MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY,
JULY 1, 2019 AT 3:30 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL
CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD
HEIGHTS, UTAH

Present: Commissioner Chris McCandless, Commissioner Mike Peterson,
Commissioner Jeff Silvestrini, Commissioner Jim Bradley, Commissioner
Carlos Braceras, Commissioner Jenny Wilson, Commissioner Harris Sondak

Staff: Executive Director Ralph Becker, Legal Counsel Shane Topham,
Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Intern Carly Lansche

Excused: Commissioner Chris Robinson, Commissioner Jackie Biskupski,
Commissioner Andy Beerman

A. OPENING

i. Commissioner Chris McCandless will conduct the meeting as Chair of the
Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”).

Chair Chris McCandless called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

B. CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE CHARACTER AND
PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF ONE
OR MORE INDIVIDUALS (UTAH CODE ANN. 52-4-205[1][a]).

MOTION: Commissioner Bradley moved to go into closed session to discuss personnel actions.
Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Commissioner Sondak-Aye,
Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-Aye, Commissioner
Silvestrini-Aye, Commissioner Braceras-Aye. The motion passed unanimously. Commissioner
Wilson was not present for the vote.

The Board was in a closed executive session from 3:30 p.m. to 3:55 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Peterson moved to close the executive session on personnel.
Commissioner Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of
the Board.

C. RESUME OPEN MEETING 4:00 P.M. TO 4:05 P.M.

i. Commissioner Chris McCandless will Resume the Open Meeting as Chair of the
CWC.

The open meeting resumed at 4:00 p.m.
ii. The Commission will Consider Approving the Meeting Minutes of Monday, June 3, 2019.

MOTION: Commissioner Bradley moved to adopt Resolution 2019-16 approving the CWC’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2019-201 with the proviso that there be more rigorous discussion in terms of the position and its requirements. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Commissioner Braceras-Aye, Commissioner Wilson-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye, Commissioner Beerman-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

The proposed new Deputy Director, Blake Perez, introduced himself and stated that previously he worked for a non-profit helping low-income families build financial security with Community Action Partnership of Utah. He served for four years on the Rose Park Community Council and was pleased to be working with the CWC.

New Intern Carley Lansche was also welcomed.

Chair McCandless thanked Executive Director Ralph Becker and Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen for bearing the additional load for the past several weeks.

D. ELECTION OF OFFICERS 4:05 P.M. TO 4:10 P.M.

i. Nominations for, and Election of, Chair.

ii. Nominations for, and Election of, Co-Chair.

iii. Nominations for, and Election of, Secretary.

iv. Nominations for, and Election of, Treasurer.

CWC Attorney Shane Topham indicated that terms will be for two years from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2021.

Commissioner Silvestrini reported that Chair McCandless and Mayor Biskupski will not be returning after the first of the year. As a result, he suggested that their replacements be named before selecting leadership. He saw no reason to not extend the terms of the current officers through December 31, 2019. Mr. Topham explained that the bi-annual election of officers is a function of the Interlocal Agreement and he didn’t feel that the board can override that. He pointed out that there have already been transitions along the way. Possible options were discussed.

MOTION: Commissioner Wilson moved to conduct a bi-annual election and reappoint the existing officers with Chris McCandless as Chair, Jackie Biskupski as Co-Chair, Chris Robinson as Secretary, and Jim Bradley as Treasurer. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

Chair McCandless suggested that in December action be taken to be prepared for the first meeting in January. He recommended that ex-officio members also be considered. Mr. Topham explained that doing so would require an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. Chair McCandless commented that Brighton will likely want to have a seat on the Board, which will also require an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. He suggested that all of the needed amendments be addressed at the same time.
Commissioner Wilson offered to support staff’s collection of modifications to the Interlocal Agreement prior in order to be prepared to take action in late 2019.

E. ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD PROJECT UPDATE AND DISCUSSION 4:10 P.M.

i. CWC Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen will provide an update on the Proposed Slope, Timeline, and Budget for the Environmental Dashboard.

Ms. Nielsen reported that an Interlocal Agreement has been signed on behalf of the University of Utah. In addition, they have a preliminary scope of work for Phase 1 to bring the Environmental Dashboard indicators to completion. She briefly presented the scope of work for Phase 1 at the June meeting. The timeline was pending approval and review of the ILA. Work was to begin thereafter. The timeline for Phase 1 will take the remainder of 2019. The environmental indicators were expected to be completed in November and December at which point there will be an initial review of the work that has been completed in Phase 1. Phase 2 will begin after December 2020. The full scope of work for Phase 2 to bring the project online will require an initial rescoping based on work and discoveries made in Phase 1.

Commissioner Braceras explained that the Interlocal Agreement will take them through Phase 1 after which they will have an opportunity to review the results. At that point, they will be better able to scope Phase 2.

ii. Consideration of Resolution 2019-20 Approving the CWC’s Entry into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Utah on Behalf of its DIGIT Lab and its Ehleringer Lab for Completion of the CWC’s “Environmental Dashboard” Project.

MOTION: Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt Resolution 2019-20 approving the CWC’s entry into an Interlocal Agreement with the University of Utah on behalf of its DIGIT Lab and its Ehleringer Lab for completion of the CWC’s Environmental Dashboard Project. Commissioner Wilson seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Commissioner Wilson-Aye, Commissioner Sondak-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-Aye, Commissioner Silvestrini-Aye, Commissioner Braceras-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

F. STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL UPDATE AND DISCUSSION 4:30 P.M. TO 4:35 P.M.

i. Stakeholders Council Vice-Chair Dr. Kelly Bricker will Provide an Update on the June Stakeholders Council Meeting and Work Moving Forward.

Stakeholders Council Vice-Chair Dr. Kelly Bricker gave a recap of the June 17 meeting. She reported that Stakeholders Council Meetings have been moved to Cottonwood Heights City Hall and will be held the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room. At the most recent meeting, the CWC gave background information on the Mountain Accord, the Central Wasatch Commission, and the goals and objectives set out for the Stakeholders Council. Staff also provided information on the Central Wasatch National Conservation Recreation Area (“CWCRA”).
Act and the transportation work and partnerships with the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) and the Environmental Dashboard.

The Stakeholders Council created an eight-person subcommittee to work on a pilot program for a Millcreek shuttle program. Stakeholder Brian Hutchinson will lead the subcommittee and any proposals or recommendations from the Millcreek Shuttle Committee will be subject to the Central Wasatch Commission Board and the review and approval of relevant partner agencies. Vice-Chair Bricker reported that she gave a brief overview of definitions and concepts related to carrying capacity. There was also discussion with a Forest Service representative.

G. VISITOR CAPACITY PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION 4:35 P.M. TO 5:20 P.M.

i. Stakeholders Council Vice-Chair Dr. Kelly Bricker will Provide a Brief Overview of Visitor Capacity Definitions, Concepts, and Processes.

Dr. Bricker presented the Board with a truncated version of the presentation she gave to the Stakeholders Council. She explained that they study and care about visitor use management to ensure that recreational areas and special places and their benefits persist. They utilize visitor frameworks to protect resources and improve visitor experiences as well as continually support appropriate public access. The ultimate goal is to ensure the long-term viability of the resources and social and managerial conditions that make desired visitor experiences possible. Visitor management and monitoring is important because patterns of outdoor recreation and visitor use are continually changing. These changes often result in the need to consider social and environmental justice factors such as race, class, gender, and age to accommodate shifting visitor experiences. These patterns are driven by marketing campaigns, rising international tourism, low travel costs, social media, weather, and new emerging forms of recreation.

Robert Manning, a leading researcher in carrying capacity in parks and protected areas, posed the question of how much the environment can be used without spoiling it. The concept of carrying capacity has a relatively long and rich history in environmental and natural resource management. In its broadest manifestations it is applied to a population that can ultimately be accommodated in a given area or on the planet as a whole.

Questions associated with visitor capacity and managing public lands of our forest resources and environmental management include what levels of environmental impacts are acceptable and what type of environmental and related social conditions do we want to maintain. It has become clear through research and practical application that there cannot be any one inherent visitor capacity of a forest or related area. Visitor capacity can only be determined as it relates to environmental and associated social objectives for managing an area’s visitor use. Visitor use refers to human presence in an area for recreational purposes including education, interpretation, inspiration, enjoyment, and mental and physical health.

Dr. Bricker described the effects of visitor use. She explained that protecting resources while managing visitor benefits is complex and depends on several factors and impacts and varies with the type and timing of use, distribution of use, visitor expectations, environmental setting, amount of use, and several site specific factors. Tools and strategies can be applied to analyze the number of visitors and where, when, and why they go, what they do, and the impacts they leave behind. Visitor capacity is one of the tools used to assess impacts within a given area. Land managing agencies agree that
visitor capacity is a component of visitor use management and is the maximum amounts and types of
visitor use that an area can accommodate while achieving and maintaining desired resource conditions
and visitor experiences that are consistent with the purpose of which the area was established.

Visitor capacity is a tool that can aid managers in achieving and maintaining desired conditions. It is
important to identify visitor capacity when the amounts and types of use directly relate to achieving
and maintaining desired conditions or when identifying a visitor capacity is legally required. To
identify the most appropriate visitor capacity metric, they assess all aspects of amounts and types of
use that effect those desired conditions. There are several factors that may impact visitor capacity.
These may include increasing or removing parking areas, improved accessibility to certain sites, trail
conditions, wildlife and nature viewing opportunities, snow cover, and transportation efficiency. The
second core aspect of establishing visitor capacity is to monitor resource conditions based on
indicators and how they address thresholds, which are the management decisions or minimum
acceptable conditions for indicators. The third core aspect of visitor capacity is to apply management
practices to ensure that the thresholds or standards for the indicators are maintained.

Dr. Bricker reported that regular monitoring of visitor evaluations and overall satisfaction or
acceptability of specific kinds of experiences is essential regardless of whether visitor capacity is used
as a management tool. Ultimately, managers of public lands must find ways to set goals and
objectives that maintain the range of desired experiences and benefits. This is a challenging task in
that there are seemingly infinite numbers of people seeking to share a finite space.

Commissioner Peterson asked Dr. Bricker to describe how the Stakeholders Council responded to her
presentation. Dr. Bricker stated that one of the issues raised was that they form a subcommittee
around the topic area and focus on some of the specific issues surrounding visitor capacity. The
matter was to be discussed again at the next meeting.

ii. Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Forest Supervisor Dave Whittekiend will Lead a
Discussion on Visitor Capacity.

David Whittekiend identified himself as the Forest Supervisor for the Uinta Wasatch Cache National
Forest. He reported that they are a formal cooperating agency on the UDOT Little Cottonwood
Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (“LLC EIS”) and an active partner on the Cottonwood
Canyon Transportation Action Plan (“CCTAP”). They welcomed the opportunity to participate on
both. Stakeholders have expressed concern over increased visitation to the Cottonwood Canyons and
many believe that the future of UDOT transportation improvements may facilitate additional
visitation. At this time, the Forest Service is not considering specific carrying capacity. Through
their forest plan monitoring, they have determined that many of the areas on Uinta Wasatch Cache
may handle increased use with the construction of sustainable infrastructure such as better trails,
 Improved trailheads, additional outhouses, and facilities that better accommodate user demands and
mitigate impacts that may take place from recreational use.

Parking capacity on National Forest lands in the Cottonwood Canyons is currently managed to year
2000 levels as a desired future condition in the forest plan to reduce watershed impacts. Visitors,
however, took it upon themselves to discover additional parking areas along roadside areas so parking
has expanded in the Cottonwood Canyons since 2000. The alternatives currently being developed in
the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS do not propose an increase and may result in a slight decrease in
current parking capacity through the elimination of roadside parking near Forest Service trailheads.

Central Wasatch Commission Meeting – 07/01/2019
This would eliminate the additional parking that has taken place and ideally move it into better
developed and designed trailheads.

Mr. Whittekiend reported that alternatives currently under development in the UDOT LLC EIS
include snow sheds, trailhead improvements, winter transit to ski areas, and Wasatch Boulevard
improvements and do not provide a direct nexus to increased visitation on National Forest System
lands outside of the permitted ski areas. Additionally, the Forest Service does not govern visitor
capacity at the permitted ski areas. It is the position of the Forest Service that a Visitor Capacity
Study is not warranted as part of the UDOT LLC EIS since there is currently no indication of a direct
nexus to increased visitation on National Forest System lands outside of the ski areas based on
alternatives currently being evaluated in the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process.

Mr. Whittekiend explained that potential projects included in the transportation analysis such as
transit service to Forest Service trailheads, may warrant an analysis of potential impacts to National
Forest System resources because of the potential for increased visitation and use at those trailheads.
He explained that any agency or organization may perform a capacity study for National Forest
System lands, however, the consideration and decision to potential implement any actions from a
study would rest solely with the Forest Service. Any proposal to the Forest Service would be
evaluated for consistency and analyzed under the NEPA process. The Forest Service will continue
to work with the CWC and UDOT during the EIS process and the transportation process to facilitate
feasible and beneficial outcomes. Their participation, which began with Mountain Accord, has
always been to find solutions to the issues they face including visitation in the canyons, impacts to
resources, and ultimately protection of the watershed. They were prepared to work with the CWC on
potential solutions.

Commissioner Sondak asked Mr. Whittekiend to clarify the why, given UDOT’s EIS, that there is
not likely to be an impact requiring a capacity study. Mr. Whittekiend explained that currently they
are looking at improvements. The area they believe would have the biggest potential for impact
would be increased transit. At this time, the only plans for transit stops are at the ski areas. There is
the potential for increased visitation at the ski areas, but they also anticipate the ski areas to be able
to manage use. They were not looking at any proposals for increased transit to Forest Service
trailheads. Mr. Whittekiend explained that parking capacity currently and will continue to limit
visitation. Busses will be going to the ski areas only.

Commissioner Wilson asked about the summer and winter service to the ski areas and how much
more is beneficial. She asked staff to provide her with a copy of the contract the Forest Service has
for the ski resorts and was surprised to learn that they expire in the next 20 years. She questioned
whether an extension was being considered. She pointed out that the ski resorts have relied on that
contract to build lifts, finance, and expand their operations and asked if thought had been given to the
fact that soon it will be time to consider further conversations about that. Mr. Whittekiend responded
that with respect to reissuance of the special use permits with the ski areas, whenever they reissue
permits they always have a conversation. He was not sure they would be looking at wholesale
changes in operations or removing structures but they would have discussions about management of
the ski areas and how that fits with the Forest Plan goals and conditions. Those conversations,
however, had not yet begun.
H. RESOLUTION 2019-21 APPROVING A POLICY REGULATING THE USE OF THE CWC’S PUBLIC PROPERTY UNDER H.B. 163 5:20 P.M. TO 5:25 P.M.

i. Consideration of Resolution 2019-21 Approving a Policy Regulating the Use of the CWC’s Public Property in Furtherance of H.B. 163 Enacted in the 2019 General Session of the Utah Legislature, with an Effective Date of 1 July 2019.

Mr. Topham reported that the Utah Code historically has prohibited the misuse of public monies but has not been as explicit on the misuse of public property. HB 163 that was enacted in the last Legislative Session, goes into effect today, and criminalizes the misuse of public property. The bill allows governmental entities that own public property to create a policy for their entity that describes the permissable private use of the public property. It was proposed that the Board enact the policy attached to Resolution 2019-21, which outlines what sorts of personal use of public property is permissible.


I. RESOLUTION 2019-22 APPROVING ENTRY INTO A FUNDING INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH SALT LAKE COUNTY 5:25 P.M. -5:30 P.M.

i. Consideration of Resolution 2019-22 Approving the CWC’s Entry into a Funding Interlocal Agreement with Salt Lake County.

Mr. Becker reported that the above item was provided to formally accept or approve Salt Lake County’s action to extend their cooperation and participation in the Central Wasatch Commission and funding. They looked at different ways for the jurisdictions that are members of the CWC to look at how to formally participate, including their appropriation and ongoing participation. The original Interlocal Agreement called for a commitment of a number of years and they are now past that time so each of the jurisdictions are taking individual actions to extend their participation financially with the CWC. The proposed resolution reflects Salt Lake County’s Interlocal Agreement, which is the approach they have taken to extend their participation.

Commissioner Silvestrini asked who drafted the document and whether it can be made available in electronic format to the other municipal jurisdictions that are members of the CWC. Mr. Topham confirmed that he drafted the agreement, previously had provided it to the Board members in a changeable format, and would again provide it to the Board members in a changeable format.

Commissioner Sondak indicated that they passed a budget that included the allocation of funds for the CWC and asked if each entity now needs to pass a resolution like this one. Mr. Topham explained that that is the case and the Interlocal Agreement is a mechanism to accomplish the funding.

Mr. Becker pointed out that the Budget Finance Committee, in preparation for the fiscal year and in looking at budgets going forward, suggested that each of the jurisdictions look at extending for one year the budget allocated in prior years. The Budget Finance Committee and the CWC looked at a
more sustainable and easier approach going forward. He spoke with the Budget Committee Chair, Chris McCandless, about reconvening that Budget Committee fairly soon so that they and the Board can continue the work that was suspended during completion of the municipal budgets.


J. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT 5:30 P.M. – 5:45 P.M.

i. Executive Director Ralph Becker will Provide His Monthly Report to the Board.

Mr. Becker reported that within the last month staff has moved into their new space over the Gateway in the Cicero Building. They continued to move forward with the Congressional legislation and in their work with the State Legislature. The Legislature passed a bill in the last session to notify the Legislature of any proposed public land designations and give them the opportunity to review and consider their participation. They have been in discussions with leadership in both the House and the Senate and the co-chairs of the Natural Resources Interim Committee of the Legislature. It appeared that they were planning to perhaps have a field trip and take the matter up in September 2019.

Staff was also continuing their work on the congressional legislation. They have been meeting with members of their congressional delegation and there has been internal review of the draft legislation that was adopted as a recommendation in November of 2018 by the CWC. There was technical review of language as well as organization of the bill. They were going through another round of that review with delegation staff. Mr. Becker had been working on a narrative that will make it easier for the public and others to follow the changes. They would be working on a two-step process starting in the next few weeks to get a draft out for circulation among the jurisdictions and entities directly affected by changes and then provide a draft for public review. The matter would be brought back to the Commission in late summer or early fall.

Mr. Becker commented on the Environmental Dashboard and stated that it will be an incredible resource for anyone who interacts with the mountains. It will contain a common set of data that has been peer reviewed and that will provide a foundation for ongoing analysis and a central place to find useful information.

Mr. Becker reported that a proposal was received from members of the Stakeholders Council as well as the Board to look at a pilot shuttle program in Millcreek Canyon. Commissioners Silvestrini and Bradley had been particularly involved in that. Brian Hutchinson, a member of the Stakeholders Council, had also been providing assistance. At its last meeting, the Stakeholders Council agreed to form a subcommittee to look at implementing a pilot shuttle program as soon as this winter. A group of eight members will serve on the subcommittee and it will be expanded to include those not on the Stakeholders Council. The Mountain Accord called for the implementation of studies conducted in 2012 to determine whether a pilot program could be implemented.
Staff continued to spend a great deal of time working with John Thomas from UDOT on the LLC EIS and the CCTAP. A firm schedule was being followed and an enormous amount of technical expertise had been brought to bear.

Mr. Becker reported that Carly Lansche has been hired as an Intern and has been tremendously helpful. The Selection Committee also spent a great deal of time over the past month interviewing candidates and ultimately hired Blake Perez.

K. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pat Shea commented that the Environmental Dashboard is a dynamic process and will involve ongoing monitoring that will be invaluable to all of the communities in the Salt Lake Valley and the Wasatch Back.

He commented that with regard to the federal legislation, there is no chance of it passing before 2021. As a result, he saw no reason for this group and Mr. Becker to spend time and money in Washington, D.C., which he considered to be fiscally irresponsible. He stated that the House is controlled by the Democrats and in the Senate the minority still has a strong voice. Action will not be taken in light of the 2020 election and for the Board to waste time and money pursuing it is not prudent.

Mr. Shea next commented on Dave Whittlekiend’s presentation. He did not see how anyone could possibly expect not to have an impact on the National Forest while increasing the ability of people to get up the canyon. The idea of going forward with an EIS and not understand what Dr. Bricker talked about seems to be putting the cart before the horse. The citizens and the Board need to understand what the impact will be on the National Forest and the watershed. He was not opposed to the EIS going forward and stated that the Visitor Capacity Study could begin while that is going on. He did not, however, trust promises about something to be done in the future when it needs to be done contemproarously with the EIS. He urged the Board to make sure that UDOT understands that that has to be part of the EIS.

Paul Godat addressed transportation safety and reported that he spoke to Mr. Thomas before the meeting and submitted a proposal to enhance safety in the canyons. It was obvious that there are laws on the books now to make it safer. Mr. Godat referenced 920-6 and stated that it is not enforced, which is the problem. He proposed that with the rule-making authority that UDOT has, that they require snow tires. He describe the difference between snow and mud tires and stated that if there was a way to expedite getting approved vehicles up the canyon with an inspection process, it would move traffic up the canyon more quickly. He commented that it only takes one car to go sideways. Mr. Godat stated that to him safety is paramount and non-negotiable. He was appalled by the lack of enforcement and asked what was being done to ensure that proper equipment is going up the canyon. He suggested that fines and penalties be imposing to get people’s attention. He hoped something could be done this year to prevent non-complying vehicles from going up and down the canyon.

Chair McCandless was unaware of the difference between snow and mud tires until tonight and suggested the Board ask the Salt Lake County Sheriff make a presentation on canyon enforcement.

Steve Van Maren commented that within 12 hours of his note being sent to staff, the agenda was updated correctly. He thanked the Board for their efforts.
Allen Orr requested that the Board not make things worse and defer to UDOT to manage SR-210 in Little Cottonwood Canyon, the UFA, and the Marshall of the Town of Alta to manage public safety of vehicles in Little Cottonwood Canyon. He urged the Board to be skeptical about what their congressional representatives and senators are willing to do about a federal legislative conservation and recreation area in the canyons. He asked that each member of the Board ride a ski bus to and from Alta with a young person under the age of 13 with ski gear and report on their experience.

According to Google, the population of the Wasatch Front in 2010 was approximately 2.2 million. In 2019, it was estimated to be around 2.6 million. With 400,000 more people comes more traffic. These are consequences of population growth and is what they have invited. Until they can control snowstorms and freezing temperatures, there are going to be days with slower travel times up the canyons unless there is a tram or gondola. Mr. Orr asked that the Board set reasonable and realistic goals. Last, he asked that the Board keep an open mind about ski areas connecting as a part of reducing vehicles in the canyons.

Evan Johnson identified himself as a property owner in the canyon and stated that he is also associated with the Save Our Big Cottonwood Creek effort. With regard to the Environmental Dashboard, he recommended that they put E. coli as one of the indicators. Salt Lake City Public Utilities has tested the water in the canyon and some of the tests have come back showing 2,400 counts of E. coli. The safe swimming count in a lake is 60. He also suggested that the Total Dissolved Solids (“TDS”) indicator also be included on the Environmental Dashboard. Mr. Johnson explained that in the canyon the TDS runs at about 200 but at the end of Big Cottonwood Creek it is at about 1,200 to 1,400.

Mr. Johnson pointed out that 57% of the water in Big Cottonwood Canyon never enters the treatment plant. Of the water that is treated, 75% is used on lawns. It didn’t seem to make sense to protect the watershed for outdoor use. Mr. Johnson commented that currently there are 16 toilets in 50 square miles to serve 1.7 million visitors per year in Big Cottonwood Canyon. When toilets are not used, human waste can total up to 1 million pounds over 20 years. For that reason, high E. coli counts are being seen in the canyon. He estimated that Big Cottonwood Canyon is short by about 50 toilets.

Mr. Johnson appreciated those who work for the CWC but his opinion was that all positions should be volunteer. If the money paid for salaries was used for toilets, water quality would improve and the watershed would be protected. The savings from using staff volunteers would allow for the purchase of 25 new toilets per year.

With respect to visitor capacity, it is great as long as it does not push out private property owners. Mr. Johnson reported that 20% of the canyon is privately owned but there is never any mention of use.

Roger Burke identified himself as a resident of Alta and a constituent of Mayor Sondak. He referenced Pat Shea’s remarks and stated that what he sees indicates that they will increase the capacity to at least Little Cottonwood Canyon. History indicates that when capacity is increased, it fills up. He wondered how bad it will have to get before they collectively decide that enough is enough.

Mike Maughan suggested that in the Canyons they implement four-wheel drive vehicles only with mud and snow tires from November 30 through April 1. He believed that would have a significant impact on traffic flows. He reported that 52% of the ski days this year had snow in Little Cottonwood
Central Wasatch Commission Meeting – 07/01/2019

Canyon yet they still had more congestion and traffic than in recent years. Many cars that come into the canyon are rental cars so he suggested that rental car companies help facilitate a better transportation experience without changing infrastructure.

There were no further public comments.

L. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Commissioner Peterson acknowledged that the population of the valley has impacted the Wasatch Front and the canyons and the city of Cottonwood Heights is very concerned. A few years ago they applied for a grant to prepare a Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan. As they initiated the plan, they recognized through public input and open houses that Wasatch Boulevard is not just a highway and it impacts the city directly. They shared their concerns with UDOT recently who have now indicated their intent to consider Wasatch Boulevard from 6200 South to Little Cottonwood Canyon as a gateway area. He was very pleased and stated that as a gateway it will include such things as active transportation, sensitivity to pedestrian impacts, landscaping buffers and medians, and moving park and ride areas to the gravel pit area. Commissioner Peterson considered that to be a positive change. Going forward, they would like to involve UTA, the County, and others.

M. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Silvestrini moved to adjourn. The motion was not seconded. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Commission.

The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.
I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate and complete record of the Central
Wasatch Commission Meeting held Monday, July 1, 2019.

Teri Forbes
Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: ____________________