

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY,**
2 **JANUARY 7, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL**
3 **CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD**
4 **HEIGHTS, UTAH**
5

6 **Present:** Commissioner Chris McCandless, Commissioner Jackie Biskupski
7 Commissioner Mike Peterson, Commissioner Chris Robinson, Commissioner
8 Harris Sondak, Commissioner Jeff Silvestrini, Commissioner Carlos Braceras,
9 Commissioner Jim Bradley
10

11 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Jesse Dean, Legal Counsel
12 Shane Topham, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen
13

14 **Excused:** Commissioner Andy Beerman
15

16 **A. OPENING**
17

- 18 **i. Commissioner McCandless will conduct the meeting as Chair of the Board of**
19 **Commissioners (“Board”) of the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”).**
20

21 Chair Chris McCandless called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.
22

- 23 **ii. The Commission will Consider Approving the Meeting Minutes of Monday,**
24 **December 3, 2018.**
25

26 **MOTION:** Commissioner Braceras moved to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2018 meeting.
27 The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peterson. The motion passed with the unanimous
28 consent of the Commission.
29

30 **B. PUBLIC COMMENT**
31

32 Greg Schiffman commended Salt Lake City and Mayor Biskupski for their efforts keep toilets in the
33 canyons clean during the federal government shutdown. He requested that she also address the overall
34 need for additional toilets in the watershed. With millions of visitors each year, adequate restroom
35 facilities in the watershed are tremendously important. Salt Lake City’s most recent Watershed
36 Management Plan, conducted in 1999 by then consultant Ralph Becker, states that inadequate or ill-
37 maintained facilities may encourage users to relieve themselves in places that may jeopardize water
38 quality. In an effort to encourage users to use watershed facilities, they were to be available,
39 convenient, and clean; however, numerous studies had shown that they are not available and there is
40 an inadequate number of restroom facilities in the Cottonwood Canyons. Even now, 20 years later,
41 the University of Utah’s Engineering Study identifies toilets, transportation, and trails as issues that
42 are lacking in the watershed.
43

44 Mr. Schiffman reported that as recently as August of 2018, it was reported that there are only six
45 public restroom sites in the canyon and they are located in campsites that require entry fees.
46 Mr. Schiffman stated that it would be helpful for Mayor Biskupski to identify the information Salt
47 Lake City relies on to determine the correct number of restrooms, the placement of those facilities,

1 and the time of year they will be available. Mr. Schiffman referenced agenda item D and suggested
2 that more CWC monies be used for desperately needed infrastructure in the canyons.

3
4 John Anderson asked Chair McCandless to stop censoring the public's free speech in this forum and
5 cheerleading for Ralph Becker. He commented that Snowbird has Ralph Becker in their back pocket
6 with taxpayers footing the bill. Mr. Anderson felt Mr. Becker should be on Snowbird's payroll and
7 was of the belief that Salt Lake City's water regulations are used to extract political donations. He
8 characterized Salt Lake City as a good city with poor management and cited specific examples during
9 the tenures of Rocky Anderson and Ralph Becker. Mr. Anderson commented on the \$8 million
10 Mountain Accord and characterized it as "shady" and in violation of open meeting and open records
11 laws. The Mountain Accord is still in litigation and incurring legal bills caused by Ben McAdams
12 and Ralph Becker. Mr. Anderson described the failings of Ralph Becker and claimed that he has not
13 solved any canyon problems in 20 years. He questioned why today Mr. Becker is making \$10,000
14 per month serving on a commission established by Ben McAdams that the public never wanted. After
15 eight years with the CWC, Ralph Becker will pocket over \$1 million. He considered this to be a
16 waste and claimed that the CWC is about Mr. Becker's legacy to create a new national template to
17 rebrand unpopular wilderness across the west and a new National Recreation and Conservation Area
18 (NRCA) that will have no roads, grazing, or timber harvesting. He considered it dangerous and
19 deceptive.

20
21 Chair McCandless asked Mr. Anderson if he wrote his comments. Mr. Anderson stated that they
22 were given to him. It was noted that this was the fourth time he had expressed his displeasure with
23 the CWC. Chair McCandless commented that Mr. Anderson has been allowed to speak each time
24 and has never been censured. Mr. Anderson did not verify that he wrote the comments expressed but
25 stated that they are his feelings. Chair McCandless pressed Mr. Anderson to disclose who wrote the
26 comments and claimed that he was being used as a conduit to spread misinformation. Similar
27 comments had been expressed previously and Mr. Anderson would be allowed to speak each time he
28 wishes; however, Chair McCandless was bothered by the fact that Mr. Anderson gives information
29 repeatedly that was obviously written by someone else. He felt it was deceitful to the Board for Mr.
30 Anderson to not confirm who wrote the comments. Mr. Anderson stated that he wrote the comments
31 read tonight as well as the comments made at previous meetings.

32
33 P. Robert Augason reported that he reviewed items Jason Chaffetz originally proposed as part of the
34 Mountain Accord such as that the realignment of property listed on the map will be permanent. He
35 noted that Section 2 specifies that the ski resort can modify the map. Section 3 states that "The
36 Secretary shall convey to the ski resort all rights, title, and interest." Section 2b states that "Nothing
37 in this Act shall modify any laws or regulations that require or allow the Secretary to provide the
38 owners of private property within the boundary of the Conservation and Recreation Area access to
39 their property." Section 5c states that "The Secretary may not acquire the property by condemnation."
40 Mr. Augason stated that the Forest Service has been circumventing these requirements since there is
41 a difference between what they say and do. They are clouding private property rights to avoid dealing
42 with them individually or directly. The maps show private property and if approved, the rules and
43 regulations will be imposed on private property owners. Mr. Augason suggested that the maps
44 delineate where there is private property and at least remove it from the map and cherry stem it out.
45 He commented that the Forest Service is trying to cloud private property and take it.

46
47 Summer Cowden commented that volunteers can solve the canyon problems and will never be
48 resolved by those who are paid because not solving the problem means another paycheck. The

1 chronic self-enrichment of those hiding behind the cliché of protecting the canyons will only end
2 when volunteers, who love the canyon more than money, do the work. She reported that Mr. Becker
3 took three weeks off in December and was paid \$10,000. Ms. Cowden reported that the CWC has
4 spent over \$1 million and hired three full-time employees; Ralph Becker, Jesse Dean (who donated
5 to Ralph Becker’s political campaign), and Lindsey Nielsen (who is associated with back country
6 users). Over an eight-year period, Ralph Becker will be paid \$1 million, Jesse Dean will make
7 \$500,000, and Lindsey Nielsen \$500,000. Volunteers will do the work for free and without a financial
8 conflict. Ms. Cowden commented that 100 applicants volunteered to work for free on a CWC
9 Stakeholder Committee. She suggested that the CWC pass a resolution eliminating all paid positions
10 and make all positions volunteer. In addition, she stated that the CWC can operate from a cubicle in
11 another city for free rather than in a new office space.
12

13 Ms. Cowden commented that UDOT and the Forest Service do not need Mr. Becker’s input. She
14 recommended instead that Snowbird hire Mr. Becker to lobby for them. She reported that he flew in
15 Snowbird’s private jet to Europe and was wined and dined at Snowbird’s restaurant and corporate
16 office. She claimed that the homeless were shipped to Davis County, where they were arrested and
17 jailed when the Olympic Committee came to Salt Lake City. She considered this to be shameful and
18 questioned why the City is ashamed of its poor and homeless.
19

20 Chair McCandless stated that as a volunteer, he spends 30 hours per week on the project, which is
21 incredibly difficult. He would be unable to do his job without Mr. Becker, Mr. Dean, and Ms. Nielsen.
22 They do a tremendous amount of work during the regular work week and outside of regular work
23 hours. While he respected Ms. Cowden’s opinion, he disagreed completely.
24

25 Brian Dinkard began to play a recording featuring him and a friend (who he would not identify)
26 speaking. Commissioner Bradley felt it was important for people to identify themselves if they wish
27 to address the Commission. Mr. Dinkard felt that should be the case only if misleading information
28 is being presented. Commissioner Bradley considered it misleading to not disclose who is speaking,
29 which is a courtesy. Commissioner Biskupski was not sure why Brian would try to hide the identity
30 of someone he wants the Board to hear from. Mr. Dinkard offered to come back at a future meeting
31 and deliver the message. Chair McCandless expressed a willingness to sit down with him off the
32 record and listen to the recording.
33

34 Commissioner Silvestrini commented that he serves on the CWC with an open mind and wants to do
35 the right thing for the canyons. He hoped the public understands that if someone is attempting to
36 persuade the Board or if they are doing something other than grandstanding, they need to be honest
37 and identify who is speaking. He was not convinced by ad hominem attacks against staff. He urged
38 the public to choose their issues carefully. If the goal is to change his mind, he suggested the use of
39 effective persuasion.
40

41 Commissioner Braceras was interested in knowing if those on Mr. Dinkard’s recording were aware
42 that they were being recorded and if it was being shared with their permission. Chair McCandless
43 stated that that probably ought to be disclosed. CWC Attorney, Shane Topham, stated that the
44 comments made by the Commissioners were appropriate. The Board has set aside this portion of the
45 meeting to receive public input and he had never before seen an instance involving a recording.
46

47 Mike Maughan stated that over the last two weeks in Little Cottonwood Canyon, transportation issues
48 that exist have been experienced including how they are impacting area municipalities, local

1 residents, and visitors from out of state. On December 27 they found that many visitors and
2 employees of Alta spent 4 to 5 hours traveling down the canyon due to traffic. He left his office at
3 10:30 p.m. and although 90% of the lots were empty, it still took him one hour to travel down the
4 canyon. On many days it took over two hours for motorists to drive down the canyon while other
5 days it took one hour. He was concerned that the creation of an overlay at this point in time may not
6 be the right answer and could potentially eliminate opportunities to address the transportation options
7 and make matters worse. Mr. Maughan clarified that the ski areas in Little Cottonwood Canyon have
8 more capacity today than parking capacity. This is the result of hundreds of cars parking on the
9 shoulder of State Highway 210 creating safety and congestion issues.

10
11 The current Forest Service plan, which is 15 years old and in need of an update, specifies that the
12 desired future condition in the canyon is for parking lots to not exceed levels from the year 2000.
13 Mr. Maughan stated that the current demand at trailheads, such as White Pine, is significantly greater
14 than available parking. Every weekend and holiday, there are more cars parked on the highway than
15 in the trailhead parking lot, which creates safety and congestion issues. UTA bus ridership to Alta
16 has decreased by 75% over the last 10 years. Alta is selling more season passes and providing free
17 ridership on UTA but skiers are still choosing to not use public transportation.

18
19 Mr. Maughan reported that skier visitation numbers to Little Cottonwood Canyon have increased by
20 25% and back country visitation has more than doubled over the past 15 years while the parking and
21 road capacity have remained the same. The Town of Alta is one of the most popular, if not the most
22 popular, entry point for back country skiing along the Wasatch Front, however, there is no Forest
23 Service trailhead parking for the back-country skiing community within the Town of Alta. To access
24 back-country skiing from the Town of Alta, users must pass through private land. It was noted that
25 80% of the land on the north side of Little Cottonwood Canyon between Snowbird and Grizzly Gulch
26 is private.

27
28 Mr. Maughan indicated that a significant number of cars come to Little Cottonwood Canyon each day
29 during the winter months from Park City. He questioned legislation prohibiting connections, such as
30 gondolas or trams, to bring people from Park City rather than have them drive vehicles. It seemed
31 premature to create the NCRA, however, he felt it would be appropriate for legislation to go forward
32 that allows transportation solutions to be developed.

33
34 Brian Hutchinson commented that visitorship over the holidays was interrupted by the archaic
35 transportation system. He commented that one accident can turn a 30-minute trip into one that is
36 many hours long. Any plan that depends on cars is flawed. He suggested a mass transit system be
37 implemented with high capacity vehicles at the front of the line. Mr. Hutchinson suggested that they
38 better manage the traffic situation during massive closures. He pointed out that three years earlier,
39 the Cottonwood Heights Police had cars move to the shoulder to leave the lanes clear for busses. He
40 suggested busses be given priority and efforts be made to improve their popularity.

41
42 Steve VanMaren inquired about the resolution appointing the New Stakeholder Chair and Vice Chair.
43 His recollection was that they were to be appointed for terms ending June 30, 2021. He recalled that
44 the CWC has elected officers with terms ending June 30, 2019. If that were the case, there would be
45 co-terminating officers, which he considered poor planning. Mr. VanMaren was also disappointed
46 that he was unable to access the tonight's meeting packet. Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen
47 stated that the agenda was posted, which is what is legally required. The packet would be posted
48 along with the recording of the meeting and the minutes.

1
2 Caroline Blight identified herself as a professional ski mountaineer and stated that she serves on the
3 Board of the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance. She was curious to hear about the status of the
4 legislation and what to expect at a legislative level going forward. She was concerned after attending
5 a meeting at the Utah State Legislature and hearing some of the rhetoric regarding making plans for
6 land management. She was concerned about State intervention and did not want to see a takeover of
7 federally managed public lands.

8
9 Ms. Blight commented on transportation over the holidays in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons
10 and stated that over the past few years she has been deterred by traffic in Little Cottonwood Canyon.
11 She hoped to see the resorts take more responsibility for the impact in the Canyon and recommended
12 that all-wheel-drive vehicles and snow tires be required. Carpooling should also be encouraged as
13 well as other solutions to ease traffic congestion. She was disappointed to hear that the Forest Service
14 does not have facilities for human-powered recreation in the Town of Alta on the State Highway. She
15 hoped to see a mitigated trailhead in the Town of Alta on Highway 210.

16
17 Chair McCandless reported that currently Alta and Snowbird pay for mass transportation in the
18 amount of \$700,000 per year. The goal was to encourage more people to utilize it.

19
20 There were no further public comments.

21
22 **C. COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

23
24 Chair McCandless thanked Commissioner Biskupski for the work done on restrooms in White Pine.
25 Commissioner Biskupski stated that the City will always ensure that the watershed is protected. They
26 take the responsibility of partnering with the federal government very seriously. They were happy to
27 do the work and she stated that it matters to them as the water provider.

28
29 Patrick Nelson and Marian Rice were recognized for their efforts improving the restrooms.

30
31 Chair McCandless reported that over Memorial Day Weekend, 296 rolls of toilet paper were used in
32 the Donut Falls pit toilets. All recognized the need for sanitary facility work.

33
34 Commissioner Bradley indicated that he received a letter earlier in the day about the Transportation
35 Environmental Impact Study (EIS), which suggested an analysis of the visitor threshold or carrying
36 capacity of the canyon as it applies to the protection of the watershed as an integral part of the EIS.
37 He suggested that be discussed. Chair McCandless stated that in the planning process, that has been
38 one of the issues that have been identified. Commissioner Bradley stated that they also need to study
39 the impacts people have on the environment. He considered that to be an integral part of the whole.

40
41 Commissioner Peterson agreed with Commissioner Silvestrini's comments about personal attacks on
42 staff and the Commission. As a public servant and full-time Mayor, he wants to do the right thing.
43 To him, personal attacks do the opposite of persuading him. He recognized the presence of John
44 Thomas from UDOT and stated that \$100 million is allocated for Little Cottonwood Canyon. He
45 urged all to get involved and attend Open Houses and share their thoughts as they try to influence
46 UDOT to meet the expectations of the community and visitors to address traffic concerns. The Board
47 has expanded its membership to ensure that there is a broad base of experience and interests. He was
48 impressed by the attitudes of those he has met with thus far on the issues. When they looked at hiring

1 staff, they did their due diligence and went through a vetting process to hire the best people to meet
2 the expectations of the Commission.

3
4 Commissioner Braceras had the opportunity over the past two weeks to spend time in the canyons.
5 He experienced traffic problems from the back-country skiing perspective and while visiting the
6 resorts. Earlier in the day, he met with the Region 2 Director and the Deputy Director of Operations
7 to help them understand the situation. It was difficult to see how quickly changes occur in the
8 canyons. UDOT was committed to doing their best to resolve the situation and have funds available
9 to develop solutions. The process of how they reach those solutions will be critical. He pointed out
10 that UDOT staff spends countless hours trying to make the canyons safe and accessible.

11
12 **D. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE**
13 **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT FOR THE CWC’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

- 14
15 i. **Consideration of RESOLUTION 2019-01 Approving Amendment No. 1 to the**
16 **“Employment Agreement” between the CWC and Ralph Becker.**

17
18 **MOTION:** Commissioner McCandless moved to table the above item to the February meeting at
19 which time a closed meeting should be scheduled to discuss the details. Commissioner Bradley
20 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Commission.

21
22 **E. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF STAKEHOLDER**
23 **COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.**

- 24
25 i. **Consideration of RESOLUTION 2019-02 Approving Greg Summerhays and**
26 **Chair and Kelly Bricker as Vice Chair of the CWC’s Stakeholder Council for**
27 **Two-Year Terms Expiring June 30, 2021, or Until their Successors are**
28 **Appointed.**

29
30 Deputy Director Jesse Dean reported that after speaking with many of the newly appointed
31 Stakeholder Council members and some board members, the determination was made to put forth
32 Greg Summerhays as Chair of the Stakeholder Council. He currently serves as the Sandy City’s
33 Chamber of Commerce President and CEO. It was suggested that Dr. Kelly Bricker be appointed to
34 serve as Vice Chair. Dr. Bricker serves as the Department Chair for the Parks and Recreation
35 Department at the University of Utah. Both would serve two-year terms ending June 30, 2021.

36
37 Mr. Topham indicated that the appointments are under the Central Wasatch Commission Interlocal
38 Agreement and are made by the Board. Procedural issues were discussed. Mr. Dean stated that they
39 looked at the overall membership of the Stakeholder Council, which was ratified at the December
40 meeting. The group is broad in terms of representation and their goal was to find a Chair and Vice
41 Chair who did not have a specific agenda.

42
43 Commissioner Robinson noted that Dr. Kelly Bricker was one of the parties identified in the proposed
44 capacity study. Were they to proceed with the study, he asked if it would constitute a conflict for
45 Dr. Bricker to be involved in both. He questioned whether the Stakeholder Council could instead
46 convene and have the members solicit nominations to be recommended to the Board. Executive
47 Director, Ralph Becker, stated that they were relying on language in the Interlocal Agreement
48 pertaining to the makeup of the Stakeholder Council, how they are to operate, and the way the Chair

1 and Vice Chair are to be selected. When the Stakeholder Council convenes, someone needs to
2 facilitate those efforts. The conclusion was to not have someone from the conservation or ski area
3 community appointed to avoid the perception of a natural conflict. That narrowed the potential list
4 down to a handful of people.

5
6 Chair McCandless suggested that the Stakeholder Council file a resolution ratifying the Chair and
7 Vice Chair. The intent was to ensure that the members of the Stakeholder Council feel like they have
8 input.

9
10 Commissioner Sondak mentioned that having a stake in the selection of the Chair and Vice Chair will
11 make the jobs of the Stakeholder Council Members easier and they will be more committed.

12
13 Commissioner Silvestrini addressed an issue raised previously about the possibility of staggering
14 terms. Under the circumstances, he did not think it was necessary or advisable to have terms expire
15 at the same time. He agreed that the Stakeholder Council should have some say in who is going to
16 lead them.

17
18 Commissioner Robison preferred that nominations come from the Stakeholder Council. The Board
19 could choose to put forth the two names and ask for ratification or the nomination of others.

20
21 **MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved that at the first meeting of the Stakeholder Council, the
22 Council be informed that staff was recommending the appointment of Greg Summerhays as Chair
23 and Dr. Kelly Bricker as Vice Chair. Before appointing such persons, the Board would like the
24 Stakeholder Council to ratify the two names or nominate others for consideration. Commissioner
25 Silvestrini seconded the motion.

26
27 Commissioner Sondak commented that it might be useful to give the Stakeholder Council guidance.
28 Mr. Dean agreed to do so.

29
30 Commissioner Silvestrini supported the motion and felt it was important that that the Stakeholder
31 Council have some say with respect to leadership. The message he would send to the Stakeholder
32 Council in considering what they are proposing is that he values the fact that staff has selected
33 individuals who are not aligned with any specific interest. He commended staff for making their
34 selections on that basis.

35
36 Vote on motion: Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Commissioner Braceras-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-
37 Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye. The
38 motion passed unanimously.

39
40 Chair McCandless referenced Mr. VanMaren's suggestion and recommended the Board consider
41 altering the terms.

1 **F. DISCUSSION AND ADOPTION OF 2019 STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL MEETING**
2 **SCHEDULE.**

3
4 **i. Consideration of RESOLUTION 2019-03 Approving a Regular Meeting**
5 **Schedule for the CWC Stakeholder Council for 2019.**
6

7 Mr. Dean reported that staff's intent was to propose a regular meeting schedule with meetings to be
8 held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The January meeting was scheduled for the 17th, which is a
9 Thursday, after which time they will meet the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to
10 6:00 p.m. Salt Lake County has offered to provide space for the meetings. Staff had a difficult time
11 finding a space that would accommodate a 35-member group and did not want to continue to impose
12 on Mayor Peterson. Commissioner Peterson stated that if it becomes a problem, there is a large multi-
13 purpose room available. Commissioner Braceras stated that UDOT has several large conference
14 rooms that would also be available.
15

16 Mr. Dean stated that all Stakeholder Council meetings will be held in Room S1120 of the Salt Lake
17 County Government Complex located at 2001 South State Street. The meetings will be public and
18 properly noticed and recorded. Until a Chair and Vice Chair are selected, Mr. Becker will conduct
19 the meetings.
20

21 Commissioner Robinson asked if the intent was for any of the Board Members to attend the
22 Stakeholder Council Meetings. Mr. Dean responded that they were cognizant about it being a citizen-
23 led group. Commissioner Robinson indicated that he would likely not be able to attend any of the
24 meetings. Chair McCandless did not anticipate attending because he did not think the Board should
25 try to influence any particular issues.
26

27 Commissioner Bradley pointed out that much can be learned by listening in on a robust discussion.
28 He personally saw value in being present. Mr. Dean stated that the intent was for the Chair and Vice
29 Chair to present monthly updates to the CWC on the work of the Stakeholder Council. He wanted to
30 maintain the right to attend meetings and listen from the audience.
31

32 **MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt Resolution 2019-03, approving a regular
33 meeting schedule for the CWC Stakeholder Council for 2019. Commissioner Braceras seconded the
34 motion. Vote on motion: Commissioner Sondak-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Commissioner
35 Braceras-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye,
36 Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.
37

38 **G. DISCUSSION OF DECEMBER MEETING OF THE COMMISSION FOR THE**
39 **STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS AND THE UPCOMING GENERAL SESSION**
40 **OF THE UTAH LEGISLATURE.**
41

42 Mr. Dean reported that the CWC was asked to attend and make a presentation at a December 19th
43 Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands meeting, which is a State legislative sub-committee
44 body specifically tasked with looking at federal land and its use in the State of Utah. The CWC was
45 asked to discuss the CWNCRRA legislation and other CWC initiatives at the meeting. Mr. Dean and
46 Chair McCandless were present representing the CWC and addressed questions and concerns from
47 the Commission. The State Stewardship Commission informed the CWC of the legislative intentions
48 to run State legislation. Representative Stratton, Chair of the Commission, moved to open a bill file

1 that would take the proposed verbiage in the CWNCRA, and amend the legislation to require State
2 legislative approval of watershed management, Brighton’s progress toward becoming a city, fire
3 utility, hunting, fishing, water, private property rights, creation of a management plan as part of the
4 bill, and adapted fire management.

5
6 The Commission also acted to reopen HB-136, which is a federal designation that would require
7 governmental entity(s) that are advocating for a federal designation within the State to bring the
8 proposal to the Natural Resources Agricultural and Environmental Interim Committee for feedback
9 prior to moving forward.

10
11 Chair McCandless stated that the meeting was very long but Mr. Dean did an excellent job of
12 representing the vision of the CWC. Representative Coleman, not speaking as a member of the
13 Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands, felt it was appropriate to make comments relating
14 to CWC activities. She described the CWC’s actions as “criminal” and stated that they should be
15 investigated and are operating illegally. Chair McCandless felt that his integrity was threatened.
16 After the meeting, there as an outpouring of support for the CWC and ultimately the Commission
17 voted to move forward. A letter was drafted letting Representative Coleman know specifically about
18 the mission of CWC and that her comments were inappropriate. He asked that the letter be adopted
19 and signed by each member of the Board. Chair McCandless commented that it was very difficult to
20 hear comments made that were unquestionably fault and described it as one of the most difficult
21 meetings he has ever attended.

22
23 Chair McCandless suggested the CWC seek Senate and House support and eventually support from
24 the governor and propose they sign a concurrent joint resolution supporting the work of the CWC.
25 Chair McCandless stated that it may be necessary to hire outside help. Senate President Niederhauser
26 also agreed to endeavor to advance the CWC’s interests in his capacity as a member of the senate.

27
28 Mr. Becker gave insight on the meeting and stated that some who were present had a problem with
29 the pursuit and wanted to superimpose the view of specific legislators with regard to the work done
30 over the past several years. Interest was also expressed in pursuing State legislation that would
31 involve the State performing as though they were the owners of the federal lands. That was above
32 and beyond the role of the CWC. He noted that it is an issue of great local interest and concern and
33 is being pursued locally and by State interests. Their Congressional delegation has also taken the
34 matter up. Mr. Becker suggested the CWC be prepared to represent themselves well and the 1.3
35 million people represented by the CWC before the Legislature this year. He noted that there are eight
36 jurisdictions in the State that are involved and all have representation and can work with the Board to
37 come up with a strategy and approach based on what the Legislature decides to pursue. He invited
38 the Board Members to keep the public informed about what is proposed and the consequences.

39
40 Chair McCandless stated that the challenge is that the State Legislative session begins in the next few
41 weeks so they need to be aggressive and move quickly. He felt that the letter would carry more weight
42 if signed by the Board Members. Commissioner Braceras stressed the importance of tone in terms of
43 how the message is conveyed. He commended Chair McCandless for the composure he showed and
44 for being accurate in his responses.

45
46 Commissioner Robinson listened to the recording from the meeting and concluded that there was a
47 great deal of misinformation given and little opportunity to discuss the facts. He offered to meet with
48 the leaders of the commission in an effort to make sure they have the correct facts.

1
2 Chair McCandless asked that the Board members review the letter and return it with their comments.
3 The goal was to send it out by the end of the week. He suggested the Executive Committee meet and
4 discuss how they can better utilize members and potentially hire outside help to assist with the
5 legislative session.

6
7 Commissioner Peterson suggested that before expending any more funds that the Executive
8 Committee look at available assistance that already exists among all municipalities in the County.

9
10 **MOTION:** Commissioner Peterson moved that the draft letter be circulated among the Commission,
11 vetted, and modified as necessary. Once there is agreement that it should be signed and submitted,
12 the Executive Committee should meet and draw up a plan of action on how to propose State
13 involvement that will allow them to accomplish their mission.

14
15 Mr. Topham reminded the Board that the matter was not noticed for action.

16
17 Commissioner Silvestrini was not prepared to agree to hire a lobbyist at this time. He would likely
18 support the letter but wanted to read it first.

19
20 Commissioner Peterson withdrew his motion.

21
22 Commissioner Braceras stated that a straw poll vote of the Board does not commit them to sign the
23 letter. Procedural issues were discussed. Chair McCandless wanted all of the Board members to feel
24 comfortable with and sign the letter with the exception of Commissioner Braceras who would be put
25 in a difficult position by signing.

26
27 **H. DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON THE BRENDLE GROUP CONSULTING**
28 **AGREEMENT TO UPDATE THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE ONLINE**
29 **ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD.**

30
31 **i. Consideration of RESOLUTION 2019-04 Approving an Amendment to the**
32 **CWC's Consulting Agreement with The Brendle Group to Update the Scope of**
33 **Services for Development of an Online Environmental Dashboard.**
34

35 Ms. Nielsen reported that they were nearly ready to resume work on the environmental dashboard.
36 She noted that numerous changes have taken place internally. The proposed resolution was a
37 continuation from the December meeting. Over the past month, she spent time bringing the new Utah
38 representatives up to speed. They will be in Utah on January 16 at which time some of the
39 environmental dashboard stakeholders and steering committee will meet with CWC staff who will
40 gauge the commitment to moving the environmental dashboard to an online dashboard. From there
41 they will begin work with the Brendle Group. Ms. Nielsen explained that the contract amendment
42 that Brendle wrote contains work that is necessary to move the dashboard from a written report to an
43 online portal. That work was contingent upon the commitment to the project. She anticipated moving
44 forward after the January 16 meeting.

45
46 Commissioner Sondak asked about the cost. Mr. Dean stated that \$60,000 is budgeted and part of
47 the process involved finalizing the cost. Those numbers would be added prior to adopting the
48 proposed scope of work. Mr. Becker explained that Esri is the software program that most

1 jurisdictions use for GIS mapping. They offered to provide their services relating to the Central
2 Wasatch Mountains on a pro bono basis. Ms. Nielsen had been sorting out what Esri can and will do
3 given the changes that have occurred and the time that has elapsed. Ultimately, Esri will make a six-
4 figure contribution to the CWC. The resolution will not create new costs and involves utilizing funds
5 that have already been budgeted.

6
7 Commissioner Sondak noted that on January 24 the first meeting of the CWC's Budget Committee
8 is scheduled. He did not want to spend money before that date that has not already been budgeted.

9
10 Ms. Nielsen recommended that the matter be continued to the February meeting.

11
12 **MOTION:** Commissioner Bradley moved to continue consideration of Resolution 2019-04 to the
13 February meeting and approve an amendment to the Consolidated Agreement with the Brendle Group
14 to update the scope of work for the online environmental dashboard.

15
16 Commissioner Bradley commented on the critical nature of the environmental dashboard.

17
18 Commissioner Braceras seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Commissioner Bradley-Aye,
19 Commissioner Sondak-Aye, Commissioner Braceras-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-Aye, Chair
20 McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye. The motion passed
21 unanimously.

22
23 **I. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ADOPTION AT A FUTURE MEETING OF A**
24 **FORMAL EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO BOB BONAR.**

25
26 Chair McCandless reported that Bob Bonar recently retired from Snowbird. In honor of his
27 achievements, Chair McCandless suggested that a framed Expression of Appreciation resolution be
28 sent to Mr. Bonar on behalf of the CWC.

29
30 Commissioner Robinson reported that Bob Wheaton also recently stepped aside after many decades
31 as the head of Deer Valley. He thought it may be appropriate to also honor Mr. Wheaton. Chair
32 McCandless agreed and asked staff to bring the matter back for discussion at the February meeting
33 for ratification and a vote.

34
35 **J. STAFF MONTHLY REPORT**

36
37 **i. Presentation by Executive Director Ralph Becker of his Monthly Report.**

38
39 Mr. Becker reported that staff moved out of their offices in December and are using free space to save
40 money while they work on the buildout of their newly leased space. Chair McCandless had been
41 working with the landlord on sorting out costs that should be allocated to the Commission. They will
42 be locating next to the Wasatch Front Regional Council with whom they share many common
43 approaches.

44
45 Mr. Becker noted that during the recent retreat, Commissioner Braceras offered to have the Board co-
46 lead a Corridor Transportation Action Plan that builds on the work of the Little Cottonwood Canyon
47 EIS and has a parallel effort to look at Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons and Millcreek,
48 transportation solutions beyond the Little Cottonwood Canyon corridor, and ancillary elements that

1 relate to Big Cottonwood Canyon. They will also look medium and longer term at solutions in the
2 canyons. They have had a great working relationship with John Thomas and Commissioner Braceras
3 and have met with them and their consultants to work out time frames and responsibilities going
4 forward. It was noted that UDOT has identified a \$1.5 million budget. Given the amount of staff
5 time required, there will be an allocation of \$50,000 periodically to help cover staff costs.

6
7 Commissioner Peterson commented on efforts to move forward with canyon planning and asked for
8 clarity with regard to the action steps. Mr. Becker stated that at a staff level they have been working
9 on the scope and consultant participation. Mr. Dean stated that a technical advisory group will be
10 formed for each of the Commission jurisdictions and staff will rely on their technical expertise.
11 Mr. Becker stated that they see it being a major piece of the work of the Stakeholder Council.

12
13 **K. ADJOURNMENT**

14
15 **MOTION:** Commissioner Braceras moved to adjourn. The motion passed with the unanimous
16 consent of the Board.

17
18 The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Meeting held Monday, January 7, 2019.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____