

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY,**  
2 **MARCH 4, 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 (via telephone),  
8 Commissioner Harris Sondak, Commissioner Jeff Silvestrini, Commissioner  
9 Andy Beerman, Commissioner Jenny Wilson, Commissioner Jim Bradley,  
10 Commissioner Carlos Braceras  
11

12 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Jesse Dean, Legal Counsel  
13 Shane Topham, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen  
14

15 **A. OPENING**  
16

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

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

22 It was recommended that the discussion and presentation by Alta Ski Area be placed at the end of the  
23 agenda after agenda item M. To that end, Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Legal Counsel  
24 Shane Topham suggested that agenda items F and G be moved until after agenda item L.  
25

26 **MOTION:** Commissioner Peterson moved to suspend the rules and move agenda items F and G to  
27 the end of the agenda, after agenda item L. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Beerman.  
28 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.  
29

- 30 **ii. The Commission will Consider Approving the Meeting Minutes of Monday,**  
31 **February 4, 2019.**  
32

33 The minutes were reviewed and modified.  
34

35 **MOTION:** Commissioner Beerman moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2019 Central  
36 Wasatch Commission Meeting, as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Peterson.  
37 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.  
38

39 **B. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
40

41 Chair McCandless asked that Eric Balkin, Kyle Maynard, and Will McCarvill to hold their comments  
42 until after the Alta Ski Lifts presentation.  
43

44 Paul Godot asked if the Board would be amenable to citizens presenting a plan to alleviate traffic in  
45 the canyon and if so, whether they would hire experts to provide additional information and ultimately  
46 take it to the Governor or the Legislature. Chair McCandless stated that they would. In fact, later in  
47 the meeting the Board would be hearing from Todd Young who would present his ideas on mass  
48 transportation solutions. From a transportation solution perspective, the CWC is a consulting body.

1 The Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) will ultimately have the final say. Chair  
2 McCandless reported that presently the CWC has 154 pages of comments and all have been taken  
3 into consideration. They can also be found online and on the Central Wasatch Commission’s website.  
4

5 Commissioner Bradley stated that if it was Mr. Godot’s intention was to do a lot of work and draw  
6 resources into what is presented, it might be helpful to talk to Deputy Director Jesse Dean to get a  
7 broad understanding of what would be useful. Mr. Godot’s intent was to present a few bullet points  
8 and a brief outline. He recognized it would not be a simple solution.  
9

10 Mark Polish reported that he has lived in the Granite Community for over 20 years and has been  
11 skiing in the canyons since the 1960s. He read a recent article that reported that Utah ranks number  
12 one for population growth. This year alone they will add 400,000 people or the equivalent of two  
13 cities the size of Salt Lake City to the valley. He recalled that on January 12, 1997, an avalanche shut  
14 down the road and 4,000 people were trapped at Alta and Snowbird. Mr. Polish’s wife and two  
15 children were in the car and the vehicles in front of and behind them were thrown off the road. He  
16 works in the avalanche industry as an EMT and his passion is the safety of people travelling in the  
17 canyon. He urged the CWC to help solve the problem. Chair McCandless stated that the Commission  
18 is doing their best with the resources they have. He noted that transportation is of highest importance.  
19

20 John Knoblock stated that the CWC was envisioned during the Mountain Accord as a body that could  
21 coordinate actions to solve problems. He was optimistic that the CWC can be a force for good.  
22 Currently, the problems are beyond any one agency. He stated that the Central Wasatch National  
23 Conservation Recreation Area (“CWNCRA”) and the UDOT Environmental Impact Statement  
24 (“EIS”) are two venues for solving problems. The hope was that they could all work together to solve  
25 the specific problems that exist. Chair McCandless thanked Mr. Knoblock for his service on the  
26 Stakeholders Council.  
27

28 Greg Schiffman reported that he lives in the Granite community next to Granite Park. He also serves  
29 as Vice Chair of the Granite Community Council. Alta’s request to focus on transportation solutions  
30 in the Wasatch is consistent with the Granite Community Council’s focus. Prior to seeking any  
31 federal designation, he asked that transportation, trails, and toilets be addressed. He also asked for  
32 support of a process for back country land purchases with buyers and sellers. There should be  
33 compliance with State Statute 63J-8-106 before any more logging and resources are spent to promote  
34 any federal designation or more towns are removed from the federal designation and boundaries.  
35 Efforts to skirt these issues had proven to be an extreme miscalculation. Mr. Schiffman thought it  
36 was wise to anticipate additional requests in both of the canyon areas for at least one or more  
37 townships.  
38

39 Executive Director Ralph Becker stated that the resolution calls for legislative review and  
40 consultation. During the Mountain Accord and CWC processes, the Legislature and the Governor  
41 were directly involved in the recommendation including proposals for a designation that was referred  
42 to. They have met regularly with legislators and there was broad support for the resolution from  
43 Senator Cullimore this legislative session. Procedural issues were discussed.  
44

45 Cyle Buxton reported that he has served on the Big Cottonwood Canyon Community Council for 25  
46 years. He expressed his love for the canyon and appreciated those on the board who are serving  
47 without pay. As a result, he expected them to take a more personal interest in the canyon. He  
48 commented that the CWC has three staff members who are being paid to further Ben McAdams’

1 personal agenda. Chair McCandless asked Mr. Buxton to present new information. Mr. Buxton  
2 reported that 79,000 acres are to be designated as wilderness, which he considered wrong. He  
3 contended that Washington, D.C. cannot take care of the canyons like local residents and he asked  
4 that staff donate their services. Chair McCandless stated that staff cannot be expected to work a  
5 significant number of hours without pay. He thanked Mr. Buxton for his work in the canyons.

6  
7 Tolford Young commented on the makeup of the CWC and noticed there is no specific member  
8 representing the Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”). That led him to believe that perhaps UTA should  
9 be a division of UDOT. He suggested a mass transit solution for Little Cottonwood Canyon involving  
10 a gondola, which would expedite passenger traffic up and down the canyon and reduce the number  
11 of privately owned vehicles. He urged the Board to consider it as an option.

12  
13 There were no further public comments. The public comment period was closed.

14  
15 **C. SEATING OF NEW COMMISSIONER**

16  
17 **i. Consideration of RESOLUTION 2019-11 Approving a New Member**  
18 **Commissioner, Salt Lake County Mayor Jennifer Wilson, Representing the**  
19 **Interests of Salt Lake County.**

20  
21 **ii. Seating of New Commissioner Jennifer Wilson.**

22  
23 Commissioner Biskupski welcomed Mayor Wilson to the Board. She looked forward to working  
24 with her.

25  
26 Chair McCandless reported that he worked with Mayor Wilson on the Jordan River Commission and  
27 looked forward to serving with her again. Commissioner Wilson was pleased to be involved.

28  
29 **MOTION:** Commissioner Silvestrini moved that the Commission adopt Resolution 2019-11  
30 approving Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson as a New Commission Member. The motion was  
31 seconded by Commissioner Biskupski. Vote on motion: Commissioner Braceras-Aye,  
32 Commissioner Sondak-Aye, Commissioner Biskupski-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner  
33 Peterson-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye, Commissioner Beerman-  
34 Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

35  
36 **D. COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

37  
38 Chair McCandless reported that Brian Hutchinson provided information on a tour the Wasatch  
39 Backcountry Alliance is giving the following Saturday. The CWC Board and staff were invited to  
40 participate. Those interested were asked to contact staff.

41  
42 **E. STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR COMMENT**

43  
44 Mr. Becker reported on the most recent Stakeholders Council Meeting. Mr. Topham gave advice and  
45 action was taken on the rules of procedure. There was also discussion about alternates. A good  
46 portion of the meeting involved transportation issues. Mr. Becker stated that they will be using a tool  
47 that has been developed and used successfully by UDOT to help facilitate and track the decision-  
48 making of all members and make the process more efficient. The following month they will address

1 transportation, recreation, economic development, and sustainability issues with the Council. He  
2 noted that the 35-member Stakeholders Council is diverse. Meetings are held in Millcreek City Hall  
3 the third Wednesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

4  
5 **F. CWC QUARTERLY BUDGET UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

6  
7 **i. Presentation by Dave Sanderson Concerning the CWC’s FY 2019 Second**  
8 **Quarter Financial report and FY 2018/2019 Budget Comparison.**

9  
10 Dave Sanderson from Sanderson Accounting presented the Quarterly Financial Report. He noted that  
11 there had been no dramatic changes throughout the quarter and the CWC was on budget. They were  
12 slightly high in terms of the legal budget but would make an adjustment.

13  
14 **G. CWC BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

15  
16 **i. Commissioner Robinson will Lead a Discussion on the Initial CWC Budget**  
17 **Committee Meeting and Circulated Proposal for 2019 Member Jurisdiction**  
18 **Contributions.**

19  
20 Commissioner Robinson reported that the Budget Committee met about one month earlier and each  
21 of the constituent members was being asked to ask their governing bodies to consider whether to  
22 contribute the same amount again this coming fiscal year that was part of the original Interlocal  
23 Agreement with Mountain Accord. For three years they committed to funding the Mountain Accord,  
24 which was later assigned to the Central Wasatch Commission. The thinking was that it will likely  
25 take one year to develop alternative funding sources. In the meantime, they believe it would be best  
26 to continue at the same rate. A spreadsheet was provided showing the amount that would be generated  
27 as \$840,000 assuming that Millcreek City contributes \$75,000. Commissioner Robinson indicated  
28 that approximately \$500,000 is needed annually for operations. This would allow an additional  
29 \$340,000 to be spent on projects.

30  
31 Commissioner Silvestrini remarked that they looked at the population of the cities in Salt Lake County  
32 and they fit in with that number at that level.

33  
34 Commissioner Beerman indicated that Park City had found great value in participating and he agreed  
35 to present the numbers to his council. He, however, expected them to inquire as to why Park City is  
36 paying a higher rate than more appropriate peers such as Cottonwood Heights, Millcreek, or Summit  
37 County.

38  
39 Commissioner Wilson wondered whether based on the reduction due to Millcreek’s incorporation, if  
40 Salt Lake County might see a corresponding decrease.

41  
42 Commissioner Silvestrini commented that the number was derived based on where Millcreek fits in  
43 with respect to contributions made by others in the valley.

44  
45 Commissioner Sondak stated that on a per capita basis the numbers vary significantly. His  
46 recollection was that they were operating based on what each entity paid in the past.

1 Commissioner Biskupski thought it would be in the best interest of everyone to create a formula.  
2 Commissioner Beerman agreed and asked for justification behind the calculations. Chair McCandless  
3 suggested Park City contribute \$50,000, which is more proportional to population, land mass, and  
4 impact. He envisioned it as being a one-year budget and recommended they come up with a more  
5 sustainable number as well as additional resources that can be utilized. For this year, he was prepared  
6 to approach the Sandy City Council and seek a \$100,000 contribution.  
7

8 Commissioner Peterson supported the idea of creating criteria for a contribution amount but suggested  
9 that a committee be formed and asked to come back with a recommendation and choices on various  
10 criteria. He was amenable to asking the previously appointed Budget Committee to evaluate the input  
11 from the Commission as a whole and come up with a plan to be presented at the next meeting.  
12 Commissioner Robinson stated that the intent was to structure it so that it is for fiscal year 2019/2020.  
13 The Budget Committee attempted to come up with a formula but realized that it is difficult to base  
14 the calculation on acreage and population. He questioned whether a simple formula could be created.  
15 Chair McCandless suggested that the board members mention the recommended amount to their city  
16 and county councils at the next available meeting and come back with a recommended amount at the  
17 next meeting.  
18

19 Mr. Becker reported that the committee met and attempted to determine a formula and found that it  
20 would take some time due to the complicated nature of the situation. Cities are currently in their  
21 budget cycle which allows them to adopt a budget based on prior commitments. The time between  
22 now and next fiscal year they can prepare a recommendation for budgeting by cities and counties that  
23 reflects a well-conceived formula.  
24

25 Commissioner Robinson commented that it would be helpful for staff to attend the committee meeting  
26 scheduled for March 12 with a recommended formula. He was not sure that the committee would be  
27 able to come up with a formula in one meeting. Commissioner Silvestrini stated that when they  
28 discussed it as a Budget Committee they began with the premise that the entities contributed a specific  
29 amount in the past. He questioned whether they would be willing to continue doing that.  
30 Fundamentally it comes down to a value proposition and the worth to the various entities.  
31

32 Commissioner Biskupski agreed to go back to the council to get approval but had some concern about  
33 the budget and fees they are being asked to pay. She wanted to explore how the CWC will generate  
34 enough revenue moving forward to meet the demands of the present budget. It seemed to her that  
35 they are running a deficit. Mr. Becker referred to the budget and stated that the Commission is  
36 operating well in the black. For the foreseeable future, the Commission is in a very strong position  
37 based on past and projected expenditures. The Budget Committee looked at the base budget numbers  
38 and what additional items would be needed to fulfill the Commission's responsibilities. There was  
39 no concern, based on the financial condition of the Commission, over the next year and beyond.  
40 Commissioner Biskupski stated that between potential contributions and what is in the bank, is the  
41 extent of the available revenues. She expected what is available to last for one year.  
42

43 Commissioner Braceras referred to the budget for fiscal year 2019 and stated that if they were to  
44 remove the projects \$445,620 would be required to operate and maintain the CWC. Before  
45 contributions are discussed, he suggested a determination be made of what they are budgeting to. At  
46 that point, a decision could be made about how to move forward with the contributions.  
47

1 Mr. Becker reported that the Commission identified several items that have been committed to and  
2 that they want to pursue. The intent of the Budget Committee was to take advantage of the fact that  
3 cities are in the midst of the budgeting process and put forward the amounts contributed in the past.

4  
5 Commissioner Braceras preferred to look at the situation from a base budget operating perspective  
6 and then grant approvals on a project basis. He understood the position they are in but wanted to be  
7 clear about the end goal.

8  
9 Commissioner Robinson suggested that they take the spreadsheet back to their membership and  
10 determine if they would agree to pay the previous amount. If not, they could discuss what they would  
11 be willing to do. Baseline costs were roughly \$500,000. Anything in addition to that would go toward  
12 special projects.

13  
14 Commissioner Wilson was generally comfortable with the amount and continuing the additional  
15 \$200,000 contribution this year. When considering the effort involved in creating the CWC, each  
16 entity could have contributed resources. The focus was on transportation solutions, which requires  
17 additional revenue sources. She felt it was critical to establish a baseline. The associated cost will  
18 have to continue. The intent would be to leverage other resources that will need to be identified. She  
19 supported keeping the status quo for the next year recognizing that in 2020 they should be prepared  
20 to leverage additional resources.

21  
22 Commissioner Peterson suggested there be discretionary funds included in the budget to pursue small-  
23 scale projects.

24  
25 **MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved that the Commissioners make a formal request to their  
26 respective councils to make a 2019-2020 contribution to the Central Wasatch Commission in the  
27 amount shown and do so in the next three weeks and return and report by email so that the result is  
28 known in advance of the April meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Silvestrini.

29  
30 In response to a question raised, Chair McCandless asked that Commissioner Beerman seek the  
31 specified \$100,000 and if not accepted, present what they are willing to contribute. Commissioner  
32 Beerman stated that this puts him in an awkward position. He indicated that he would need to provide  
33 justification when approaching the council. Chair McCandless agreed.

34  
35 Vote on motion: Commissioner Braceras-Aye, Commissioner Wilson-Aye, Commissioner Sondak-  
36 Aye, Commissioner Biskupski-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-Aye,  
37 Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye, Commissioner Beerman-Aye,  
38 Commissioner Robinson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

39  
40 **H. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING LIVE AND ARCHIVED AUDIO**  
41 **STREAMING SERVICES FOR CWC COMMISSION MEETINGS**

- 42  
43 **i. CWC Staff Will Present an Overview and Provide Recommendations for Live**  
44 **Audio Streaming Capabilities at Future CWC Public Meetings.**  
45

1           **ii. Commission Discussion and Consideration of Approving Staff Recommendations**  
2           **to Implement Live Streaming Platform.**

3  
4       Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen presented four quotes obtained for a live audio streaming  
5       service. Interest had been expressed by the public who were interested in utilizing audio streaming  
6       when they are unable to be present in person. Her recommendation was JCG Technologies be selected  
7       as the service provider. The fee includes training, software setup, and ongoing maintenance. JCG  
8       has the capability of providing both audio and video, which would increase the cost significantly.  
9       Presently only audio streaming was envisioned.

10  
11       The details of what would be included were described. In response to a question raised by  
12       Commissioner Biskupski, Mr. Dean stated that currently, the Stakeholders Council adheres to Open  
13       and Public Meetings laws. The potential for cost saving opportunities was discussed. Commissioner  
14       Wilson observed that there may be cost-sharing opportunities with Cottonwood Heights. Mr. Dean  
15       explained that there is a licensing issue with Cottonwood Heights and each of the jurisdictions. Cost  
16       issues were discussed.

17  
18       Commissioner Silvestrini stated that it will be easier to use equipment that is in place in a municipality  
19       than to purchase additional equipment. He hoped to avoid purchasing individual microphones for  
20       every member of the Stakeholders Council. Commissioner Bradley suggested that the Stakeholders  
21       Council be separated from this group and that they proceed to provide the service only for the CWC.  
22       It could be extended to the Stakeholders Council later on if desired.

23  
24       **MOTION:** Chair McCandless moved to approve the request for CWC live audio streaming and  
25       archive services unless there is economy in providing it to the Stakeholders Council as well. The  
26       motion was seconded by Commissioner Beerman. The motion passed with the unanimous consent  
27       of the Commission.

28  
29       **I. PRESENTATION ON SNOWBIRD RESORT'S REDUCING INDIVIDUAL DRIVING**  
30       **FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (RIDE) MOBILE APPLICATION**

31  
32           **i. Snowbird Director of Sustainability Hilary Arens will Provide a Presentation on**  
33           **Snowbird's Mobile Phone Application, "RIDE".**

34  
35       Hilary Arens identified herself as the Director of Sustainability and Water Resources at Snowbird.  
36       She was pleased to announce the launch of the RIDE (Reducing Individual Driving for the  
37       Environment) app. She acknowledged the need for transportation solutions in the canyon. She  
38       reported that at Snowbird they tried to recognize, with all of the traffic in the canyon, what can be  
39       done with the resources available. One way all can help is to reduce the number of single-occupancy  
40       vehicles. Ms. Arens reported that three years ago they created VIP parking for carpools with three or  
41       more riders. They also incentivized employees and guests with prizes.

42  
43       Features of the app were described. Users can find others to carpool with, search friends, or search  
44       whoever is riding up the canyon. Carpooling and taking the bus are rewarded equally. The next step  
45       will be to make the app transferable and scalable so that other resorts can use it as well.

46  
47       Snowbird Communications Manager Brian Brown noted that there have been 2,000 downloads of the  
48       app and 808 rides. Other features of the app were described. It was noted that all Snowbird pass

1 holders have a UTA bus pass. The hope was that other resorts can also utilize it. As it expands they  
2 can continue to add new features. Chair McCandless asked Ms. Arens to come back at the end of the  
3 year and report back on its success.

4  
5 **J. PRESENTATION ON UDOT EIS, COTTONWOOD CANYONS TRANSPORT-**  
6 **ATION ACTION PLAN**

7  
8 **i. Presentation by UDOT Project Manager John Thomas and Deputy Director**  
9 **Jesse Dean on Joint Short-Term and Long-Term Efforts to Address**  
10 **Transportation Issues in Cottonwood Canyons.**

11  
12 UDOT Project Manager John Thomas updated the Commission on UDOT transportation issues and  
13 stated that the intent was to provide a sense of what is happening in the canyons on an ongoing basis  
14 and begin the transition of the Commission's involvement for guiding and directing activities in the  
15 canyon. He noted that there is a great deal taking place in the canyons. With regard to upcoming  
16 projects, they are beginning their transition between identifying projects and seeking the  
17 Commission's involvement.

18  
19 Mr. Dean described how they got involved in the work. He explained that the EIS process was  
20 focused on Little Cottonwood Canyon. The Cottonwood Canyons Transportation Action Plan  
21 included Wasatch Boulevard and Big Cottonwood Canyon. A consulting team was hired to study  
22 short and long-term actions for the canyons. The Transportation Action Plan will have regular  
23 correspondence and meetings to discuss the action items. They will involve the Stakeholders Council  
24 and the public and staff will utilize resources from UDOT, the Forest Service, and UTA. Ultimately,  
25 they will aid the decision making pertaining to projects to focus on. Resources that will be available  
26 include a tolling revenue study and a funding guidebook. They will also look at parking structure  
27 sizing, conceptual layouts, and transit alternatives. Monthly meetings will be held and serve as a  
28 transportation update. The goal was to adopt the Transportation Action Plan in 2021. Chair  
29 McCandless thanked Mr. Dean for his efforts.

30  
31 In response to a question raised by Commissioner Sondak about the effectiveness of the high-T  
32 intersection, Mr. Thomas stated that data is available. 11 cameras were placed at two different  
33 intersections over Presidents Day weekend in an effort to obtain exit rates and traffic data.  
34 Commissioner Sondak was interested in understanding the effectiveness and had heard anecdotes on  
35 both sides. He reported that Alta took delivery of variable messaging signs that are portable. One  
36 was up and operational for the first time earlier in the day. He thanked Commissioners Wilson and  
37 Bradley for their efforts.

38  
39 Mr. Thomas clarified that they will be evaluating Wasatch Boulevard from the mouth of Big  
40 Cottonwood to the high-T intersection. They will then study the Y intersection and try to improve  
41 the operational efficiency there. Commissioner Bradley wanted to avoid a situation where they are  
42 sending more cars more quickly into a bottleneck situation in the canyon. Mr. Thomas stated that  
43 there are choke points that do not allow the system to operate at full efficiency. They are trying to  
44 address those choke points to get a higher level of efficiency of the road.

1 **K. DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING UTAH LEGISLATIVE SESSION,**  
2 **LEGISLATION POTENTIALLY IMPACTING THE CWC**

- 3  
4 **i. Presentation by Executive Director Ralph Becker on the Status of State**  
5 **Legislation Potentially Impacting the CWC’s Work.**

6  
7 **L. STAFF MONTHLY REPORT**

- 8  
9 **i. Presentation by Executive Director Ralph Becker of his Monthly Report.**

10  
11 Agenda items K and L were combined. Mr. Becker reported that staff has been fully dedicated to the  
12 priorities of the Commission, which are focused on the federal, state, and congressional legislation.  
13 Over the past week he, Chair McCandless, and Wayne Niederhauser were visiting Washington, D.C.  
14 with their congressional delegation to keep them updated and address issues internally within the  
15 delegation, move legislation forward, and prepare to introduce legislation. The meetings went well.  
16 In terms of the State Legislation, they were operating proactively and somewhat defensively. HB 78  
17 and SJR 17 were identified. Representative Albrecht’s bill would require any subdivision of the State  
18 that is proposing a land designation or other public lands proposal to go to the Legislature for review.  
19 The bill passed the House earlier in the day and would be moving on to the Senate. A Senate Joint  
20 Resolution would call for the State to create a State Public Lands Plan that would require the review  
21 of local plans.

22  
23 In response to State Legislation moving forward, they were pursuing the action of the CWC to pass a  
24 concurrent resolution asking the Legislature and the Governor to support the work of the Commission  
25 in terms of transportation, lands, and resource issues. The legislation was introduced by Senator  
26 Cullimore. It unanimously passed out of the Committee and was on the floor. A substitute bill was  
27 to be offered that would include minor amendments to the original bill. The hope was that it will be  
28 passed out of the Senate soon at which time it will go to the House.

29  
30 Mr. Becker appreciated being able to partner with UDOT, UTA, and the Forest Service on immediate  
31 and long-term solutions for the canyon. He reviewed the 1989 Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons  
32 Master Plan and stated that the transportation section of the document would be applicable today. It  
33 has, however, required reaching a crisis point to get the attention of the public and decision makers.

34  
35 Staff had also been working on a solution for the environmental dashboard. There will be several  
36 contributions from several jurisdictions.

37  
38 Staff was in the process of finalizing construction their office space as well as the budget.

39  
40 Commissioner Peterson commented on UTA and asked if any strategic meetings were scheduled or  
41 efforts to involve them more. He remarked that they seem to be a critical player but little is heard  
42 from them directly. Mr. Becker stated that they have been communicating with UTA on an ongoing  
43 basis at a staff level. They have been undergoing a reorganization. Over the past few weeks, they  
44 had elevated their discussion and the following week they would be meeting with the trustees about  
45 the course forward. Mr. Becker acknowledged that they will play a critical role in transportation  
46 solutions.

1 **M. ALTA SKI LIFTS PRESENTATION**

2  
3 Alta Ski Lifts President Mike Maughan stated that Alta Ski Lifts has always been supportive of the  
4 values and principles in the Mountain Accord. Two approaches were presented to the Commission  
5 that would enable Alta Ski Area to support moving the legislation forward. A map was displayed  
6 showing the Alta Ski Area boundary. The three components were identified including a special use  
7 permit, which allows lift-served skiing. It was noted that Patsy Marley Ridge is an avalanche control  
8 area within the special use permit. Currently, they do not have authorization to place lifts in the Patsy  
9 Marley Ridge area. In order to do so, they would be required to go through the standard process with  
10 the Forest Service. Grizzly Gulch is their CAT skiing area. A map showing the ski area boundaries  
11 was displayed and private and Forest Service lands were identified. Lands used by the public for  
12 backcountry skiing were also identified.

13  
14 Mr. Maughan explained that the Town of Alta is one of the most accessible places to backcountry ski  
15 because it is convenient. He noted that there is no access to public land from the Town of Alta that  
16 does not require crossing private land or going through a special use permit. The private landowners  
17 in upper Little Cottonwood Canyon have supported backcountry access for many years and access  
18 has been free to the general public to cross and use those lands. Most of the parking within the Town  
19 of Alta is on private property or Forest Service property that is under a special use permit. Mr.  
20 Maughan explained that on most weekends and holidays, the parking that Alta Ski Area has under  
21 permit for its patrons and guests is consumed by backcountry users. He noted that on several  
22 occasions he has counted 200 cars parked in lots that Alta Ski Area plows, maintains, and develops  
23 before 8:00 a.m. He pointed out that there are no official trailheads. One of the issues is that much  
24 of the parking developed for their visitors is consumed by people coming to recreate in the National  
25 Forest and on private lands and provide no revenue to Alta.

26  
27 Mr. Maughan referred to the Mountain Accord document, which is a non-binding formal  
28 recommendation that recognized there may be removal, alteration, and agreed upon actions at which  
29 time there should be a renegotiation. In the Mountain Accord, at one time Alta included Grizzly  
30 Gulch in the possible land exchange. That was conditioned upon a tunnel or other transportation  
31 connection to Big Cottonwood Canyon, a 100-room hotel approval, and water for a 100-room hotel.  
32 In the end, Grizzly Gulch was removed from the land exchange but the lands on the north side  
33 remained that have high recreational and watershed use in the exchange process. The position the  
34 CWC took in October removed their ability to trade those lands.

35  
36 Mr. Maughan explained that there has always been an understanding in the Mountain Accord process  
37 that the ski areas that are trading private lands and the Forest Service could at any time remove any  
38 of their private lands from the land exchange. It was also recognized that there would have to be  
39 adjustments in the process. The legislation allowed the Forest Service to exchange their base lands  
40 for other lands. Some parcels may not be eligible for exchange with the federal government. Trouble  
41 spots were identified as the Flagstaff and Grizzly Gulch areas. Mr. Maughan reported that the  
42 valuation of mountain lands are trading in the \$5,000 or less per acre range while base area lands are  
43 valued at \$250,000 to \$1,000,000 per acre, which may make exchanges infeasible.

44  
45 The legislation introduced by Representative Chaffetz in 2016 stalled in Committee primarily because  
46 it was one-sided. It included the creation of wilderness, adjustments, and land exchanges but the new  
47 federal designation would only promise to address transportation.  
48

1 Mr. Maughan reported that over the past 15 years visitation has increased 25% at Alta yet the capacity  
2 of the roads and parking areas have remained the same. While the ski areas have adjusted and  
3 accommodated growth, the transportation infrastructure has not changed. As growth continues, there  
4 was concern about how to preserve the Alta experience. They have also noticed that the level of skier  
5 has also diminished and there is more congestion on runs. Hundreds of cars now park along the  
6 shoulders of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon every weekend, holiday, and powder day. During  
7 the 2004-2005 season, there were 375,000 rides to the ski areas that utilized bus service. That dropped  
8 to less than 200,000 between 2008 and 2014. Changes made by UTA, however, brought it back up  
9 to 275,000 over the last two seasons.

10  
11 With regard to land exchanges, Mr. Maughan stated that they are still in flux and the boundaries are  
12 unclear. Presently, management guidelines and regulations for new federal designations do not exist  
13 and would have to be developed. He also posed the question of how the canyons play into Salt Lake  
14 City's Olympic bid. Ways for Alta Ski Area to move forward and support legislation were described.  
15 The first was to delay the creation of the Conservation Recreation Area. The second solution was to  
16 remove all of the ski areas and private lands from the Conservation Recreation Area in order to reduce  
17 the number of cars in the canyons and accommodate recreational growth.

#### 18 19 **N. ALTA PUBLIC COMMENT**

20  
21 Eric Balkin identified himself as an Alta skier. For the past 10 years, he has served on Alta's Athlete  
22 and Photographer Team. It is part of their marketing branch where the resort sponsors skiers and  
23 athletes to shoot photos at the resort and help promote it. Mr. Balkin stated that it has been an effective  
24 tool in making Alta a recognizable ski area. Mr. Balkin stated that he and many others do not share  
25 the vision for the future of Alta. They value the back country in the area and stated that there is a lot  
26 of overlap between Alta passholders and back country users.

27  
28 Kyle Maynard identified himself as the Executive Director for Friends of Alta. He acknowledged  
29 that the CWC is a public body that represents several different interests. The Stakeholders Council  
30 is similarly comprised of individuals with varying opinions. He stated that there are many working  
31 together to find solutions.

32  
33 Will McCarvill reported that he is a resident of Cottonwood Heights and represents the Utah Chapter  
34 of the Sierra Club. He was disappointed to read the letter from the President and General Manager  
35 of Alta to the CWC detailing their future plans. The Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club feels that the  
36 legislation that creates a National Conservation and Recreation Area is long overdue. He was also  
37 surprised and disappointed to see the interconnection of Olympic and Wasatch issues. He stated that  
38 these are very old issues that the public will have very little appetite to move forward on. The Sierra  
39 Club was adamantly opposed to both as they will result in additional ski area-related development  
40 and increased visitor presence in the Central Wasatch. Mr. McCarvill stated that the Mountain Accord  
41 legislation proposed by the Central Wasatch Commission had more than a winter ski area focus. It  
42 pertained to year-round activities, protects the watershed and the mountain health, and provides  
43 healthy recreation for Salt Lake Valley residents. The legislation will make the Central Wasatch's  
44 ability to plan for transportation reliable and predictable. Public surveys also showed broad support  
45 for the protection and conservation of a treasured resource. Mr. McCarvill stated that now is the time  
46 to move forward. He also believed that transportation was finally getting the emphasis it requires.  
47

1 Brian Hutchinson clarified that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance Free Shuttle Day is free to  
2 everyone in the community in an effort to promote high volume transport. The stop is located at the  
3 Smith's store at the end of Bengal Boulevard. A spot can be reserved on the Wasatch Backcountry  
4 Alliance's website. Mr. Hutchinson noted that Utah Canyon Shuttles is contributing \$4,000 to \$6,000  
5 worth of service for free. The first shuttle leaves at 7:00 a.m.

6  
7 There were no further public comments. The public comment period was closed.

8  
9 **O. ADJOURNMENT.**

10  
11 **MOTION:** Commissioner Biskupski moved to adjourn. The motion passed with the unanimous  
12 consent of the Board.

13  
14 The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at 6:30 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, March 4, 2019.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_