

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**
2 **MEETING HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020 AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS**
3 **CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY WITHOUT A PHYSICAL LOCATION, AS**
4 **AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNOR’S EXECUTIVE ORDER DATED MARCH 18, 2020.**
5

6 **Present:** Chair Chris Robinson, Vice Chair Mayor Jenny Wilson, Mayor Erin
7 Mendenhall
8

9 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, Deputy Director Blake Perez,
10 Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye
11 Mickelson
12

13 **Excused:** Mayor Mike Peterson
14

15 **Others:** Mike Reberg, Holly Lopez, Carl Fisher, Chris McCandless, Kyle Maynard,
16 Patrick Nelson, Laura Briefer, Tamara Prue
17

18 **1. OPENING**
19

20 **a. Chair Robinson will Open the Meeting.**
21

22 Chair Chris Robinson called the meeting to order at approximately 3:35 p.m.
23

24 **b. The Executive Committee will Review for Approval Minutes of the Meetings of**
25 **October 19, 2020, and November 6, 2020.**
26

27 **MOTION:** Mayor Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the October 19 and November 6, 2020,
28 Executive Committee Meetings. Mayor Mendenhall seconded the motion. The motion passed with
29 the unanimous consent of the Committee.
30

31 **2. MTS Summit: November 13-14, 2020: Discussion.**
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33 The Executive Committee discussed the Mountain Transportation (“MTS”) Summit that occurred on
34 November 13 and 14, 2020. Chair Robinson stated that the Summit was a success and that it exceeded
35 expectations. He noted that staff and the MTS Summit Facilitator, Julianna Christie, did very well.
36 Mike Reberg agreed and felt that a lot of good information was shared. Laura Briefer noted that she
37 learned a lot through the Zoom chat box function. She found the Summit to be very informative.
38 Executive Director, Ralph Becker believed there had been good discussions. Mayor Wilson felt that
39 the MTS Summit went well and it was clear that staff put in a lot of work. She expressed concerns
40 about the deadlines outlined in a recent press release. She commented that there was still a lot of
41 information to unpack and work through.
42

43 Office Administrator, Kaye Mickelson reported that most of the participants were engaged for the
44 full 10 hours of the Summit. A lot of information was shared that will move the CWC forward.
45 Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen felt that the engaged discussions will help the
46 Commission Members make decisions at the CWC Board Meetings in December.
47

1 Carl Fisher believed the MTS Summit provided an overview of the issues; however, he wasn't certain
2 there had been a lot of movement on the transportation solutions. He noted that the goal was to reach
3 a consensus, but he was not sure whether that had been accomplished. Chair Robinson commented
4 that more work would be done during the CWC Board Meetings in December.

5
6 Ms. Mickelson reminded the Executive Committee that Ms. Christie would submit a report on
7 December 2, 2020, related to the MTS Summit. Her input would be available to the Commission
8 prior to the CWC Board Meeting scheduled for December 7, 2020.

9
10 **3. DRAFT AGENDA: Monday – December 7, 2020.**

11
12 **a. Minutes of the November 2, 2020, CWC Board Meeting: Review/Approval.**

13
14 Chair Robinson outlined the Draft Agenda for the CWC Board Meeting scheduled for December 7,
15 2020. Minutes from the November 2, 2020, CWC Board Meeting would be reviewed and approved.

16
17 **b. Reminder: CWC Board Retreat Scheduled for Monday - December 14, 2020: 4**
18 **p.m. – 6 p.m.**

19
20 A reminder of the CWC Board Retreat scheduled for December 14, 2020, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
21 would be shared with Commission Members. Deputy Director, Blake Perez reported that the Retreat
22 will be held virtually. The time was shifted and condensed due to conflicts with Utah League of
23 Cities and Towns Meetings taking place earlier in the afternoon. Mr. Becker noted that discussions
24 related to future priorities and actions to pursue in the next year would take place during the CWC
25 Board Retreat.

26
27 **c. Committee Minutes for Review – No Action Necessary.**

- 28
29 **1. October 19, 2020, Executive Committee Minutes;**
30 **2. November 2, 2020, Executive Committee Minutes;**
31 **3. November 16, 2020, Executive Committee Minutes;**
32 **4. October 29, 2020, Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Minutes;**
33 **a. Mayor Silvestrini will update the Board on member contributions**
34 **and a 2020-2021 budget amendment hearing prior to the**
35 **January 4, 2021 Board Meeting.**
36 **5. October 30, 2020, Transportation Committee Minutes;**
37 **6. November 13, 14, 2020 Mountain Transit System Summit Minutes;**
38 **and**
39 **7. November Meeting Legislative/Land Tenure Committee.**
40

41 It was reported that the Committee minutes would be discussed during the CWC Board Meeting.
42 Mr. Perez reported that the 30-day public comment period on the latest draft legislation would be
43 closed before the meeting. The Legislative/Land Tenure Committee may share updates.

44
45 Chair Robinson asked that housekeeping items take approximately 10 minutes. The Legislative/Land
46 Tenure Committee could share a report because their work was linked to transportation, but Chair
47 Robinson felt the bulk of the time should be dedicated to MTS-related discussions. Mayor Wilson
48 suggested establishing a Consent Agenda. The Committee could sign off on items presented by staff

1 in advance. The Consent Agenda could be reviewed by the Executive Committee as well as the Chair
2 and staff to ensure best practices. This would allow the CWC Board Meetings to focus on discussions
3 and less on housekeeping matters. Chair Robinson made note of the suggestion. He proposed that
4 the Board Members read through the Committee minutes beforehand. There would not be detailed
5 discussions or reports related to the housekeeping items to allow additional time for MTS matters.
6

7 Chair Robinson questioned whether the Legislative/Land Tenure Committee Meeting update should
8 be postponed to the CWC Board Retreat or a CWC Board Meeting in January 2021. Mr. Reberg
9 reported that in addition to a discussion about the legislation, the Legislative/Land Tenure Committee
10 Meeting would also cover the Alta land exchange proposal. There would be a conversation about
11 how the Committee could facilitate the ski resort's non-legislative land exchange opportunities as
12 well. Mr. Reberg felt that the overview could be skipped at the next CWC Board Meeting and
13 addressed at a later time.
14

15 **d. Mountain Transit System – Discussion**
16

17 The Executive Committee discussed the results of the MTS Summit and how it would factor into the
18 upcoming CWC Board Meeting.
19

20 Mayor Wilson had spoken to Commissioner Jim Bradley and both felt it would be best to hold off on
21 the CWC announcing a transportation system preference. They believed it was essential to understand
22 and address capacity issues first. Mayor Wilson was not comfortable moving forward with any
23 transportation options until there has been a negotiation related to capacity issues. Chair Robinson
24 was not sure how long such a process would take. He felt it was important to try to reach a consensus
25 in order to influence the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) before it is too late. He noted
26 that the CWC committed to finishing the Environmental Dashboard project and the Visitor Use Study.
27 He wasn't sure whether those projects would address all of the capacity questions but they would be
28 beneficial. Chair Robinson was unsure whether capacity was something that could be agreed upon
29 before moving forward.
30

31 Mayor Mendenhall felt that the Environmental Dashboard was a wonderful investment. It would
32 provide information related to different levels of growth or limitations and explore the impacts on
33 environmental capacity. Mayor Mendenhall stressed the importance of prioritizing the environment
34 during transportation discussions. Chair Robinson believed the environment would be the
35 determining factor in reaching a consensus. He mentioned the conservation community, Salt Lake
36 City Public Utilities, and Salt Lake City Corporation. Chair Robinson asked if Mayor Mendenhall
37 believed the CWC should standby and wait for the Environmental Dashboard and Visitor Use Study
38 reports to be completed before continuing with transportation discussions. Mayor Mendenhall felt
39 the issues could be handled on parallel tracks. As information from the Environmental Dashboard
40 comes through, it could be used to inform the other processes.
41

42 Chair Robinson asked the Executive Committee how they wanted to move forward. Mayor Wilson
43 agreed with Mayor Mendenhall about parallel tracks. She suggested there be more discussion around
44 capacity and offered to take a more proactive role in those conversations. Online discussions with
45 ski resorts about transportation and capacity could be set up in the future. Mayor Wilson asked Chair
46 Robinson about UDOT. She wondered how a CWC transportation recommendation would influence
47 their work. Chair Robinson noted that the goal of the MTS Summit was to attempt to reach a
48 consensus recommendation where possible. This would inform policymakers of a concept that would

1 work for a representative group of Stakeholders. He acknowledged that it would be difficult to find
2 a transportation solution everyone could agree on. However, he felt it was worthwhile to try.

3
4 Chair Robinson read a comment in the Zoom chat box from Kyle Maynard. Mr. Maynard stated that
5 the entity responsible for deciding on a transit model may not be present at the current meeting. Chair
6 Robinson agreed and noted that there was a fear that the CWC would come up with transportation
7 ideas that offer variable capacity. The capacity could then be increased in the wrong hands. He felt
8 that was a risk because the CWC would not be the ultimate decision-makers. They were simply
9 working toward a recommendation. Chair Robinson felt there were several questions to consider
10 including the following:

- 11
- 12 • Should the CWC recommend a system that is self-regulating so it can't be expanded? Would
13 this limit capacity in an acceptable way?
- 14
- 15 • Should capacity limitations be left to those making the ultimate decisions?
- 16

17 He noted that the CWC could add capacity safeguards to their recommendation if they were to endorse
18 a specific transportation mode.

19
20 Ms. Briefer commented that there were several different goals and values for the MTS. She stated
21 that there was a subset of goals related to the ski resorts. They did not want to be hampered by road
22 capacity and parking lot capacity. The ski resorts also wanted to have better movement to the resorts.
23 That goal was different than a transportation system that would consider dispersed recreation and
24 reducing the number of vehicles on the road. Ms. Briefer stated that more refinement on the purpose
25 and needs of a transportation system would be beneficial. On the topic of capacity, Ms. Briefer
26 believed it should relate to management agencies and their ability to manage impacts. She referenced
27 Salt Lake City Public Works, the U.S. Forest Service, and the counties. Ms. Briefer believed the
28 environment would suffer if capacity impacts are not effectively managed. She noted that
29 transportation and capacity work hand in hand. Conversations surrounding these topics would need
30 to be detailed and thorough. Additionally, there needs to be a refinement of the problem that the
31 CWC is attempting to solve through transportation.

32
33 Chair Robinson suggested that during the CWC Board Meeting on December 7, 2020, time was spent
34 on refinement. The terms used previously were Attributes and Objectives. He recommended that the
35 Board work on value statements and clarify what would need to be included in a transportation plan
36 to move forward. The Executive Committee responded positively to Chair Robinson's suggestion.
37 Mayor Mendenhall noted that there may be several problems that the CWC is attempting to solve
38 through transportation. Having a better understanding of the problems would help determine who the
39 responsible parties could or should be in the future.

40
41 Chair Robinson commented that there was an assumption that the CWC was focused more on ski
42 resorts. He believed one of the objectives discussed during the Board Meeting should be that
43 beneficiaries are invested in the transportation mode. Chair Robinson felt it was important for
44 beneficiaries of transportation to be part of the solution. He added that while it is important to move
45 ahead with the Environmental Dashboard and Visitor Use Study, pausing transportation discussions
46 in the meantime would cause the CWC to lose momentum on the MTS work.

1 Mr. Becker reported that the UDOT Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) was scheduled to be
2 completed by the end of next year. It is a decision document for UDOT that could drive transportation
3 decisions in the area. The other element related to the Mountain Accord and the CWC pertained to
4 lands protection and more directed management to protect the mountains. Mr. Becker reported that
5 the CWC was working on draft legislation that would address those concerns. If the legislation
6 passes, it would include a new management plan for the area that could have visitor studies as well
7 as address watershed and development. If the legislation does not pass, it would be up to Salt Lake
8 City, conservation groups, and others with an interest to stop transportation improvements they do
9 not agree with through litigation or other means.

10
11 Mr. Becker reported that a Visitor Use Study would take a minimum of two to three years to complete.
12 He noted that while a completed Visitor Use Study would be beneficial, other factors could guide
13 discussions and recommendations. Pausing work on a transportation system to wait for a Visitor Use
14 Study would put a lot of important work on hold. According to recent information from the U.S.
15 Forest Service, visitor use in Big Cottonwood Canyon increased by 250% on a peak day in one year.
16 Mr. Becker stated that transportation issues will not go away and are becoming more pronounced.

17
18 Chair Robinson felt it would be beneficial to revisit the attributes of what a consensus transportation
19 system would need. This could be done during the CWC Board Meeting. He asked about the budget
20 amendments for next year. Mr. Perez clarified that the budget amendments for Reserve Funds to
21 complete the Environmental Dashboard and begin Phase 1 of the Visitor Use Study would be brought
22 to the CWC Board at the January 2021 Board Meeting. The tentative plan was to have a Request for
23 Proposals (“RFP”) for the Visitor Use Study ready for publication by the end of January.

24
25 Ms. Nielsen shared an update about the Environmental Dashboard with the Executive Committee.
26 The goal was to have the data and metric methodologies completed by March 1, 2021. The
27 storyboarding session with the geographic information system company, Esri, would take place on
28 May 15, 2021. The beta dashboard was scheduled to be completed on July 1, 2021. Public
29 engagement meetings would be completed by the end of September 2021 with the Environmental
30 Dashboard being presented for final approval to the CWC Board before the end of December 2021.

31
32 Mayor Wilson believed that the CWC’s position in the transportation work was critical. However,
33 she felt that because of the efforts made by Commissioners and staff, it was now appropriate to have
34 discussions with those who addressed similar issues at a higher level. Mayor Wilson stated that it
35 would be better to focus on those discussions rather than attempting to move a transportation
36 alternative forward that she and others were unwilling to support. She felt that the CWC Board was
37 not ready to make a recommendation. Chair Robinson believed that Mayor Wilson was referencing
38 the need for shuttle diplomacy. He suggested meeting with Stakeholders to see what they were
39 thinking about a transportation system and the next steps.

40
41 Chair Robinson believed the December 7, 2020, CWC Board Meeting should revisit the elements
42 needed to reach a consensus. He felt there was a chance to refine the discussions following the MTS
43 Summit. Ms. Briefer stated that it was also important to outline the problems that the CWC was
44 trying to solve. Chair Robinson pointed out that Ms. Christie shared a list of criteria during the MTS
45 Summit. It was time now for the CWC Board to determine their own criteria and refine that criteria
46 based on what was presented at the Summit.

1 Mr. Fisher noted that transportation and protection policies were intertwined. He believed there may
2 need to be conversations with State leaders to find support and work through the issues. Chair
3 Robinson asked the Executive Committee the following questions related to capacity:

- 4
- 5 • Who is in charge of capacity?
- 6 • Should we design a system that has internal limitations?
- 7

8 He noted that unless a transportation system is chosen that is not easily scalable, whoever was in
9 charge could increase capacity. It was important to determine who was in charge and understand how
10 that could affect future decisions. Chair Robinson wondered how to best deal with capacity.

11
12 Mayor Wilson believed it was important for the community to determine capacity in whatever way
13 possible. If the goal was to reach a community-wide consensus, capacity limits would need to be
14 implemented. Mayor Wilson expressed a belief that broader negotiations outside of the boundaries
15 of the CWC could help with this. She felt that the best thing to do was to move to negotiation and
16 determine where there was disagreement. The CWC could be a tool for that. Mayor Wilson
17 commented that if a transportation mode was selected or recommended, a capacity limitation would
18 need to be built in, either automatically by the system chosen or by policy. Chair Robinson suggested
19 that there be discussions about how to prevent a transportation tool from being abused. He believed
20 the CWC Board could also brainstorm ideas related to measuring capacity.

21
22 Chair Robinson recapped the specific discussion points for the Draft Agenda. Housekeeping items
23 would be taken care of quickly. The MTS Summit discussions would be focused on the following:

- 24
- 25 • Refine criteria and value statements to determine what an MTS would need to reach
26 consensus; and
- 27 • Address what tools could be put in place in order to regulate capacity.
- 28

- 29 e. **Public Comment.**
- 30 f. **Commissioner Comments.**
- 31 g. **Adjournment.**
- 32

33 The remainder of the Draft Agenda was discussed and approved.

34 35 **4. Discussion: December 14, 2020, CWC Board Retreat.**

36
37 Chair Robinson suggested adding additional time to the CWC Board Retreat on December 14, 2020.
38 It was scheduled to run from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the Retreat was to discuss future
39 priorities and actions that the CWC would pursue in the next year. Chair Robinson felt it would be
40 difficult to complete those discussions in the allotted time. He suggested adding an additional hour
41 so the CWC Board Retreat would run from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

42 43 **5. ADJOURNMENT.**

44
45 **MOTION:** Mayor Wilson moved to adjourn. Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The motion
46 passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

47
48 The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:10 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 Monday, November 16, 2020.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____