



**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) FUNDING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026, AT 3:30 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC OFFICES, LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK BUILDING AT 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

**Committee Members:** Monica Zoltanski, Chair  
Bev Uipi  
Scotty John

**Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director  
Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations

**OPENING**

**1. Chair Monica Zoltanski will Open the Public Meeting as Chair of the Funding Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**

Chair Monica Zoltanski called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Funding Committee Meeting to order at approximately 3:30 p.m. and welcomed those present. A roll call was conducted. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the Funding Committee is a new CWC committee.

**VISION AND GOAL-SETTING**

**1. The Committee will Discuss its Vision and Goals.**

Chair Zoltanski explained that the reason she wanted to create a committee focused on the finance and revenue side of the CWC was to determine whether the funding is aligned with the goals of the organization. It is possible to find out if there are weaknesses and explore opportunities to create the financial support needed to achieve various goals. During the first Funding Committee Meeting, she asked that there be a discussion about ideas as well as the overall vision. She suggested that background information about the CWC finances be shared with Committee Members at this time.

Ms. Nielsen reviewed a chart titled, “Historical Member Jurisdiction Contributions to the Central Wasatch Commission.” This is posted on the CWC website, and it details the funding of the CWC from 2017 to the current year. She explained that the CWC is funded by the member jurisdictions and State appropriations. The contribution levels originated during conversations that were had in the Mountain Accord years. She was not involved in the Mountain Accord funding discussions, but from what she has been told, certain criteria were used to determine the giving levels for each jurisdiction. The criteria included: what each jurisdiction was able to contribute, population size,

1 geographic location, and the stake in the CWC work. There are a number of jurisdictions that were  
2 involved during the Mountain Accord years, such as Salt Lake County, Draper, and the Utah  
3 Department of Transportation (“UDOT”), which are not involved in the CWC at the current time.

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5 The chart shows all of the contributions from 2017 to the current fiscal year. Ms. Nielsen offered to  
6 answer Committee Member questions. Mayor Scotty John was curious about the Salt Lake County  
7 position, as there has not been a contribution since 2022. He also wanted to know if the ski resorts  
8 were asked to contribute to the organization. Ms. Nielsen explained that the CWC is a government  
9 entity. Historically, the ski resorts have not been approached for contributions, but that could be a  
10 conversation the Funding Committee has. She added that in 2021, Salt Lake County chose to take  
11 the funds that were set aside for a contribution to the CWC and fund another full-time employee.

12  
13 Mayor John asked if Chair Zoltanski has a professional working relationship with the Mayor of Salt  
14 Lake County, Jenny Wilson. He reached out to her but has not heard back. Chair Zoltanski confirmed  
15 this. She believed the CWC was included in the budget proposed by the mayor back then, but it was  
16 eliminated by the County Council during some budget cuts. Chair Zoltanski explained that there has  
17 been a similar struggle in Sandy City. The funding amount was dramatically cut in 2022 and 2023.  
18 She is not sure that the criteria originally used to determine the funding amounts is still relevant. One  
19 of the reasons it makes sense to have a Funding Committee is to discuss the potential expansion of  
20 membership. It is also possible consider whether there should be a shift in the way membership  
21 contributions are calculated. The Funding Committee can identify criteria and create a matrix for  
22 membership dues. There could be an incentive or sliding scale for new members.

23  
24 The creation of new criteria and a membership contribution matrix could increase transparency and  
25 create more predictability. Mayor John thought that made sense, but explained that he is still learning  
26 the nuances of the budget details. He will be more prepared to speak to what the budget realistically  
27 looks like after the budget process in May. However, it seems appropriate to work on the matrix now.

28  
29 Chair Zoltanski reported that in Sandy City, the CWC membership contribution is paid through the  
30 Water Fund, because it relates to watershed protection. Commissioner Bev Uipi wanted to better  
31 understand the \$637,000 total for the 2025/2026 budget. She asked how much of that is used for  
32 personnel and operations. Additionally, she wanted to know if there are specific projects that the  
33 money is used for. It might be possible to approach other cities with information about specific  
34 project work. Chair Zoltanski reported that a lot of cities have had small project support from the  
35 CWC. Director of Operations, Sam Kilpack, shared the CWC budget with the Funding Committee.

36  
37 Commissioner Uipi asked about the decrease the bus line item. Ms. Kilpack explained that the line  
38 item was reduced in response to the appropriations received. There was less received from the State  
39 last year than requested, which meant that some of the project work had to be reduced. Chair  
40 Zoltanski thought it made sense to review the budget document so there is a baseline knowledge of  
41 how the budget is allocated. It is possible to look into services and projects that would be relatable  
42 to under or non-contributing cities. Chair Zoltanski asked for additional information about the bus  
43 service line item in the budget. Ms. Nielsen clarified that it is for the Bus Priority Access Program.

44  
45 Discussions were had about the restroom maintenance line item in the budget. Ms. Nielsen reported  
46 that the CWC facilitates a partnership between the Town of Brighton, the U.S. Forest Service, and  
47 Salt Lake City Public Utilities to maintain trailhead restrooms at popular trailheads in the tri-canyons.  
48 Chair Zoltanski asked if the funding is divided proportionally throughout the canyons. Ms. Nielsen

1 explained that with all CWC project work, the benefit is felt and shared equally within the study area.  
2 Chair Zoltanski pointed out that it would be meaningful to show direct benefits to specific cities.

3  
4 The Short-Term Projects Grant Program was discussed. Chair Zoltanski reported that in the last few  
5 years, there has been a strategy employed to reach more areas, including the Wasatch Back.  
6 Ms. Nielsen reported that the cornerstone project of the CWC is the Federal Legislation, the Central  
7 Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRRA”). Working and advocating  
8 for the passage of the CWNCRRA is something that takes a lot of time and is multi-jurisdictional. The  
9 CWNCRRA is a long-term goal. As a result, in 2019, the CWC Board decided to create the Short-  
10 Term Projects Grant Program to fund some smaller and more immediate projects in the study area.

11  
12 Ms. Nielsen reported that the Short-Term Projects Grant Program has been in place since 2020. Since  
13 that time, money has been awarded to many important projects. She added that the reach of the  
14 program has been expanded with meaningful projects in the Wasatch Back being funded. There have  
15 been a number of transit projects and shuttle programs that have been funded through the Short-Term  
16 Projects Grant Program, directly benefiting Park City and Summit County. Chair Zoltanski thought  
17 it would be meaningful to create an inventory of the valuable projects that have been funded.

18  
19 Chair Zoltanski thought the Funding Committee could consider the essential players who should be  
20 back at the table and what the best approach might be to start those discussions. She asked about  
21 Park City, Summit County, and beyond. There might be some benefits that would warrant greater  
22 contribution and participation. Mayor John shared comments about the CWNCRRA. He reported that  
23 the previous Mayor of Brighton, Dan Knopp, had expressed concerns about the map. He is curious  
24 what some of the other member communities have said about the CWCNRA. Ms. Nielsen explained  
25 that the CWNCRRA has been on the backburner since 2021. The latest iteration of the Legislation is  
26 from that time. The CWC Board has directed CWC Staff to work toward updating the CWNCRRA.  
27 Before it is possible to understand the view of each member community, the CWNCRRA language  
28 needs to be modified. It can be redrafted, released to the public, and then there can be discussions.

29  
30 Mayor John shared comments about potential CWC members and noted that Utah Forestry, Fire, and  
31 State Lands (“FFSL”) might be one to consider. Ms. Nielsen reported that there was a staff member  
32 when UDOT was on the CWC Board. Utah FFSL has not been looked into, but that is something that  
33 can be done if the Funding Committee and CWC Board would like to do so. Mayor John asked about  
34 the rationale for UDOT leaving the CWC. Ms. Nielsen explained that Carlos Braceras was  
35 uncomfortable serving on the CWC Board as an unelected official. Chair Zoltanski asked about the  
36 Utah Transit Authority (“UTA”). Ms. Nielsen reported that UTA is a current member and has been  
37 a member since the beginning of the CWC. UTA is still an Ex-Officio Member of the organization.

38  
39 Mayor John asked if there had been engagement with the Forest Service about funding. Ms. Nielsen  
40 denied this. The Forest Service was an Ex-Officio Member of the CWC Board in the past, but there  
41 was no request made for Federal dollars. Mayor John wondered if it would be possible for the CWC  
42 to ask for donations from private companies. Ms. Nielsen stated that this has not been explored. She  
43 added that there are limits in place for the number of members that can serve on the CWC Board.  
44 Those are outlined in the Interlocal Agreement and CWC Bylaws. She believes there is a limit of  
45 four Ex-Officio Members and 10 voting members of the CWC Board. As for outside contributions  
46 from non-public entities, it is possible for the CWC to accept contributions for project work.

Chair Zoltanski asked for information about the ski resort representation. Ms. Nielsen reported that there is a working relationship with all four of the Cottonwood Canyons ski resorts. There is ski resort representation on the Stakeholders Council as well, but the ski resorts do not fund the CWC.

Chair Zoltanski wanted to know if there are limitations on voting members. Ms. Nielsen clarified that voting members are government entities. She explained that there are Ex-Officio Members and Special Advisors on the CWC Board as well. Amber Broadway represents the economy system of the Wasatch Mountains, and Jack Stauss represents the environment and recreation systems. Ms. Nielsen clarified that Ex-Officio Members and Special Advisors are not voting members of the CWC.

Chair Zoltanski sees bringing Salt Lake County back to the CWC as a priority. Mayor John and Commissioner Uipi agreed that it should be a priority moving forward. Chair Zoltanski suggested that Committee Members think about how to approach this. She will work with CWC Staff to determine who to reach out to on the Salt Lake County Council. Alternatively, there could be a presentation made to the County Council about the CWC work. Committee Members expressed support for this approach. Commissioner Uipi stated that she has relationships with some of the Council Members. Chair Zoltanski stressed the importance of there being a coordinated message.

## **FUNDING PROJECT AND STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

### **1. The Committee will Discuss Funding Methods for the Central Wasatch Commission, including:**

- a. Formula for Annual Member Contributions.**
- b. CWC License Plate.**
- c. Retail Register “Round-Up” Donations.**
- d. Grants.**
- e. State Appropriations.**

Ms. Nielsen reported that it is not uncommon for the CWC budget to be balanced with a Fund Balance appropriation. That means taking some appropriations from the savings account to balance the budget. However, last year, there was the largest Fund Balance appropriation. This resulted in CWC Staff starting to look for outside and ongoing funding to help sustain the organization. One example is a potential CWC license plate. Another idea is a retail register round-up donation. In addition, it is possible to look into grants. She explained that grants are time and labor-intensive and not guaranteed. It can be difficult to find grants that fit the CWC work, but this can start to be explored.

Information about the State appropriations was shared. Ms. Nielsen reported that every year since 2020, the CWC has approached the State to make an appropriations request. There has been success in the past, but the appropriations are at the discretion of the State Legislature, and funding is not guaranteed. Chair Zoltanski asked what the outlook for the appropriations request this year is. Ms. Nielsen explained that it was presented on January 23, 2026. When more is known about the status of the appropriations request, that information will be shared with the CWC Board.

Chair Zoltanski shared comments about other license plates that have been successful. It is a meaningful way to collect funds. She thought it made sense to move forward with a CWC license plate. She also likes the idea of a coordinated strategy when it comes to Salt Lake County outreach.

1 Mayor John likes the idea of a contest where local artists submit ideas for a CWC license plate design.  
2 Commissioner Uipi noted that there could be a student contest held through the universities. Chair  
3 Zoltanski thought it made sense to set criteria to ensure the designs are related to the Central Wasatch.  
4

#### 5 **MEETING CADENCE**

##### 6 7 1. **The Committee will Determine Its Meeting Cadence.**

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9 Chair Zoltanski suggested that the next Funding Committee Meeting be held in two weeks.  
10

#### 11 **OTHER ITEMS**

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13 There were no additional items discussed.  
14

#### 15 **CLOSING**

##### 16 17 1. **Chair Zoltanski will Call for a Motion to Adjourn the Funding Committee Meeting.**

18  
19 **MOTION:** Bev Uipi moved to ADJOURN the Funding Committee Meeting. Monica Zoltanski  
20 seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.  
21

22 The Funding Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:27 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*  
2 *Wasatch Commission Funding Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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