

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS**
2 **COUNCIL TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021, AT**
3 **2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM**
4

5 **Present:** John Knoblock, Chair
6 Dennis Goreham
7 James Hick
8 Joanna Wheelton
9 Cody Ross
10 Don Taylor
11 Pat Shea
12 Bob Kollar
13 Alex Schmidt
14 Will McCarvill
15 Barbara Cameron
16 Sarah Bennett
17

18 **Staff:** Ralph Becker, CWC Executive Director
19 Blake Perez, CWC Deputy Director
20 Lindsey Nielsen, Communications Director
21 Kaye Mickelson, Office Administrator
22

23 **1. Introduce Meeting Attendees and Review Agenda.**
24

25 Chair John Knoblock called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.
26

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

30 ‘I, as the Chair of the Trails Committee of the Mountain Accord Stakeholders
31 Council of the Central Wasatch Commission hereby determine that conducting
32 the meeting at any time during the next 30 days at an anchor location presents a
33 substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at the anchor
34 location. The World Health Organization, the President of the United States, the
35 Governor of Utah, the Salt Lake County Mayor, and the Health Department have
36 all recognized that a global pandemic exists related to the new strain of the
37 Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. Due to the state of emergency caused by the global
38 pandemic, I find that conducting a meeting at an anchor location under the
39 current state of public health emergency constitutes a substantial risk to the
40 health and safety of those who may be present at the location. According to the
41 information and from State epidemiology experts, Utah is currently in an
42 acceleration phase, which has the potential to overwhelm the State’s health care
43 system.’
44

45 Chair Knoblock reviewed the agenda items. He asked those present to introduce themselves to the
46 members of the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Trails Committee.

1
2 **2. Review and Approve 3/11/21 Trails Committee Meeting Minutes.**
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4 **MOTION:** Sarah Bennett moved to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2021, Trails
5 Committee Meeting. John Knoblock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous
6 consent of the Committee.
7

8 **3. Update on Salt Lake County and U.S. Forest Service Trails Master Plan Progress.**
9

10 Chair Knoblock reported that Walt Gilmore and Martin Jensen from Salt Lake County Parks and
11 Recreation expressed an interest in serving as the lead agency to coordinate a Salt Lake County
12 Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. However, there were no immediate funds in the budget to
13 begin work during the current year. Messrs. Gilmore and Jensen originally hoped for a mid-year
14 budget correction in June 2021 to obtain the funding. The last time Chair Knoblock had spoken
15 to them there was still some uncertainty about funding and staffing.
16

17 Chair Knoblock asked Jake Young, Program Planning Manager for the Wasatch Canyons General
18 Plan, for advice. Mr. Young noted that the Salt Lake County Council may have additional reach
19 and be able to obtain funding for the Salt Lake County Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. The
20 Council may be able to move priorities around within Salt Lake County. Mr. Young indicated that
21 the Trails Committee will work with individual Council Members and try to get their support to
22 move the project forward. Chair Knoblock asked for feedback on this idea.
23

24 Pat Shea believed it was a good idea but felt it was important to be specific about which Council
25 Members the Trails Committee Member had spoken to. He suggested that the Committee also
26 reach out to Beckee Hotze and Dave Wittekiend from the U.S. Forest Service. Mr. Shea
27 commented that he wanted to see a Master Plan that covers a wider area. Sarah Bennett explained
28 that it would be difficult to create a Master Plan that covers a more extensive area. There were
29 many different land designations and Forest Service districts to consider, each of which will have
30 different goals, timelines, and resources. She felt it was appropriate to focus on the Salt Lake
31 County Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. It may be able to serve as a template for other areas.
32

33 Ms. Bennett reported that Salt Lake City Watershed was also working on a Recreational Use
34 Master Plan. She felt that many entities were moving toward Master Plans and the Trails
35 Committee wanted to encourage as much overlap and communication as possible. Mr. Shea felt
36 there could be issues with each of the entities approaching their Master Plans differently. He
37 suggested there be a group discussion. It could be done through the CWC and could have a
38 Facilitator. Ms. Bennett liked the idea. She noted that she and Chair Knoblock had spoken to Salt
39 Lake County, the Forest Service, and Salt Lake City Watershed about overlapping planning efforts.
40 Each entity wanted a certain amount of autonomy in the way they approach their Master Plans.
41

42 Mr. Shea nominated Joanna Wheelton as a possible Facilitator. Ms. Wheelton commented that
43 she would like to talk to Chair Knoblock and Ms. Bennett to learn more about the Master Plans.
44 However, she would be open to facilitating a strategy session that focuses on setting a common
45 goal. Mr. Shea suggested that the group discussion have no more than 20 participants.
46

1 Barbara Cameron wondered if it would be possible for Ms. Wheelton to speak with the Forest
2 Service first before adding in other entities. Mr. Shea believed that the Forest Service would not
3 necessarily be open to a creative approach due to the number of rules and regulations. The group
4 discussion would invite Forest Service personnel but he did not want to be bound by the rules and
5 regulations of the Forest Service. Ms. Cameron highlighted some of the work done with the Forest
6 Service. She felt that it would be best to move forward with the Forest Service first.

7
8 Chair Knoblock liked the idea of looking at a larger area but agreed that it would be complicated
9 to have multiple counties and Forest Service districts involved. He felt it would be beneficial to
10 keep the Master Plan area within Salt Lake County. Ms. Bennett noted that there was an
11 opportunity to create a joint effort. She believed that Salt Lake City Watershed was somewhat
12 behind where the Forest Service and Salt Lake County are in terms of a Master Plan. Once each
13 of those entities reaches the point where they are comfortable with the amount of information they
14 have gathered, it may be beneficial to engage in a group effort. This could help reach a larger
15 consensus about trails development.

16
17 Ms. Wheelton thought that the best place to start was to define the objectives of the Master Plans
18 and determine the geographic reach. Once the strategic objectives have been identified, it would
19 be easier to identify the logistical pathways needed to accomplish those objectives. Ms. Bennett
20 agreed. She felt it was important to determine the goals and define what the Trails Committee
21 wants to accomplish with the shared planning effort.

22
23 Chair Knoblock described the current vision. There would be a Natural Surface Trails Plan for all
24 of Salt Lake County, which would include Forest Service Lands, Salt Lake City Foothills, Corner
25 Canyon, and the growing development of trails in the Rose Canyon and Yellow Fork Canyon area
26 in the southwest corner of the valley. Additionally, the Forest Service had been working on a
27 Trails Inventory. The Committee Members discussed the potential group discussion.

28
29 Chair Knoblock noted that Ms. Hotze had indicated that the Forest Service would like to have a
30 broader public process for input and review. She hoped that was where Mr. Jensen and a
31 Consultant could be of assistance. For instance, with the Salt Lake City Foothills Trails process,
32 a Consultant was hired to hold open houses around the county and receive input as the plan was
33 put together.

34
35 Discussions were had about how to best move forward. Chair Knoblock suggested that the Trails
36 Committee Members continue discussions offline to determine how to organize a group discussion
37 that would better define the goals and objectives. He discussed the need for funding for both the
38 Master Plan and the consultant work. Chair Knoblock wondered if anyone on the Trails
39 Committee felt comfortable reaching out to a member of the Salt Lake County Council. Several
40 members offered to help. Chair Knoblock suggested that they coordinate who each Trails
41 Committee Member would reach out to.

42
43 Mr. Shea believed it was important to have a consistent message. He felt the message was to
44 obtain funding from the County to do a Master Plan for Salt Lake County, both on the west side
45 and the east side. Chair Knoblock offered to send out a document with some potential talking
46 points. The intention was not only to obtain funding but to have the Master Plan be prioritized.

1 Office Administrator, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that there was a chain email for the Trails
2 Committee. She asked that anyone not currently on that email chain that wants to be added to
3 leave their contact information in the Zoom chatbox.

4
5 Chair Knoblock reiterated the plan to speak to individual Salt Lake County Council Members.
6 Ms. Nielsen suggested that a spreadsheet be created to track who was had spoken to who and the
7 date the call was made. It could also include brief notes about the conversation. This would ensure
8 that all Trails Committee Members are on the same page and not duplicating calls. Chair Knoblock
9 offered to create the spreadsheet.

10
11 **4. Review U.S. Forest Service Trails Inventory Work for Us to Give Input on What the**
12 **Future of User Trails Should Be.**

13
14 Chair Knoblock reported that Chelsea Phillippe was hired by Zinnia Wilson with the Forest
15 Service to prepare an inventory of all the user-created trails. The goal was to determine:

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

20
21 Ms. Phillippe asked for input to move the Trails Inventory project forward. She shared a KMZ
22 file with all of the user-created trails that had been mapped out. The color of the trails could be
23 changed to indicate which category each trail belongs to. For instance:

- 24
25
 - Green: user-created trails that could potentially become official trails;
 - 26 • Yellow: user-created trails that should remain as user-created trails; and
 - 27 • Red: user-created trails that went through sensitive areas and should be eliminated.

28
29 Chair Knoblock wondered if the Trails Committee wanted to review the KMZ file collectively or
30 do so individually. Will McCarvill reported that the Wasatch Mountain Club had already set up a
31 time and place to meet with Ms. Phillippe and review the maps. Chair Knoblock noted that he and
32 Ms. Bennett met with Ms. Phillippe a few weeks earlier. During that meeting, she presented the
33 Trails Inventory, reviewed it in more detail, and asked for input. Chair Knoblock wondered if it
34 would be better for individual organizations to come up with feedback and meet to share the
35 results. Mr. McCarvill supported that idea.

36
37 Chair Knoblock asked if any other organizations were interested in participating in the process.
38 Cody Ross from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation wanted to look at the KMZ file. He felt
39 that the Trails Inventory was a step in the right direction. Alex Schmidt from Save Our Canyons
40 also wanted to look at the file and share feedback. He discussed the volunteer work that Save Our
41 Canyons had done with the Forest Service. Chair Knoblock believed it would be burdensome if
42 the Trails Committee tried to have an official position on the Trails Inventory as it would need to
43 be approved by both the Stakeholders Council and CWC Board. He suggested that it may be more
44 efficient to provide feedback as individual groups and to share information among those groups.

1 **5. Review the List of Trail Projects Planned for This Summer – Add to List for CWC**
2 **Website.**
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4 Chair Knoblock explained that Ms. Nielsen had an idea to create a list for the CWC website that
5 included all of the trail projects that were planned for the summer. He suggested creating another
6 spreadsheet for this purpose. Chair Knoblock reported that there was a Google Drive with CWC
7 Trails Committee documents. The spreadsheet of ongoing trail projects could be added there. He
8 offered to send out an invite to Committee Members so they were able to contribute to the list.
9 Ms. Nielsen could then pull the information from the spreadsheet and add it to the CWC website.

10
11 Ms. Wheelton noted that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has a list of the trail projects that
12 they were involved in. Chair Knoblock suggested that the spreadsheet build off of that list to
13 include projects that Trails Utah, the Wasatch Mountain Club, Save Our Canyons, and other
14 organizations are working on. It would be inclusive of all the various trail-related projects.

15
16 Mr. McCarvill had a suggestion for a future Trails Committee agenda item and felt it would be
17 beneficial to have a discussion about the CWC potentially adopting a trail. Chair Knoblock liked
18 the suggestion. He noted that the rate for a group to adopt a trail is approximately \$2,500.
19 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Short-Term Projects Committee’s call for short-term project ideas
20 closed on April 12, 2021. She wasn’t certain what would be involved with adopting a trail but that
21 was something that she could look into. It could also be included in an application for a short-
22 term project. Chair Knoblock offered to look into an application for a short-term project.

23
24 Ms. Wheelton explained that the reason for the \$2,500 donation was that most of the trails
25 identified for the Adopt a Trail program require heavy maintenance that has to be done by a trail
26 crew. She commented that the CWC was a great partner and noted that in some cases, exceptions
27 were made with the donation. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation would be willing to have a
28 future discussion with the Trails Committee about the possibility of the CWC adopting a trail.

29
30 **MOTION:** Will McCarvill moved to adjourn. John Knoblock seconded the motion. The motion
31 passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

32
33 The Central Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately
34 3:05 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council Trails Committee Meeting held Thursday, April 8, 2021.*
3

4 *Teri Forbes*

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: _____

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