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9 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) FUNDING**
10 **COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026, AT 3:00 P.M. THE**
11 **MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. THE**
12 **ANCHOR LOCATION WAS THE CWC OFFICES, LOCATED IN THE BRIGHTON BANK**
13 **BUILDING AT 311 SOUTH STATE STREET, SUITE 330, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.**

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15 **Committee Members:** Monica Zoltanski, Chair
16 Bev Uipi
17 Scotty John
18

19 **Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
20 Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
21 Will McKay, Communications Director

22 **OPENING**

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

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27 Chair Monica Zoltanski called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Funding Committee
28 Meeting to order at approximately 3:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.
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30 2. **Review and Approval of the Minutes of the February 11, 2026, Meeting.**

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32 **MOTION:** Scotty John moved to APPROVE the Meeting Minutes from February 11, 2026. Monica
33 Zoltanski seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.
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35 **FUNDING PROJECT AND STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

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37 1. **The Committee will Discuss Quantitative and Qualitative Criteria for Determining**
38 **Member Contributions.**

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40 a. **Reference Attached Memo.**

41
42 Chair Zoltanski thanked CWC Staff for preparing the Member Contribution Criteria Memo included
43 in the Meeting Materials Packet. She asked that the framework be reviewed. Executive Director,
44 Lindsey Nielsen, reported that the memo looks at membership contributions. There is a table included
45 in the memo that shows the contributions starting in 2017. She explained that 2017 is when the CWC
46 was formed by Interlocal Agreement. The table includes the contributions from 2017 to the current
47 fiscal year. The memo outlines how contributions were set in the past. During the Mountain Accord,

1 no set criteria were discussed by the Executive Committee. Contributions were essentially based on
2 the size of the jurisdiction, the stake in the work of the CWC, the ability to contribute, and tax revenue.

3
4 The Member Contribution Criteria Memo talks about a standardized formula and the different factors
5 that could impact the member jurisdiction contributions. There are quantitative factors mentioned,
6 such as population size and tax revenue. In addition, the memo asks the Funding Committee to
7 consider qualitative factors, such as the benefit of the future CWC work. As an example, it is possible
8 to consider the benefit to each jurisdiction if the Central Wasatch National Conservation and
9 Recreation Area Act (“CWNCRRA”) is passed. Ms. Nielsen noted that qualitative factors can also
10 include proximity to the canyons. Chair Zoltanski thanked CWC Staff for creating the Member
11 Contribution Criteria Memo. She stated that it is helpful to see the full contribution history.

12
13 Chair Zoltanski suggested that after the memo discussion, there be a matrix created. The matrix can
14 include the size of each city, the population, and something related to tourism revenue. Understanding
15 how much of an economic driver the Central Wasatch is to each community will be meaningful.
16 Some of the qualitative issues include quality of life and the impact of the CWNCRRA moving forward.

17
18 There can be a framework created that each member jurisdiction can rely on. This will set an
19 expectation moving forward. Chair Zoltanski reported that initially, the Commissioners included
20 those involved in the Mountain Accord process. There are now new Commissioners who might not
21 be as familiar or as financially committed as before. She also pointed out that budgets and budget
22 priorities have changed over the years. She hopes the framework will provide stronger guidelines.

23
24 Mayor Scotty John thought it would be meaningful to create a clear framework, especially before
25 there is re-engagement with previous members of the CWC. This will make it clear what is expected
26 from a contribution standpoint. Chair Zoltanski reported that the Funding Committee can create a
27 framework and then share it with the Executive/Budget/Audit Committee for feedback. Once there
28 is approval at that level, it could be shared with the full CWC Board. Commissioner Bev Uipi
29 explained that in Millcreek, there have been some changes with a new Mayor and Council Member.
30 It would be beneficial to reiterate the talking points that highlight the importance of the CWC work.

31
32 Chair Zoltanski asked to discuss quantitative factors, which are data-driven. This could include
33 population size, sales tax revenue, and historic contributions. She asked what tools might be available
34 to track information, such as outdoor recreation revenue. Mayor John mentioned the Transient Room
35 Taxes. Chair Zoltanski noted that Sandy City pays the CWC out of the Water Fund, due to the
36 watershed protection. It might be possible to identify water rates and watershed protection as a
37 quantitative factor. Transient Room Taxes and water rates were proposed to be added to the matrix.

38
39 The Funding Committee next discussed the qualitative factors that should be included in the matrix.
40 Chair Zoltanski mentioned the proximity to the Central Wasatch and how valuable the proximity to
41 the recreation experience is to the overall quality of life. For Sandy City, proximity and quality of
42 life would likely score higher. When it comes to watershed protection, the primary drinking water
43 source is Little Cottonwood Creek. That is something else that strongly aligns the interests of Sandy
44 City to the CWC. Mayor John stated that the Central Wasatch is very important to Brighton residents.

45
46 Chair Zoltanski mentioned the inclusion of the CWNCRRA on the matrix. This can look at whether
47 there would be a high, medium, or low impact for each member jurisdiction. She suggested

1 considering workforce dependency on a healthy Central Wasatch, as well as tourism and
2 environmental benefits. As communities become denser, open spaces become much more valuable.

3
4 Commissioner Uipi thought it would be helpful to better understand how the CWC was created and
5 to review some of the deliverables from the last several years. There has likely been some turnover
6 with the elected officials, so an educational component would be meaningful. Chair Zoltanski agreed
7 that it makes sense to highlight the accomplishments as well as the work done related to protection.
8 She reported that the CWC has taken a position on the Parleys Canyon mine proposal, facilitated
9 public comment for the Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”) Little Cottonwood Canyon
10 Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), and worked on the Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility
11 Action Plan (“BCC MAP”). It is important to inventory the work of the organization. She mentioned
12 the Short-Term Projects Grant Program and expressed support for sharing details about deliverables.

13
14 Mayor John asked about the grants the CWC has awarded through the Short-Term Projects Grant
15 Program. It makes sense to share what the organization has done for member communities.
16 Ms. Nielsen reminded Committee Members that there was a field trip hosted. During that field trip,
17 State Legislators were taken into the canyons, and Gay Lynn Bennion got the idea to run the traction
18 law bill that has since been passed into law. That traction law bill has been helpful to both Big
19 Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. That is another direct result of the CWC work.

20
21 Ms. Nielsen reported that CWC Staff takes time to visit the member jurisdictions on an annual basis.
22 This year, the visits are especially important because there are a lot of new faces. Chair Zoltanski
23 suggested inviting members of the CWC Youth Council or Stakeholders Council to attend those
24 presentations as well. Budgets are constrained this year, so it is especially important to focus on the
25 benefits of the CWC. It would be ideal to have this matrix completed in the next 30 days so the
26 recommended criteria can be finalized by the CWC Board before the budgets are determined.

27
28 Ms. Nielsen summarized the Committee discussion. There is a desire to look at the following:

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30
- How valuable the Central Wasatch mountains are for the quality of life in each jurisdiction;
 - How important watershed protection is for each jurisdiction;
 - How important the CWNCRA is to each member jurisdiction (high, medium, low);
 - Job creation and the reliance on a healthy Central Wasatch; and
 - Population growth and the importance of open space.
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36 Chair Zoltanski asked the Funding Committee to consider potential revenue options.
37 Communications Director, Will McKay, reported that he spoke to someone from the DMV and it
38 sounds like there is current Legislation that would minimize the requirements and streamline the
39 process for a Special Group License Plate application. As it stands currently, 500 people need to fill
40 out a two-page application for the license plate to be approved by the DMV. What might be passed
41 will reduce that number to 250 people and it will require a signature rather than submitting a full
42 application. If the process is streamlined, the CWC will not need to personally collect the signatures,
43 as those will be collected directly on the DMV website. It is suggested that the license plate project
44 be paused until the Legislative Session is over and there is a clear understanding of the process.

45
46 Mayor John asked if there is some way to run a contest on social media to crowdsource license plate
47 design ideas. This could generate some interest in the license plate as well. Mr. McKay confirmed
48 that this can be done. There will likely be a call for submissions for the Central Wasatch license plate

1 and that will generate some interest. The CWC Board will likely select the artwork and then it will
2 need to be approved by the DMV. Chair Zoltanski shared information about a flag contest that took
3 place approximately four years ago. There were some wonderful submissions, but what made it work
4 was reserving the right to have a professional graphic designer handle the finishing touches so there
5 was a cohesive look. She recommended that this be considered before submissions are requested.

6
7 Ms. Nielsen reported that CWC Staff will share the matrix with the Funding Committee ahead of the
8 next meeting. Another potential funding mechanisms is a round-up donation program at retail
9 locations, which is still being considered. There will likely be an update shared at the next meeting.

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11 **OTHER ITEMS**

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13 There were no additional items discussed.

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15 **CLOSING**

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

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19 **MOTION:** Bev Uipi moved to ADJOURN the Funding Committee Meeting. Scotty John seconded
20 the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

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22 The Funding Committee Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:37 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 25, 2026.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

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9 Minutes Approved: _____