



1
2
3 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) EXECUTIVE/**
4 **BUDGET/AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 2024, AT**
5 **3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION AT THE**
6 **CWC OFFICES LOCATED AT 41 NORTH RIO GRANDE STREET, SUITE 102, SALT**
7 **LAKE CITY, UTAH.**
8

9 **Present:** Mayor Jeff Silvestrini, Chair
10 Chris Robinson
11 Mayor Dan Knopp
12 Laura Briefer
13 John Knoblock
14 Tom Diegel
15

16 **CWC Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
17 Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
18

19 **Opening**
20

- 21 1. **Chair Jeff Silvestrini will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the**
22 **Executive/Budget/Audit Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**
23

24 Chair Jeff Silvestrini called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Executive/Budget/Audit
25 Committee Meeting to order at approximately 3:40 p.m. and welcomed those present.
26

- 27 2. **Review and Approval of the Minutes from the November 20, 2023, Meeting.**
28

29 **MOTION:** Chris Robinson moved to APPROVE the November 20, 2023,
30 Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Minutes. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The
31 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
32

33 **Legislative Priorities Discussion**
34

- 35 3. **The Committee will Discuss Legislative Goals for 2024.**
36

37 CWC Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the Legislative Session is currently
38 underway. CWC Staff has been working with Lobbyist, Casey Hill from Lincoln Hill, to procure
39 State appropriations for 2025. There had also been discussions about a multi-year appropriation
40 ask. Mr. Hill and his team believed that might be possible to procure. The CWC was hoping for
41 the same level of appropriations per year. However, Mr. Hill wanted to see if it was possible to

1 obtain a three-year appropriation. Ms. Nielsen stated that it might be possible to present to a caucus
2 during a Legislative breakfast presentation. She explained that it would be an effective way to
3 introduce the CWC to Legislators, so Mr. Hill was currently looking into that option.
4

5 John Knoblock referenced discussions that took place about a potential Special Transit District.
6 He wondered if it was too early to have someone at the Legislature put that into a draft bill. That
7 way, it would be familiar if it came around next year. Chair Silvestrini thought that more definition
8 about what was being proposed was necessary before taking those steps. That might be something
9 for the organization to work on this year. He noted that there was a desire for the CWC to focus
10 on Phase I implementation of the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Little
11 Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), so it was important to pay attention
12 to what happened there. He recommended that the CWC start to explore a framework for a Special
13 Transit District, and eventually, there could be something more concrete to present.
14

15 **Stakeholders Council Discussion**

17 **4. Stakeholders Council Chair, John Knoblock will Discuss the Council’s Recent** 18 **Activities.**

19
20 Mr. Knoblock shared information about the Stakeholders Council. He reported that Tom Diegel
21 was also present at the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting and would be Co-Chair of the
22 Stakeholders Council. Chris Robinson wondered if Mr. Diegel had been recommended by the
23 Stakeholders Council to serve in that position, which was confirmed. Mr. Knoblock explained
24 that the Council Members present at the last meeting expressed their support for Mr. Diegel as Co-
25 Chair. The CWC Board needed to formalize that position at the March 2024 CWC Board Meeting.
26

27 Several new members had joined the Stakeholders Council, but there were still three unfilled
28 positions. Mr. Knoblock believed that the new members needed to be approved by the CWC
29 Board. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, clarified that during the CWC Board Meeting in
30 March 2024, there would be a few actions taken related to the Stakeholders Council. At that time,
31 the CWC Board would formally approve Mr. Diegel as Co-Chair of the Stakeholders Council. She
32 pointed out that the Stakeholders Council was currently a few members short of a full Council.
33 All of the current members had been formally approved by the CWC Board, but a call for
34 applications would be opened shortly, and there would be a selection process with the Selection
35 Committee. All of that would happen ahead of the CWC Board Meeting scheduled in March.
36

37 Mr. Knoblock reported that at the last Stakeholders Council Meeting, there had been a review of
38 the CWC Board Retreat and the 2023 Annual Report. There were also reports from each of the
39 Systems Committees. He reminded the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee that there were five
40 subcommittees of the Stakeholders Council: Millcreek Canyon Committee, Environment Systems
41 Committee, Economy Systems Committee, Recreation Systems Committee, and Transportation
42 Systems Committee. Information was shared about some of the recent subcommittee work.
43

44 The Environment Systems Committee had been reviewing the Environmental Dashboard to
45 determine whether there was anything that could be added. There had also been a suggestion to
46 add a summary page to the Environmental Dashboard. The Mountain Accord discussed

1 monitoring impaired conditions in the Central Wasatch. As a result, he felt it made sense for a
2 summary page to be created for the Environmental Dashboard that looked at key indicators of
3 environmental conditions in the Central Wasatch. Mr. Knoblock noted that there might be
4 indicators for water quality or quantity that could be included in that kind of summary page. Laura
5 Briefer explained that water quality and quantity were outcomes, not so much indicators of
6 watershed health. However, indicators of watershed health to consider include forest health,
7 wildfire risk, climate risk, and so on. She would be happy to assist with integrating that kind of
8 information into the Environmental Dashboard if that was something that was desired by the CWC.
9

10 Ms. Briefer reported that there was preliminary data in the Watershed Management Plan. The plan
11 would be completed in the spring and then put out for public comment in the summer. It might be
12 helpful to sit down with CWC Staff and Stakeholders Council leadership to determine what the
13 best approach would be for that kind of integration of data. Mr. Knoblock thanked her and offered
14 to reach out following the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee to discuss the matter further.
15

16 Mr. Knoblock shared additional information about the Environment Systems Committee. There
17 had been some discussions about the Visitor Use Study and how the Utah State University team
18 followed the U.S. Forest Service protocols during that process. That being said, there seemed to
19 be data gaps on winter use. The Mountain Accord implied that visitor use information could be a
20 baseline to understand transportation needs, so Committee Members felt year-round data was
21 necessary. He noted that CWC Staff had met with the ski resorts to address the ski resort data.
22 Mr. Diegel reported that for the last few years, the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance had trail
23 counters at the major backcountry ski trailheads. Those had been loaned out to the Forest Service
24 during the summer season for their own trailhead counts. The Director of the Wasatch
25 Backcountry Alliance would reach out to CWC Staff so the data collected could be made available.
26

27 Information about the Recreation Systems Committee was shared. Mr. Knoblock reported that the
28 Committee had met and was following the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan. That plan would come
29 out as a draft in February or March. It would be interesting to see what the plan looked like. The
30 Recreation Systems Committee also discussed transit to trails as well as access to recreation.
31 Something that was common to both the Environment Systems Committee and the Recreation
32 Systems Committee was land purchases. At the CWC Board Retreat, that aspect of the Mountain
33 Accord had not been prioritized compared to Phase I implementation of the UDOT Little
34 Cottonwood Canyon EIS and BCC MAP work, but it was important to think about as well. For
35 example, how to preserve and protect certain areas and accesses within the CWC study area.
36

37 Mr. Knoblock reported that the Economy Systems Committee had Committee Members from the
38 ski resorts and this was their busy season. As a result, the meeting scheduled for January has been
39 canceled. Previously, the Economy Systems Committee had discussed the total taxes generated
40 by the ski industry. It might be possible to leverage those for other needs, such as funding for a
41 Special Transit District. As for the Transportation Systems Committee, there was interest in the
42 BCC MAP implementation, the UDOT Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Phase I implementation, a
43 Special Transit District, and ensuring that the Transportation Systems Committee work
44 complemented the Transportation Committee work. There was a desire to receive some direction.
45

1 The Millcreek Canyon Committee was focused on the Federal Lands Access Program (“FLAP”) grant. Mr. Diegel will be at the Salt Lake County Council Meeting in February to review the
2 FLAP grant proposal and the road design. At that time, the County Council would be informed
3 that there was no support to turn the road into a four-lane highway. The Millcreek Canyon
4 Committee wanted to see the character of the canyon maintained, with relocation away from the
5 riparian corridor and the addition of a bicycle lane to increase safety for cyclists. The Committee
6 also continued to discuss the Millcreek Canyon shuttle. He explained that funding for the National
7 Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) work was needed as well as funding for the shuttle program.
8
9

10 **Review and Discussion of Board Retreat and 2024 Strategic Plan**

11 **5. The Committee will Review and Discuss the 2023 Board Retreat and Strategic Plan.**

12 Ms. Nielsen shared the 2024 Strategic Plan. She explained that the plan was the distillation of the
13 three exercises that were conducted during the second half of the CWC Board Retreat. That
14 portion of the retreat started with a broad visioning exercise. From there, answers were narrowed
15 and contextualized, and then votes were cast to determine the priorities of the CWC for the year.
16
17
18

19 The yellow columns in the 2024 Strategic Plan were items that were either Low Impact, Low
20 Effort, or High Impact, High Effort. The columns in red were Low Impact, High Effort, and the
21 columns in green were High Impact, Low Effort. The suggestions from the visioning exercises
22 had been placed into the appropriate categories to determine potential areas of focus for the year
23 ahead. The 2024 Strategic Plan also included information about the number of votes each item
24 received. Some of the highest ranked items included: talking to Congress Members to discuss the
25 Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRA”)/defining the
26 strategy with Congressional Delegation, creating an app with ski resorts/engage with ski resorts in
27 a more meaningful way, and working with the Wasatch Front Regional Council (“WFRC”) and
28 UDOT to define success and track the progress of Phase I while creating metrics for the success
29 of Phase I.
30

31 Ms. Nielsen noted that the Phase I suggestion dominated the bulk of the discussion during the
32 visioning exercises. She referenced the other ideas listed as High Impact, Low Effort, and noted
33 that all of them received votes with the exception of compiling a “how to” manual for the CWC
34 Board and Stakeholders to educate constituents. CWC Staff thought that was a good idea, despite
35 the fact that it did not receive votes from those present at the CWC Board Retreat. Ms. Nielsen
36 reported that one of the High Impact, High Effort suggestions was to get Salt Lake County involved
37 in the CWC again. That particular suggestion had received three votes during the exercise process.
38

39 Chair Silvestrini discussed the suggestion for a ski resort app. His recollection of the discussion
40 during the CWC Board Retreat was that there was support for the ski resorts working together on
41 that. However, he clarified that he was not in favor of the CWC creating an app for the resorts.
42

43 The CWC Board Retreat Recap document was shared. Ms. Nielsen explained that the document
44 assigned the items discussed during the retreat to different committees. It outlined the action items
45 best suited to each committee and who at the CWC would handle that work. Some items would
46 be handled by the CWC Board, Stakeholders Council, CWC Staff, or the Youth Council. The

1 Transportation Committee action items were reviewed as were items suitable for the Legislative
2 and Land Tenure Committee. Ms. Nielsen reported that the CWC Board Retreat Recap document
3 would be distributed to the CWC Board in the future and could be reviewed fully at that time.
4

5 The 2024 Timeline of Work was shared with the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee. Ms. Nielsen
6 explained that it was a basic chart that outlined the work that would take place throughout the year.
7 It focused on some of the major projects and CWC work. She reported that the budget process
8 would start next month and extend through the end of June. The State appropriation process for
9 2025 was already underway. As for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program, that would start in
10 February. The Stakeholders Council and Youth Council would run throughout the year.
11

12 One point of conversation during the CWC Board Retreat had to do with cementing the CWC as
13 a convener in the mountains. Ms. Nielsen believed that the CWC was already the convener of
14 ideas, but one way to further cement that was to carry out the idea of the Central Wasatch
15 Symposium. That planning was set to start at a CWC Staff level in approximately one month. She
16 discussed Transportation Committee work and explained that the Committee would meet next
17 month to address all of the action items outlined in the 2024 Strategic Plan. The Legislative and
18 Land Tenure Committee will also convene next month. The annual audit would start in July and
19 communications work would take place throughout the year. The need to get more creative with
20 communication strategies had been discussed during the CWC Board Retreat, so a CWC podcast
21 was being planned. It was something the Youth Council was excited about and would assist with.
22 She reported that planning for the 2025 Utah Legislative Session would start in July and
23 Environmental Dashboard maintenance and additions would take place throughout the year.
24

25 Ms. Briefer pointed out that during the planning for the 2025 Legislative Session, it might be
26 worthwhile to bring up the idea of a Special Transit District. She wondered whether it would be
27 possible to highlight some of the key items to engage with, such as the CWNCRA and a potential
28 Special Transit District. Ms. Nielsen offered to draft a memo that specifically detailed what could
29 be discussed or targeted when the planning process for the 2025 Legislative Session occurred.
30

31 Mr. Robinson wondered what was needed from the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee ahead of
32 the next meeting as it related to the 2024 Strategic Plan. Ms. Nielsen explained that the next steps
33 were to convene the different committees. She needed to reach out to Mayor Erin Mendenhall and
34 Ms. Briefer about their schedules so there could be a planning discussion ahead of the Legislative
35 and Land Tenure Committee Meeting. Convening the Legislative and Land Tenure Committee
36 and the Transportation Committee were the next steps in the action item process for the CWC.
37

38 Discussions were had about State appropriations. Ms. Nielsen reported that it was standard for
39 those making appropriations requests to present. In the past, CWC Staff had taken care of that,
40 but Chair Silvestrini could lead that presentation if desired. Chair Silvestrini asked that she speak
41 to Mr. Hill, as he was willing to present if it would be useful. Ms. Nielsen offered to reach out.
42

43 Ms. Nielsen reported that the lease for the CWC offices was up at the end of April 2024. Chair
44 Silvestrini pointed out that there could be discussions about the matter as long as a vote was not
45 taken. In the future, it might be useful to have an outstanding Other Business item on the meeting
46 agenda. Ms. Nielsen shared the 2024 Office Space Options Memo and stated that it would be sent

1 out to the CWC Board in the future. The lease for the current space will end on April 30, 2024.
2 Since the lease was expensive and CWC Staff had moved to a hybrid work week, it was worth
3 considering some other options for the organization. CWC Staff had visited several potential
4 spaces and the 311 South State Street property would make it possible for the CWC to save
5 approximately \$2,000 per month in rent. Currently, the CWC is paying \$3,686 per month for
6 office space.

7
8 Ms. Nielsen did not believe CWC Staff was in the office space enough to justify the \$3,686
9 amount. Four different spaces were toured and the 311 State Street property was ideal. It was
10 more affordable and would work well for the purposes of the organization. She shared images and
11 information about the 311 State Street property. The space would result in considerable monthly
12 savings, is Americans with Disabilities Act ("ADA") accessible, centrally located, and has an
13 appropriate amount of parking. The landlord will run a water line for free and enclose the space
14 for free. The CWC would need to determine whether there was a desire to enclose a conference
15 space, which she recommended.

16
17 The next steps for the 311 State Street property were reviewed, which included the following:

- 18
- 19 • Sending a non-binding “intent to lease” letter to the landlord;
- 20 • Drawing up plans for necessary space improvements, most of which, the landlord will
- 21 assume the costs for;
- 22 • Receiving a Lease Agreement; and
- 23 • CWC Attorney review.
- 24

25 Closing

26

27 **6. Chair Silvestrini will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Executive/Budget/Audit**
28 **Committee Meeting.**

29

30 **MOTION:** Chris Robinson moved to ADJOURN the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee
31 Meeting. Jeff Silvestrini seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of
32 the Committee.

33

34 The Central Wasatch Commission Executive/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting adjourned at
35 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/Budget/Audit Committee Meeting held on Friday, January 19,*
3 *2024.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

9

10 Minutes Approved: _____