

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
2 **MEETING HELD FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 10:30 A.M. IN THE SALT LAKE**  
3 **COUNTY COMPLEX LOCATED AT 2001 SOUTH STATE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY,**  
4 **UTAH DRAFT**  
5

6 **Present:** Chair Chris Robinson, Laura Briefer, Mike Reberg, Catherine Kanter, Jenny  
7 Wilson, Kerri Nakamura, Greg Summerhays (arrived at 11:45 a.m.)  
8

9 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Blake Perez, Office  
10 Manager Kaye Mickelson  
11

12 **1. OPENING**  
13

14 CWC Board of Commissioners Chair Chris Robinson called the meeting to order at approximately  
15 10:30 a.m.  
16

17 **2. ADJOURNED TO CLOSED SESSION (PERSONNEL ITEMS)**  
18

19 **MOTION:** **Chris R.** moved to close the open meeting and go into closed session to  
20 discuss personnel issues. **Jenny W.** seconded the motion. The motion passed with the  
21 unanimous consent of the Executive Committee.  
22

23 The Executive Committee was in Closed Session from approximately 10:35 a.m. to 10:55 a.m.  
24

25 **MOTION:** Jenny Wilson moved to leave Closed Session and resume the Open Meeting. Chair  
26 Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Executive  
27 Committee.  
28

29 **3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS DRAFT AGENDA: MARCH 9, 2020.**  
30

31 The agenda was reviewed and discussed.  
32

33 **4. CWC COMMITTEE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION.**  
34

35 Chair Robinson reported that the first Transportation Committee Meeting was scheduled for the  
36 following Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. in the Cannon Room at the City County Building. It was expected to  
37 be a two-hour meeting. It was an open meeting and he invited Carolyn Rodriguez, Summit County's  
38 Regional Transportation Planning Director. He stated that she is a great resource. In terms of the  
39 Land Tenure Committee, they struggled to find a date that works well. Deputy Director, Blake Perez  
40 reported that a new poll was sent out for which they have received a few responses. They were  
41 expected to meet mid-March.  
42

43 Chair Robinson reported that he and Mr. Perez had a productive meeting with Chris Cushing from  
44 the CE Group, which does a lot of aerial design work. He was willing to donate his personal time to  
45 help them brainstorm.  
46

47 A report was given on the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting where progress was made to hone  
48 in on a list. It was noted that there is a lot of work to be done. The group discussed developing

1 criteria to spread projects across the four principal areas of Mountain Accord and weighed the  
2 transportation, environmental, and recreation projects. A small group met with the Forest Service,  
3 Snowbird, and Save Our Canyons in an effort to vet additional projects. The expectation was that  
4 they would present a list to the group. Mr. Becker stated that there was also solicitation for those who  
5 want to make proposals.

6  
7 Mayor Wilson commented that in the early phase of the committees it is important to define the scope  
8 and the mission. Chair Robinson stated that the Short-Term Projects Committee will make  
9 recommendations to the Executive Committee along with the cost. The suggestion was made that  
10 they look at projects broadly and then come up with criteria to prioritize them.

## 11 12 **5. ENVIRONMENTAL DASHBOARD UPDATE.**

13  
14 Chair Robinson reported that Phoebe McNealy and Jim Ehrlinger have been working on Phase 1 of  
15 the Environmental Dashboard. They are now moving onto Phase 2 and have scheduled a meeting  
16 with the CWC Board. Their intent is to take the Dashboard from a static document to a web-based  
17 system with five main elements. The projected cost was expected to be \$150,000 to \$180,000. To  
18 date, they have spent \$43,000. There had been previous discussions about the cost being a total of  
19 around \$100,000.

20  
21 Mr. Becker commented that it was recognized that the intent of the upcoming presentation was to  
22 help the CWC Board Members better understand what the Environmental Dashboard is and assess its  
23 value. He reported that \$100,000 was budgeted this year for it. The March agenda will include a  
24 budget adjustment as well. He explained that Phase 1 was the compilation of the data and  
25 recommendations for going forward. An Interlocal Agreement was entered into with the University  
26 of Utah to address Phase 2.

27  
28 Mr. Becker explained that one of the features that came out of Mountain Accord was the need for a  
29 common database of information about environmental data of the mountains to inform decision  
30 making and to benefit the public.

## 31 32 **6. STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL UPDATE/MEMBERSHIP.**

33  
34 Mr. Perez reported on the status of the Stakeholders Council and stated that they have been broken  
35 down into three committees. The first is the Trails and Trailheads Committee whose purpose and  
36 mission is to secure funding to do a comprehensive trails plan for Mountain Accord. The second is a  
37 Millcreek Canyon Committee. The FLAP grant is in place and they are still clarifying their purpose  
38 and goals. The third is the Visitor Management Committee. They have not met in a few months  
39 because they feel that there is nothing else to meet on. Chair Robinson suggested they attend the  
40 Transportation, Land Tenure and Short-Term Projects Committee, which are open meetings.

41  
42 Mr. Perez explained that they did not want to duplicate the CWC and Stakeholder committees. Mayor  
43 Wilson suggested that the full committee weigh in on projects. She asked for clarification on the  
44 Transportation Plan. Chair Robinson stated that they have a March 1 deadline for public comments.  
45 An email was sent out to announce the 30-day comment period to solicit comments on what a  
46 mountain transportation system should look like, what features and characteristics it should have, and  
47 what the scope should be. To date, 125 comments have been received. Summaries will be provided

1 of all of the comments and at the March meeting recommendations will be provided of the attributes,  
2 objectives, and scope of what mountain transportation should be.

3  
4 Chair Robinson explained that UDOT is providing the CWC with the memos as part of the Little  
5 Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement. The Transportation Committee is trying to  
6 come up with a concept for a mountain transportation system.

7  
8 Chair Robinson was excused from the remainder of the meeting.

9  
10 Executive Director, Ralph Becker reported that staff and others have continued to meet with various  
11 individuals on the mountain transportation system. One individual is involved in big picture aerial  
12 systems who many go to for advice on what kind of system should be considered. They met once in  
13 preliminarily with another entity who has offered to do something similar with respect to rail and  
14 provide information on what a rail system could look like.

15  
16 Greg Summerhays joined the meeting.

17  
18 Mr. Becker suggested that as part of the next budget they may want to consider setting aside funds to  
19 pay for outside consulting assistance.

20  
21 Mr. Summerhays requested guidance and direction from the Executive Committee on next steps. The  
22 main question involved the ski areas and whether they will provide data to add to the study.  
23 Mr. Becker explained that the Visitor Management Study, which was previously referred to as the  
24 Carrying Capacity Study, has been a major topic of discussion among the Stakeholders Council from  
25 the first meeting. They wanted to understand the impacts of the increase in visitors on both the  
26 environment and recreational experiences of the various users. The discussion got heated at times  
27 but they have since settled down with the help of Dr. Kelly Bricker who is an international authority  
28 on the subject. On her own, at the request of the Stakeholders Council, she provided a sense of what  
29 it would look like as well as the possible cost.

30  
31 Mayor Wilson stressed the importance of looking at future impacts for the status quo as well as an  
32 objective goal. She also pointed out that the population is going to continue to grow, however, she  
33 felt that much of the planning taking place is based on today. She suggested they be more forward-  
34 thinking and base projections on the future. She also considered the resort piece to be critical. She  
35 commented that at some point they will need to provide resources to the effort. The cost was  
36 estimated at \$350,000 for both phases with the timing being about one year. The first phase was  
37 expected to take only a few months at a cost of \$30,000 to \$50,000. The second phase would look at  
38 the Visitor Management Study with an estimated cost of \$150,000 for each canyon.

39  
40 Mayor Wilson suggested there be a limit and a different method to gauge traffic congestion. The next  
41 step will be for the CWC Board to indicate whether to pursue it and find funding. Mr. Becker  
42 explained that the Forest Service will not regulate numbers at the resorts and will not set limits. He  
43 commented that the ski resorts are nervous about the potential of limits being set and as a result, have  
44 been fighting the idea of the Visitor Management Study. The possibility of incorporating the Visitor  
45 Management Study in the Watershed Management Plan was discussed.

46  
47 Mr. Becker explained that the Forest Service tracks numbers of users and they will consult with Salt  
48 Lake City on impacts. What the Forest Service has not been willing to do is to limit the number of

1 skiers. They consider that to be a business decision for the resorts to make. That does not mean,  
2 however, that Salt Lake City or Salt Lake County cannot suggest limits. Timing issues were  
3 discussed. Mr. Becker stated that the first phase could be completed in a few months with 1 ½ to 2  
4 years to complete the study.

5  
6 Mayor Wilson questioned why they are checking snow tires at the bottleneck. She suggested a system  
7 be developed to have people be prechecked and then have a sticker affixed to their car. Mr. Becker  
8 explained that this year they are starting it with employees and canyon residents. If it works well, it  
9 will expand it to the public. Under the existing road conditions, there is not enough room to check  
10 everyone.

11  
12 Mr. Becker commented on the Bus Bypass Service and stated that they are working on getting a  
13 \$50,000 appropriation and having it be overseen by either local governments or the Utah Highway  
14 Patrol. It will, however, require a match.

15  
16 **7. ADJOURNMENT.**

17  
18 The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:05 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission Executive Committee Meeting held Friday, February 21, 2020.*

3

4 *Teri Forbes*

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

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

DRAFT