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**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL MILLCREEK CANYON COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, JUNE 21, 2021, AT 1:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM.**

**Present:**

**Committee Members:** Chair Paul Diegel, John Knoblock, Tom Diegel, Ed Marshall, Del Draper

**Others:** Polly Hart, Rita Lund, Hilary Jacobs, Ryan Stone, Helen Peters, Lance Kovel, Crystal Holbert, WWick, Bruce Woolstenhulme, Mike Jenkins, Mike Mikhalev, Beckee Hotze

**Staff:** CWC Executive Director Ralph Becker, CWC Deputy Director Blake Perez, CWC Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen, Office Administrator Kaye Mickelson

Chair Paul Diegel called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He welcomed those present to the Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting.

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

‘This meeting will occur only electronically, without a physical location, as authorized by Utah Code Ann. 52-4-207(4). The Chair of the Millcreek Canyon Committee has determined that this meeting will be held electronically without an anchor location, given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which the Chair has determined to present a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present at an anchor location.’

**1. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the February 16, March 15, and May 17, 2021, Meetings.**

The February 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes and March 15, 2021, Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Ed Marshall noted that John Knoblock and Tom Diegel needed to be moved from the Others category to the Committee Members category in the February 16, 2021, Meeting Minutes.

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2 **MOTION:** Del Draper moved to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2021, Millcreek  
3 Canyon Committee Meeting, as amended. Ed Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed  
4 with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

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6 **MOTION:** Del Draper moved to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2021, Millcreek  
7 Canyon Committee Meeting. John Knoblock seconded the motion. The motion passed with the  
8 unanimous consent of the Committee.

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10 The May 17, 2021, Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Chair Diegel shared highlighted corrections,  
11 which included the addition of a comment related to traffic roundabouts. At the meeting, he stated  
12 that the number of accidents increased but the number of injuries and fatalities decreased. Chair  
13 Diegel also shared a highlighted addition to the section where Forest Service Special Projects  
14 Coordinator, Lance Kovel discussed categorical exclusions. Del Draper noted that the blank space  
15 included in the Others section likely referred to Crystal Holbert from the County Engineer’s Office.  
16 Mr. Marshall commented that the May 17, 2021, meeting adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

17  
18 **MOTION:** Del Draper moved to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021, Millcreek Canyon  
19 Committee Meeting, as amended. Ed Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed with the  
20 unanimous consent of the Committee.

21  
22 **2. FLAP Grant: Status Update and Outline of Next Steps (The FLAP Grant Partners -**  
23 **U.S. Forest Service, Millcreek, and Salt Lake County).**

24  
25 Helen Peters shared an update related to the Federal Lands Access Program (“FLAP”) grant.  
26 Ms. Peters reported that FLAP improved transportation facilities by providing access to or within  
27 Federal lands. The Millcreek project scope had been expanded to include the area between Big  
28 Water Trailhead and the Winter Gate for a total of 4.5 miles. The Utah Programming Decisions  
29 Committee (“PDC”) felt the proposal should go to the Winter Gate and they were willing to split  
30 some of the costs. The total project value was \$19.6 million. The new required local match, which  
31 included splitting the costs for the area between Elbow Fork and the Winter Gate, was \$4.2 million.  
32 Ms. Peters noted that she would send FLAP grant information to Chair Diegel.

33  
34 The Millcreek FLAP grant timeline was shared. Ms. Peters explained that they had received the  
35 notification from the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”). They were now working  
36 through details before moving forward with Salt Lake County and Millcreek. In August 2021,  
37 there would be a press conference and fundraising would begin. From August 2021 through  
38 October 2021, there would be community outreach presentations. In the first week of November,  
39 there would be an open house with FHWA that would start the 30-day public comment period.

40  
41 In 2022, public comments would be considered and the preliminary design, environmental field  
42 surveys, and technical analysis would take place. In 2023, 95% of the design would be completed  
43 and in 2024, 100% of the design would be completed. Construction would end in the summer of  
44 2026. Ms. Peters noted that this was the tentative timeline and may be subject to change.

1 Ms. Peters outlined the details related to the project scope. Big Water Trailhead to Elbow Fork  
2 was 3.1 miles and there would be a 20-foot-wide paved surface. Elbow Fork to Winter Gate would  
3 have a 29-foot-wide paved surface. Picnic areas would be improved, there would be work in the  
4 Thousand Springs area to realign the streambed channel and there could be roadway realignments.  
5 Additionally, there would be improved roadway drainage, possible improvements made to the  
6 Historic White Bridge, the installation of a two-inch diameter conduit, and an intelligent  
7 transportation system (“ITS”). Ms. Peters reported that there would also be roadway safety and  
8 pedestrian crossing measures, especially at the Elbow Fork Trailhead.  
9

10 Rita Lund clarified that the \$4.2 million local match mentioned earlier was the amount of money  
11 that would need to be raised. She discussed the relocation of the Millcreek fee booth and explained  
12 that Millcreek was trying to find funding for the fee booth relocation. The project would involve  
13 moving the fee booth further down the canyon so it was on County property. This would allow  
14 there to be two lanes coming out of the canyon so there were no longer backups at the fee booth.  
15 Ms. Peters added that the project could also include an upgrade to the nearby restroom.  
16

17 Chair Diegel asked for additional information about the fee booth relocation. Ms. Lund explained  
18 that Millcreek City and the City Engineers would be responsible for the project. She noted that  
19 the fee booth could not be moved too far up the canyon or too far down the canyon and would  
20 need to stay in a similar location to avoid retaining walls and prevent the fee booth from being too  
21 close to the stream. The fee booth would be pushed a little bit further down the canyon with the  
22 goal to get as much as possible onto County property, do a bit of widening, and include a second  
23 lane for coming out of the canyon. She noted that it would look nicer and be more functional.  
24

25 Discussions were had about fundraising. Ms. Peters reported that there was an immediate  
26 requirement of \$115,000 as soon as the Fund Transfer Agreement was turned in. The rest of the  
27 money would be due on March 1, 2024. The FLAP grant still needed to go through the Salt Lake  
28 County process but things were moving forward. Mr. Diegel wondered whether there would be  
29 any sort of outreach to try to obtain the necessary funds. Ms. Peters confirmed this. She noted  
30 that there would be community fundraising. Additionally, grants would be written.  
31

32 Mr. Diegel made note of the Bonanza Flat fundraising efforts. He felt that fundraising for the  
33 FLAP grant project would be just as popular. Mr. Diegel believed it was important to share  
34 information with the community about how much money needed to be raised. There could also  
35 be an outreach to different community organizations to help spread the word about fundraising.  
36 Ms. Peters agreed that all messaging would need to be shared and packaged appropriately. She  
37 added that there was also the possibility of a second FLAP grant application in the future. It would  
38 include the area from the Winter Gate to the beginning of the canyon. Mr. Knoblock noted that  
39 Catherine Kanter seemed confident that Salt Lake County could come up with the matched funds.  
40

41 Mr. Draper wondered whether the original \$12 million project would proceed if they were unable  
42 to obtain the \$4.2 million match for the portion between Elbow Fork and the Winter Gate. Ms.  
43 Peters commented that they bundled together and there were some efficiencies to consider. They  
44 would do what they could to obtain the \$4.2 million match. Mr. Draper appreciated the optimism  
45 of other Millcreek Canyon Committee Members but noted that it could be more challenging to  
46 raise money for a road. Ms. Peters reminded Committee Members that the FLAP grant project

1 also included improved picnic and trailhead areas. Ms. Lund added that parking was an issue in  
2 the area and the project would solve some of those parking issues.

3  
4 Chair Diegel noted that it was too early to start speculating or commenting on design details. He  
5 reported that there would be opportunities in the future to review, discuss and provide input. Mr.  
6 Marshall thanked Ms. Peters and Ms. Lund for the work they had put into the FLAP grant process.  
7 Chair Diegel seconded that and thanked all who had contributed to the project.

8  
9 Mr. Knoblock asked about the location of the fee booth. Ms. Lund reported that it would need to  
10 be pushed forward to be either on County property or on the boundary of County property. She  
11 noted that there was a triangle-shaped parcel that the Mayor had been talking about with a group  
12 from the County. Mr. Knoblock wondered whether that was the Canyon Property Holdings, LLC  
13 parcel. Ms. Lund confirmed this. She offered to share any additional information she received.

14  
15 **3. Other Business Added to the Agenda Relating Directly to Millcreek Canyon.**

16  
17 Mr. Knoblock shared updates related to trails with the Millcreek Canyon Committee. He reported  
18 that he had done an equipment weed inspection with the Forest Service crew on a mini excavator.  
19 The contractor, Nature Trails, LLC, would be finishing the last 0.4 miles of trail on the south side  
20 of the road to connect down to Elbow Fork. That work would take approximately three weeks.  
21 Mr. Knoblock noted that there would be work from June 22, 2021, to June 25, 2021, on the section  
22 before the stream crossed under the road. There was a risk of rock falling down onto the road  
23 during that work. As a result, volunteers were needed to direct traffic and focus on safety.

24  
25 Following that project, Nature Trails, LCC, would move down to Rattlesnake Trail and begin  
26 construction on a new lower grade trail. It would be parallel to Rattlesnake Trail but have a 9%  
27 grade. That would become part of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in the future. There was  
28 approximately 1.4 miles of trail to build and there would be 16 switchbacks. As a result, the  
29 construction process would take more time. Mr. Knoblock believed it would progress through  
30 August and September 2021. Polly Hart suggested that Mr. Knoblock reach out to a cycling club  
31 or Trails Utah for volunteers. Mr. Knoblock thanked her for the suggestion.

32  
33 Chair Diegel commented that he had recently ridden and run the stretch of trail above the  
34 Alexander Basin. He complimented Trails Utah and the Forest Service for designing that trail. He  
35 felt they had done a great job at keeping the trail fairly level and then putting in tight switchbacks  
36 to lose altitude without making the trail too fast. Chair Diegel wondered whether a resolution had  
37 been reached related to directional rules on that trail and Rattlesnake Trail. Mr. Knoblock  
38 explained that no decisions had been made yet on the upper trail from Elbow Fork to Big Water.  
39 Beckee Hotze, Marshall Alford, and Zinnia Wilson from the Forest Service would make the  
40 decision on whether to change the existing Closure Order so there would be odd/even days. He  
41 believed that decision would be made by fall. For the Rattlesnake Trail, there had been discussions  
42 about possibly making it one downhill and one uphill lane or pedestrian-only. The Forest Service  
43 had decided not to make any user group definitions currently.

44  
45 Mr. Knoblock shared an update related to the bridge that was destroyed during the windstorm at  
46 Elbow Fork. The bridge replacement had been delayed because engineers at the district level had

1 been unable to get to the project. As a result, the bridge had not been engineered and no materials  
2 had been ordered. The Forest Service believed the bridge would not be installed until next year.  
3 They may not open the new trail below Alexander Basin until that bridge has been replaced.  
4

5 Mr. Marshall asked about the trails above Salt Lake City. He reported that Carl Fisher had sent  
6 out an email stating that a group had been formed called Save Our Foothills. They believed the  
7 construction was causing environmental issues. Mr. Knoblock reported that some people had  
8 provided input to the Salt Lake City Council and Mayor Erin Mendenhall. Those people were  
9 concerned that the trails were not being constructed properly and that construction would increase  
10 the use of the foothills too much. Mayor Mendenhall put a hold on new trail construction through  
11 to the end of September 2021 to get more public input about the issues.  
12

13 Mr. Knoblock stated that a lot more people were out using trails and enjoying nature. He felt that  
14 was a positive thing. However, he noted that there were a few minor issues to consider. For  
15 instance, the piece of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail that came up from City Creek Canyon. That  
16 had been changed to be downhill bikes only. The new Bonneville Shoreline Trail section now  
17 started from the salt pile, which was about a half mile before the U-bend on the road. If someone  
18 did not know about that and they drove to the U-bend to hike up the Bonneville Shoreline Trail,  
19 they would be one-half mile too far on a one-way road. There needed to be better signage there.  
20 Additionally, he had suggested to the Salt Lake City Trail Planners that hiking-only trails would  
21 benefit from a slightly steeper grade. One of the trails they had finished had an 8% grade. He  
22 believed it could be built up to a 15% grade, which would be more satisfying for hikers.  
23

24 Mr. Diegel reported that there was a RadioWest segment recently related to the foothills. It  
25 provided different perspectives and was available for Millcreek Canyon Committee Members to  
26 listen to. Mr. Marshall reported that from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on June 23, 2021, there would be  
27 a Roundtable Discussion Stakeholder Panel with Ms. Hotze and others. The first hour would show  
28 the movie, “The West is Burning,” and the second hour would include the roundtable discussion.  
29 He offered to send the link to those interested in participating. It was noted that the Forest Service  
30 and Rocky Mountain Power had cut back branches in Millcreek Canyon to further the corridor  
31 along the roads. Chair Diegel thanked those that had attended the meeting.  
32

#### 33 **4. Adjournment.**

34

35 **MOTION:** John Knoblock moved to adjourn. Del Draper seconded the motion. The motion  
36 passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.  
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38 The Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission's Stakeholders Council Millcreek Canyon Committee Meeting held Monday,*  
3 *June 21, 2021.*

4

5 Teri Forbes

6 Teri Forbes

7 T Forbes Group

8 Minutes Secretary

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10 Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_