

**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM WITH NO ANCHOR LOCATION.**

**Present:** Chair Carl Fisher, Vice Chair Megan Nelson, Brian Hutchinson, Michael Braun, Barbara Cameron, Steve Van Maren, Dennis Goreham, Will McCarvill, Patrick Nelson, Alex Schmidt, Deeda Seed, Sarah Bennett, Pat Shea, Jan Striefel

**CWC Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Blake Perez, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye Mickelson

1. **OPENING – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chair Carl Fisher called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. Chair Fisher welcomed those present and asked them to introduce themselves and state any associated organization:

* Chair Fisher (Executive Director of Save Our Canyons);
* Co-Chair Megan Nelson (Director of Government Relations for The Nature Conservancy);
* Barbara Cameron (Big Cottonwood Community Council);
* William McCarvill (Wasatch Mountain Club);
* Dennis Goreham (Wasatch Mountain Club);
* Steve Van Maren (Resident of Sandy City);
* Michael Braun (Resident of Granite);
* Alex Schmidt (Campaigns Coordinator of Save Our Canyons);
* Jan Striefel (League of Women Voters);
* Sarah Bennett (Trails Utah);
* Brian Hutchinson (Resident of Salt Lake City);
* Patrick Nelson (Watershed Manager at Salt Lake City Public Utilities);
* Deeda Seed (Center of Biological Diversity);
* Blake Perez (CWC Deputy Director);
* Lindsey Nielsen (CWC Communications Director);
* Kaye Mickelson (CWC Office Administrator); and
* Ralph Becker (CWC Executive Director).

Chair Fisher noted that at the last Preservation Committee Meeting, there were discussions about having presentations at each meeting. He reached out to the Sawtooth Society and scheduled them to present at the current meeting. However, the Sawtooth Society had an opportunity to approach their County Commission for a substantial grant opportunity that would fund their stewardship efforts in the Sawtooth Mountains. Chair Fisher would try to reschedule the presentation for the following Preservation Committee Meeting.

1. **ADOPT APRIL 29, 2021 MINUTES AND SET NEXT MEETING (3RD THURSDAY – 6/17)**

**MOTION:** Megan Nelson moved to approve the minutes of the April 29, 2021, Preservation Committee Meeting. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

Discussions were had about the date for the next meeting. Chair Fisher reported that he would be unavailable on June 17, 2021. Co-Chair Nelson suggested speaking further with the Sawtooth Society to determine possible dates that would work with their schedule. Chair Fisher liked the suggestion. He explained that a poll would be sent out to Preservation Committee Members in the future to determine a suitable date for the June meeting.

1. **PURPOSE, VISION, AND VALUES DISCUSSION**

**a. Possible Action: Adoption of Committee Purpose, Vision, and/or Values.**

Chair Fisher reported that a preliminary purpose statement had been discussed during the last Preservation Committee Meeting. That purpose statement had been revised to state:

* The advancement of policies, proposals, and initiatives that prioritize the preservation and protection of the Central Wasatch Mountains, to ensure it thrives for nature and all people.

Ms. Bennett suggested that the statement state, “…to ensure the landscape thrives…” instead. Chair Fisher explained that he previously used the word ‘ecosystems’ instead and wondered if that would be suitable. Mr. Braun asked if the Central Wasatch Mountains was too broad of an area. Mr. Becker explained that there is a defined boundary for the Central Wasatch Mountains as it pertains to the CWC. It was in the Interlocal Agreement and Charter and that area was essentially from Parley’s Canyon down through Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Ms. Cameron wondered if the watershed should be mentioned in the Purpose Statement. Chair Fisher believed that the Purpose Statement should be fairly high level. The Preservation Committee Purpose Statement was edited to state:

* The advancement of policies, proposals, and initiatives that prioritize the preservation and protection of the Central Wasatch Mountains, to ensure its ecology thrives for nature and all people.

**MOTION:** Jan Striefel moved to adopt the Preservation Committee Purpose and Vision Statement. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

1. **GOALS AND COMMITTEE PRIORITIES**

Chair Fisher explained that after the previous Preservation Committee Meeting discussion about goals, he generated a Word Cloud that was shared in the Zoom chatbox. Chair Fisher noted that many of the goals were centered around equity, inclusion, and diversity. He wondered if that observation should be shared with the Stakeholders Council and CWC Board. Chair Fisher posed the following questions to the Preservation Committee Members:

* How do we strive for inclusion and diversity?
* What does inclusion and diversity look like?
* Is it being incorporated in decision-making processes? If not, how can it be incorporated into decision-making processes in the future?

Chair Fisher wondered if inclusion and diversity are issues that the Preservation Committee is prepared to take on. He shared some of the goals expressed during the previous meeting that related to inclusion and diversity:

* Concern with the balance between inclusion, environmental justice, and access with preservation and protection. (Suggestions: free-year round busing combined with limited visitation through measures like tolling and widespread education); and
* The importance of inclusion for diverse and underserved populations.

Chair Fisher noted that there had also been a recommendation during the previous meeting to invite groups like Latino Outdoors and other entities that represented diverse populations. Co-Chair Nelson felt that inclusion and diversity may be bigger than the Preservation Committee and it was something that should be brought up to the full Stakeholders Council for discussion. She added that inclusion and diversity apply to all of the other CWC subcommittees as well. It was suggested that this topic be an agenda item at the next Stakeholders Council Meeting.

Ms. Mickelson reported that there was a statement related to inclusion on the CWC website. Additionally, the CWC is in the process of accepting applications for new Stakeholders Council Members. They specifically reached out to groups that focused on diversity to inform them that membership applications were open. Chair Fisher wondered if the Preservation Committee Members still believed the Stakeholders Council should have a discussion related to this topic. Ms. Seed believed the conversation should still take place. It was important to continue to focus on equity, inclusion, and diversity.

Chair Fisher liked that the subcommittees are structured in a way where they are accessible and open to anyone that wanted to participate. One thing that the Preservation Committee could do was make space for those types of conversations to take place. He noted that they could create opportunities and extend invitations for people to bring certain issues to the Committee. Mr. Hutchinson believed inclusion and diversity may be the missing ingredient in the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) conversations. He did not feel that equity, inclusion, and diversity had been addressed to the extent that they needed to be.

Chair Fisher suggested that the Preservation Committee take part in outreach. They could send out emails that introduce the Preservation Committee and invited participation as well as share information related to the open Stakeholders Council applications. He asked for volunteers to help draft the invitation as well as some possible organizations to reach out to. Ms. Seed, Mr. Schmidt, and Mr. Hutchinson offered to work on the draft and the list of organizations.

**MOTION:** Pat Shea moved that the Preservation Committee recommend that a discussion be held on diversity and inclusion at the next Stakeholders Council Meeting, which would be a special meeting held in June 2021. After discussing and reviewing the CWC inclusion statement, there would be a vote to endorse it. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

Ms. Cameron wondered if equity, inclusion, and diversity should be included in the Preservation Committee goals. Chair Fisher commented that they could be added as goals. However, he believed this would be less of a goal and more of an action item. The Committee would invite and include rather than simply list equity, inclusion, and diversity on a document. It was something the Preservation Committee intended to demonstrate.

Goals from the previous Preservation Committee Meeting were discussed. For instance, engineering, education, and enforcement. Chair Fisher explained that he had considered replacing the word ‘engineering’ with ‘etiquette’. He wondered whether the Committee Members preferred that ‘engineering’ or ‘etiquette’ be used. Pat Shea felt that engineering was important and noted that it might be distinguished as science-based engineering. Mr. Hutchinson felt that engineering, education, and enforcement were all important. He did not believe there was a compelling reason to change the terms used. Mr. Goreham also liked the previously discussed language. Chair Fisher noted that the Committee would keep the language as engineering, education, and enforcement.

Mr. McCarvill added that ‘engineering’ means doing the correct thing for the environment and not necessarily choosing the design that is the cheapest. Preservation and conservation would need to drive engineering. For instance, if a trail were being engineered, it would need to be done to have the least impact on the environment possible but is also easily maintained.

Discussions were had about the idea of etiquette. Ms. Bennett believed it was important for people to understand that there is a certain level of etiquette required in order to share space. Chair Fisher suggested that one of the future presenters could be someone that focused on education and etiquette in highly visited wild space. Mr. Shea noted that it may be beneficial to invite school superintendents from the Salt Lake Valley as they have a direct relationship to the school curriculum. Chair Fisher liked the idea of involving the school districts. Ms. Cameron believed that Joanna Wheelton from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation would also be a good presenter. Other suggestions included the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics, Tim Brown from the Tracy Aviary, and the Utah Society for Environmental Education.

Chair Fisher overviewed some of the goals discussed thus far, which were as follows:

* Education;
* Etiquette;
* Enforcement; and
* Engineering.

He reiterated that inclusion and diversity are action items. Chair Fisher noted that there are certain fiduciary responsibilities associated with preservation. He explained that oftentimes, new infrastructure is funded, such as trails and trailheads, but when it comes to fuels reduction or habitat restoration, those tasks do not necessarily receive the same level of attention. Chair Fisher wondered if the Preservation Committee might want to focus on operations and maintenance issues. Ms. Seed felt that was a good idea.

Mr. Goreham commented that it was an important topic, but it could be overwhelming since there were so many different aspects to consider. Ms. Bennett explained that it was difficult to receive grant money for maintenance. For instance, it had been excluded from the Recreational Trails Program grant as well as the Utah Outdoor Recreation grant. However, she noted that all of the Trails Utah projects that were underway tried to incorporate some kind of reclamation. A lot of the work the trail builders were doing was to establish sanctioned trail routes and prevent the spidering of trails in the foothills. Chair Fisher discussed visitation and it did not seem like budgets were keeping up with visitation levels. Ms. Bennett reported that the U.S. Forest Service does not have extra staff or extra funding. However, the City and County were starting to understand the need for maintenance within the Central Wasatch and along the Wasatch Front. She believed that more work needed to be done on a federal level.

Chair Fisher proposed the idea of sharing and developing a narrative or story with a historical and cultural context. For instance, what the area was, what it currently is, what stood to be lost, what could be restored, what could be replaced, and what should be protected. He felt that the narrative would make it easier to understand what the Central Wasatch Mountains are and also engage users. Co-Chair Nelson liked the suggestion. She believed the narrative would provide an opportunity to be inclusive and to share a variety of perspectives. Chair Fisher asked that Preservation Committee Members come up with narratives and stories to share at the next meeting.

Ms. Cameron reported that the Big Cottonwood Community Council applied for a grant to have folktale writer and musician, Clive Romney, compose stories about the Wasatch. She was excited to see what he would come up with and offered to share more information about that process with the Preservation Committee. Chair Fisher felt the project would help forward the narrative conversation at the next Preservation Committee meeting.

Chair Fisher felt that several goals and priorities had been outlined and discussed during the current meeting as well as during the previous Preservation Committee Meeting.

1. **TASKS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Chair Fisher discussed tasks for the next Preservation Committee Meeting. He asked that the Committee Members be prepared for the narrative discussions. He noted that there would be a discussion related to inclusivity and diversity during the next meeting as well. Chair Fisher wondered if there were other tasks or priority items to focus on at the next meeting. Co-Chair Nelson noted that there were some comments in the Zoom chat box about potential speakers and presenters. She asked that anyone with an idea follow up with them so those presentations could be scheduled for future meetings of the Preservation Committee.

Mr. Goreham commented that the Wasatch Mountain Club had been a community partner with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics for the last few years. He thought they would be good speakers to have. Mr. Goreham offered to reach out to schedule a potential date. Chair Fisher reminded him that aside from June 2021, Preservation Committee Meetings were scheduled for the third Thursday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

Chair Fisher suggested that a presentation from Salt Lake City Watershed may be valuable. Additionally, he believed that Co-Chair Nelson could share an overview of the conservation policy and some of the strategies that were available at a national level. Mr. Schmidt felt the latter would be helpful. While members of the Preservation Committee likely knew a lot of information about conservation already, the presentation would add more depth and ensure that everyone present had the same level of understanding. Mr. Shea suggested that Erica Gaddis from the Division of Water Quality could talk to the Committee about the watershed.

Chair Fisher believed there were several action items to focus on. He felt the Committee had a good idea of what the next meeting of the Preservation Committee would look like.

1. **OPEN DISCUSSION: Discussions/Update on Projects Affecting the Central Wasatch or Other Items of Importance from the Committee or Public.**

Chair Fisher asked if there were any updates that Preservation Committee Members would like to share. Mr. Braun reported that he sent an email to Chair Fisher earlier that morning. The Granite Community Council, residents of the triangle, and leaders of the Cottonwood Heights area with Save Not Pave had been in discussions over the last several months. At the last Granite Community Council Meeting, there was a position statement made about the UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS draft alternatives. The organizations made a statement that said:

* We all, the Granite Community Council, the triangle residents and Save Not Pave, are in favor of the enhanced bus option.

Mr. Braun explained that there was a lot of heated discussion about more finite details, such as the removal of snowsheds. However, the letter would be going out to the Wasatch Front Regional Council, CWC, State Legislators, Senators, and Congressmen. Mr. Braun wanted to let the Preservation Committee know about this position because transportation was tied to preservation.

Mr. Shea commented that holding Stakeholders Council Meetings every three months was not a very effective way to communicate concerns to the CWC Board. He believed the Preservation Committee should request a special meeting of the Stakeholders Council for the second or third week of June in order to discuss the different committees and their relationship to the CWC as a whole. He suggested that the quarterly Stakeholders Council Meetings could be standard, but a special meeting could be requested if a topic warranted further or immediate discussion.

Mr. Braun felt the suggestion made by Mr. Shea was a good one, but he was not sure that the Preservation Committee was the appropriate forum. He believed that Mr. Shea could reach out to other Stakeholders Council Members and generate conversation about the idea. Mr. Becker reported that the Stakeholders Council was not limited in terms of the number of meetings they could hold. The regular meetings were quarterly, but the Stakeholders Council could meet more regularly than that if desired. Mr. Becker explained that when polled, the majority of the Stakeholders Council Members had preferred to meet quarterly rather than monthly. That was discussed at the 2019 retreat. Since then, the Stakeholders Council has met quarterly. If there was a desire to change the meeting schedule, that could be brought forward to the CWC Board.

Mr. Shea noted that he had spoken to the current Stakeholders Council Chair, Dr. Kelly Bricker. She said that she would be happy to participate by Zoom as the Chair. He felt it would be worthwhile to suggest that she reach out to CWC Staff and request a special meeting. The meeting could cover how leadership was chosen as well as the meeting schedule. Mr. Perez shared the Rules and Procedures document in the Zoom chatbox. Chair Fisher did not disagree with the idea of a special meeting. However, he did not know that the suggestion needed to come from a committee.

Further discussions were had about scheduling a special meeting of the Stakeholders Council. It was noted that Dr. Bricker was still Chair of the Council until June 30, 2021. Vice-Chair of the Stakeholders Council, Ms. Striefel, offered to call a special meeting. Mr. Becker explained that CWC Staff could help to facilitate that. There would need to be a quorum and so he suggested sending out a request to see which date would be most suitable. The next Stakeholders Council Meeting was scheduled for July 21, 2021. The Council traditionally met on the third Wednesday of the month. It was noted that the special meeting could be held on June 16, 2021. Chair Fisher commented that Stakeholders Council leadership and CWC Staff could send out potential dates.

Chair Fisher thanked those present for their participation during the meeting.

1. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Preservation Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:36 p.m.

***I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Preservation Committee Meeting held Thursday, May 20, 2021.***

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes

T Forbes Group

Minutes Secretary

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