. The current scope makes sense. Ms. Hahnenberger is not certain that adding more transit questions is necessary. That being said, it is possible to further refine the Visitor Behavior Survey to ensure that all information is clear.

Chair Boardman reminded Committee Members that this was initially intended to be a behavior modification style survey that would encourage visitors to make different choices when visiting the Central Wasatch. Including information about transportation options makes sense as far as shifting visitor behaviors. Committee Members can discuss whether the survey should be redrafted. It was

noted that distribution assistance from UTA or UDOT would allow this to reach a wider audience.

Co-Chair McKasy confirmed that the intention has shifted over time. Behavior modification was discussed earlier in the process, but the Visitor Behavior Survey has become knowledge-based trivia. This survey is probably already longer than it should be, because it would take more than five minutes to complete. If there is a desire to add transit questions, other questions will need to be removed. She agreed with the suggestion from Mr. Luke to reach out to UDOT about possible distribution. Co-Chair McKasy requested assistance writing about the volunteer opportunities that are available.

Mr. Zalles explained that there is a desire to have a trivia-based survey that is fun and informative. The information provided could lead to behavior shifts. He does not know that it makes sense to scatter the focus to accommodate UTA. That being said, it is still possible to include a trivia-oriented transit question in the Visitor Behavior Survey. Chair Boardman asked what more UTA would need to support the distribution of the survey. The first few questions focus on how people are arriving in the Central Wasatch and the different options available. From there, the survey shifts to the educational trivia questions. She wanted additional clarification about what UTA is looking for.

Adam Lenkowski asked what would happen if someone started to fill out the Visitor Behavior Survey but did not actually complete the survey. Co-Chair McKasy explained that there is usually incomplete data submitted. Ms. Hahnenberger stated that based on her experience with Google Forms, there is not information received unless someone actually clicks submit. If there is a desire to receive the incomplete data as well, a different software might need to be used. Mr. Zalles asked if the Environment System Committee would need to collect the incomplete data. He pointed out that the intention is to educate visitors. Co-Chair McKasy stressed the importance of the survey being short and succinct. This will increase the likelihood of the survey being completed by respondents.

Ayja Bounous asked if anyone on the Environment System Committee has attempted to complete the survey to see how long it takes. This was denied. Co-Chair McKasy believed the survey would take more than five minutes to complete at this point. Chair Boardman thought it would make sense to trim down the survey so it takes approximately five minutes. Mr. Lenkowski believed the Environment System Committee needs to determine the main goals. There could be one question added that is specific to transit. Alternatively, there could be some optional additional questions.

Chair Boardman reviewed possible action items for the Environment System Committee. The Committee can reach out to UTA for additional information. She wants to better understand what would be needed for UTA to assist with distribution. If it seems that UTA wants the survey to be something entirely different, she would suggest the Committee look into other distribution methods.

Co-Chair McKasy reminded the Committee that there can also be outreach to UDOT. It was noted that Devin Weder from UDOT is likely the appropriate person to contact about the Visitor Behavior Survey. Chair Boardman stated that there can be additional discussions about possible distribution partners. Ms. Bounous reported that she took the survey and timed herself. It only took three and a half minutes to complete. There was discussion about possible partners for the survey, including the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Save Our Canyons, and Friends of Alta. There can be outreach conducted to potential partners once the Visitor Behavior Survey has been finalized.

CWNCRA DISCUSSION

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

2. **The Committee will Identify Ways the Group Expertise Could Support the CWNCRA.**

Chair Boardman reported that the Stakeholders Council Meeting was held on September 2, 2026. During that time, there was a discussion about the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act ("CWNCRA"). Mr. Zalles explained that the CWC is having discussions with different stakeholders about the CWNCRA. If the negotiations are successful, it will be possible for the Stakeholders Council to provide feedback about the CWNCRA once it has been redrafted. In addition, it might be possible for Council Members to assist with the public education efforts.

Ms. Hahnenberger shared comments about the Stakeholders Council Meeting. During the meeting, there were comments about potential points of opposition. For instance, there might be some user groups within the Central Wasatch in opposition to the CWNCRA. The potential opposition points were also discussed during the recent CWC Board Meeting. It is possible for the Environment System Committee to further consider those potential points of opposition. Mr. Luke pointed out that a lot of the more in-depth discussions and negotiations will take place this month. There is uncertainty about some of the details at this point, as a lot will depend on the outcomes of the negotiation process.

Chair Boardman reported that the negotiations involve the Cottonwood Canyons ski resorts. Mr. Luke clarified that the negotiations involve the four ski resorts and Salt Lake City Public Utilities. The main issue has to do with water and whether additional water could be received for snowmaking.

Chair Boardman asked what the Environment System Committee can do to support the CWNCRA. Mr. Lenkowski stated that there needs to be support from the ski resorts or it will be difficult for the CWNCRA to move forward. The ski resorts are interested in increased water rights for snowmaking as well as the right to expand onto private land. It is difficult to envision the ski resorts supporting legislation that does not satisfy those desires. As for the role of the Stakeholders Council and Environment System Committee, there is not much that can be done at this time. He believed the role of the Stakeholders Council in the future will be to spread the word about the CWNCRA.

Ms. Kilpack confirmed that there will be a focus on education once there is a bill to promote. After the last meeting, she sent out the CWNCRA feedback form. It is still open, so Committee Members with questions or concerns about the CWNCRA can submit comments through the feedback form.

Chair Boardman asked about a potential timeline for the CWNCRA. Ms. Kilpack reported that the potential timeline would see the redrafted version of the bill released in January. There would also be a public comment period opened at that time. Depending on the feedback received, corrections could be made to the CWNCRA, and then another public comment period would be held. If there is general support for the redrafted version of the CWNCRA, it could be shared with the Legislature.

Ms. Hahnenberger reviewed comments that she heard during the Stakeholders Council Meeting and elsewhere. Some concerns have to do with the impact the CWNCRA could have on bicycles and e-bikes. Another user group that she has heard comments about is climbers. There is a desire to understand whether the CWNCRA will impact bolt replacement. In addition, she has heard comments

about firefighting and fire risk mitigation. There have also been concerns that the bill will not do enough. It is important to consider potential opposition points and the areas of uncertainty that exist.

WATER QUALITY DATA PRESENTATION FOLLOW-UP

1. The Committee will Discuss Takeaways from the Division of Water Quality's Presentation at the September 8, 2026, Meeting.

Chair Boardman reported that there was a presentation about water quality management in the Central Wasatch during the last Environment System Committee Meeting. Sandy Wingert and Jodi Gardberg from the Utah Division of Water Quality shared a lot of useful information with the Committee.

Mr. Zalles reviewed the stream quality map after the Environment System Committee Meeting. It is possible to filter the data by stream and see when the data was collected. In addition, he reviewed the E. coli map that was shared. It would be helpful if the data could be flagged when an issue arises.

Chair Boardman shared the link to Utah Water Watch in the Zoom chat box. There was discussion about different forms of citizen data collection. Chair Boardman noted that the Utah Division of Water Quality has certain times and locations where data is collected. As a result, not all information is being captured. She asked if Committee Members feel there are deficiencies in the data collection.

Ms. Hahnenberger reported that at Salt Lake Community College, there has been some water sample collection in the Cottonwood Canyons. There is some longer-term data as well as shorter-term data. The laboratory analysis is not regulatory grade, but it is possible to do an elemental analysis of water samples. She noted that there are students who are interested in learning different research techniques.

Mr. Zalles expressed support for what is being done at Salt Lake Community College. He noted that it is not necessary to duplicate efforts. It might be useful to take photographs in different locations. Chair Boardman asked if the idea is to have photographs that capture potential erosion, damage to the streams, and areas with pollution. Mr. Zalles explained that it could increase awareness of the habitat.

Chair Boardman shared information about collecting water quality samples in San Diego County as part of her undergraduate work. Different weather conditions can contribute to contamination, so she was able to collect data at times when she thought the water would be the most polluted and at times when she thought the water would be the cleanest. She asked if there might be locations in the Central Wasatch where this kind of water quality sample collection might be beneficial. Mr. Zalles suggested that the Environment System Committee review the information that is already on the dashboard.

Additional discussions were had about the water quality data that exists. Mr. Zalles reviewed some of the information that is currently available online. Chair Boardman clarified that she is not asking the Environment System Committee to draw conclusions, but when an event is observed, it is important to make sure data is collected. Mr. Zalles does not know whether data is collected according to a pre-determined schedule, but there is a lot of information already available. There could be a discussion with representatives from the Division of Water Quality about weather events.

Ms. Hahnenberger noted that the Environment System Committee would not necessarily scientifically monitor conditions. However, when Committee Members see something concerning that might impact water quality in the Central Wasatch, that can be documented, and a photograph can be shared.

Mr. Lenkowski reported that he reviewed the website and it appears that samples are conducted at the stations once a month. These samples appear to be taken at the beginning of each month. He pointed out that there is likely no funding available to send people out during specific weather events.

MILLCREEK CANYON DISCUSSION

1. The Committee will Share Updates or Raise Topics Related to Millcreek Canyon, as Desired.

Mr. Zalles previously heard that the upper canyon would be open in the spring, but he has since heard that there are delays. He asked if other Committee Members have information to share. Chair Boardman had not heard anything about the Federal Lands Access Program ("FLAP") grant work.

Chair Boardman asked for an update about the pilot shuttle program in Millcreek Canyon. Ms. Kilpack explained that the focus has shifted to the CWNCRA work rather than the pilot shuttle. The last she heard, there was work being done with partners to see what might still be needed for a pilot program. She clarified that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance will run their shuttle in Millcreek Canyon, but it will only run on certain dates. There will not be shuttle service every weekend.

Information about the fuels reduction projects in Millcreek Canyon was shared. Work has been done to create more space between the mature trees in the area. Piles have been built for future burning efforts. There have been some positive comments received about the fuels reduction efforts so far.

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENT

1. The Committee will Vote to Confirm a New Committee Chair.

Ms. Kilpack reported that a member of the Environment System Committee has expressed a willingness to take over the Chair position. Chair Boardman has served in this position for several years. Mr. Luke has now offered to Chair the Environment System Committee. Any others interested in the position are asked to speak, and then a vote to confirm the new Committee Chair can occur.

Mr. Luke introduced himself to the Environment System Committee. He is the Utah State Director for The Wilderness Society and was recently appointed to the CWC Stakeholders Council. He served two terms on the Salt Lake City Council, with two of those years as Chair. As a result, he is familiar with running meetings. If no one else is interested in serving in the Chair position for the Environment System Committee, he is willing to serve. However, he will need to rely on the knowledge of those who have been involved in the Environment System Committee work for a longer period of time.

MOTION: Kelly Boardman moved to APPOINT Charlie Luke as the Chair of the Environment System Committee. Meaghan McKasy seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

1. The Committee will Determine Whether it will Meet Next in October or November.

2. The Committee will Discuss Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.

There was discussion about possible agenda items for the next Environment System Committee Meeting. Chair Boardman noted that work will be done on the Visitor Behavior Survey ahead of the next meeting. There can be outreach to UTA and UDOT about the survey and potential distribution. The intention is to have a more finalized version of the survey ready to review at the next meeting.

Mr. Luke reported that it will be possible to discuss the outcomes of the CWNCRA negotiations at the next Environment System Committee Meeting. Ms. Kilpack noted that while not all of the details will be shared, the high-level outcomes can be discussed by the Environment System Committee.

Chair Boardman asked if there will be a Central Wasatch Symposium held in 2027. Ms. Kilpack confirmed this. She explained that the date of the symposium has not been finalized at this time, but she believes it will be held on January 8, 2027. The Central Wasatch Symposium will be held in Park City in the new PEAK Center. There will be an official announcement shared in the future. Chair Boardman asked what the Committee can do to support the symposium efforts. Ms. Kilpack reported that ideas from Committee Members are welcome. The symposium will have a public lands theme.

Mr. Zalles suggested that at the next Environment System Committee Meeting there be additional discussions about the existing water quality data. There could also be outreach conducted to the Utah Division of Water Quality about outstanding Committee Member questions. Ms. Kilpack does not believe it would be difficult to incorporate the water data that was referred to at the last meeting into the Central Wasatch Dashboard. The addition of that data is likely possible under the existing maintenance contract. Ms. Kilpack noted that there could be future Environment System Committee discussions about how to increase the use of the Central Wasatch Dashboard. Until the use increases, there will not be a significant investment in the dashboard. She shared information about some of the future CWC meetings that are scheduled. There will be a Special CWC Board Meeting held on October 20, 2026. That meeting will directly precede the negotiations that are planned this month.

OTHER ITEMS

The link to the Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium was added to the Zoom chat box. This is a free event, but those interested in attending the symposium need to register ahead of time. The Salt Lake County Watershed Symposium is scheduled to take place on November 17 and 18, 2026.

CLOSING

1. Chair Boardman will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Environment System Committee Meeting.

MOTION: Kelly Boardman moved to ADJOURN the Environment System Committee Meeting. Charlie Luke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The Environment System Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Environment System Committee Meeting held Tuesday, October 13, 2026.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____