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3 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE**  
4 **COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 AT 3:30 P.M. VIA**  
5 **ZOOM**  
6

7 **Present:** Chair Chris Robinson, Mayor Jenny Wilson, Mayor Dan Knopp, Councilor  
8 Marci Houseman  
9

10 **Staff:** CWC Deputy Director Blake Perez, Communications Director Lindsey  
11 Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye Mickelson  
12

13 **Others:** Laura Briefer, Catherine Kanter, Tim Tingey, Chris Cawley, Onno Wieringa,  
14 Joshua Van Jura, Pat Shea, Carl Fisher, Helen Peters, Mike Marker, Kenneth  
15 Larson, Steve Van Maren  
16

17 **Excused:** CWC Executive Director Ralph Becker, Mayor Erin Mendenhall, Mayor Mike  
18 Peterson  
19

20 **Opening**  
21

22 **1. Chair Christopher F. Robinson will Open the CWC Executive Committee Meeting Plus**  
23 **Commenting on the Electronic Meeting, No Anchor Location.**  
24

25 Chair Chris Robinson called the meeting to order via Zoom at approximately 3:30 p.m.  
26

27 The Legislature, pursuant to Section 52-4-207(4), required the Committee to make a determination,  
28 which was as follows:  
29

30 ‘Notice is hereby given that the Central Wasatch Commission will hold an  
31 Executive Committee Meeting at approximately 3:30 p.m., or soon thereafter, on  
32 Monday, September 20, 2021. In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this  
33 committee meeting will occur electronically, without a physical anchor location, as  
34 authorized by Utah Code Ann. 52-4-207(4). The public may remotely hear the  
35 open portions of the meeting through live broadcast at the following link. Once  
36 registered, attendees will receive an email with a personal meeting access link.’  
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1 **Board Retreat Agenda Discussion**  
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3 1. **Chair of the Board Christopher F. Robinson will Lead a Discussion Around the Draft**  
4 **CWC Board Retreat Agenda, Included in the Packet.**  
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6 Chair Robinson reported that the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Board Retreat is scheduled  
7 to take place on November 5, 2021. Mayor Knopp and Councilor Houseman had been working on  
8 the CWC Board Retreat Draft Agenda. It was shared with the Executive Committee. Mayor Knopp  
9 discussed the Draft Agenda. He stated that the decision was made not to talk about the Utah  
10 Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Little Cottonwood Canyon Draft Environmental Impact  
11 Statement (“EIS”) at the Retreat. The Retreat was to begin with a 15-minute video followed by  
12 discussions. He felt it was important to talk about the idea of consensus.  
13

14 Chair Robinson believed it was important to look at the bigger picture. For instance, how the CWC  
15 is doing and how member jurisdictions feel about the CWC work in general. A consensus might be  
16 a subset of those discussions. Chair Robinson shared potential questions to consider including:  
17

- 18 • Should the CWC continue to act in the same manner?
- 19 • What can the CWC do to improve?
- 20 • Is the CWC implementing the Mountain Accord as intended?  
21

22 He felt those broader discussion questions would ensure that the Commission was on the right track.  
23 Mayor Wilson commented that when she first joined the CWC, there was a strong focus on the Federal  
24 Legislation. There were several reasons the focus had shifted towards transportation solutions. For  
25 example, the deadlines associated with the UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS. She felt it might  
26 be beneficial to examine where the CWC focus is currently. Mayor Wilson agreed with Chair  
27 Robinson that reaching a consensus might be a subset of those broader discussion pieces. If the CWC  
28 decides not to continue with consensus-based decision making, weighted voting may be an approach  
29 to consider. However, it could be complicated to implement.  
30

31 Chair Robinson explained that the details could be discussed during the actual CWC Board Retreat.  
32 The intent of the current Executive Committee agenda item was to make decisions related to the CWC  
33 Board Retreat Draft Agenda. He did not feel that a significant amount of time should be dedicated to  
34 discussions about consensus. Mayor Knopp explained that there had been a significant focus on Little  
35 Cottonwood Canyon due to the UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon Draft EIS. He did not believe the  
36 CWC had been overly effective during that process as there was not a consensus on a preferred  
37 transportation alternative. Chair Robinson believed the CWC had done as well as could be expected  
38 with the transportation work. The final September 3, 2021, comments on the UDOT Little  
39 Cottonwood Canyon Draft EIS expressed that individual member jurisdictions were free to exercise  
40 their opinions beyond the CWC comments but as a group, certain areas had been agreed upon.  
41

42 Chair Robinson felt that that there should be a conversation about consensus, but it could be part of  
43 the broader discussions. He did not feel that the governance piece should overwhelm the Retreat. In  
44 addition, it was important to come up with an action plan about what the CWC would accomplish in  
45 the next year. Mayor Knopp believed that the first two bullet points on the CWC Board Retreat Draft  
46 Agenda, What Work Are We Going to Do and Mountain Accord Action Items, would take up most  
47 of the time during the morning portion of the retreat. He felt during that time, transportation in Big

1 Cottonwood Canyon and Millcreek Canyon could be discussed. Chair Robinson suggested that 15 to  
2 20 minutes at the beginning of the Retreat could be spent discussing issues related to governance.

3  
4 Laura Briefer made note of the two bullet points mentioned by Mayor Knopp. She felt the Retreat  
5 was a good opportunity for the CWC to focus on the Mountain Accord and see how well they were  
6 implementing the main goals of transportation, economy, recreation and environment. Mayor Knopp  
7 agreed that it would be beneficial to determine whether they had made progress in those areas.

8  
9 Chair Robinson suggested moving the leadership and governance items to the top of the CWC Board  
10 Retreat Draft Agenda. This would ensure that housekeeping matters were taken care of right away.  
11 The Executive Committee Members looked at the afternoon portion of the Draft Agenda. Mayor  
12 Knopp reported that the afternoon would include Stakeholders Council discussions. Stakeholders  
13 Council Co-Chairs, Will McCarvill and Barbara Cameron, wanted to speak to Commissioners, get  
14 some direction and discuss some of the challenges that faced the Stakeholders Council.

15  
16 Councilor Houseman commented that the afternoon portion of the agenda would be more in depth  
17 and focus on what the CWC specifically wants to accomplish by the end of the year. She discussed  
18 the gallery walk that was to take place in the afternoon. The intention was to define outcomes by  
19 answering the following questions:

- 20
- 21 • What is the purpose of each CWC committee or subcommittee?
- 22 • How does that purpose connect to the Mountain Accord?
- 23 • What does success look like within these committees?
- 24

25 For the gallery walk exercise, each committee would have their own table talk conversations about  
26 what success looked like. For instance, if the committee accomplished X, the committee would be  
27 successful. This exercise would allow each committee to determine what X was. Each committee or  
28 group would have time to discuss this and write down their answers. The piece of paper would be  
29 passed to the next committee and that committee would then provide feedback. Councilor Houseman  
30 explained that the feedback could be positive or additional suggestions could be added. Each piece  
31 of paper would be passed around the room until all of the committees had provided feedback on all  
32 of the other committees. After that, each committee would read the feedback and revisit their original  
33 answer. Councilor Houseman believed this exercise would highlight some of the areas that each  
34 committee should focus on in the year ahead.

35  
36 There was discussion regarding the morning and afternoon portions of the CWC Board Retreat Draft  
37 Agenda. Councilor Houseman noted that the afternoon had a fairly tight schedule but it was important  
38 to make sure there was a lunch break. The initial discussions could take place in the morning and  
39 then the gallery walk exercise could take place immediately after the lunch break. That would be a  
40 good follow-up to the governance discussion, the Mountain Accord review and the broader  
41 discussions about CWC work. Councilor Houseman added that there needed to be a clear strategy  
42 about how to tackle conversations and decision making moving forward. She was concerned that  
43 there were skeptics who would say the CWC had not made any recommendations related to  
44 transportation. While the CWC shared some solid documents, a clear-cut recommendation had not  
45 been made. She worried that some people may wonder what the purpose and value of the CWC was.

46  
47 Chair Robinson suggested that the Stakeholders Council discussions be moved to the morning portion  
48 of the CWC Board Retreat Draft Agenda. It could be one of the first items on the Retreat agenda and

1 followed by the governance discussions. Chair Robinson noted that governance seemed to be an  
2 important topic with respect to whether the CWC had perceived value to critics. He believed that the  
3 CWC had done well as it related to the UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon Draft EIS discussions and  
4 recommendations. Mayor Wilson pointed out that she was on the Council when the CWC was formed  
5 and there was never a mandate that stated the CWC would come to a consensus on a Mountain  
6 Transportation System (“MTS”). The point was to embrace the tenants of the Mountain Accord,  
7 honor them, and engage with Stakeholders and Committee Members. She felt they had done that.  
8 Additionally, she did not believe that failure to reach a consensus agreement on a transportation  
9 alternative defined the success or failure of the CWC.

10  
11 The Executive Committee further discussed the issue of consensus-based decision making. If certain  
12 Commissioners felt there needed to be a majority/minority vote system, Chair Robinson thought that  
13 should be discussed. However, he did not believe that system would make the CWC any more  
14 effective than it already was. Being a consensus-based organization allowed the CWC to bring people  
15 with different ideas, values and opinions together to find common ground. Councilor Houseman  
16 explained that she had to fight for Sandy City to fund their contribution towards the CWC. Some  
17 members of the City Council questioned support and that was a concern the Commission needed to  
18 discuss. As a result, it made sense to revisit the governance process. Chair Robinson agreed that  
19 governance would need to be addressed along with the Mountain Accord. Mayor Knopp pointed out  
20 that one of the main elements of the Mountain Accord was transportation. He did not believe that the  
21 CWC was looking broadly enough at transportation. They had been focused on Little Cottonwood  
22 Canyon, but had not looked significantly at Big Cottonwood Canyon or Millcreek Canyon.

23  
24 Mayor Wilson believed there needed to be a fundamental conversation about the value that each of  
25 the CWC member jurisdictions receive. She also agreed with earlier comments that it would have  
26 been extremely difficult to reach a consensus on transportation. CWC Staff worked hard and  
27 Commissioners met tirelessly, but the reality was that everyone saw things a little bit differently as it  
28 related to transportation solutions. Mayor Wilson believed that it could be beneficial to talk about  
29 governance at the CWC Board Retreat as long as there was a productive way to have the conversation.

30  
31 Chair Robinson overviewed the updated CWC Board Retreat Draft Agenda. It would start with the  
32 Stakeholders Council discussions and the remainder of the morning would be dedicated to those  
33 broader discussion items. CWC Staff would refine the agenda to include governance, the Mountain  
34 Accord review and leadership discussions. Then there would be a lunch break followed by the gallery  
35 walk and a more serious discussion about what the CWC wanted to accomplish in the future.

### 36 37 **Budget/Finance Committee Meeting Discussion**

#### 38 39 **1. Chair of the Board Christopher F. Robinson will Provide Information About the** 40 **Upcoming Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting and Timeline. Reference Staff** 41 **Memo Included in Packet.**

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43 CWC Deputy Director, Blake Perez reported that a Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting would  
44 take place on September 22, 2021. There was a Staff Memo included in the packet regarding next  
45 steps. Mr. Perez explained that there would be an audit at the October meeting and the Auditor would  
46 present any findings of note at the next Budget/Finance/Audit Committee. There was no Management  
47 Letter that year. Mr. Perez added that the State had done a review of the auditor and there were no

1 findings. The CWC was coming to the end of the first quarter and they were starting to prepare for a  
2 budget amendment at the November meeting.

### 3 4 **Environmental Dashboard Template Page Demo**

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6 1. **As the Executive Committee Provides Oversight for the Environmental Dashboard, Lindsey Nielsen will Provide a Brief Presentation on the Environmental Dashboard and the Test Template Environmental Dashboard Pages Built to Date. Reference Presentation Slides Included in Packet.**

- 10 • A similar presentation will be made for the full Commission in October.

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13 Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen reported that she intended to share a quick update related  
14 to the Environmental Dashboard. However, in the interest of time, she could wait to present.

### 15 16 **CWNCRA Legislation Discussion**

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18 1. **Chair Robinson will Provide an Introduction for the Previous Legislative and Land Tenure Committee Meeting. Co-Chair Wilson will Continue with the Discussion. Reference Legislative and Land Tenure Committee Materials and Minutes Included in the Packet.**

- 19 • The Executive Committee will consider an action item of the October 4<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Agenda around the latest draft of the CWNCRA.

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26 Chair Robinson reported that the MTS Pillars Document and the September 3, 2021 comments on the  
27 UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon Draft EIS both stated that UDOT should look at adding in lands  
28 protections via a Federal Bill. He noted that Federal Legislation was important to the CWC. While  
29 some would argue that the CWC did not have enough consensus to get a bill passed, his argument  
30 was that a lot of time had been spent on the bill over the years and it was important to have it ready.  
31 Chair Robinson wanted to see the Central Wasatch National Conservation Recreation Area Act  
32 (“CWNCRA”) in a refined form so it was ready in case there was an opportunity to act. He was not  
33 suggesting that the CWC try to garner support for the bill, but he felt it should be finalized.

34  
35 Mayor Wilson thought that the Legislative/Land Tenure Committee should have another conversation  
36 about progress. She had spoken to Representative John Curtis, who previously sent a document to  
37 CWC Executive Director, Ralph Becker and Chair Robinson. That document was referenced in a  
38 few different conversations and Representative Curtis indicated that he had a list of things that he  
39 would like to see accomplished. Mayor Wilson believed he was concerned about conflict and there  
40 being enough support. She was in favor of the bill being cleaned up and refined. In addition, she felt  
41 it was important to reach out to the delegation to let them know when the draft bill was completed.  
42 If the draft bill was ready to go, whenever there was a window of opportunity, the CWC would be  
43 able to make a move. Mayor Wilson did not feel that an official CWC resolution of support for the  
44 draft bill was needed at the current time.

45  
46 Chair Robinson did not believe there needed to be a formal resolution, but he felt that having the draft  
47 bill ready would be consistent with the recommendations shared in the MTS Pillars Document and  
48 the September 3, 2021 comments. At some point, UDOT was going to make a final decision about a

1 transportation solution. It was important for the CWC to react and possibly provide solutions, such  
2 as the CWCNCRA. Chair Robinson was in favor of there being another Legislative/Land Tenure  
3 Committee Meeting, but also felt the CWCNCRA should be a topic of discussion at the CWC Board  
4 Retreat. He believed the draft bill needed to be ready within the next 12 months. Mayor Wilson felt  
5 that she and Chair Robinson were on the same page and that the bill should be cleaned up so it was  
6 ready to move forward when appropriate.

7  
8 Chair Robinson believed it had been a productive meeting and was appreciative of all those present.  
9 He thanked Mayor Knopp and Councilor Houseman for their hard work on the CWC Board Retreat  
10 Draft Agenda. Mr. Perez asked for clear direction as it related to next steps for the Legislation.  
11 Previously, the Legislative/Land Tenure Committee had decided to bring the item forward to the full  
12 CWC Board. Chair Robinson noted that there could be another Legislative/Land Tenure Committee  
13 Meeting ahead of the CWC Board Retreat to discuss the direction further.

14  
15 Mayor Wilson believed that after the last meeting there was an agreement to move forward with the  
16 Legislation. Mr. Perez noted that the Legislative/Land Tenure Meeting Minutes stated that the  
17 intention was to bring the Legislation to the CWC Board for discussion and possible action. He  
18 wondered whether the Executive Committee Members wanted CWC Staff to bring forward the latest  
19 version of the draft bill, discuss the edits and share comments during the October 2021 CWC Board  
20 Meeting. There could be a discussion at that time. Mayor Wilson was comfortable with that, but not  
21 with a resolution made by the CWC Board. Mr. Perez thanked the Committee for the direction. The  
22 item would be added to the October 2021 CWC Board Meeting agenda for discussion.

23  
24 **Adjourn.**

25  
26 **1. Chair of the Board Christopher F. Robinson will Close the CWC Executive Committee**  
27 **Meeting.**

28  
29 **MOTION:** Mayor Wilson moved to adjourn. Chair Robinson seconded the motion. The motion  
30 passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

31  
32 The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 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, September 20, 2021.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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