MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION ("CWC") SHORT-TERM PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025, AT 1:00 PM. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS CWC OFFICES LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING, 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE, 330, SALT LAKE CITY UTAH.

Board Members:	Mayor Mike Weichers, Chair
	Mayor Monica Zoltanski
	Mayor Roger Bourke
	Annalee Munsey
Staff:	Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
	Samantha Kilpack, Director of Operations
	Mia McNeil, Community Engagement Coordinator
Others:	Adam Shaw
	Dani Poirer
	Grace Tyler
	Joanna Wheelton
	Julia Geisler
	Rhea Cone
	Tara Morin
	Melissa Stock
	Donald Roll
	Wayne McKay
	Mary Young
	Jeana Campbell
	Kimberly Bell
	Carl Miller
	Morgan Mingle

OPENING

1. Chair Mike Weichers will Open the Meeting Public Meeting as Chair of the Short-Term Projects Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.

Ahead of the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting, information about the process was shared. Mayor Monica Zoltanski asked whether the Committee will make recommendations at this time.

Director of Operations, Samantha Kilpack, reported that there are fourteen projects prepared for review. There is $191,000 in requested funds and the budget for short-term projects is $100,000. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, explained that this is the meeting where Committee Members will deliberate and make recommendations on the short-term project funding amounts allocated. The Short-Term Projects Committee will deliberate and then make a funding recommendation. The CWC Board will consider the projects and Committee recommendations at the May 5, 2025, CWC Board Meeting. The CWC Board will then vote to approve or not approve the recommendations.

Mayor Zoltanski suggested that the Short-Term Projects Committee review all of the proposals and ask questions of the applicants, but not discuss funding amounts until everyone has been heard. Mayor Roger Bourke expressed support for that approach. It was noted that Mayor Mike Weichers is Chair of the Short-Term Projects Committee and should arrive at the meeting shortly. If there is a desire to open the meeting before his arrival, someone else on the Committee must formally do so.

In the absence of Chair Weichers, Mayor Zoltanski called the Central Wasatch Commission ("CWC") Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and welcomed those present. She explained that the purpose of this meeting is to review Short-Term Projects Grant Program finalists. A roll call was conducted to determine who is attending the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting.

SHORT-TERM PROJECT FINALIST PROPOSALS REVIEW

1. The Committee will Review the Pool of Finalist Project Proposals and Make Recommendations for Funding.

The finalist proposals for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program were reviewed. The first proposal was from Summit Community Gardens for Environmental Sustainability Education. Ms. Kilpack noted that there is no applicant representative present at the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting, but explained that this is a project that was funded last year. It is an educational program that teaches youth in Summit County about sustainable food use, food growth, waste, and recycling. The project proposal was reviewed. It is intended to create a stronger and more connected community by empowering youth through environmental and nutritional education. The detailed proposal was shared with Committee Members. Last year, there was $10,000 worth of funding allocated to this project. This year, the request from Summit Community Gardens is $15,000 to assist with that work.

Mayor Zoltanski asked whether the Summit Community Gardens application includes any information about what was done last year. For example, how the funds were used last time to enhance outreach or what the activities looked like. Ms. Kilpack does not have information about the outreach but offered to share the report that was submitted. It was noted that Chair Weichers arrived at the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting. He apologized for arriving a few minutes late. It was noted that the entire project amount for the Summit Community Gardens proposal is $182,000 and the request is for $15,000 from the CWC. Ms. Kilpack shared a document that

outlines how much of the program costs have been requested by the CWC versus other funding sources.

Ms. Nielsen reminded Committee Members that during the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting last year, the basic information was shared for each of the finalist proposals. There was then a second pass-through to more holistically look at the requests. Funding decisions were made that way. Mayor Bourke would like to hear a short summary of each of the finalist proposals. It was confirmed that there will be an overview provided for each of the proposals before there is a more in-depth review.

The second proposal was from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons. This is something that has been funded fairly consistently over the last few years. Joanna Wheelton thanked the Short-Term Projects Committee for considering this proposal from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Chair Weichers asked what some of the other sources of funding are for this work. Ms. Wheelton reported that the work is partially funded by the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation through the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure ("RRI") Grant, the National Forest Foundation, and Salt Lake City Public Utilities. There is also support from Salt Lake County, the Town of Brighton, and the ski resorts. Mayor Bourke noted that the total project cost is listed as $616,326 in the submitted documents. Ms. Wheelton confirmed that the number listed is the yearly stewardship budget for trails and plants.

The third proposal was also from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation for Tri-Canyons Trail and Recreation Management. This short-term project proposal was submitted to address the gaps in funding and stewardship that have been caused by some of the recent cuts to the U.S. Forest Service. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation wants to help fill those gaps with this program and proposal.

Ms. Wheelton clarified that the second grant application was submitted with the hope that the first grant request would be funded in full before the second application was considered. The second grant application was submitted after speaking to local land managers. It could be a way to address various needs. Mayor Zoltanski asked if there would be a specific trail focused on this grant, which was denied. Ms. Wheelton explained that the current employee situation is dynamic, so the hope is to have funding available for some of the trail and ranger positions if certain needs are unable to be met. Mayor Zoltanski asked if this grant application is a second priority to the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Ms. Wheelton confirmed this. There is a strong preference to have the other program funded because that has to do with the trail work for this year. There has been a funding drop with some of the private grants and it is anticipated that there will also be a drop in public grants this season. At this time, there is already a decrease of approximately $30,000 in the trail funding.

The fourth proposal was from Friends of Alta for a Bird Monitoring Camera. Ms. Kilpack reported that the request is for the CWC to fund the majority of the project costs. This is a camera that would monitor the rosy-finches shrinking habitat. Tara Morin shared additional information about the project. She explained that this would be for a year-round camera, so it would not only monitor the rosy-finches. During the summer months, it would be possible to see hummingbirds as well.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources has stated that there is an interest in the camera due to the rosy finch study that is conducted each year. That study has been taking place since 2019. Ms. Morin reiterated that the request is to have a year-round camera in place, so it would monitor all of the birds that came to the feeder in both summer and winter. The Finch Network has offered $900 in monetary support. The Tracy Aviary has provided a letter of support and will assist with birdseed and the hummingbird feeder. The project costs include the camera itself as well as the installation. Mayor Zoltanski pointed out the requested amount from the CWC and how that compares to other sources.

The fifth proposal was from the Park City Historical Society for the Historic Mines Hiking Trail Route. Donald Roll expressed appreciation for Committee consideration of the short-term project application. He is Co-Chair of an all-volunteer Committee called Friends of Ski Mountain Mining History. The focus is on saving mining heritage. A lot of different buildings on ski hills were falling apart and no one had an economic interest in supporting those buildings. At this time, there have been 12 structures successfully saved. The current committee work is related to the Silver King Mine structure. One of the goals of Park City is sustainable tourism and heritage tourism. There are mining structures, mining sites, and interpretive signs on the mountain, but there is no organized way to learn about the history of mining in Park City without a guide. Wayne McKay has championed the development of a 7.5-mile hiking trail that will start and end at the Park City Museum. It will pass approximately 30 different mine sites. There will be TravelStorys app used to provide a verbal narrative of each site as well as historical photographs. The project will cost approximately $115,000 and the requested amount from the CWC is around $15,000. Mr. Roll explained that this is a one-time initiative. Once it is up and running, the Park City Historical Society will pay for maintenance.

The sixth proposal was from the Wasatch Graffiti Busters for Graffiti Abatement in the Central Wasatch. Ms. Kilpack reported that this is a project that has been funded by the CWC for many years. The request is $2,000 this year. Mayor Bourke asked how this has moved from a budget item to a short-term projects request. Ms. Kilpack explained that there is less funding in the budget this year. As a result, it was not possible to automatically fold this work into the regular CWC budget. It has been brought in for consideration with the other Short-Term Projects Grant Program proposals.

Mayor Zoltanski asked about the project work, how the funds are managed, and who handles the work. Mary Young stated that she has been the secretary of the Wasatch Graffiti Busters since she was asked by the District Ranger of the Salt Lake Ranger District to assist with the formation of a non-profit and tax-exempt organization. She works with two others who handle the majority of the physical labor. There are also volunteers who learn how to remove graffiti safely. There is a power washer that has been used to remove graffiti in non-watershed areas, but that has become unavailable. Enough was saved to purchase a new power washer. There is a strong working relationship with other organizations and the amount of graffiti in the canyons is lower than it was when this organization first formed. The requested $2,000 will be used to purchase the correct cleaner as well as paint for use where appropriate. Discussions were had about where graffiti abatement takes place.

The seventh proposal was from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance for Anchor Maintenance. Ms. Kilpack reported that this is a short-term project that has been funded over the last few years. The request ensures that the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance can maintain the climbing anchors in the Central Wasatch and beyond. $5,000 has been requested for the Central Wasatch portion of their work.

Mayor Zoltanski asked for additional details about the program. Julia Geisler explained that this is the only professional anchor maintenance crew in the country, meaning that people are employed to do this work. There is training conducted to ensure that the work is done safely. The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance maintains and replaces fixed anchors that have been put in by climbers since the 1960s. The funding request is for part of the $110,000 program that is facilitated each year with paid staff and a full-time anchor maintenance technician. The bolts and anchors are replaced by the professional maintenance crew. The grant funding assists with both labor and materials.

Chair Weichers asked about the anchor-related work. It looks like $15,000 has been funded over the last few years. He wanted to know how far the efforts have progressed in that time. Ms. Geisler explained that there are some unknowns because there are thousands of climbing routes all over the Wasatch. Anchor observation forms are received from the community to determine where some of the needs are. In addition, there is work done to determine how old the routes are based on guidebooks. This is an ongoing maintenance program. Chair Weichers asked about the average lifespan for an anchor. Ms. Geisler explained that the reason for replacement is because climbers previously put in non-stainless hardware and that is corroding over time. The replacement is stainless hardware that should last for approximately 50 years. Anyone interested in seeing the anchor maintenance work take place is invited to do so. She noted that it is a fascinating process to watch.

The eighth proposal was from the Seven Canyons Trust for the Folsom Trail Hidden Waters Project. Ms. Kilpack reported that this proposal is for an art installation in Salt Lake City along the Folsom Trail. Details from the project proposal were shared to better outline the envisioned art installation. Ms. Kilpack read the following: "The Hidden Waters along Folsom Trail installation will celebrate and reconnect Salt Lake City with its hidden hydrology, enhancing both ecological awareness and urban experience…By bringing attention to the buried City Creek through artistic interpretation, the project cultivates stewardship and public engagement with Salt Lake City's water systems, reinforcing the importance of watershed protection from the Central Wasatch to the Great Salt Lake."

Mayor Zoltanski noted that this proposal sounds more like a signage project rather than an art installation based on the application. Mayor Bourke classifies this as beautifying the trail and providing education. Ms. Nielsen agrees that this sounds like an environmental education project. She added that daylighting is the mission of the Seven Canyons Trust organization. Often when developing a plot of land, a stream or body of water needs to be paved over in order to build there. Daylighting a stream is essentially removing whatever has been used to cover the stream. That is the mission of the organization. The project is aiming to educate the general public about this matter.

The ninth proposal was from Save Our Canyons for the Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program. Ms. Kilpack pointed out that this is something that has been consistently funded by the CWC over the years. Grace Tyler thanked the CWC for previously funding this program. Last year, there was $15,000 awarded. It was possible to work with over 120 volunteers, remove close to 800 pounds of garbage from the watershed, remove over 200 pounds of invasive weeds, and host a number of advocacy and education events. This year, the intention is to grow the program, which is the reason for the higher monetary request. With the Forest Service layoffs, there is a desire to assist with more trail maintenance, trash cleanup, invasive weed removal, and picnic area upkeep. The advocacy and education component are also priorities because that work can lead to changed behaviors. Ms. Tyler reported that approximately 85% of the project costs are self-funded and there are also a few secured funding sources. She reiterated the desire to grow and expand the program further.

Mayor Zoltanski likes the idea of expanding the messaging beyond the immediate canyon community. Ms. Tyler reported that there is a program called Save Our Canyons Kids, where there are visits to K-12 classrooms to teach children about the watershed, plants, and animals. Some of the best experiences have been on the west side. There are also hikes that take place in Central Wasatch as well. It is meaningful to see the next generation start to engage with advocacy and education. Mayor Zoltanski pointed out that there is a large amount of outside funding in relation to the grant request.

The tenth proposal was from the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter for the East Canyon Creek Restoration. Ms. Kilpack reported that this is a new proposal and Rhea Cone is available to share additional information. Ms. Cone explained that she is the Director of Conservation at the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter, which is a 1,200-acre nature preserve in Kimball Junction. Her role relates to land management of the preserve. This project is a single piece of the larger land management work. The $10,000 ask includes $5,000 for hiring a crew to remove old and degraded wire fencing along stream banks on East Canyon Creek, which is the largest drainage in the Synderville Basin. The other $5,000 would be used to plant trees on the banks of the East Canyon Creek. This would assist the degraded creek with shading, nutrient loading runoff, and improve habitat for wildlife.

Ms. Cone explained that the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter are part of Utah State University. There are no additional funding sources listed in the application due to the university policy. It does not allow for matching funds unless those are explicitly required by the grant. Chair Weichers asked if the organization is funded by Utah State University. Ms. Cone clarified that the organization is funded through a variety of sources. It is half funded by Utah State University and Utah State University Extension. There is also funding through a variety of grants, foundations, donations, and so on. The budget for land management is approximately $130,000 per year. The $10,000 request would make it possible to complete the projects previously mentioned. Mayor Bourke asked what would happen if the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter did not receive the full requested amount of $10,000. Ms. Cone explained that she would do her best to pursue other funding sources. If there is partial funding allocated by the CWC, then the number of trees that are planted could vary.

The eleventh proposal was from Trails Utah. Ms. Kilpack reported that Trails Utah has submitted two projects and the first is a Guide for Shorter, Family Friendly Hikes in the Central Wasatch. The proposal is to print a booklet that lists shorter and more family-friendly hikes for those who may not be as familiar with the Central Wasatch. Ms. Nielsen noted that this proposal originated at the Recreation System Committee level. This idea came from Committee discussions and then Trails Utah decided to submit a proposal to the Short-Term Projects Grant Program. This is the first time that a proposal has originated from one of the Stakeholders Council subcommittees. Ms. Kilpack read from the project proposal, which noted that some of the Visitor Use Study data was used to identify the average duration for hikers. The average duration is under one hour, which was part of the inspiration to create this guidebook with shorter options. These would be printed guides. Mayor Zoltanski pointed out that a lot of hikers are using hiking apps and electronic maps. There were some questions about whether the guide would be available only as a physical copy or if it would also be available online. Mayor Zoltanski expressed concerns about distribution and littering issues.

The twelfth proposal was also from Trails Utah in partnership with Sandy City Parks and Recreation. It is for Garlic Mustard Removal at Bell Canyon Preservation Trailhead. There is not a representative from Trails Utah present at the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting. Mayor Zoltanski noted that this is a project that would take place in Fall 2025 when the invasive weed can be culled. The trailhead has a lot of active use because it is the pathway to the reservoir. It is easy to spread the garlic mustard, so it is best to have a management plan in place to address this. Discussions were had about the funding sources. Ms. Kilpack noted that she was unable to obtain a lot of clarity about that. The Committee reviewed the submitted materials. Initially, there was a $5,000 grant from Salt Lake County Invasive Species Mitigation listed as well as funding from other sources and volunteer labor.

The thirteenth proposal was from the Park City Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Park City for a Summit Bike Share Expansion Project. Carl Miller introduced himself as the Director of Transportation Planning in Summit County. In 2017, there was the first all-electric bicycle share started in North America. There was a lot of success for a number of years until the service provider went bankrupt ahead of the 2022 season. A determination was made to take over the service of the bicycle share. There are two areas where there is a desire to have bike-share stations: the Visitor Center and the Park City Chamber. Almost $20,000 is requested for two bike share stations with 10 docks each and a number of bicycles. 50% of the match would be contributed to this effort. This is a healthy way to move around and is the best way to see Park City. It was noted that Morgan Mingle from the Park City Chamber is also present to answer outstanding Committee Member questions. Mayor Zoltanski asked what would happen if the CWC did not fully fund the request. Mr. Miller reported that additional funding sources are always being pursued. In addition, it is possible to scale back the size of the docks and the number of bikes. Example images were shared with the Committee.

The fourteenth proposal was from the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance for the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance Shuttle. Ms. Kilpack reported that this has been funded by the CWC for a number of years. The shuttle provides service in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon for backcountry skiers. Dani Poirer explained that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance is passionate about this program and noted that it addresses one of the four pillars of the Mountain Accord. It

is also a way to demonstrate that micro-transit solutions are an option for dispersed users in the Central Wasatch during the peak winter months. This past season was a success and there were some improvements made to the program. One of the improvements includes receiving a permit from the Forest Service to allow drop-offs to occur at three additional trailheads. There was also work done with an app developer on a reservation app so the shuttle was more user-friendly. Save Our Canyons also donated wag bags and those were supplied to shuttle riders. The intention is to reduce impacts.

The shuttle was added to the Ski Bus Priority Access Program and that was utilized on two of the avalanche closure days in Little Cottonwood Canyon. This meant that the shuttle was able to skip to the front of that closure line. As for ridership numbers for last year, those were strong, but there were some challenges because the shuttle is only run on Saturdays and a lot of the powder days occurred on Saturdays. Three of the shuttles were canceled due to low ridership to avoid spending funds on empty shuttles. Overall, there were almost full shuttles on most of the weekends. Mayor Zoltanski asked about the shuttle capacity. Ms. Poirer reported that the shuttle can hold 14 passengers. One shuttle is run up Big Cottonwood Canyon and one is run up Little Cottonwood Canyon. This is offered as a demonstration of what could be done with public transit in the Cottonwood Canyons. It is offered from December to the end of March to coincide with the ski resort parking fees. The intention is to provide a more accessible way for visitors to enter the canyons and recreate. The Wasatch Backcountry Alliance charges members $5 and the general public $10. That was in response to a request from the CWC in previous years to offset some of the costs associated with the shuttle.

Ms. Porier discussed the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance operational costs. Each week, an average of three or four hours is spent managing reservations, performing community outreach on the shuttle, and making sure there is communication with the shuttle drivers. The shuttle has been dynamic. In order to make it successful, the pickup times have varied. For example, if it is a powder weekend, there might be a desire to take an earlier shuttle. There are a lot of moving pieces on the operation side of things. She explained that there is dynamic scheduling and outreach with shuttle riders. If the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance fails to meet the fundraising goal for this program, the shuttle will be offered for a shorter duration throughout the winter. For example, in January and February instead.

Mayor Zoltanski asked about the evolution of the shuttle service and how it is perceived by backcountry users. Ms. Porier stated that it is still a niche service, which is the reason there is a focus on education within the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance member base. Backcountry skiing is popular and the intention is to do as much outreach as possible. Ms. Nielsen added that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance does excellent outreach on Instagram and the CWC shares that information.

Chair Weichers wished that there was information about ridership numbers and the money collected. Ms. Porier clarified that she has the ridership numbers, but does not have the breakdown of which riders paid the member price versus the general public price. There were 14 shuttles run this past winter with 151 riders. The service used the $15,000 grant that was received last year. Mayor Bourke pointed out that it is essentially $1,000 per shuttle. Ms. Porier noted that this is paid directly to Utah Mountain Shuttles, who is the shuttle provider for this program. She would

love if the Utah Department of Transportation ("UDOT") or Utah Transit Authority ("UTA") provided shuttles, but in the meantime, there is a desire to offer this service to backcountry users in the Central Wasatch.

Ms. Kilpack noted that there is now a representative present from Summit Community Gardens. Mayor Zoltanski wanted to hear about the programs and how the gardens have utilized past funding. Melissa Stock apologized for the connectivity issues she experienced earlier in the meeting. She expressed appreciation for the funding that was received last year. The organization is two-fold. There was a merger back in 2023, which merged Eat Awesome Things ("EATS") and Summit Community Gardens. The organizations have been combined to create year-round educational opportunities. Some of the initiatives started in the school district have been taken into account, which includes education and nutrition-based after-school programs. A few years ago, the school lunchtime waste diversion program was layered in. With waste diversion, students were sorting their lunches, with their excess food going into two different piles: compostable food waste and food that was still wrapped and could be reused. Both organizations operated with a level of sustainability. When the merger happened, the intention was to be extra intentional about how sustainability was incorporated into the education platform. The funds received last year were used for labor and materials so staff could deepen the curriculum. The curriculum was enhanced with key objectives.

Mayor Zoltanski asked about the funding partners for Summit Community Gardens. Ms. Stock reported that there are a variety of funding partners, including several foundations in Park City. There is a lot of local support. This is a public space that is open and available for all. This is also appealing to more national corporations, such as grocery store chains. There is also some regional support through other foundations. The revenue stream is intentionally diversified. In addition to receiving donations, there is also program service revenue. It is possible to rent out the garden plots, provide community education for adults, and provide summer camps for children. Many of the activities that are offered are revenue-generating. Mayor Zoltanski thanked her for the information.

Ms. Kilpack reviewed the scoring criteria for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program. She noted that there is a scoring sheet that can guide the discussions. The CWC website also lists the specific eligibility requirements. The program originated as an infrastructure grant but has evolved over time to include educational and other types of projects as well. The eligibility requirements include:

- Address one or more of the areas of focus for the CWC: canyon transportation/transit, environmental protection, recreational stewardship, and/or economic sustainability.
- If the project is proposed to occur on Forest Service land, the project should not require National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") analysis or be a project for which NEPA is already completed.
- Not request more than $20,000 total from the CWC. Projects with dedicated funds from the applying entity or community partners will be given increased weighting during the review process.
- Be proposed by a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, a community group, or a Utah resident unaffiliated with these groups.

- Governments are not eligible for this grant, but governments may partner with an eligible party and funds will be disbursed to the eligible party.
- For-profit entities are not eligible.

All of the proposals that have been reviewed by the Short-Term Projects Committee meet the eligibility requirements. As far as the weighting of scores, whether or not it is an infrastructure project is considered. Projects that have other sources of funding being sought out or committed are also taken into account. Chair Weichers asked Committee Members whether there is support to continue to fund the same projects year after year. He wants to know if that is a concern to the Committee or if there is support for that approach. Mayor Bourke expressed support for funding the same projects over multiple years. Mayor Zoltanski believes it depends on the quality of the programming. While she does not believe a program that was funded in a prior year should receive priority, she does not think it should be a disqualifier either. Annalee Munsey does not think it should disqualify a project from being funded. If there was support for a project in the past, it was likely for a good reason. That being said, there are limited funds, so each project should be evaluated on its merits. Chair Weichers pointed out that this is a short-term project program. If there is continued funding each year, then a project might not fall in line with what a short-term project is defined as.

Mayor Zoltanski pointed out that a little bit can go a long way when it comes to projects related to education, community outreach, and volunteer programs. In addition to the funding recommendations, she believes it is possible to forward a recommendation to the CWC Board to shift the focus from capital projects to projects that are focused on community engagement, volunteer work, and education. Chair Weichers noted that all of the short-term project proposals are valuable.

Ms. Nielsen reminded Committee Members that there is $100,000 available to allocate and the total request is for $191,000. Mayor Bourke noted that the project proposals have been sorted into the Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back. He would like to add another category because he feels the projects in the west valley are different geographically and economically. Ms. Kilpack noted that a representative from the Seven Canyons Trust has joined the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting. Ms. Munsey suggested that Committee Members spend the remaining time discussing the projects.

The Short-Term Projects Committee reviewed the finalist project proposals and discussed potential funding amounts. Summit Community Gardens requested $15,000 for Environmental Sustainability Education. Mayor Bourke noted that Summit Community Gardens has a lot of external funding, which means the CWC would provide a fraction of the total amount. Mayor Zoltanski noted that this has a significant reach and it is a strong program. $7,500 to $10,000 was determined as a placeholder amount. Ms. Munsey commented that there are a lot of requests from the Park City area. She wondered whether there should be some prioritization based on that. Mayor Zoltanski suggested weighing the proposals individually and then the geographic area can be considered during additional discussions. She believes recommended funding amounts will need to be determined in two rounds.

The Committee reviewed the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation requests. Mayor Zoltanski expressed support for the Trail Maintenance, Native Plant Restoration, and Control of Invasive Weeds in the Tri-Canyons application. Ms. Munsey recommended a funding amount of $20,000. Chair Weichers pointed out that $20,000 is a fifth of the overall budget available for short-term projects. This is a meaningful short-term project, but it might make sense to fund the project at $15,000 or a little bit lower. The placeholder amount was suggested to be between $15,000 and $20,000. Ms. Munsey likes the proposal because it represents a lot of different jurisdictions. As for the second Cottonwood Canyons Foundation proposal for Tri-Canyons Trail and Recreation Management, Mayor Zoltanski was not persuaded. It is not the responsibility of the CWC to take on the Federal cuts that have been made. She feels that is beyond the scope of the organization. Chair Weichers agreed.

The Friends of Alta project for the Bird Monitoring Camera was discussed. Mayor Zoltanski does not like the funding ratio but would like to provide something to assist with foundational money. It is a new project and she suggested $2,500. Chair Weichers expressed support for $2,500. The Committee next discussed the Park City Historical Society application for the Historic Mines Hiking Trail Route. Chair Weichers noted that this is a one-time request, which is something he likes. Ms. Munsey is supportive of the $15,000 request. Mayor Bourke feels the amount funded should be slightly less and thought $10,000 made more sense. Mayor Zoltanski agreed with $10,000.

Committee Members expressed a desire to fund the full amount requested by the Wasatch Graffiti Busters for Graffiti Abatement in the Central Wasatch. Mayor Zoltanski was also supportive of the Anchor Maintenance proposal from the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance. Chair Weichers was supportive of that proposal as well. The Seven Canyons Trust proposal for the Folsom Trail Hidden Waters Project was discussed. Ms. Munsey likes that this proposal relates to water. Mayor Bourke noted that this is one of the only projects on the west side and he feels it is important to consider that in this discussion. Mayor Zoltanski reported that the request is for $20,000, which is a fifth of the short-term project budget. She would like to participate somewhat but not to that extent. The placeholder amount was listed as $7,500 to $10,000. Mayor Bourke felt that $10,000 was most appropriate.

The Save Our Canyons proposal was discussed. Mayor Zoltanski noted that the Conservation (Education and Outreach) Program is aligned with the mission of the CWC. Ms. Munsey supports the full amount of requested funding. Chair Weichers noted that the full request is a significant portion of the overall short-term projects budget, so the amount should be discussed further.

The Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter request for the East Canyon Creek Restoration was considered. Chair Weichers expressed interest in the proposal. Ms. Munsey likes the project from a watershed protection perspective and suggested a funding amount of $8,000. Discussions were had about the Utah State University requirements that are in place. It might make sense to provide $5,000 for the fence removal portion of the project request. The Trails Utah proposal for a Guide for Shorter, Family-Friendly Hikes in the Central Wasatch was discussed. Mayor Zoltanski stated that she is not supportive of this. While she likes the idea, she does not believe there is a need being met that is not already met elsewhere. Chair Weichers and Mayor Bourke agreed. The Trails Utah proposal for the Garlic Mustard Removal at Bell Canyon Preservation Trailhead was

reviewed. Mayor Bourke believes this project is important and pointed out that invasive plants can be problematic. Mayor Zoltanski confirmed that once something is established, it becomes more difficult to deal with.

Committee Members discussed the Park City Chamber of Commerce proposal for a Summit Bike Share Expansion Project. Mayor Bourke likes the idea of bike sharing but noted that the funding request is high. He wondered whether it would make sense to fund this at a lower level. Mayor Zoltanski suggested a placeholder amount of $5,000 to $7,500. It sounds like some strong partners would be able to fill some of the funding gaps. Chair Weichers thought half of the requested amount might make sense. Ms. Nielsen likes the project proposal and noted that it is positive that the CWC is seeing proposals from other areas. A lot of the focus is on the Cottonwood Canyons, so it is nice to foster relationships and encourage more project work in the Wasatch Back.

The Wasatch Backcountry Alliance proposal for the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance Shuttle was reviewed. Mayor Bourke was surprised that it costs approximately $1,000 per shuttle. That being said, it is a valuable service that helps address traffic and parking issues. Chair Weichers likes the shuttle and what it is attempting to do, but he is concerned that it is not cost-effective. Mayor Zoltanski loves the mission but does not see this as sustainable. It is important to look at program requests that will further the mission of the CWC. She thought it made sense not to fund the shuttle this year or to make a smaller contribution. The latter could serve as a motivation to bring in additional funding partners or see more commitment from the members of the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance. Chair Weichers believed when the request was made last year to charge for the shuttle service, the intention was to see what kind of costs could be offset. Not having those numbers to review was disappointing. It was recommended that $5,000 be contributed towards the backcountry shuttle service.

The placeholder numbers were totaled and the amount was $104,500. Committee Members reviewed the project proposals again to determine final funding recommendations to share with the CWC Board. It was noted that it is possible to request an additional $4,500 more than what is budgeted. Ms. Munsey suggested removing a small amount from the projects recommended to be fully funded. Mayor Zoltanski wanted the Wasatch Graffiti Busters project to be fully funded as well as the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance project. $2,000 worth of funding was removed from Save Our Canyons. $1,000 was removed from the Park City Chamber proposal. $1,000 was removed from the Park City Historical Society proposal. $500 was removed from the Summit Community Gardens amount.

Mayor Zoltanski reiterated her desire to shift from capital projects to service projects, volunteer projects, and education projects. She asked CWC Staff to share information on accountability and how the organization ensures short-term project funding is spent as intended. She would also like there to be an evaluation of the success of the projects from year to year. Ms. Nielsen reported that there are certain requirements in place. Grant awardees need to submit reports. There is also a requirement in place. If the full funding amount is not used for the project that it has been allocated for, then the overage needs to be returned to the CWC. The organization has received money back in the past because there was an overestimation of the amount needed for a project. At the CWC Board Meeting in June, there can be time allotted to share reports from the previous grant awardees.

Mayor Zoltanski suggested that the submissions be standardized. As she is evaluating the submissions, it is most important to see the total project cost, the requested amount, whether it has been funded in the past, and how the past funding has amplified the service or mission. She also asked that the name of the applicant and project name be clearly stated. If an applicant has multiple projects, there could be a question asking which is the priority. The submission form could also ask what components of the project are essential. Ms. Nielsen took note of the suggestions shared.

Ms. Nielsen reported that the Short-Term Projects Committee will take the recommendations to the CWC Board. The CWC Board will consider the recommendations at the meeting on May 5, 2025. CWC Staff will send the list of recommendations to Committee Members after the meeting.

CLOSING

1. Chair Weichers will Close the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting.

MOTION: Monica Zoltanski moved to ADJOURN. Roger Bourke seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, April 9, 2025.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____