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MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Present: John Knoblock, Chair
Sarah Bennett, Vice-Chair
Barbara Cameron
Dennis Goreham
Patrick Shea (excused at 2:25 p.m.)
Will McCarvill
Joanna Wheelton

Staff: Lindsey Nielsen, Communications Director
Kaye Mickelson, Office Administrator

Excused: Blake Perez, Deputy Director
Ralph Becker, Executive Director

Others: Mark Baer
Mimi Levitt
Brian Stillman

Chair John Knoblock called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

OPEN TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Introductions, Agenda Review.

Chair John Knoblock called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

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

‘I, as the Chair of the Trails Committee of the Stakeholders Council of the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”), hereby determine that conducting Committee Meetings at any time during the next 30 days at an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor location. Although the number of new cases of COVID-19 may be diminishing, the pandemic remains in effect, with hospitals near capacity, and continued vigilance for at least the next 30 days seems warranted to

1 avoid another surge in cases, which could again threaten to overwhelm Utah’s healthcare
2 system.’
3

4 Chair Knoblock welcomed those present to the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”)
5 Stakeholders Council Trails Committee. He asked all participants to introduce themselves. The
6 agenda items for the Trails Committee Meeting were reviewed.
7

8 **2. Last Meeting Minutes Review and Approval.**
9

10 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from the March 10, 2022,
11 Trails Committee Meeting. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the
12 unanimous consent of the Committee.
13

14 **3. U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”) Central Wasatch Trail Planning Process –**
15 **Zinnia/Chelsea.**
16

17 Chair Knoblock reported that Zinnia Wilson from the U.S. Forest Service asked him to share
18 updates as neither she nor Chelsea Phillippe were able to attend the Trails Committee Meeting. In
19 June 2022, the Forest Service would have a PowerPoint presentation for the Committee, which
20 would describe the Central Wasatch Trail Planning process. It would include information about
21 what had been done, what still needed to be done, and when the public comment periods would be
22 held. Chair Knoblock reported that the projected timeline for the Forest Service Tri-Canyons
23 Trails Master Plan, which would be done in conjunction with Salt Lake County, was late 2024.
24 Vice-Chair, Sarah Bennett confirmed that it would take an additional 18 to 24 months.
25

26 Vice-Chair Bennett informed Committee Members that she was watching the process carefully. It
27 was nice to see the County and Forest Service working together, sharing data, and developing the
28 plan in unison. However, it was frustrating that Parleys Canyon and Emigration Canyon were not
29 being considered. There was increasingly more traffic in those areas. Barbara Cameron believed
30 the Trails Committee could advocate that more attention be given to those areas. She reported that
31 Ms. Phillippe attended the Brighton Town Council Meeting. The Forest Service Tri-Canyons
32 Trails Master Plan was a four-year process. In 2020, the user-created trail inventory was done,
33 and a digital program was installed to count the number of users. In 2021, an inventory was taken
34 of all the official Forest Service trails. Additionally, the number of users was counted. The most
35 used trails, in order, were as follows:
36

- 37 • Donut Falls;
- 38 • Cecret Lake;
- 39 • Gloria Falls;
- 40 • Lake Blanche;
- 41 • Wasatch Crest Trail;
- 42 • Desolation Trail;
- 43 • Red Pine Lake;
- 44 • Ferguson Canyon;
- 45 • Butler Fork;
- 46 • Mount Aire;

- Grandeur Peak;
- Broads Fork; and
- Millcreek Meadows.

In 2022, the Forest Service would begin to create sharing tools. The Forest Service wanted to facilitate listening sessions and determine regulatory needs for monitoring and enforcement of trails management. Ms. Cameron explained that 2022 seemed to be largely focused on public outreach. In 2023, there would be a preliminary draft of the plan, with in-person and online meetings related to the draft. The final draft of the Forest Service Tri-Canyons Trails Master Plan would be presented in the fall of 2023 and implementation would begin sometime in 2024.

4. Salt Lake County (“SLCo”) Trails Master Plan 2022 Budget Funding and Plan Development Process – Sarah Report from SLCo Meeting.

Chair Knoblock noted that at one point, Martin Jensen from Salt Lake County had given the Trails Committee the impression that the County would do a County-wide Trails Master Plan. However, through the budgeting process, that plan was downscaled, and the County would instead work in conjunction with the Forest Service on the Forest Service Tri-Canyons Trails Master Plan. He reported that Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation was also focused on the southwest and western portions of the County. There were plans to develop some of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail to the west, develop a trail system for a high school mountain bicycle racecourse, and add in trails that could service West Jordan and Herriman. There were a lot of efforts in that area.

Chair Knoblock explained that almost one-third of the land in the tri-canyons area was not under Forest Service direct ownership. As a result, it made sense for the County to work in conjunction with them, so the trails plan was broader than only the Forest Service parcels. Walt Gilmore from Salt Lake County had stated that the County would assist with GIS work and would also host a number of online and in-person meetings to review and obtain comments on the draft plan.

Vice-Chair Bennett discussed the Butterfield Canyon Trails Network. She reported that this was a project that Trails Utah had been peripherally involved with due to a desire to have a trail system in place. It had been thoroughly researched and alignments had been plotted by several trail advocates involved with the Herriman Trails Association. At full build-out, the three phases would total 70 miles of trail. The first phase involved developing approximately 15 or 16 miles of trail near the mouth of Butterfield Canyon. She noted that this was a complicated project because access was needed to Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) lands and Rio Tinto lands.

Rio Tinto wanted to have some sort of guarantee that they would be able to increase housing density in any future housing developments in the area. Another developer wanted something similar. Those types of deals meant that Trails Utah was not the best entity to try to move the project forward. Salt Lake County had stepped up and had done a lot of work on the project. A request for proposal (“RFP”) had been issued and the work involved a two-step process. Whatever contractor was awarded the RFP needed to have good trail building capability but would also need to remove some hazardous waste on the site. After some surveys, a few areas were identified to have deposits of heavy metals, because it was immediately adjacent to the old mine workings. It

1 was a lot for a trail builder to take on since there was hazardous waste removal connected to the
2 project. This made it a difficult project to accomplish, but Vice-Chair Bennett was optimistic.

3
4 Dennis Goreham reported that the Wasatch Mountain Club had been working with Spencer
5 Millerberg and others. He believed there was a solid understanding that various user groups would
6 share the trails, though some would be dedicated to specific uses. The Wasatch Mountain Club
7 was supportive of the Butterfield Canyon Trails Network. Additionally, there had been work done
8 with the County on the West Bench General Plan. He explained that the Wasatch Mountain Club
9 was concerned about the preservation of Coon Canyon, but the County would need to work with
10 Rio Tinto on zoning. Chair Knoblock noted that improving the trails on that side of the valley
11 could remove some of the long-term pressure from the tri-canyons.

12
13 **5. Salt Lake City (“SLC”) Watershed Management Plan Progress Update and Human**
14 **Impacts Discussion – Patrick.**

15
16 Chair Knoblock reported that Patrick Nelson, Laura Briefer, and other Salt Lake City Staff
17 scheduled a series of public engagement meetings via Zoom. The meetings were intended to
18 review the various impacts of climate change, human impacts, and fire. The Forest Service was
19 very concerned about addressing fuels management and had received some funds to focus on a
20 more significant fuels management plan. With respect to the human impact, there were concerns
21 about erosion, soil compaction, and the potential for invasive weed species to be transported into
22 different areas. Chair Knoblock explained that there would be an online and in-person open house
23 to review the plans at the end of the month. Public comments would be received at that time.

24
25 Chair Knoblock shared a graph from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, which was based on
26 research from Utah State University. An extensive report had been written on recreation impacts
27 in southern Utah. The graph showed the amount of disturbance versus the increased amount of
28 use by the public. Graph A showed biological soil crust, where any use caused significant damage,
29 but as use increased, no further significant damage occurred. Where there was no biological soil
30 crust, like in the Central Wasatch, a few people walking did not cause significant damage, but a
31 lot of people walking in the same general area formed a user-created trail. However, at some point,
32 there was not a lot of increased disturbance over time, even as the number of users increased.

33
34 One of the Forest Service strategies was to determine which user-created trails made sense. In
35 terms of future trail development, the Forest Service wanted to address trail user needs so that
36 visitors could be focused on established trails where increased use would not cause further
37 degradation. Will McCarvill believed there could be other interpretations of the graphs shown.
38 He was of the opinion that the plateau on the graphs represented a very degraded state. While the
39 degradation level did not continue to worsen, there may already be an intense level of degradation
40 by that point. Mr. Goreham pointed out that the graphs were only related to surface disturbance
41 and did not reflect impacts on wildlife. Chair Knoblock confirmed this.

42
43 Chair Knoblock noted that the Trails Committee would see what would happen with the Watershed
44 Management Plan in the future. He believed the timeline included open houses in May 2022 and
45 then work would be done through the fall. The intention was to have a Draft Watershed
46 Management Plan finished toward the end of the year. It could then be adopted in early 2023.

1
2 **6. Town of Brighton General Plan Transportation, Trail, and Trailhead Update and**
3 **Input – Barbara.**
4

5 Ms. Cameron reported that the Brighton General Plan Steering Committee would meet on May 18,
6 2022, to discuss the natural resources portion of the plan. At the last Brighton Town Council
7 Meeting, Brighton Mayor, Dan Knopp explained that he was looking into the Town of Brighton
8 funding some maintenance for restrooms at trailheads. That would include Guardsman Pass, Silver
9 Lake, and Cardiff Fork. He noted that Snowbird had taken over the maintenance of the White Pine
10 restroom and he anticipated a similar contract with the same maintenance company. It was
11 estimated that Brighton would contribute \$50,000 per year towards those maintenance efforts.
12

13 The Town of Brighton was working to provide extra funding to Unified Fire Authority (“UFA”).
14 It would be \$40,000 in the current year and each year for the next five years. That would be a
15 significant contribution toward wildfire management in the area. Ms. Cameron reported that
16 Rocky Mountain Power planned to underground all of its distribution lines in the canyon. Starting
17 in May 2022, trenching would begin from the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon to Cardiff. This
18 would be a notable contribution toward wildfire management in the canyon.
19

20 Ms. Cameron stated that the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Water Treatment Plant at the mouth of
21 the canyon would be replaced. An alternate pipeline from Big Cottonwood to another treatment
22 plant had been put in place but the new plant would not be finished until 2029. Ms. Cameron also
23 reported that a replacement of the boardwalk at Silver Lake was taking place. It would be half
24 open this summer and the trail to Lake Solitude would be available. She explained that the
25 boardwalk would be half open this year, half open next year, and completely open the year after.
26

27 Ms. Cameron reported that there had been a presentation from the Cottonwood Canyons
28 Foundation related to invasive weeds. Last year, the volunteers removed approximately three tons
29 of invasive weeds and the hope was to double that this year. There was a large invasion of myrtle
30 spurge at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon and the only option was herbicide, because of the
31 steep slope and the fact that it had such toxic sap in the stems and leaves. The Cottonwood
32 Canyons Foundation was working with the appropriate entities on that. The flannel mullein was
33 also an issue in the area as well as thistle, oxeye daisy, and dalmatian toadflax. Ms. Cameron
34 explained that while the flowers looked beautiful, they crowded out the native species, and that
35 impacted wildlife in the area. She reported that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation would host
36 their Wildflower Festival on July 9, 2022, in Brighton and on July 10, 2022, at Solitude. Ms.
37 Cameron stated that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation had Volunteer Days from 9:00 a.m. to
38 12:00 p.m.
39

- 40 • June 2, 2022: Brighton;
- 41 • June 9, 2022: Cardiff;
- 42 • June 14, 2022: Spruces;
- 43 • June 16, 2022: Solitude; and
- 44 • June 28, 2022: Guardsman Pass.
45

1 Chair Knoblock asked about the timing of the transportation portion of the Brighton General Plan.
2 For instance, trail alignments and trailhead improvements. He wondered if that would be finalized
3 by the fall. Ms. Cameron believed the draft presentation would take place at a Brighton Town
4 Council Meeting around that time. Public comments would be received then as well. The current
5 version of the draft plan could be viewed at the following address: bit.ly/lrp-brighton.

6
7 **7. CWC Short-Term Project Funding for Ferguson Bonneville Shoreline Trail (“BST”),**
8 **Cottonwood Canyons Foundation (“CCF”) Trail Maintenance, and Jacob’s Ladder**
9 **– Lindsey.**

10
11 Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen explained that the CWC opened the third cycle of
12 short-term project funding in March 2022. Approximately 20 proposals for short-term projects
13 within the CWC project area were received. The Short-Term Projects Committee met in April and
14 recommended either partial funding or full funding for nine short-term projects:

- 15 • Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, 2022 Tri-Canyon Trail Deferred Maintenance and
16 Invasive Weed Control Project (\$7,500);
- 17 • Salt Lake Climber's Alliance, Jacob's Ladder Trail Reroute to Lone Peak Cirque (\$5,000);
- 18 • Wasatch Backcountry Alliance, Shuttle Program (\$15,000);
- 19 • Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Willow Heights Pond Beaver Reintroduction
20 (\$2,000);
- 21 • Trails Utah, BCC to Ferguson BST Completion (\$4,000);
- 22 • Utah Open Lands, Bonanza Flat Trailhead Transit (\$15,000);
- 23 • Friends of Alta, Friends of Alta Junior Ranger Activity Book (\$750);
- 24 • Private Citizen, Rattlesnake Gulch Bicycle Parking (\$1,000); and
- 25 • Save Our Canyons, Wasatch Wilderness Stewardship and Education Project (\$1,000).

26
27
28 The total allocation for short-term projects was \$51,250. There were funds allocated in the Fiscal
29 Year 2022/2023 budget that would specifically address short-term projects as well. Ms. Nielsen
30 explained that the CWC was still in the middle of the budget building process, but the tentative
31 amount included in the Fiscal Year 2022/2023 budget was \$50,000. Vice-Chair Bennett asked
32 which entity had wanted to install the bicycle rack at Rattlesnake Gulch. Ms. Nielsen explained
33 that it was an application from a private citizen. The applicant had spoken to the Salt Lake Ranger
34 District to find out whether the project was feasible, and it was deemed appropriate.

35
36 **8. Short Review of the Past Mountain Accord Trails Planning Work Products and How**
37 **they Relate to Present Planning – John.**

38
39 Chair Knoblock discussed the past Mountain Accord Trails Planning work. He shared a document
40 with the Committee, which included different highlighted colors to indicate which projects had
41 been completed, which projects were ongoing, and which were possible future projects. He hoped
42 that this year, the section of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail that connected Parleys Canyon to
43 Millcreek Canyon would be completed as well as the section of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail
44 from Big Cottonwood Canyon to the Ferguson Canyon Trailhead. Some of the projects that had
45 been completed from the Mountain Accord included the connection from Elbow Fork to the Big
46 Water Trailhead. The Utah Olympic Park Trail connection to the Mid Mountain Trail was

1 completed. There was also a connector from Guardsman Pass and down through Bloods Lake. A
2 few years back, Snowbird and Alta had also added an improved trail to connect the two resorts.

3
4 Solitude was interested in improving some of its trails to increase recreation at the ski area nodes.
5 That was one of the goals of the Mountain Accord. The Brighton resort also wanted to focus on
6 the trail to Guardsman Pass. Chair Knoblock felt that improving the connectivity of the Great
7 Western Trail should also be a priority. Some of the existing trails were not maintained and were
8 not appropriately built or graded. Mr. McCarvill reported that he had provided maps from the
9 Mountain Accord process to Ms. Wilson a few years back. He believed that information had been
10 incorporated into the Forest Service Tri-Canyons Trails Master Plan.

11
12 Ms. Cameron wondered where the beginning of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail connection was in
13 Big Cottonwood Canyon. Chair Knoblock explained that the proposed connection off of Big
14 Cottonwood Canyon Road was exactly one-mile up the canyon from where the traffic light was at
15 the base of the canyon. There was a bridge and a Forest Service storage parking lot. However,
16 the bridge had uncertain structural integrity. Before the Forest Service could allow it to be used
17 for public use, a structural review was needed. Ms. Wilson had suggested that the Dogwood Picnic
18 Area be used as the trailhead instead. That meant building approximately 1,000 feet of additional
19 trail to connect across there. If the environmental approvals for the extension of the trail project
20 came through, the trail could be constructed by the end of the year.

21 22 **9. CCF Trail Crew Lead Update – Joanna.**

23
24 Joanna Wheelton from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation reported that crews started on
25 May 10, 2022. The Trail Crew Lead was Tim Cromwell, from Utah State University, who had
26 experience as a Trail Crew Lead. There was also a returning member of the crew with a lot of
27 experience as well as some new people who had been hired from the resorts. This brought some
28 maturity to the crew. Ms. Wheelton explained that there were eight large projects that the
29 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation was working on this year as well as a lot of maintenance. The
30 schedule was fairly tight. She did not have the finalized annual maintenance project list from the
31 Forest Service yet, but she would share that information in the future. The Cottonwood Canyons
32 Foundation was currently maintaining the trails that were done on an annual basis.

33
34 Ms. Wheelton explained that there would be a return to hosting volunteers this year. There had
35 been a lot of community feedback from different volunteer groups that wanted to volunteer with
36 the organization. There were approximately 20 different volunteer groups scheduled currently,
37 which were booked through July 2022. Each Thursday was focused on weeds and trails volunteers.
38 Cottonwood Canyons Foundation wanted to be more accessible to other interested parties as well
39 and would offer some Saturday volunteer days. Ms. Wheelton also noted that the Cottonwood
40 Canyons Foundation would host National Trails Day on June 4, 2022, with the Wasatch Mountain
41 Club, CWC, and REI. It would be held at Brighton and some trail work, invasive weed work, and
42 trash removal would be done in the area. That registration was open. Additional information
43 about the Wildflower Festival was shared. It would take place on July 9, 2022, in Brighton, July
44 10, 2022, at Solitude, July 16, 2022, at Snowbird, and July 17, 2022, at Alta.

1 **10. Other Trail Updates: Cardiff, Grandeur BST, Silver Lake, USFS/CCF Maintenance**
2 **Projects, et al.**
3

4 Chair Knoblock noted that there were two sections of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail that would
5 hopefully be completed this year. He shared an image with the Committee for reference. The
6 existing trail was shown in blue, and the new trail was shown in red. The permitting stages were
7 almost complete for that work. He hoped that would be done in the next month or so for
8 construction to occur from late summer into early fall. Chair Knoblock was hopeful that in Big
9 Cottonwood Canyon, the County would complete the new pedestrian bridge over Big Cottonwood
10 Creek at Cardiff as well as the new section of boardwalk over the wetlands that would connect to
11 Donut Falls. A lot of trail maintenance projects were also taking place. Chair Knoblock asked
12 about the Mill B North project. Ms. Wheelton confirmed that it had been completed.
13

14 **CLOSE TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING**
15

16 **1. Chair John Knoblock will Close the Public Meeting as Chair of the Trails Committee**
17 **of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**
18

19 **MOTION:** Will McCarvill moved to ADJOURN the Trails Committee Meeting. Sarah Bennett
20 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
21

22 The Central Wasatch Commission Trails Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Trails Committee Meeting held Thursday, May 12, 2022.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____