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MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION OFFICES LOCATED AT 41 NORTH RIO GRANDE STREET, SUITE 102, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

- Present:** John Knoblock, Chair
Sarah Bennett, Vice-Chair
Barbara Cameron
Will McCarvill
Joanna Wheelton
Steve Van Maren
Mike Christensen
Dennis Goreham
Patrick Shea
Roger Borgenicht

- Staff:** Blake Perez, CWC Executive Director of Administration
Lindsey Nielsen, CWC Executive Director of Policy

OPENING

1. **Chair John Knoblock will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Trails Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

Chair John Knoblock called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and welcomed those present. It was noted that there had not been a Trails Committee Meeting since May 2022. The agenda items were reviewed.

2. **Review and Approval of the Minutes from the May 12, 2022 Meeting.**

MOTION: Patrick Shea moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from May 12, 2022. The motion was not seconded. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

1 **DISCUSSION**

2
3 **1. SLC Watershed Management Plan Status and Next Steps.**

4
5 Chair Knoblock reported that Patrick Nelson was unable to be present but was informed that Salt
6 Lake City was working on the Draft Watershed Management Plan. The intention was to release
7 the draft plan for public review in late May 2023. Chair Knoblock noted that by mid-summer there
8 may be a final version of the Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Management Plan.
9 Mr. Nelson also spoke to those involved in the U.S. Forest Service Trails Master Plan and was
10 following that process.

11
12 Vice-Chair Sarah Bennett asked for clarification about what would be completed in May 2023.
13 Chair Knoblock reported that the Draft Watershed Management Plan would be ready at that time.
14 Will McCarvill reported that the process would update the previous plan from 1999. Chair
15 Knoblock believed that this version would be a complete rewrite of the previous plan.
16 Mr. McCarvill noted that some interesting public seminars had been held. It may be possible for
17 those interested to find the presentation slides online. Those seminars took place in the summer
18 and fall.

19
20 Chair Knoblock indicated that Mr. Nelson did a lot of work on the Salt Lake City Watershed
21 Management Plan. He expected that there would be a complete rewrite and that the plan would
22 be far more robust than the previous 1999 version.

23
24 **2. USFS Trails Master Plan Status and Next Steps. Review Website and Map.**

25
26 Chair Knoblock reported that the Forest Service Trails Master Plan process was underway. Patrick
27 Shea wondered if the Trails Master Plan would include the Oquirrh Mountains. Chair Knoblock
28 clarified that the County will have a Regional Trails Master Plan that will include all of the trails
29 plans for Salt Lake County. For instance, the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan, Salt Lake City
30 Foothills Trail System Plan, the Rose Canyon and Yellow Canyon Master Plan, the Draper City
31 Corner Canyon Regional Park Master Plan, and the Regional Trails Plan for the Valley. The latter
32 included the Jordan River Parkway, Parleys Trail, and the Dimple Dell Trail. All of that would be
33 included in one complete document.

34
35 It was noted that there was a partnership between Salt Lake County and the Forest Service as part
36 of the Trails Master Plan process. Chair Knoblock reported that he participated in the kickoff
37 meeting that the Forest Service held on December 7, 2022. Another meeting was held on the
38 morning of December 8, 2022. It was noted that several Committee Members attended. Vice-
39 Chair Bennett stated that one of the main themes of the meeting related to the concentration of use
40 versus dispersed access. That would be explored further. This meant identifying areas where it
41 would be best to concentrate use and areas to maintain the backcountry experience with more
42 dispersed access. Some of the other goals had to do with preservation of the watershed and wild
43 spaces.

44
45 Mr. Shea asked if there was a website to participate and volunteer assistance. Chair Knoblock
46 confirmed this. The link to the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan website was included on the Trails

1 Committee Meeting agenda. He reported that Zinnia Wilson, U.S. Forest Services Trails Manager
2 led the effort. However, via Salt Lake County, Landmark Design Consultants were hired.
3 Landmark Design built the Tri-Canyon Trails Master Plan website. Chair Knoblock reported that
4 it is possible to submit feedback on the website. There was also a survey and an interactive map.
5 Comments and feedback could be shared directly on the map.
6

7 Mr. Shea wanted to know more about trail monitoring. Vice-Chair Bennett noted that during the
8 meeting, there was discussion regarding increasing Forest Service presence at trailheads and along
9 the trails. Chair Knoblock suggested that this be included in the written comments submitted. He
10 noted that in Millcreek Canyon the entrance fee shifted from \$3 to \$5 and two Education and
11 Enforcement Rangers were hired. It all came down to funding for personnel. One of the comments
12 Chair Knoblock shared during the kickoff meeting related to the operations and maintenance
13 budget. It was necessary to have consistent funding for those needs.
14

15 Chair Knoblock reminded those present that the Trails Master Plan website is now live. Comments
16 and feedback can be submitted there. The timeline of events was available on the website as well.
17 He explained that a series of meetings will be held to encourage public engagement. By late spring,
18 the intention was to have a draft plan available. There will then be public review and comment.
19 The final plan was expected to be released by the end of the year. Additional public review would
20 take place at that time. It would be finalized by early 2024 for implementation. Barbara Cameron
21 suggested sharing that information with the full CWC Board. Chair Knoblock liked the suggestion
22 and noted that Ms. Wilson wanted broad public engagement.
23

24 There was discussion regarding a Visitor Center. Vice-Chair Bennett noted that the Forest Service
25 meeting included a suggestion that there be a Visitor Center in each canyon. Chair Knoblock
26 pointed out that visitor centers require a significant amount of money but may be possible.
27

28 **3. Discuss the Situation Assessment Findings, Parleys Canyon, Ski Resort Trails Plans.**

29

30 Chair Knoblock discussed the idea of concentrated use. He explained that this was supported by
31 the Recreation Group which was part of the Mountain Accord. It involved focused use at ski
32 resorts, emergency medical services, paved parking lots, water, and food available. Improved trail
33 systems at the ski resorts were important. The Forest Service was working directly with the ski
34 resorts on that work. He noted that many resorts want to make trail improvements. Chair
35 Knoblock reported that Solitude will reroute trails and redesign its system so there are 10 miles of
36 hiking and bicycle trails in Solitude. There was also a desire to further segregate those uses. For
37 instance, pedestrian-only trails and portions specifically for mountain biking.
38

39 Joanna Wheelton wondered how receptive the resorts had been to concentrated use in the past.
40 Mr. Shea believed the resorts had been fairly receptive. Vice-Chair Bennett confirmed that there
41 had been interest but there were no resources available and solid efforts made to pursue trail
42 planning within the ski resort use boundaries. She believed that was starting to change. Mr. Shea
43 commented that the biggest concern was liability. The resorts took the position that people who
44 are visiting but not paying are not covered by their liability insurance. Chair Knoblock stated that
45 Amber Broadway from Solitude believed it was an important part of their Business Plan to be
46 able to retain year-round employees and improve the overall user experience.

1
2 Ms. Wheelton noted that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation wanted to offer free and basic weed
3 analysis as the ski resorts started to think about putting in trails. It was beneficial to address the
4 weeds before the trail is put down. The resorts have some of the highest concentrations of weeds
5 in the canyons. Keeping those corridors from going up the mountain would be ideal for the
6 watershed but that work would need to be done before any sort of trail was built. Chair Knoblock
7 believed Ms. Wilson was aware of the need to address weeds appropriately.
8

9 Mr. Shea explained that he had spoken to others about the creation of a Youth Conservation Corps
10 that would work on trails. This was being done in California with some success. He wondered if
11 that was something that would be beneficial. Chair Knoblock noted that the Cottonwood Canyons
12 Foundation does a lot of volunteer work. It might be best to build on what already exists.
13 Ms. Wheelton noted that there had been discussions about a Trail Ambassador Program.
14

15 **4. Trail and Trailhead Maintenance Funding – Status and Needs, Developed Trailhead**
16 **Fee Program, Adopt-A-Trail Expansion.**
17

18 Chair Knoblock wondered if Ms. Wheelton was comfortable with the Forest Service
19 recommendation that the Adopt-A-Trail program be expanded. Ms. Wheelton confirmed this. She
20 reported that she would meet with Ms. Wilson next week to add to the trail list and make some
21 recommendations. She reported that the New Cottonwood Canyons Foundation Trail Stewardship
22 Director was working solely on Adopt-A-Trail solicitation. It was noted that many members of
23 the Trails Committee are already Adopt-A-Trail sponsors. Ms. Wheelton stated that the Adopt-A-
24 Trail program continues to grow. She looked forward to seeing what would happen in the future.
25

26 Chair Knoblock stated that the Committee Members were anxious and excited to assist. Any
27 organizations that might be interested in the program could be shared with the Cottonwood
28 Canyons Foundation. Chair Knoblock asked if an article could be shared in the newspaper.
29 Ms. Wheelton thanked him for the suggestion. She would add that to the list of ideas. Chair
30 Knoblock reported that Trails Utah hired a Marketing Director on a part-time basis. There might
31 be some marketing ideas that could be beneficial to the Adopt-A-Trail program.
32

33 There was discussion regarding the Developed Trailhead Fee program. Vice-Chair Bennett stated
34 that during the meeting the program was listed as another possible way to achieve the goals of the
35 Tri-Canyons Trail Master Plan. A more robust fee program that is in every canyon was mentioned
36 but there were concerns related to equity and diversity. Mr. McCarvill did not believe any
37 decisions had been made about what sites would become fee sites. The Forest Service solicited
38 comments about the idea of the fee program but he did not believe the ruling had been released.
39 He was not sure what the deadline was but public input had been received.
40

41 **5. Trail Etiquette Signage Discussion and Process to Move Forward.**
42

43 Chair Knoblock reported that Ms. Wilson was on board with trail etiquette signage being part of
44 the Trails Master Plan process. He suggested that the Tri-Canyons Trails Master Plan website
45 include a page where images could be submitted from around the country that may be appropriate
46 to consider for the trail system. Dennis Goreham asked for additional information about the

1 interactive map on the website. He wondered if there was a way to suggest signage. Chair
2 Knoblock clarified that the interactive map focuses on ecosystem concerns, trail maintenance,
3 trailhead needs, trail connections, and reroutes. It did not have anything specific to trail signage.
4 However, under trailhead needs, improved signage could be suggested. He noted that there was a
5 desire to improve signage at trail intersections in the backcountry.
6

7 Mr. Goreham wondered if the Trails Committee should create a set of recommendations. The sign
8 recommendations did not need to be site specific but could be general in nature. For example,
9 signs should be uniform in size and overall appearance. He wanted to understand if the Trails
10 Committee had a role in this. Chair Knoblock explained that he asked Ms. Wilson about that and
11 she indicated that the Forest Service wants individual input at the current stage. During the draft
12 stage of the plan, the Trails Committee could share more specific recommendations.
13

14 **6. Ongoing and Proposed Trails Projects Overview and Discussion.**

15
16 Chair Knoblock shared information about ongoing and proposed trail projects. Solitude proposed
17 redoing its Trails Plan. He believed that Mike Doyle at Brighton also proposed new trails within
18 the Brighton Ski Resort Area. Chair Knoblock reported that the County will finish the Bridge and
19 Boardwalk Project in the spring. There was also a desire to complete the section of Bonneville
20 Shoreline Trail between Ferguson and Big Cottonwood Canyon. That work would likely be
21 completed in the spring and the trail would open by the summer. Next spring, there was a desire
22 to complete the section of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail between Parleys and Millcreek Canyons
23 as well. Approximately one-third of the project would be done in the fall and the rest would be
24 done in the spring. He hoped it would be completed by June.
25

26 Mr. Shea asked if the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation was evaluating areas where there are
27 known to be rare or endangered species. Ms. Wheelton explained that there would be a meeting
28 with Ms. Wilson in the next few weeks to set out a plan for the next year. The Cottonwood
29 Canyons Foundation focused on the agenda for the Cost Share Agreement but a few rare plant
30 species populations were monitored within the canyons. There had been active communication
31 with the Forest Service on some of those. There were a few that were in danger due to some user-
32 created trails. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation had been working with the Forest Service
33 and the hiking apps to move the trails slightly so the species could be protected.
34

35 Chair Knoblock did not anticipate a lot happening in the summer except for the projects that were
36 mentioned previously such as the trail projects at the Solitude and Brighton Ski Resorts. Those
37 were the main projects that would be done.
38

39 Ms. Cameron reported that the Stakeholders Council forwarded a recommendation to the CWC
40 Board related to the conflict in Cardiff. The Stakeholders Council wanted to encourage resolution
41 before the winter season. The CWC Board agreed at the last CWC Board Meeting that something
42 needed to be done. Dave Whittekiend attended the CWC Board Meeting and stated that the Forest
43 Service is in non-binding mediation with the Cardiff Canyon property owners, Salt Lake City
44 Public Utilities, and the County. The intention was to reach some sort of agreement. Ms. Cameron
45 explained that the CWC Board suggested easements or the purchase of properties. However, it
46 was noted that any sale needs to come from a willing seller.

1
2 The CWC Board asked CWC Legal Counsel, Shane Topham, to draft a Resolution related to the
3 issue in Cardiff. Nothing substantial had come out of the initial CWC Board Meeting discussion,
4 but the CWC Board was now aware of the issue. Mr. McCarvill noted that it was unclear whether
5 Salt Lake City Public Utilities was in mediation with the Cardiff Canyon property owners or if
6 there were two separate mediations. That being said, it was made clear by Mr. Whittekiend that
7 the Cardiff Canyon property owners failed to renew the Special Use Permit. That complicated
8 things because there now needs to be a new Special Use Permit, which would require some kind
9 of National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process.

10
11 Mr. Shea explained that he had been dealing with the Cardiff Canyon property owners for nearly
12 three decades. Several years ago, the County took out a public lands bond that allowed the County
13 to purchase property that was not developed. He believed a bond process could solve the problem
14 in this case as he was not certain there would be a compromise with the property owners. The
15 Trails Committee further discussed the issue. Chair Knoblock thanked Ms. Cameron for the
16 update.

17
18 **ADJOURN**

- 19
20 1. **Chair John Knoblock will Close the Public Meeting as Chair of the Trails Committee**
21 **of the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council.**

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23 **MOTION:** Dennis Goreham moved to ADJOURN the Trails Committee Meeting. The motion
24 was not seconded. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

25
26 The Central Wasatch Commission Trails Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:08 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, December 8, 2022.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: _____