

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**  
2 **COUNCIL TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2021,**  
3 **AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM**  
4

5 **Present:** John Knoblock, Chair  
6 Steve Van Maren  
7 Chelsea Phillippe  
8 Bob Kollar  
9 Patrick Nelson  
10 Dennis Goreham  
11 Angela Lee  
12 Barbara Cameron  
13 Zach Gardner  
14 Chad Smith  
15 Richard Webb  
16 Dick \_\_\_\_\_  
17 Jack \_\_\_\_\_  
18 Juan Arce-Laretta  
19 James Hicks  
20

21 **Staff:** Ralph Becker, CWC Executive Director  
22 Blake Perez, CWC Deputy Director  
23 Lindsey Nielsen, Communications Director  
24 Kaye Mickelson, Office Administrator  
25

26 **1. Introduce Meeting Attendees and Review Agenda.**  
27

28 Chair John Knoblock called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m. He welcomed those  
29 present to the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Trails Committee.  
30 Participants were asked to introduce themselves.  
31

32 The agenda for the meeting was reviewed. Discussions were had about voting members. CWC  
33 Executive Director, Ralph Becker reported that all decisions are consensus-based and will move  
34 forward to the full Stakeholders Council for approval. Trails Committee participants do not  
35 necessarily need to be members of the Stakeholders Council. He believed that anyone who wanted  
36 to participate in the Trails Committee would be welcome.  
37

38 **2. Review and Approve January 14, 2021 Trails Committee Meeting Minutes.**  
39

40 **MOTION:** Barbara Cameron moved to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2021, Trails  
41 Committee Meeting. Chair Knoblock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the  
42 unanimous consent of the Committee.  
43

1 **3. Review and Approve the Trails Committee Mission, our Trail System Vision and Our**  
2 **Committee Goals.**  
3

4 Chair Knoblock reported that the Trails Committee goals were discussed at the previous meeting.  
5 The Committee goals included:  
6

- 7 • Provide input to Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan, the Salt Lake County Natural  
8 Surface Trails Master Plan, and the U.S. Forest Service Tri-Canyons Trails Master Plan;
- 9 • Provide input related to trails and trailheads on the CWC Mountain Transportation System  
10 (“MTS”) plan and Visitor Management Study;
- 11 • Provide input to the U.S. Forest Service Trails Manager and Salt Lake City Watershed  
12 Manager on trail user education and signage; and
- 13 • Advocate for enforcement issues related to trails and trailheads.  
14

15 Chair Knoblock thanked Barbara Cameron for the document she shared related to the scenic  
16 byways education and signage package. She reported that the information was from 2008 and  
17 went into detail about signage. Both the U.S. Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities  
18 were involved. Ms. Cameron noted that many of the proposed items were now coming to pass.  
19

20 Dennis Goreham shared an additional Committee goal in the Zoom chat box regarding reaching a  
21 consensus and providing input on legislation. Ms. Cameron wondered if there was current  
22 legislation that dealt specifically with trails. Mr. Goreham reported that there was the  
23 Conservation and Recreation Area Act, Bonneville Shoreline Trail Advancement Act, and a bill  
24 that would potentially allow mountain bikes to be used in wilderness areas. Chair Knoblock added  
25 the following goal to the Committee goals list:  
26

- 27 • Seek consensus and provide input on trails-related legislation.  
28

29 Chair Knoblock shared the Trails Committee mission, which states:  
30

- 31 • The mission of the CWC Stakeholders Council Trails Committee is to advocate for our  
32 trails system vision by working in partnership with the CWC, U.S. Forest Service Salt Lake  
33 Ranger District, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation, Unified Police Department, local  
34 municipalities, ski resorts, and Salt Lake City Watershed.  
35

36 Chair Knoblock outlined the trails system vision, which states:  
37

- 38 • The trails system in the Central Wasatch area is interconnected, well maintained, has  
39 sustainable grades in construction, has directional signage at intersections, has adequate  
40 rule enforcement, services a wide variety of trail users, protects sensitive watershed areas,  
41 wilderness areas, and critical wildlife habitat and connects users to the many popular and  
42 scenic destinations in the Central Wasatch.  
43

44 Chair Knoblock discussed the trailheads vision, which states:  
45

- 1       • The vision of the trailheads is that they have adequate off-road parking, have year-round  
2       restrooms, are serviced by convenient year-round mass transit, and have directional,  
3       educational, and interpretive signage with accurate maps.  
4

5 Patrick Nelson believed that a trails plan should mention some sort of fiscal component. Chair  
6 Knoblock suggested that the trails system vision could include an additional line that reads:  
7

- 8       • Sufficient operations and maintenance funding on a sustained basis.  
9

10 Ms. Cameron pointed out that it may be beneficial to concentrate on maintenance over the next  
11 few years rather than building new trails. Chair Knoblock commented that the suggestion would  
12 be added to a future Trails Committee agenda for discussion.  
13

#### 14 **4. Discuss Our Draft Committee Process.**

15

16 Chair Knoblock outlined the Trails Committee process. The drafted document states as follows:  
17

- 18       • As the CWC Stakeholders Council Trails Committee is advisory only to the CWC  
19       Stakeholders Council, CWC Staff, and the CWC, we will:  
20       ○ Seek consensus and approval of our trails system vision from the Stakeholders  
21       Council, Staff, and CWC;  
22       ○ Make recommendations to the Stakeholders Council, Staff, and CWC on the Salt  
23       Lake City, Salt Lake County, and U.S. Forest Service plans as they relate to trails  
24       in the CWC project area;  
25       ○ Make recommendations to the Stakeholders Council, Staff, and CWC on  
26       improvements for trail user education, signage, and enforcement issues related to  
27       trails and trailheads; and  
28       ○ Make recommendations to the Stakeholders Council, Staff, and CWC on trails and  
29       trailheads as they relate to the MTS plan and Visitor Management Study.  
30

31 Ms. Cameron discussed the possibility that the Silver Lake Boardwalk will be replaced. She  
32 wondered what kind of input the Trails Committee would have. Chair Knoblock noted that one of  
33 the goals is to provide input to the U.S. Forest Service Manager and the Salt Lake City Watershed  
34 manager on trail user education and signage. He asked CWC Staff about the process for review  
35 and recommendations. Mr. Becker felt it was important for Trails Committee Members to  
36 determine whether it would be better to do something as an individual or through the CWC process.  
37 He noted that the CWC process required a Stakeholders Council review followed by a CWC Board  
38 review. However, it could be beneficial to have the weight of the Commission behind a particular  
39 recommendation or suggestion.  
40

#### 41 **5. Update on Salt Lake County and U.S. Forest Service Trails Master Plan Progress.**

42

43 Chair Knoblock reported that he spoke with Walt Gilmore from Salt Lake County Parks and  
44 Recreation. According to Mr. Gilmore, they had not successfully obtained funding to start the  
45 Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. A mid-year budget adjustment would take place at the end of  
46 June and they would request funding for trails planning at that time. However, there was pressure

1 to create a Natural Surface Trails Plan in Dimple Dell Park. Chair Knoblock believed that the  
2 Dimple Dell plan may take priority as it was smaller and easier to do than a Natural Surface Trails  
3 Plan for the entire county. If funding was received for both, Mr. Gilmore would immediately hire  
4 a consultant to take on the Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. Work would then take place during  
5 the third and fourth quarter of the year. Otherwise, it would likely not be done until 2022.

6  
7 Ms. Cameron asked about the money needed for the Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. Chair  
8 Knoblock reported that it was an estimated \$150,000 to \$200,000. He noted that the Salt Lake  
9 City Foothills Trail Master Plan involved many public outreach sessions and detailed GIS  
10 mapping, but cost approximately \$76,000. He believed the estimates for the Natural Surface Trails  
11 Master Plan seemed high but pointed out that public outreach sessions added up quickly.

12  
13 Chair Knoblock discussed the U.S. Forest Service Trails Master Plan. He reported that the Trails  
14 Manager for the Salt Lake Ranger District, Zinnia Wilson, and staff were continuing to work on  
15 the plan. With volunteer assistance from Save Our Canyons, user-created trails, social trails, and  
16 trails on private property had been documented. In addition, the U.S. Forest Service was working  
17 to identify the Forest Service designated trails. The goal was to determine the following:

- 18
- 19 • Which user-created trails could potentially become official trails;
- 20 • Which user-created trails should remain as user-created trails;
- 21 • Which user-created trails went through sensitive areas and should be eliminated.
- 22

23 Chair Knoblock reported that the U.S. Forest Service was moving forward on this work. They  
24 hoped to complete the plan by the end of 2021 but it may not be completed until 2022. He added  
25 that the Trails Committee could assist the U.S. Forest Service in the future by reviewing the trails  
26 plan.

27  
28 Ms. Cameron asked about the Cardiff bridge and trail that had been in the works. Chair Knoblock  
29 explained that he asked Martin Jensen and Mr. Gilmore to provide a written summary of Mayor  
30 Jenny Wilson's \$1 million for trails to see what projects that money went to, what the budgets  
31 were, and what the expenditures were. He believed Ms. Wilson from the U.S. Forest Service  
32 would be spending that money with the exception of the Cardiff boardwalk and bridge. Chair  
33 Knoblock noted that the topic would be discussed further in the next agenda item.

34  
35 Mr. Nelson discussed the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan. He reported that they were  
36 working to obtain a third contractor. The contractor would do work related to public engagement.  
37 Mr. Nelson clarified that the document was a water policy document and was not a trails-specific  
38 planning document. It would look at threats to water quality, such as crowding, climate change,  
39 and wildfires. Mr. Nelson hoped that the document would receive a lot of public feedback. Chair  
40 Knoblock asked about the timeframe for the plan. Mr. Nelson believed it would take place in mid  
41 to late summer to ensure that a lot of public input is received.

42  
43 **6. Review U.S. Forest Service Trail Project Plans from Forest Supervisor's 2020 Annual**  
44 **Report.**

45  
46 Chair Knoblock reviewed the Forest Supervisor's 2020 Annual Report with the Trails Committee.

1 He reported that there were several items on the list related to trails projects that were either in  
2 progress or designated as future items. Those projects included the following:

- 3
- 4 • Priority projects:
  - 5 ○ Temple Quarry Trailhead;
  - 6 ○ Bridge Trailhead;
  - 7 ○ Lisa Falls Trailhead;
  - 8 ○ Quartzite Trailhead;
  - 9 ○ Mill B Trailhead;
  - 10 ○ White Pine Trailhead;
  - 11 ○ Butler Fork Trailhead;
  - 12 ○ Grizzly Gulch Trailhead;
  - 13 ○ Cardiff Fork Trailhead;
  - 14 ○ Catherine’s Pass Trailhead;
  - 15 ○ Cecret Lake Trailhead;
  - 16 ○ Solitude Trailhead;
  - 17 ○ Scott’s Pass Trailhead;
  - 18 ○ Silver Lake Trailhead;
  - 19 ○ Silver Lake Boardwalk; and
  - 20 ○ Bonneville Shoreline Trail.
- 21 • Ongoing and upcoming projects:
  - 22 ○ System Trail Inventory and Trail Management Objectives;
  - 23 ○ Tri-Canyon Area Master Trail Plan;
  - 24 ○ District-wide Trailhead Kiosk and Sign Design/Install;
  - 25 ○ Neffs Canyon Trailhead and Heliwell;
  - 26 ○ Mile High Trailhead NEPA;
  - 27 ○ Upper Millcreek Bike Closure;
  - 28 ○ Millcreek Canyon Kiosk Sign Design;
  - 29 ○ Albion Basin Off-Trail Closure Area;
  - 30 ○ Mountain Bike Trail Plan at Ski Area;
  - 31 ○ Silver Lake Trail and Boardwalk;
  - 32 ○ Albion Meadows Trail Reroutes;
  - 33 ○ Red Pine Trail Reroute;
  - 34 ○ Blanche/Pipeline;
  - 35 ○ Rattlesnake Trail and Access to Bonneville Shoreline Trail;
  - 36 ○ Wasatch Crest Trail Reroutes and Construction;
  - 37 ○ Dog Lake Reroute;
  - 38 ○ Upper Pipeline – Phase 3;
  - 39 ○ Bonneville Shoreline Trail – Big Cottonwood to Ferguson Canyon;
  - 40 ○ Trail Bridge at Elbow Fork;
  - 41 ○ Donut Falls Access Trail, Bridge, and Boardwalk;
  - 42 ○ Willow Lake Trail;
  - 43 ○ Twin Lakes/Lake Mary;
  - 44 ○ Guardsman Trail Access;
  - 45 ○ White Pine Trail Bridge Erosion Repair;
  - 46 ○ Jacob's Ladder Trail; and

- Lower Big Cottonwood Canyon Climber Restoration Initiative.

There was discussion regarding signs in the canyons. Mr. Goreham reported that the U.S. Forest Service has a Stewardship and Messaging Focus Group dedicated to signs. He noted that Marshall Alford from the Salt Lake Ranger District was in charge of that group. Chair Knoblock felt it was important for the Committee to work in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

Chair Knoblock noted that the U.S. Forest Service is not allowed to ask local municipalities to help with funding. He reported that it is a federal crime for the U.S. Forest Service to advocate for funds. However, partners were able to provide funding if they chose to do so. Chair Knoblock stated that the U.S. Forest Service had several projects on their radar but there are only eight full-time U.S. Forest Service employees. Chair Knoblock felt it was important to determine how the Trails Committee could help the U.S. Forest Service meet their objectives.

## **7. Brainstorm a List of Existing and Potential Future Short Family-Friendly Hikes.**

Chair Knoblock asked Trails Committee participants to think about possible family-friendly hiking trails in the area. Mr. Goreham wondered whether there were specific criteria to consider. Chair Knoblock suggested that family-friendly hikes should have approximately 1,000-foot elevation and a 2-hour or less round trip. He also noted that a scenic overlook would be beneficial.

Chair Knoblock reported that Silver Lake Trail is an existing family-friendly hike. Ms. Cameron made note of Donut Falls. She commented that there was also a cut over that from the Donut Falls Trail into the Spruces Campground. Chair Knoblock stated that the cut-over was useful for people staying at the campground. He added that Willow Lake Trail is also a very popular and family-friendly hike. Ms. Cameron agreed but pointed out that there are no restrooms and parking issues in the area. She added that families can hike from Silver Lake Boardwalk to Lake Solitude. It is steep in certain places but the hike would be good for families. Chair Knoblock commented that there would need to be better signage. Additionally, the lower section could use additional trail work.

In Little Cottonwood Canyon, there is the Albion Basin to Secret Lake hike as an existing family-friendly trail. Chair Knoblock noted that many of the existing trails are already heavily used. If additional short, family-friendly hiking trails were developed, some of that use could be better dispersed. This would improve the overall user experience.

Mr. Goreham suggested the Circle All Peak Trail. He commented that it was a little bit longer but was a good family-friendly hike. Mr. Goreham also suggested the Mule Hollow Trail. It offered excellent views of the Storm Mountain area. Chair Knoblock agreed and noted that there was a beautiful viewpoint. He added that the area above the Storm Mountain Picnic Area might be appropriate as well. It wasn't a well-used area but the trail could be improved and signage could be installed. Ms. Cameron noted that it was a nice trail but was difficult to access when the picnic area was open. Chair Knoblock believed that the trail could be looked into. He noted that it was lower down in the canyon, which would reduce traffic further up the canyon.

1 Other suggestions included Days Fork Trail and Silver Fork Trail. Ms. Cameron noted that there  
2 had been a lot of children on the Spruces winter trail. She believed it would be nice to see historical  
3 markers there. Chair Knoblock agreed that it could use signage. Mr. Nelson reported that Matt  
4 Hales from the Salt Lake Ranger District was working with Louise Haven at the Cottonwood  
5 Canyons Foundation. He believed they were making interim signs for the winter trails at Spruces.

6  
7 Mr. Nelson wondered whether the creation of additional trails would increase demand. He  
8 commented that he would like to see something happen at Donut Falls Trail to keep people away  
9 from the water and make the trail safer. Mr. Nelson noted that the trail was slippery in certain  
10 sections and mentioned accidents that had taken place in the past. Chair Knoblock stated that it  
11 may be beneficial for there to be a viewpoint that the Donut Falls Trail led to rather than the trail  
12 leading to the water.

13  
14 Chair Knoblock discussed the need for better signage at trails near Snowbird, particularly into  
15 Mineral Basin. He also reported that when a service road was put in, the lower section of one of  
16 the loop trails was damaged. Chair Knoblock noted that his attempts to reach out had been  
17 unsuccessful on an individual level. He believed that as a group, it may be possible to convince  
18 Snowbird to fix the trail. However, he noted that the trail was on private property.

19  
20 Chair Knoblock asked the Trails Committee participants to continue brainstorming possible  
21 family-friendly trails. The item could be revisited in the future.

22  
23 **8. Review Mountain Accord Trails Plan and Note Gaps from U.S. Forest Service**  
24 **Program of Work.**

25  
26 Chair Knoblock asked CWC staff to share a map of the Mountain Accord Trails Plan. He reported  
27 that during the Mountain Accord process, there had been two trail subcommittee sessions. The  
28 second session was led by Will McCarvill and focused on improving the interconnectivity of trails.  
29 Chair Knoblock overviewed the Mountain Accord Trails Plan map with the Trails Committee.

30  
31 In Little Cottonwood Canyon, the Mountain Accord Trails Plan proposed a continuous trail down  
32 Little Cottonwood Canyon. Chair Knoblock noted that there was clearly user demand for this  
33 recreational resource as the U.S. Forest Service and Save Our Canyons had tried to eliminate  
34 several user-created trails. If there was a designed trail that went all the way down the canyon,  
35 that would be beneficial. In the lower part of Little Cottonwood Canyon, a separate bicycle trail  
36 from the Little Cottonwood Creek Trail (sometimes referred to as the Temple Quarry Trail) could  
37 potentially reduce user conflicts. The Mountain Accord Trails Plan also included a trail in Little  
38 Cottonwood Canyon that would connect Snowbird to Alta and a designated trail that went through  
39 Grizzly Gulch and up to Twin Lakes Pass.

40  
41 In Big Cottonwood Canyon, the Mountain Accord Trails Plan proposed a continuous trail up Big  
42 Cottonwood Canyon that would connect from Silver Fork through Solitude and then all the way  
43 up to Silver Lake. It also proposed improvements to the Pipeline Trail at the bottom of the canyon  
44 as well as a trail that connected Brighton to Guardsman Pass. Discussions were had regarding a  
45 trail at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon below Storm Mountain. Mr. Nelson was not sure  
46 who owned the land or what it is connected to. He noted that parking in the lower portion of the

1 canyon was very limited. Chair Knoblock reported that the Mountain Accord Trails Plan also  
2 included some proposed improvements to the Honeycomb Canyon Trail.

3  
4 In Millcreek Canyon, the Mountain Accord Trails Plan proposed connections from Elbow Fork up  
5 to Big Water Trail. Chair Knoblock reported that the trail would be finished this spring and was a  
6 critical connector. The Trails Plan also envisioned a trail that connected to Lambs Canyon from  
7 the top of Millcreek Canyon. However, Chair Knoblock noted that this could be difficult because  
8 the area was located on various properties.

9  
10 In Parleys Canyon, the Mountain Accord Trails Plan proposed increased trail development to  
11 relieve pressure on the tri-canyons area. He noted that there would be easy access because I-80  
12 was nearby. The plan suggested a trail from Mountain Dell up to Parleys Summit. Chair Knoblock  
13 also mentioned the Great Western Hiking Trail that went up to the ridgeline above the Little Dell  
14 Reservoir. He commented that a designed trail that came from the Lambs Canyon exit up to the  
15 Great Western Hiking Trail would be an improvement.

16  
17 Chair Knoblock reported that Summit County has a robust municipal trails program. He  
18 mentioned the Utah Olympic Park Trail that had been completed. Mr. Nelson commented that he  
19 and Chair Knoblock should discuss the land in Parleys Canyon during the trails planning process.  
20 He added that the Lambs Canyon Road was narrow. Directing any sort of use to that area may  
21 cause issues. Chair Knoblock noted that one of the reasons to connect from the Lambs Canyon  
22 exit was so more people would park at the exit instead. That would reduce vehicles going up the  
23 sub-standard road.

24  
25 Chair Knoblock discussed future agenda items for the CWC Stakeholders Council Trails  
26 Committee. He commented that he would reach out to participants for suggestions ahead of the  
27 next meeting. Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen reported that the next Trails Committee  
28 Meeting would take place on Thursday, March 11, 2021.

29  
30 **MOTION:** Barbara Cameron moved to adjourn. Chair Knoblock seconded the motion. The  
31 motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

32  
33 The Central Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.



1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting held Thursday, January 14, 2021.*

3

4 *Teri Forbes*

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

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