

**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) SPECIAL HYBRID STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEETING, HELD WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023, AT 4:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION OFFICES.**

**Present:**  William McCarvill

 Barbara Cameron

 Linda Johnson

 Danny Richardson

 Morgan Mingle

 Rusty Vetter

 Mike Doyle

 John Knoblock

 Del Draper

 Mike Christensen

 Dan Zalles

 Megan Nelsen

 Michael Marker

 Kelly Boardman

 Carl Fisher

 Kurt Hegmann

 Adam Lenkowski

 Jan Striefel

 Dave Fields

 Roger Borgenicht

 Amber Broadway

 Jennifer Eden

 Caitlyn Curry

 Steve Van Maren

 Hilary Lambert

 Stuart Derman

 Dennis Goreham

 Kirk Nichols

 Patrick Shea

 Kirby Croyle

**Staff:** Blake Perez, Executive Director of Administration

Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director of Policy

 Mia McNeil, Intern

**Opening**

1. **William McCarvill will Conduct the Meeting as Chair of the Stakeholders Council.**

Chair William McCarvill called the meeting to order at approximately 4:35 p.m. He reported that this was a hybrid meeting of the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council.

1. **The Stakeholders Council will Consider Approving the Stakeholders Council DRAFT Minutes of Monday, May 22, 2023.**

**MOTION:** Barbara Cameron moved to APPROVE the May 22, 2023, CWC Stakeholders Council Meeting Minutes. Carl Fisher seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

1. **Announcements:**
* **Wasatch Wildflower Festival, July 8 and 9 in BCC, July 15 and 16 in LCC.**

Co-Chair Barbara Cameron reported that the Wasatch Wildflower Festival will take place on July 8 and 9, 2023, in Big Cottonwood Canyon and on July 15 and 16, 2023, in Little Cottonwood Canyon. She noted that many were involved, including the CWC, Wasatch Mountain Club, Wasatch Mountain Lodge, Solitude Resort, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Trails Utah, and the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Co-Chair Cameron believed it would be a wonderful festival. There were approximately 1,000 attendees last year as well as a number of conservation sponsors. She encouraged all Stakeholders Council Members to attend the festivities on one of the dates.

* **Millcreek EIS Question and Answer Session, June 21 at 6:00 p.m.**

Co-Chair Cameron reported that a Special Session was scheduled for Millcreek-related discussions on June 21, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. She explained that it was a question-and-answer session and there would not be a presentation shared at that time. Any interested Council Members were welcome to attend.

* **Call for Additional Announcements from SHC Members.**

There were no additional announcements shared.

* **Poll Results and Selection of New Meeting Days.**

CWC Executive Director of Administration, Blake Perez, reported that a poll was sent out to determine which meeting day would be best for Stakeholders Council Members. There was a desire for Stakeholders Council Meetings to take place on the fourth week of the month every other month. A second poll was sent out to further refine the meeting dates. CWC Executive Director of Policy, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the initial poll included options for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. The least popular options were Tuesday and Thursday. Between the Wednesday and Monday options, the results were split 50/50. As a result, another poll had been sent out. She asked all Stakeholders Council Members to respond to the second poll so a date could be finalized.

**STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS**

1. **The Stakeholders Council will Vote via Ranked-Choice Voting to Decide the Chair and Vice-Chair Positions for the Next Two Years.**

Chair McCarvill reported that the next portion of the meeting was dedicated to the election of New Stakeholders Council leadership as Chair McCarvill and Co-Chair Cameron would be stepping down from their positions. Mr. Perez thanked Chair McCarvill and Co-Chair Cameron for their work. He believed they had set the standard of what Stakeholders Council leadership should look like. Both show up consistently, are reliable, and work hard to involve everyone on the Council.

Mr. Perez reported that there was a call for nominations. Stakeholders Council Members were each able to submit three nominees. Stakeholders Council Members were given approximately three weeks to submit those requests and there were 22 responses with 14 total nominees submitted. Each of the nominees was contacted to determine whether there was interest in leading the Stakeholders Council. Of those nominees, three agreed to be on the ballot. He clarified that there were previously four names on the ballot but an email was received from Hilary Lambert, who declined the nomination. However, a ballot with her name had been distributed. He hoped that Stakeholders Council Members had read that email before submitting their votes. Although there were four names on the ballot, he reiterated that there were only three final nominees. Ranked-choice voting was used and the ballot would remain open until 5:15 p.m. The results would then be shared and reviewed. The top two would be the Co-Chairs of the Stakeholders Council. Per the Interlocal Agreement, a Chair and Vice-Chair needed to be designated. As a result, the nominee who received the most votes would be designated Chair and the nominee with the second most votes would be Vice-Chair. Mr. Perez explained that Chair McCarvill and Co-Chair Cameron shared the responsibilities between them.

The three names that were on the ballot included:

* John Knoblock;
* Carl Fisher; and
* Kurt Hegmann.

Mr. Perez informed the Council Members that the voting link was sent out in an email but it would also be shared in the Zoom chat box. Chair McCarvill asked each of the candidates to share comments.

Mr. Fisher reported that he had been involved with issues in the Wasatch for approximately 25 years. He was very involved in the Mountain Accord process. He believed the Mountain Accord document needs to be reviewed and the Stakeholders Council efforts need to re-focus on that. The intention was to assist the CWC Board and advance the Mountain Accord. He believed the Council could set priorities, collaborate, and reconcile some of the items that needed to be updated within the document. It was possible to innovate solutions for the Wasatch Mountains.

Mr. Knoblock was involved in some of the very first meetings of the Mountain Accord. He followed through that process and continued to contribute to the CWC as Chair of the Trails Committee. It is important to focus on the Mountain Accord by determining what has changed and what still needs to be done. All of the actions listed in the Mountain Accord should have a group of people dedicated to moving that particular area of work forward.

Mr. Hegmann reported that he has managed national, local, and regional committees and boards. He believed that a group is strongest when all of the voices are heard. That involves bringing agenda items forward and allowing the group to run the discussions. He applauded the two current Co-Chairs for their management and organizational style. Mr. Hegmann acknowledged that there are a lot of challenges in the Wasatch, including transportation and the environment. He had an interest in many different areas and was happy to serve in a leadership role if desired by other Council Members.

Ms. Nielsen asked that all Council Members vote using the link that was distributed. The election results would be shared later on in the Stakeholders Council Meeting.

**NEW STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**

1. **The Seven New Stakeholders Council Members will Introduce Themselves to the SHC.**

Chair McCarvill asked the New Stakeholders Council Members to introduce themselves. Caitlin Curry represents the Utah Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. It is a group of passionate hunters and anglers that primarily focus on public lands issues. She looked forward to representing a group that has not been as represented on the Stakeholders Council in the past. Ms. Curry spends a lot of time on the Wasatch Front, which was becoming one of the most prominent archery and hunting areas in the west. Having a voice from that community was important given the rising value of that resource. She reiterated her excitement about joining the Council.

Dan Zalles reported that his career has been in environmental education. He began as a high school teacher but spent most of his career at a research institute doing grant-funded research. That research intended to bring data to students to support scientific inquiry about environmental science topics. It was largely focused on climate change. A lot of work was done with the National Science Foundation and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA”). Once he retired, he moved to Utah from California. He has been involved with the League of Women Voters in recent years and ran a committee for the Climate Interest Group, specifically on the topic of forests and wildfires. The committee meets once a month to look at national and state issues related to those topics. He was dedicated to forest conservation and preservation.

Rusty Vetter introduced himself to the Council. He has been in the Wasatch Mountains for as long as he could remember. His perspective and understanding of the Wasatch changed a lot when he began working as an attorney for Salt Lake City and representing Salt Lake City Public Utilities. He quickly understood how complicated the issues were in the Wasatch area. Mr. Vetter paid attention to the Mountain Accord and the actions following. He retired last year and has spent a lot of time with the Millcreek Canyon Committee since then. He had an interest in the Federal Lands Access Program (“FLAP”) grant discussions and processes. As a result of spending time with that group, he was encouraged to apply for the Stakeholders Council as a Salt Lake City resident.

Mr. Vetter asked if New Stakeholders Council Members should vote for new Stakeholders Council leadership. Mr. Perez clarified that the new member terms do not start until July 1, 2023. As a result, the new members were unable to vote for the Stakeholders Council leadership positions.

Morgan Mingle identified herself as the Sustainable Tourism Director at the Park City Chamber of Commerce. She was hired to spearhead the sustainable tourism planning process for Park City and Summit County. She was used to having a lot of collaborators within her work and was excited to collaborate with others on the Stakeholders Council as part of more regional discussions. Ms. Mingle reported that the Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back are both isolated and interconnected.

Ian Hartley was not present to share comments.

Linda Johnson introduced herself and reported that she has lived in the valley since 2005. She previously served on planning boards and for Salt Lake County Planning. Her husband is an engineer who worked with skiing and resort businesses for many years before deciding that it was environmentally unsound. The pair own a consulting company where various problems are solved. Ms. Johnson likes taking information and putting it together to reach a useful end result. She serves as the Co-President of the League of Women Voters in Salt Lake and the Environmental Director. During that time, she attended a lot of Wasatch Front Regional Council (“WFRC”) Meetings, City Council Meetings in Salt Lake City, and County Council Meetings and has a lot of useful experience.

Adam Lenkowski was excited to serve on the Stakeholders Council. Mr. Lenkowski moved to the area in 2003 from Illinois to attend the University of Utah where he studied Meteorology. After graduation, he worked for the Montana Snow Survey Office. He is now involved in Ambient Air Quality Monitoring and has been for a little over a decade. Mr. Lenkowski witnessed the growth in the Wasatch over the last two decades and was thrilled to be involved in the Stakeholders Council as a private resident of Sandy.

Chair McCarvill welcomed the new Stakeholders Council Members and thanked the Council Members who left. He also thanked the Council Members who had decided to serve for another term. Co-Chair Cameron thanked Chair McCarvill for his work and dedication to the Stakeholders Council. She also thanked Mr. Perez for his efforts as he would soon be leaving the CWC. Both had a clear vision for the Central Wasatch area. Their attention to detail and hard work was appreciated. Chair McCarvill noted that the last two years had been difficult but rewarding and he thanked Co-Chair Cameron for being such an excellent partner. He thanked CWC Staff and other Council Members for their dedication to the principles of the Mountain Accord. He believed the Stakeholders Council had a better idea of how to make the Council as effective as possible moving forward.

Ms. Nielsen thanked all of the Stakeholders Council Members for their service. She extended an extra thanks to Chair McCarvill and Co-Chair Cameron. Both were fantastic and it has been a joy to work with them. She was pleased that Co-Chair Cameron would continue to serve as a Council Member.

**ANNUAL HOUSEKEEPING**

1. **Stakeholders Council Leadership Election Results.**

The Stakeholders Council leadership election results were shared with those present. Mr. Perez reported that Messrs. Knoblock and Fisher were elected with Mr. Knoblock in the Chair position and Mr. Fisher in the Vice-Chair position. He reiterated that it would be a Co-Chair partnership. He shared how the Stakeholders Council votes break down in each round of the voting.

1. **Review Rules and Procedures.**

Mr. Perez reported that there were annual housekeeping items to review with the Stakeholders Council. The Rules and Procedures information was made available to all Council Members and posted on the CWC website. He encouraged everyone to read and review the materials. Ms. Nielsen reiterated the importance of reading the Rules and Procedures information as it would ensure that all Council Members understand the basics of the organization. She hoped everyone would familiarize themselves with the document so future Stakeholders Council Meetings run smoothly.

Chair McCarvill discussed the Rules and Procedures information, specifically the way issues can be brought to the CWC Board. He noted that the Visitor Use Study came out of the Visitor Use Study Committee. There were mechanisms for Council Members to present issues and have those forwarded to the CWC Board for consideration. He considered committees to be an effective way of identifying, analyzing, and bringing actionable items forward. The Trails Committee and the Millcreek Canyon Committee had done this well. Chair McCarvill reported that the Stakeholders Council cannot issue proclamations or make decisions independently. The Stakeholders Council forwards items to the CWC Board for additional review and consideration.

1. **CWC Structure.**

Mr. Perez reported that there was a structure in place for CWC Staff, which will be changing over the next few weeks. He had resigned from the CWC due to a move and would leave at the end of the month. The CWC Board would look at the current structure and determine how that would shift moving forward. He reminded those present that there are currently Co-Executive Directors in place. As for the organizational structure, a link to that was shared with the Council Members.

An organizational chart was reviewed. Mr. Perez identified the Stakeholders Council on the chart, which illustrated how the Council interacts with the CWC Board and other committees. He discussed the current Stakeholders Council Subcommittees, which include the Trails and Millcreek Canyon Committees. There was not a lot of work happening on the Preservation Committee. If an item is approved by the Stakeholders Council, it would be forwarded to the CWC Board for consideration. Mr. Perez noted that the Co-Chairs of the Stakeholders Council serve as Ex-Officio Members of the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee of the CWC. He explained that the CWC meeting structure was altered to make sure that anything that comes out of the Stakeholders Council would be in front of the CWC Board within two weeks. This sped up the process.

Ms. Johnson asked for a link or copy of the Mountain Accord for reference. Ms. Nielsen reported that the Mountain Accord Charter, the information about the groups, and the Meeting Minutes, were accessible on the CWC website. It is also something that she could email to Council Members. She encouraged all New Council Members to review the CWC website for necessary information.

Patrick Shea stated that his issue with the Stakeholders Council and the CWC Board was that there are so many procedures in place that it makes it difficult to move things forward. The point of the Mountain Accord was to examine substantive policy questions about the Central Wasatch. He hoped it would be possible to navigate all of the procedures to have a serious discussion about important matters. He felt there should be a conversation about how to protect the watershed.

1. **CWC Portfolio of Work.**

Ms. Nielsen discussed the CWC portfolio of work. Some of the major CWC projects include the Environmental Dashboard, which was an idea that originated from the Mountain Accord in 2014. It was released to the public last year. The Environmental Dashboard amassed all of the existing environmental data specific to the Central Wasatch Mountains into one place. The data pertained to air quality and climate, geology and soils, vegetation, water, and wildlife. She remarked that the Environmental Dashboard was a wonderful way to learn what was going on in the mountains.

Another CWC project was the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”). That also originated with the Mountain Accord. Ms. Nielsen explained that the CWNCRA was at a standstill currently. The last version was drafted at the end of 2020. The bill proposed to create a national conservation and recreation area for the Central Wasatch Commission study area. The study area included Parleys Corridor, the tri-canyon area, and extended to the southern boundary of Salt Lake County. This would create a permanent conservation and recreation area and protect in perpetuity the water resources in the canyon. In previous iterations, there were proposed land exchanges between the U.S. Forest Service and the ski resorts. Those land exchanges had since been removed based on public input and some logistical issues. Ms. Nielsen noted that the most current version of the CWNCRA was available for Council Members to review.

The CWC has a small grants program that is administered each year. Since 2020, when the grant program originated, the CWC has dispersed just under $200,000 to community groups and private citizens for projects focused on CWC priorities including transportation, economy, recreation, and environment. One of the short-term projects included the construction of beaver dam analogs around Willow Heights Lake. Funding was also granted to assist with bridge construction and the installation of bicycle parking at Rattlesnake Gulch. Funding was given to trail crews and shuttle programs as well. All of the funded projects were listed on social media and the website.

As for the Visitor Use Study, it originated at the Stakeholders Council level. Ms. Nielsen reported that it began as a Stakeholders Council Subcommittee, which was headed by Chair McCarvill and Annalee Munsey. The Visitor Use Study looked at the human impact that visitors to the lands had on ecological indicators. For instance, soil erosion, soil quality, and water quality. The Visitor Use Study was originally projected to be completed in December 2022, but there had been some delays with the data, so the completion date was now projected to be August 2023.

Mr. Perez reported that there was a lot of transportation work associated with the CWC as well. Everything the CWC does is based on the Mountain Accord and the direction provided in that document. In 2019, the Mountain Transportation System (“MTS”) planning process began. The intention was to take a regional approach to the MTS. Attributes and objectives were determined. There were multiple MTS discussions and education opportunities with transportation experts. Unfortunately, the CWC was unable to reach a consensus on a recommended transportation solution, but the CWC Board created the MTS Pillars document. It outlined the critical values that the organization wanted to evaluate transportation through. Subsequently, there was a Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action Plan (“BCC MAP”) that was done. There was also a lot of work being done related to a potential Millcreek Canyon shuttle, which was referenced in the Mountain Accord. Mr. Perez noted that there had been some excellent short-term projects work with the bus bypass service in Sandy. That service improved travel times by 46%. A lot of short-term and long-term work was being done within the CWC. He reiterated that a lot of transportation work was moving forward.

Co-Chair Cameron referenced the Common Ground Institute (“CGI”) Situational Assessment, the CWC Board Retreat, and the Stakeholders Council Retreat. A lot of outreach was being done within the organization. She was grateful that the work of the Mountain Accord was continuing to be pursued and moved forward by passionate individuals within the organization.

1. **Other Administrative Tasks.**

Mr. Perez reported that a Conflict Disclosure form was sent out to all Stakeholders Council Members. It did not preclude Council Members from votes but it was important to make disclosures ahead of time. He asked that the forms be completed by Stakeholders Council Members and submitted.

**OPEN COMMENTS**

Ms. Johnson shared comments about the possible gondola. She did not have an opinion on whether it should be built but she had been involved in the building of lifts and knew that it was possible to construct those fairly quickly. She believed that work could be done within a year. If there was no support for a gondola, that needed to be expressed in some manner. Ms. Johnson noted that the traffic had been especially bad this past year and something effective needed to be done.

There was discussion about the meeting format. It was noted that some Council Members were attending the meeting in person and others were attending virtually. Ms. Nielsen reported that Stakeholders Council Meetings are hybrid meetings, which means that the meetings are held virtually via Zoom but also anchored with a physical meeting location. The physical anchor location was at the CWC offices. Sometimes, there are special meetings that are anchored at different locations but that would be established ahead of time. Ms. Nielsen reiterated that Council Members could attend the Stakeholders Council Meetings in person or via the Zoom link.

Mr. Shea reported that he participated in five different transportation-related studies for the Central Wasatch. It seemed that a lot of the decisions were being driven by money rather than what the public actually wants. He explained that one count showed 87% opposition to the gondola but the concept continued to be pushed. He was not sure how to address that issue.

Kirby Croyle was an interested resident. She was also a member of the Salt Lake League of Women Voters. She asked about the Parleys Corridor referenced as part of the CWNCRA. She wondered if that was something the Stakeholders Council looks at or only as it relates to Federal lands issues. There were a number of concerns about the expansion of the gravel pit at Parleys Canyon. She was not sure if that was in the scope of the CWC work. Ms. Nielsen confirmed that Parleys Corridor is included in the study area for the CWC.

Mr. Fisher asked about the report generated as a result of the Stakeholders Council Retreat. Mr. Perez stated that it was included in the Meeting Materials Packet at the last Stakeholders Council Meeting. It had been discussed at that time. There were several steps outlined. Chair McCarvill confirmed that the report was discussed and the Stakeholders Council adopted the report. There was a summary of the report available to review as well. It outlined how the Stakeholders Council could operate better moving forward. That was also sent to the CWC Board.

Mr. Fisher shared comments about Parleys Corridor. He encouraged the CWC to engage on the air permit discussions. He explained that there was a live comment period and he did not want that to be missed. However, he understood that the item was not on the current meeting agenda and was unsure whether it would be possible for the Council to forward a recommendation to the CWC Board. Ms. Croyle noted that there was an all-day hearing scheduled for June 23, 2023. Mr. Knoblock reported that Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, a CWC Board Member, was deeply involved in those discussions. Millcreek was strongly opposed to the gravel pit. He was not sure what other way the CWC could contribute. It was important to consider what issues the CWC should be involved in that were beyond the Mountain Accord. Mr. Shea suggested that an update on the process be shared.

Ms. Nielsen reiterated that anything that comes from the Stakeholders Council needs to be voted on and approved by the Council before being forwarded to the CWC Board for review. Mr. Knoblock reported that Mayor Jenny Wilson was opposed to the gravel pit and involved in those discussions. Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC formally spoke out against the gravel pit in the past. Mr. Shea did not believe the Stakeholders Council needed to take formal action, but believed additional information was necessary. Jennifer Eden noted that the comment period currently taking place was specifically related to air quality and how the mine will impact that. She understood that the Air Quality Board has very specific guidelines about what could be approved or not approved. There were clear guidelines in the comment submission section about what information would be useful to submit. Stakeholders Council Members involved in air quality initiatives could share relevant data. Mr. Fisher pointed out that the CWC had the Environmental Dashboard. It might make sense to use that and participate in the technical process. There was additional discussion about data.

Mr. Fisher reported that a draft permit was released. Entities with interest in the area needed to verify, validate, and double check the data that was included in that. If the CWC missed out on this opportunity, he felt it would be a disservice to the community and to the Mountain Accord. Ms. Johnson believed that the Environmental Dashboard information should be part of the report. If that information could not be submitted by the CWC in a formal manner due to time constraints, individual members of the Stakeholders Council could submit that information for consideration. Mr. Fisher wanted to make a formal motion. Co-Chair Cameron pointed out that the matter was not on the agenda for consideration, but it was an important issue for the organization to consider.

**MOTION:** Carl Fisher moved to FORWARD a note to the CWC Board, strongly urging them to provide data from the CWC Environmental Dashboard to inform the air quality permit process, including ecological, biological, and geographical data, notably information about average wind speeds in the canyon where they had been identified to be nine miles per hour.

Chair McCarvill explained that according to the Open Meetings Act, it is not possible to take action on items not listed in the agenda. It is against the law, so the motion made was not voted on. Co-Chair Cameron reported that individual Stakeholders Council Members could submit data. Mr. Knoblock noted that relevant data could also be shared with Mayor Silvestrini for review.

**ADJOURN MEETING**

1. **William McCarvill will Adjourn the Meeting as Chair of the Stakeholders Council.**

**MOTION:** Jan Striefel moved to ADJOURN the Stakeholders Council Meeting. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Council.

The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

***I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Special Hybrid Stakeholders Council Meeting held Wednesday, June 21, 2023.***

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes

T Forbes Group

Minutes Secretary

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