

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION MEETING HELD MONDAY,**  
2 **DECEMBER 2, 2019 AT 4:00 P.M. IN THE MILLCREEK CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
3 **LOCATED AT 3300 SOUTH 1300 EAST, MILLCREEK, UTAH**  
4

5 **Present:** Commissioner Chris McCandless, Mayor Mike Peterson, Commissioner Jim  
6 Bradley, Mayor Andy Beerman, Commissioner Chris Robinson, Mayor Harris  
7 Sondak, Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Mayor Jackie Biskupski  
8

9 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, CWC Legal Counsel Shane Topham,  
10 Deputy Director Blake Perez, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen,  
11 Office Manager Kaye Mickelson, Communications Intern Quinn Graves  
12

13 **A. OPENING**

- 14  
15 **i. Commissioner Chris McCandless will Conduct the Meeting as Chair of the**  
16 **Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”).**  
17

18 Chair Chris McCandless called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 p.m.  
19

- 20 **ii. The Commission will Consider Approving the Meeting Minutes of Monday,**  
21 **November 4, 2019.**  
22

23 **MOTION:** Mayor Silvestrini moved to approve the minutes of Monday, November 4, 2019.  
24 Commissioner [REDACTED] seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of  
25 the Board.  
26

27 **B. ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD UPDATE**

- 28  
29 **i. Dr. Jim Ehleringer of the University of Utah’s Ehleringer Group will Provide an**  
30 **Update on the Environmental Dashboard.**  
31

32 Dr. Jim Ehleringer from the University of Utah’s Ehleringer Group made a PowerPoint presentation  
33 and provided a status report on the Environmental Dashboard. He described the process and reported  
34 that the initial challenge was lack of data. The intent originally was that the dashboard would  
35 primarily be of interest to policymakers but it was determined that the audience was much broader.  
36 Dr. Ehleringer reported that the historic structure identified five elements including water, air,  
37 ecosystems, plants, wildlife, and soil. The alternative structure involves replacing the concept of  
38 targets with measures. That way it is based on principles and concepts rather than the data that is  
39 available. The importance of air quality was stressed using the available data as well as understanding  
40 the changing climate. The elements, measures, and indicators were described with respect to water.  
41

42 With regard to vegetation, Dr. Ehleringer indicated that the previous information used to describe the  
43 vegetation was adequate, however, the conclusion would have been that the entire Wasatch is  
44 unhealthy using that model. He expected most people to use the dashboard on their iPhones rather  
45 than computers. Potential hazards were identified as they relate to geology and soil. Dr. Ehleringer  
46 reported that the next step is to deliver a report to the CWC by the end of the year. A Steering  
47 Committee Meeting was held a few weeks prior where they met with CWC staff and shared their  
48 findings.

1  
2 Mayor Peterson thanked Dr. Ehleringer for his presentation and asked if since there is more than one  
3 canyon, if the dashboard data has the ability to identify differences between the two. Dr. Ehleringer  
4 stated that some things will be similar but there may be some crossover.  
5

6 Chair McCandless asked if smaller canyons were being analyzed as well. Although they are smaller,  
7 Chair McCandless recognized that they are equally important. Currently, the focus stops at I-80.  
8 Dr. Ehleringer stated that initially, they expected to complete Phase 2 in 18 months. He suggested  
9 they engage the largest number of users. Gratitude was expressed to Dr. Ehleringer for his work.  
10

11 **C. 2020 CWC MEETING LOCATION AND TIMES**  
12

13 **i. Discussion on Location (Cottonwood Heights City Hall or Wasatch Front**  
14 **Regional Council (“WFRC”) Conference Room) for CWC Meetings in 2020.**  
15

16 Executive Director Ralph Becker presented the 2020 meeting schedule. Meetings were to continue  
17 to be held the first Monday of the month with the exception of holidays including Labor Day and  
18 Memorial Day. The Stakeholders Council Meeting schedule remained unchanged. The Board was  
19 asked to consider retaining the meeting location at Cottonwood Heights City Hall. They had concern  
20 that if the body grows in number, they may not have much room on the dais. The option was explored  
21 of moving to the Wasatch Front Regional Council (“WFRC”) offices as their meeting room can  
22 accommodate a larger group.  
23

24 Chair McCandless suggested that a tour be taken of the WFRC offices and meeting room. Mayor  
25 Silvestrini was familiar with the room and stated that it is adequate and has more space to meet around  
26 a table but less audience seating. Mr. Becker explained that they have an agreement with the building  
27 owner to purchase parking validations on-demand in addition to the available on-street parking.  
28 Mayor Silvestrini’s experience had been that on-street parking is risky but was concerned about  
29 spending CWC money on parking validations.  
30

31 Mayor Peterson appreciated the level of participation from citizens and was concerned about changing  
32 the location for the sake of the constituents.  
33

34 Commissioner Bradley agreed and was concerned about meeting downtown and trying to leave the  
35 City between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. He was more amenable to moving aside and making room for  
36 another person on the dais and keeping Cottonwood Heights as a viable option as it is in an ideal  
37 location.  
38

39 Chair McCandless mentioned that there had been discussion of holding Stakeholders Council  
40 meetings quarterly. CWC Legal Counsel Shane Topham explained that in order to amend the meeting  
41 schedule it would be necessary to update the Stakeholders Council policies and procedures. He  
42 suggested the change be made once a decision is made.  
43

- 1           **ii. Consideration of Resolution 2019-29-A (Designating the Cottonwood Heights**  
2           **City Hall as the Meeting Place for Board Meetings) or Resolution 2019-29-B**  
3           **(Designating the WFRC Conference Room as the Meeting Place for Board**  
4           **Meetings) Establishing a Schedule for Regular Meetings of the CWC’s Board and**  
5           **Stakeholders Council for 2020.**  
6

7           **MOTION:** Mayor Silvestrini moved that the CWC adopt Resolution 2019-29-A to adopt the regular  
8 meeting schedule for the Board and Stakeholders Council with meetings to be held at the Cottonwood  
9 Heights City Hall. Mayor Sondak seconded the motion. Vote on motion: Mayor Beerman-Aye,  
10 Mayor Biskupski-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Chair  
11 McCandless-Aye, Mayor Sondak-Aye, Mayor Silvestrini-Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion  
12 passed unanimously.

13  
14           **D. CWC COMMITTEES**

- 15  
16           **i. Consideration of Resolution 2019-30 Amending the CWC Bylaws Concerning**  
17           **Advisory Committees.**  
18  
19           **ii. Discussion Concerning the Transportation, Short-Term Projects, and Legislation**  
20           **Advisory Committees.**  
21

22           Mr. Becker presented the resolution and stated that at the retreat the decision was made to create three  
23 working committees addressing (1) the federal legislation, (2) transportation; and (3) short-term  
24 projects. The Board was asked to make an initial commitment of three members in each committee.  
25 The committees were formed with the proposed resolution formally creating them.

26  
27           Mr. Becker reported that at the retreat there was discussion about longer-term matters associated with  
28 the Commission. A few days prior to the retreat the Commission received a letter from the four ski  
29 areas in the Cottonwood Canyons indicating that they did not wish to continue to pursue the land  
30 exchanges through the legislation. At the retreat, the Commission made the decision to continue with  
31 its commitment and form a committee to focus solely on the legislation. All three committees were  
32 informally established with one group having already met. Commissioner Robinson had taken the  
33 lead with the first group. Commissioner Robison reported on the first meeting and stated that they  
34 are making progress.

35  
36           **MOTION:** Mayor Biskupski moved to approve Resolution 2019-30, amending the CWC Bylaws  
37 concerning advisory committees. Mayor Peterson seconded the motion.  
38

39           Mr. Topham indicated that the proposed modification was made to Subsection C of new Section 4.15  
40 that would require there be a quorum of the advisory committees with at least one CWC Board  
41 member present as well as a majority of the full membership.  
42

43           Commissioner Robinson was concerned with the notion of a quorum for the advisory committees and  
44 how membership is constituted. He questioned whether the quorum should include at least two Board  
45 members and hold meetings regardless of whether the other members show up. Mr. Topham  
46 explained that it is contemplated that a certain number of Commissioners are members of the advisory  
47 committee and the board appoints additional members. The purpose of the advisory committees was  
48 discussed as well as the need for a quorum.

1  
2 Mayor Silvestrini commented that the proposed bylaw change authorizes the advisory committees.  
3 The intent at this meeting was to enable the formation of committees after which they will form the  
4 committees and make appointments. He did not think it was wise for the parameters to be so narrow  
5 that another change is needed later on.

6  
7 Commissioner Robinson proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to amend the language to  
8 require at least one Board member and a majority of the committee membership. Mayor Beerman  
9 expressed concern that perhaps the advisory committees will be overly cumbersome. Chair  
10 McCandless explained that the original idea came from the Stakeholders Commission who wanted  
11 more Board involvement.

12  
13 Noticing issues were discussed. Commissioner Robinson was concerned that what they are trying to  
14 do is rebuild a consensus. He also pointed out that the work being done with regard to transportation,  
15 short-term projects, and the legislation cannot be accomplished by the Stakeholders Council. Mayor  
16 Biskupski recalled that the discussions primarily involved reaching out to experts for a small group  
17 meeting to get more information brought back as an agenda item once the details are worked out.  
18 Commissioner Robinson thought the best tact was to appoint members to serve on the three advisory  
19 committees with the participation of one or two Board members. Mayor Beerman considered it overly  
20 cumbersome to accomplish what is desired.

21  
22 Mr. Becker stated that the challenge goes back to the Mountain Accord where they ultimately fell  
23 under the Open and Public Meetings Act. He explained that when an advisory group is formed it  
24 becomes statutorily subject to the Act. Commissioner Bradley explained that what they are trying to  
25 achieve is a creative process that is not encumbered by too much bureaucracy. Chair McCandless  
26 did not want to stifle the creativity of the committee.

27  
28 Commissioner Silvestrini suggested the stakeholders be involved to the extent possible. He supported  
29 the idea of forming an advisory committee. Mayor Biskupski supported passing the motion as-is,  
30 clarify the intent, and work with staff. It included redline language that specifies the inclusion of at  
31 least one Board member. Mr. Topham suggested that in order to make the language conform to the  
32 terms of art being used, the motion should specify that the advisory committee shall include at least  
33 one member of the governing board and otherwise constitute at least a majority of the committee's  
34 current membership.

35  
36 Mayor Biskupski withdrew her motion to allow for further dialog regarding the intention of the  
37 subgroups.

38  
39 **MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved to approve Resolution 2019-30, as amended. Mayor  
40 Silvestrini seconded the motion.

41  
42 Mayor Silvestrini stressed the importance of moving the matter forward and forming the committees.  
43 They also need to be sensitive to meetings being open.

44  
45 Commissioner Bradley commented on the need to have at least a majority of the current membership  
46 be present. He asked who would establish the current membership. He suggested they keep in mind  
47 that each of the three advisory committees will have different demands.  
48

1 Vote on motion: Mayor Beerman-Nay, Mayor Biskupski-Nay, Commissioner Bradley-Nay,  
2 Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Mayor Sondak-Aye, Mayor Silvestrini-Aye,  
3 Mayor Peterson-Nay. The motion failed 4-to-4.

4  
5 Mayor Peterson commented that the matter needs further review, discussion, and clarification.

6  
7 **MOTION:** Chair McCandless moved to continue the item to the January meeting and ask staff and  
8 the New Chair to take those things into consideration and bring it back for approval or further  
9 discussion. Mayor Biskupski seconded the motion.

10  
11 Commissioner Robinson suggested that the numbers for each committee be brought forward at the  
12 next meeting.

13  
14 Mayor Beerman was not sure the committees were what the Board intended during the retreat. He  
15 suggested the two be aligned.

16  
17 Vote on motion: Mayor Beerman-Aye, Mayor Biskupski-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye,  
18 Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Mayor Sondak-Aye, Mayor Silvestrini-Aye,  
19 Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

20  
21 **E. ELECTION OF CWC CHAIR AND CO-CHAIR**

- 22  
23 **i. The Board will Entertain Nominations and Conduct an Election for a New Chair**  
24 **and Co-Chair of the CWC to Replace Current Chair Chris McCandless and Co-**  
25 **Chair Jackie Biskupski, to be Effective 6 January 2020.**

26  
27 **MOTION:** Chair McCandless moved to nominate Commissioner Robinson to serve as Chair.  
28 Commissioner Bradley seconded the motion.

29  
30 Commissioner Robinson expressed his willingness to serve.

31  
32 Mayor Peterson moved to close the nominations. There was no second to the motion. The motion  
33 passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

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

38  
39 **MOTION:** Mayor Biskupski moved to nominate Mayor Jenny Wilson to serve as Vice-Chair. Chair  
40 McCandless seconded the motion.

41  
42 Chair McCandless moved that the nominations cease. Commissioner Robinson seconded the motion.  
43 The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

44  
45 Vote on motion: Mayor Beerman-Aye, Mayor Biskupski-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-Aye,  
46 Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Mayor Sondak-Aye, Mayor Silvestrini-Aye,  
47 Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

1 Due to Commissioner Robinson’s appointment to serve as Chair, a new Secretary would need to be  
2 appointed. That item of business would be on the next agenda. Chair McCandless hoped to see  
3 Mayor Silvestrini appointed to serve as Secretary.

4  
5 **F. ACCOUNTING SERVICES REIMBURSEMENT**

- 6  
7 **i. Consideration of Resolution 2019-31 Authorizing Reimbursement of Accounting**  
8 **Expenses Incurred in Connection with Termination of the Mountain Accord**  
9 **Process and Formation of the CWC.**

10  
11 Chair McCandless commented that Greg Curtis, one of the originators of the CWC, extended a loan  
12 to allow for the hiring of personnel. That was done and the cost should be reimbursed.

13  
14 **MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved to adopt Resolution 2019-31. [REDACTED] seconded  
15 the motion. Vote on motion: Mayor Beerman-Aye, Mayor Biskupski-Aye, Commissioner Bradley-  
16 Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Mayor Sondak-Aye, Mayor Silvestrini-  
17 Aye, Mayor Peterson-Aye. The motion passed unanimously.

18  
19 **G. STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

- 20  
21 **i. Stakeholders Council Chair and Vice-Chair, Greg Summerhays and Dr. Kelly**  
22 **Bricker, will Provide an Update on the September Stakeholders Council Meeting**  
23 **and Work Moving Forward.**

24  
25 **MOTION:** Chair McCandless moved to table the above item to the January meeting due to the  
26 absence of the Stakeholders Council Chair and Vice-Chair. Commissioner Robinson seconded the  
27 motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Board.

28  
29 **H. STAFF MONTHLY REPORT**

- 30  
31 **i. Presentation by CWC Executive Director Ralph Becker of His Monthly Report.**

32  
33 Mr. Becker reported that the Stakeholders Council was discussed in detail at the retreat and the  
34 possibilities for adjustments. At the retreat it was proposed that a committee be formed to address  
35 transportation with a focus on the Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement  
36 (“LLCEIS”). Comments were due by December 13.

37  
38 Work was completed on the bus service improvements most notably through the efforts of the Utah  
39 Transit Authority (“UTA”). They looked at what could be done short-term and the Board took funds  
40 from its reserves to help pay for the service since there was a very short turnaround for the decision  
41 made by UTA.

42  
43 Mr. Becker addressed the work being done on the federal legislation. Staff was asked to comment on  
44 how to best move forward in terms of membership with Brighton being incorporated effective the  
45 date of the next Board meeting.

46  
47 At the retreat there was discussion about the status of others who are actively engaged in the canyons  
48 but who are not elected official jurisdictions. It was recommended that they move forward with the

1 Brighton application upon receipt. He suggested they continue to look at least two entities consisting  
2 of the Metropolitan Water District and UTA for ex officio membership. Both expressed interest and  
3 were pursuing ways to become members of the Board.

4  
5 **I. PUBLIC COMMENT**

6  
7 John Knoblock commented on the legislative committee meeting that occurred with respect to the  
8 Bonneville Shoreline Trail and wilderness adjustments. There was concern about having a separate  
9 bill that would potentially adjust the wilderness boundaries for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail without  
10 having any additional net loss of wilderness. The Trails Utah and Bonneville Shoreline Trail  
11 Committees were not in support and will not accept any proposal that includes a net loss of wilderness.  
12 Mr. Knoblock referred to the Trails Master Plan and stated that before they move forward with a  
13 Trails Committee of the Stakeholders Council and any motion on trails, the Trails Master Plan must  
14 be done properly with the involvement of a consultant, GIS work, public meetings, and noticing. The  
15 consultant work was expected to cost about \$150,000.

16  
17 Paul Godot reported that he listened to the audio from the retreat and recognized that several different  
18 groups were being represented. His understanding was that transportation is critical and something  
19 that needs to be addressed, perhaps before the federal legislation is moved forward. Several things  
20 are unresolved with respect to membership and he stressed the importance of UDOT and UTA being  
21 represented on the Board. Mr. Godot commented that signs were posted in Little Cottonwood Canyon  
22 requiring 4 x 4 and chains last week but on Friday morning they were gone. There was then a storm.  
23 It seemed to him that there had been a lot of discussion but no one is in charge. He noticed that no  
24 one commented on UTA's proposal to remove internal racks from the ski buses.

25  
26 Dave Fields thanked Chair McCandless for his commitment to finding solutions to the Canyon  
27 transportation problems.

28  
29 Nathan [REDACTED] was working with a team of students on rapid transit, which addresses  
30 various goals and concerns with expansion. The maximum capacity would be 20,000 skiers per hour.  
31 It is resistant to snow and during snowstorms and blizzards the total travel time from the base of the  
32 mountain to the top of the ski resort is 12 minutes. Other advantages were described.

33  
34 **J. COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

35  
36 Mayor Peterson thanked the constituents for their attendance. He was impressed by the number of  
37 people who have attended each month. He also expressed appreciation to Chair McCandless for his  
38 service and wished him well in his future endeavors.

39  
40 Sandy City Council Member Marcy Houseman was introduced as Chair McCandless' replacement  
41 on the Board. She has over 20 years of experience in education and turnaround and hoped to be able  
42 to find solutions to problems. Ms. Houseman stated that she offers collaboration, communication,  
43 and innovation.

44  
45 Mr. Becker introduced Communications Intern Quinn Graves.

46  
47 Chair McCandless was pleased to have served on the Board and considered the CWC to be pivotal to  
48 the quality of life enjoyed by all. He thanked his fellow board members.

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**K. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Chair McCandless moved to adjourn. Mayor Biskupski seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Commission.

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

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

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

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