



2
3 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) SHORT-TERM**
4 **PROJECTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2026, AT 12:00 PM.**
5 **THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED BOTH IN-PERSON AND VIRTUALLY VIA**
6 **ZOOM. THE ANCHOR LOCATION WAS 2277 BENGAL BOULEVARD, COTTONWOOD**
7 **HEIGHTS, UTAH, 84121, COUNCIL WORKROOM #124.**

8
9 **Board Members:** Emily Gray, Chair
10 Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion
11 Bev Uipi
12 Annalee Munsey
13

14 **Staff:** Lindsey Nielsen, Executive Director
15 Sam Kilpack, Director of Operations
16

17 **Others:** Joanna Wheelton
18 Matthew Podolinsky
19 Helen Nadel
20 Sara Jo Dickens
21 Julia Geisler
22 Grace Tyler
23 Rhea Cone
24 Erin Ferguson
25 Isobel Lingenfelter
26 Josh Stasinos
27 Dani Poirier
28 Jen Lundberg
29

30 **OPENING**
31

- 32 1. **Chair Emily Gray will Open the Meeting Public Meeting as Chair of the Short-Term**
33 **Projects Committee of the Central Wasatch Commission.**
34

35 Chair Emily Gray called the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Short-Term Projects Committee
36 Meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. and welcomed those present.
37

1 **EVALUATION STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

2
3 **1. The Committee will Review the Criteria Used to Evaluate the Proposals.**

4
5 Chair Gray asked to discuss the criteria that will be used to evaluate the Short-Term Projects Grant
6 Program proposals. She also suggested that information about the previous evaluation process be
7 shared. CWC Staff reviewed the evaluation matrix, which lists the project title, applicant
8 organization, requested amount, and total amount. The matrix also looks at both qualitative and
9 quantitative evaluation criteria. Annalee Munsey reported that in previous years, the pillars of the
10 Mountain Accord were taken into account during the evaluation process as well as the location of the
11 project. There was a desire to have a balance between projects in the Wasatch Back and the Wasatch
12 Front. Committee Members at the time also discussed other financial support each proposal had.

13
14 **REVIEW OF SHORT-TERM PROJECT PROPOSALS**

15
16 **1. The Committee will Review Project Proposals and Determine Funding**
17 **Recommendations.**

18
19 The Short-Term Projects Committee reviewed the project proposals. Director of Operations, Sam
20 Kilpack, reported that there are representatives from many organizations attending the meeting
21 virtually. Council Members can ask representatives questions about the projects throughout the
22 review process. Executive Director, Lindsey Nielsen, explained that in the past, there has been a
23 review of each project proposal and then the funding recommendation decisions are made at the end.
24 Chair Gray expressed support to continue with that format and review the project proposals first.

25
26 It was noted that there is \$100,000 available for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program in this fiscal
27 year. However, there is \$193,550 in total funding requests. The Short-Term Projects Committee will
28 review all of the project proposals and then make funding recommendations to the CWC Board.

29
30 **a. Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program (Cottonwood Canyons**
31 **Foundation).**

32
33 The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has submitted an application for the Central Wasatch
34 Watershed Education Program. The funding request is \$10,000 and the total budget is \$200,000.
35 This fits into all of the pillars with the exception of transportation. The proposal is associated with
36 the Wasatch Wildflower Festival. Chair Gray asked if there is work outside of the Wasatch
37 Wildflower Festival proposed. Ms. Kilpack explained that this is an umbrella proposal for different
38 programs the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation runs. The request is for 4% of the total funding needs.
39 The CWC has funded the same program in the past. Joanna Wheelton from the Cottonwood Canyons
40 Foundation is attending the meeting virtually and can answer any Council Member questions.

41
42 **b. Tri-Canyons Sustainable Trail and Habitat Restoration Program (Cottonwood**
43 **Canyons Foundation).**

44
45 The second project proposal is the Tri-Canyons Sustainable Trail and Habitat Restoration Program.
46 This proposal was also submitted by the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. The requested amount is
47 \$10,000 and different amounts have been funded by the CWC in the past. There was \$20,000 awarded

1 in 2025, \$10,000 awarded in 2023, and \$7,500 awarded in 2022. The request is for 2% of the total
2 project cost, and the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation is proposing to fund 17% of the overall costs.
3

4 Chair Gray asked if the organization has the other 83% of funding secured. Ms. Kilpack reported that
5 the application lists how much of the funding is committed and how much of the funding is unsecured.
6 Chair Gray pointed out that the application mentions Silver Lake Restoration and asked for additional
7 information. It was noted that Ms. Wheelton is present at the meeting and can answer Committee
8 Member questions. Chair Gray suggested that the project overviews be conducted before questions
9 are asked of the representatives. At that time, there can be additional project discussions.
10

11 **c. Central Wasatch Youth Symposium (CWC Youth Council).**
12

13 Chair Gray reported that at the last CWC Board Meeting, there was a representative from the CWC
14 Youth Council who shared information about the proposed Central Wasatch Youth Symposium. The
15 CWC Youth Council would like to create a youth networking event and \$7,500 is requested. The
16 bulk of the total project cost is being requested through the Short-Term Projects Grant Program. 87%
17 is being requested from the CWC and the remaining 13% is proposed to be funded through other
18 sources. The proposal is to hold the Central Wasatch Youth Symposium in September 2026.
19

20 **d. Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Toilet Pumping (National Forest Foundation).**
21

22 The next project proposal is from the National Forest Foundation and it is for Uinta-Wasatch-Cache
23 Toilet Pumping. Chair Gray reported that the request is for \$11,050, which is 5% of the total project
24 costs. The bulk of the costs are proposed to be covered by the National Forest Foundation.
25

26 **e. Environmental Sustainability Education Program (Summit Community Gardens
27 **- EATS).**
28**

29 Summit Community Gardens – EATS has submitted a Short-Term Projects Grant Program
30 application for an Environmental Sustainability Education Program. \$15,000 is requested, which
31 would cover 8% of the total project costs. This program has been funded by the CWC in the past,
32 with \$9,500 awarded in 2025 and \$10,000 awarded in 2024. The project location is Summit County.
33

34 **f. 910 Ranch - East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed
35 **Management Project (Summit Cooperative Weed Management Area).**
36**

37 The 910 Ranch – East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed Management Project was
38 submitted by the Summit Cooperative Weed Management Area. The project is related to mitigation
39 that targets invasive weeds and the project locations include: 910 Ranch, other ranch lands in Summit
40 County, and the Mormon Flats State Park. This is not something the CWC has funded in the past.
41 The requested amount is \$20,000, which is 36% of the total project costs. Chair Gray explained that
42 the remaining amount is proposed to be covered by the Summit Cooperative Weed Management Area.
43

44 **g. Fixed Anchor Maintenance (Salt Lake Climbers Alliance).**
45

46 The Salt Lake Climbers Alliance submitted a Short-Term Projects Grant Program application for
47 Fixed Anchor Maintenance. Chair Gray reported that the CWC has funded this several times in the

1 past, with \$5,000 in 2025, \$10,000 in 2024, and \$5,000 in 2023. The proposed amount is 7% of the
2 total project costs, as there is other funding proposed for the majority of the anchor maintenance.

3
4 **h. Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids (Save Our**
5 **Canyons).**

6
7 Chair Gray reported that the next proposal is the Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our
8 Canyons Kids from Save Our Canyons. This is an education program that focuses on trail
9 maintenance, invasive weed pulls, and trash cleanup. It has been funded by the CWC in the past at a
10 variety of rates, but the amount has gradually increased over the years. The requested amount is
11 \$20,000, which is 24% of the total project costs. The project focuses on environment and recreation.

12
13 **i. East Canyon Creek Restoration (Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter).**

14
15 The next project proposal is East Canyon Creek Restoration, which was proposed by the Swaner
16 Preserve and EcoCenter. There is \$8,000 requested and the CWC previously awarded \$5,000 in 2025.
17 Chair Gray explained that this is the continuation of a project that was started in 2025. It is to improve
18 stream-side habitat and restore safe wildlife movement along a section of upper East Canyon Creek.

19
20 **j. SR-224 Wildlife Connectivity and Safety Project, Phase 2: Implementation**
21 **Readiness and Targeted Mitigation (Save People Save Wildlife).**

22
23 There was an application submitted by Save People Save Wildlife for a project intended to reduce
24 wildlife-vehicle collisions. This proposal is for the SR-224 Wildlife Connectivity and Safety Project,
25 Phase 2: Implementation Readiness and Targeted Mitigation. The second phase involves the
26 installation of cameras to collect data that will inform the next steps, which include fence
27 improvements, wildlife detection systems, and longer-term crossing infrastructure. Chair Gray
28 reported that there is \$20,000 requested, which is 12% of the total costs associated with the project.

29
30 **k. Wasatch Front Transit to Trails (Utah Open Lands).**

31
32 Utah Open Lands submitted an application for Wasatch Front Transit to Trails, which is something
33 the CWC has funded in the past. There was \$10,000 awarded in 2025, \$12,500 awarded in 2023,
34 \$15,000 awarded in 2022, and \$12,833 awarded in 2021. The requested amount is \$20,000, which is
35 37% of the total project cost. This is for the expansion of a reservation-based shuttle to Bonanza Flat.

36
37 **l. Advocacy and Education Program (Utah Wildlife Federation).**

38
39 Chair Gray reported that there was an application submitted by the Utah Wildlife Federation for an
40 Advocacy and Education Program. The program is intended to strengthen the public understanding
41 of the relationship between wildlife, water, transportation, and recreation. The requested funding
42 amount is \$15,000, which is 22% of the total cost. This project has not been funded previously.

43
44 **m. Backcountry Shuttle (Wasatch Backcountry Alliance).**

45
46 The next project proposal is for a Millcreek Winter Pilot Shuttle from the Wasatch Backcountry
47 Alliance. The proposal is to refocus the established Backcountry Shuttle Program to Millcreek
48 Canyon to serve one of the highest-use winter recreation areas in the Central Wasatch. The requested

1 amount is \$15,000, which would cover 83% of the total project costs. Chair Gray pointed out that
2 the Backcountry Shuttle has been funded by the CWC at different amounts in the past.

3
4 **n. Summit Cares Bikeshare Helmet Program (WILS Foundation).**

5
6 The last project proposal is the Summit Cares Bikeshare Helmet Program from the WILS Foundation.
7 This is a new program that involves the purchase of bicycle helmets at a discounted rate for use in
8 Summit Bike Share, which would address public safety concerns. The requested amount is \$14,500
9 and that is 88% of the total cost. The remaining 12% is proposed to be covered by the foundation.

10
11 Following a review of each of the Short-Term Projects Grant Program proposals, the Short-Term
12 Projects Committee discussed potential funding amounts and spoke to applicant representatives.

13
14 Bev Uipi expressed support for the Central Wasatch Symposium that was proposed by the CWC
15 Youth Council. It would make sense for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program to support that event.
16 She pointed out that the funding request is not a lot when compared to some of the other projects.
17 Mayor Gay Lynn Bennion felt similarly. She pointed out that this is a new request and the symposium
18 could have a meaningful impact on attendees. This is a short-term project she would like to support.

19
20 Chair Gray asked to speak to a representative from the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation about the
21 Tri-Canyons Sustainable Trail and Habitat Restoration Program. She supports trail restoration and
22 acknowledged that it makes a difference, but was curious about the reference to Silver Lake in the
23 application materials. Ms. Wheelton provided clarification to the Short-Term Projects Committee.
24 The Silver Lake project is one of approximately 20 trails included in the application. Two years ago,
25 the boardwalk was finished. Last year, the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation did a lot of work on the
26 natural hardscape around the back side of the trail, but only half of that work was completed. The
27 application proposes stabilization along the fishing area, as there are approximately 100,000 visitors
28 there per year. Chair Gray thanked Ms. Wheelton for providing clarification about the proposal.

29
30 Ms. Wheelton next shared information about the Gloria Falls work that is mentioned in the
31 application. She explained that this project would be done in conjunction with the U.S. Forest
32 Service, as the Forest Service is the lead on the project. The current trail to Gloria Falls is a user-
33 created trail and is not an official Forest Service trail. This is one of the Phase I trails listed in the
34 Tri-Canyon Trails Plan. The outlined work will make Gloria Falls an official trail. Ms. Wheelton
35 noted that there is a rare species of plants in the area and those plants are trampled regularly. The
36 proposed trail will remove visitors from that rare species while providing safe access to the falls.
37 Chair Gray expressed support and suggested that this be a short-term project the Committee funds.

38
39 Chair Gray asked for feedback about the Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program. She wanted
40 to know if there is strong Committee Member support for the proposal, if the Committee is neutral
41 about the proposal, or if there is not a lot of interest in supporting the proposal. It was pointed out
42 that Salt Lake City Public Utilities is a contributor to the CWC and is also contributing to this project.
43 Chair Gray noted that the requested amount from the CWC is low in comparison to the total project
44 cost. She reminded those present that there has been 4% requested through the grant program.

45
46 Ms. Wheelton shared comments about the Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program. She
47 reported that this is an umbrella request for several different programs. Additional funding is
48 received, which includes funding from Salt Lake City Public Utilities. She explained that this

1 proposal covers the Canyons Naturalist Program, Snowshoe with a Naturalist Program, Ski with a
2 Ranger Program, Canyons Kids Day, and Wasatch Wildflower Festival. Ms. Uipi stated that she is
3 in favor of the project based on the information provided. The requested amount is less than in 2024.
4

5 The Short-Term Projects Committee next discussed the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Toilet Pumping
6 proposal. Chair Gray asked why the Forest Service is not covering the cost of this work. Matthew
7 Podolinsky from the National Forest Foundation provided additional information. He explained that
8 there is some funding from the Forest Service, but they are unable to enter into contracts with local
9 or national companies to get the toilet pumping done in an efficient manner. The National Forest
10 Foundation is focused on utilizing some of its funding, as well as outside funding, so the work can be
11 done. He noted that if Federal shutdowns occur, this kind of work can continue to be done. Ms. Uipi
12 asked if the foundation will be reimbursed by the Forest Service, which was confirmed.
13

14 Additional discussions were had about the toilet pumping proposal. Mr. Podolinsky reiterated that
15 the National Forest Foundation will be reimbursed by the Forest Service. The foundation will be the
16 fiscal sponsor for the Forest Service until there is a better way determined to handle the toilet
17 pumping. Ms. Uipi asked if this is a one-time request or if there will be additional funding requests
18 made in the future. Mr. Podolinsky believed there will likely be funding requests in the future, as the
19 agreement with the Forest Service is for five years. In the agreement, there is reimbursement for the
20 work that the foundation is doing, but there needs to be an additional 5% brought in for the program.
21 The Short-Term Projects Grant Program request will assist with salaries and growing the program.
22 Mayor Bennion and Chair Gray stated that toilet pumping is essential work that needs to be done.
23

24 The Environmental Sustainability Education Program was considered. Chair Gray noted that the
25 project location is Summit County. She pointed out that it is important to have a balance between the
26 Wasatch Front and the Wasatch Back when it comes to funding recommendations. Helen Nadel
27 introduced herself to the Short-Term Projects Committee. She explained that this is a year-round
28 educational program for approximately 2,000 children. 260 are part of the camp and the other
29 programs that are run during the summer. This is the only community garden in Summit County.
30 There are nine one-week camps throughout the summer that engage children in environmental
31 stewardship activities and sustainability education. There are spaces dedicated to programming for
32 children, but there are also large parts of the garden where the professional garden team is growing
33 food for the food insecurity programming. There are also 132 community garden plots available.
34

35 Mayor Bennion asked for additional information about the sustainability initiatives with reduced food
36 waste. Ms. Nadel explained that this is both a current and historic program. Summit Community
37 Gardens - EATS piloted school composting in the Park City School District. This was done for
38 several years with both staff and volunteers. At the end of the 2024/2025 school year, the entire
39 district adopted composting education and composting. The organization is involved as volunteers
40 in supporting zero-waste education. The organization also promotes zero waste and composting in
41 schools and in the garden. The School District has since taken on the funding of that program.
42

43 Chair Gray and Mayor Bennion expressed support for the program. Mayor Bennion thanked
44 Ms. Nadel for the work that is done. When she was in the Legislature, Skyline High School started a
45 food reuse and reduction program. She commended the work done by Summit Community Gardens
46 – EATS. Chair Gray stated that this is a fantastic program, but worries that this application less
47 directly meets the tenants of the Mountain Accord when compared to some of the other project

1 proposals. Ms. Munsey felt similarly and noted that while this work is meaningful, it might not be as
2 applicable.

3
4 It was noted that there are two weed management-focused projects, including the 910 Ranch – East
5 Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed Management Project from the Summit
6 Cooperative Weed Management Area and the East Canyon Creek Restoration application from
7 Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter. It was noted that Sara Jo Dickens is from the Summit Cooperative
8 Weed Management Area. Ms. Dickens explained that the project is time-sensitive. 910 Ranch is
9 approximately 9,000 acres that Summit County has purchased and is preserving as open space. As
10 part of the purchase, there have been management plans developed for the property. Looking at
11 noxious weeds is an expensive issue, and last year, there was yellow starthistle found. It is at a point
12 right now that it is possible to eradicate it and prevent it from spreading throughout Summit County.

13
14 Chair Gray asked if the requested funds are for Summit County or Morgan County. Ms. Dickens
15 explained that this is for both counties. A lot of the treatment cost will be in Summit County, where
16 high-priority species have already been mapped. Much of the mapping costs are in Morgan County,
17 in order to assess whether that spread has already occurred. Chair Gray asked about the CWC
18 boundaries. She wanted to know if it includes all of Summit County, which was confirmed.
19 Ms. Munsey thought this was a positive project as far as water, but there are also other benefits as
20 well.

21
22 Rhea Cone from the Swaner Preserve and EcoCenter introduced herself to the Short-Term Projects
23 Committee. The majority of this project is for fence removal on the banks of the East Canyon Creek.
24 Last year, approximately two-thirds was removed with CWC funding and there is approximately one-
25 third remaining. She explained that fencing was installed along the banks of the creek, which made
26 it difficult for people and wildlife to move through. The intention is to complete the project work.

27
28 In addition, there is invasive weed removal that will take place in the immediate area. Once the fence
29 is out of the way, it will be possible to focus on restoration work. Since the Swaner Preserve and
30 EcoCenter is part of Utah State University, it is not possible to list a match on grant applications.
31 There is a match through staff time and the tools that will assist with the project work as well as other
32 grants, but it is not possible to list that information in the short-term projects application. Chair Gray
33 asked if invasive weed removal is one of the primary objectives. Ms. Cone clarified that it is a
34 secondary priority of the project, as the primary priority is to remove the remaining fencing.

35
36 The Fixed Anchor Maintenance: Wasatch Climbing Routes proposal was discussed. Chair Gray
37 noted that there is a small percentage of the total amount requested. Julia Geisler from the Salt Lake
38 Climbers Alliance explained that this relates to ongoing public safety. This maintenance program
39 addresses fixed anchors across the Wasatch Front. There is four weeks spent in Big Cottonwood
40 Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon with a professional anchor maintenance crew. She reported
41 that the crew includes five people who are employed for 40 hours per week. Salt Lake Climbers
42 Alliance is the only entity out there making sure the anchors on climbing routes are maintained.

43
44 Mayor Bennion believed at least \$5,000 should be funded for the fixed anchor maintenance, which is
45 the same amount that was funded in 2025. This work should be funded, but possibly at a lower
46 amount than requested. Ms. Geisler reported that the cost of stainless steel has increased and there
47 are costs associated with the crew. This is an ongoing maintenance need, as anchors must be safe.

1 Mayor Bennion noted that the total funding requests are almost double the amount of funding that is
2 available. As a result, it might make sense to fund most of these projects halfway. If there are some
3 projects that are not of interest in terms of funding, then some other projects could be funded at a
4 higher amount. Ms. Nielsen explained that the Short-Term Projects Committee has historically asked
5 the CWC Board for additional funding from reserves when there is a desire to fund certain projects
6 at a higher amount. The funding recommendation will be considered by the CWC Board at the June
7 22, 2026, CWC Board Meeting. There is \$100,000 currently available for short-term projects.

8
9 The Short-Term Projects Committee discussed the Wilderness Stewardship Project and the Save Our
10 Canyons Kids proposal from Save Our Canyons. Grace Tyler explained that when Save Our Canyons
11 started to apply for the Short-Term Projects Grant Program in 2022, the grant limit was much smaller.
12 The requested amounts have increased over the years as the funding amount has increased. This
13 project has to do with maintaining trails, removing noxious weeds, and Save Our Canyons Kids.
14 Ms. Tyler reported that Save Our Canyons Kids encourages children to learn about watersheds and
15 Leave No Trace principles. It is a meaningful way to encourage the next generation to care about the
16 area. The trail maintenance work and invasive weed work will be handled by adult volunteers.

17
18 The next project proposal is the SR-224 Wildlife Connectivity and Safety Project. Chair Gray
19 believed this phase has to do with the purchase of cameras, so data can be collected to inform future
20 decisions. Erin Ferguson from Save People Save Wildlife is attending the meeting in person and
21 introduced herself to the Short-Term Projects Committee. This is a local non-profit that has been
22 around for 10 years. In that time, nearly \$500,000 has been received from donations. The community
23 clearly wants to see solutions to the wildlife collision problems on SR-224. For the past few years,
24 there has been documentation of where the roadkill is evident. She explained that collisions with
25 animals can cause safety issues. Information about the second phase of work was shared.

26
27 Chair Gray asked if the cameras will be placed along the roadway to document wildlife movements,
28 which was confirmed. Ms. Ferguson explained that the cameras will be placed in various locations.
29 The videos will make it possible to document wildlife behavior. As a result of changes to the daily
30 traffic levels and the types of vehicles on the road, there is an increased number of collisions
31 occurring. Ms. Uipi wanted to know if this is a one-time funding request. Ms. Ferguson confirmed
32 this. The intention is to have the camera study completed in late summer or early fall, with
33 recommendations from the team by the end of the year. Chair Gray asked if there is more Committee
34 Member support for one-time asks or ongoing efforts. Ms. Uipi noted that there can be a discussion
35 about the one-time asks as well as ongoing asks to determine what best aligns with the CWC goals.

36
37 Chair Gray suggested the Wasatch Front Transit to Trails and the Millcreek Winter Pilot Shuttle be
38 discussed at the same time. Dani Poirier from the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance shared information
39 about the Millcreek shuttle. Last year, there was \$5,000 of funding received from the CWC. That
40 was the first time the shuttle was operated in Millcreek Canyon. Before that, the shuttle operated in
41 Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon. When the Feasibility Study for a Millcreek
42 Canyon shuttle was updated, there was excitement, but the emphasis was not on winter recreation.

43
44 The 2025 funding request was focused on a pilot shuttle to address Millcreek Canyon winter
45 recreation. The current request is for \$15,000 and would fund a Millcreek Canyon shuttle for the
46 second year. Ms. Poirier explained that the goal is to run the pilot program for three years, since it
47 takes time for visitors to develop awareness and establish new habits.

1 Ms. Uipi reported that Salt Lake County paused the shuttle program for Millcreek Canyon at the
2 Legislative level. Ms. Poirier explained that this pilot program is for data collection. The hope is that
3 the program can inform the County, Forest Service, Utah Department of Transportation (“UDOT”),
4 and other stakeholders. There was data collected this past year about the type of recreation that is
5 happening and whether or not users had a Millcreek Canyon pass. There was additional discussion
6 about the pilot program. Ms. Poirier reported that there was service provided to trailheads last year.
7 There was a Forest Service permit received last winter as well as permissions from UDOT, Millcreek
8 City, and Salt Lake County. The same permissions would be needed for a shuttle next winter.

9
10 Ms. Nielsen clarified that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance runs backcountry ski shuttles and has
11 been running them completely independent of the CWC. The winter pilot shuttle in Millcreek Canyon
12 ran last winter, and the funding request is so the shuttle can run next winter as well. She reiterated
13 that this Millcreek Canyon shuttle is completely separate from the shuttle proposed by the CWC. The
14 Feasibility Study was for a summer shuttle, which would operate more frequently and at a larger
15 scale. There have been many discussions about the cost of a shuttle. As for the Wasatch Backcountry
16 Alliance shuttle, it is free, but riders are asked to bring their Millcreek Canyon pass with them.

17
18 Ms. Poirier explained that the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance is not a transit non-profit, so the shuttle
19 is ancillary. Mayor Bennion asked how the shuttle was promoted last year. Ms. Poirier reported that
20 there were emails, targeted advertisements, and posters at trailheads in Millcreek and at local
21 businesses. Non-profit organizations and trail groups were asked to share information as well.

22
23 Ms. Nielsen reminded Committee Members that the updated Fehr & Peers study did not consider
24 winter use in the canyon. That study was focused on summer use. Ms. Uipi asked if the entire
25 \$15,000 funding request is needed for the winter shuttle to run next winter. Ms. Poirier explained
26 that the \$15,000 would make it possible to have the ideal shuttle schedule in place. If less funding is
27 received, then there will need to be a shorter shuttle window, which will likely be in January and
28 February as opposed to the shuttle service that runs from the middle of December through March.

29
30 The Utah Open Lands application was discussed. Josh Stasinos from Utah Open Lands shared
31 information about the Wasatch Front Transit to Trails project. This project has an overall goal to
32 reduce canyon congestion, improve access, and test practical transportation solutions. 100,000 people
33 travel from the Salt Lake Valley to Bonanza Flat each year, so the proposal is a pilot program that
34 moves visitors there during peak times at the hottest time of the year. The shuttle will provide
35 ridership data that will inform what comes next. This was done in Park City, so there is a proven
36 model that works. The Park City pilot program was so popular that after a few years, it was adopted
37 into the regular transit system. The idea is to determine whether similar access and congestion issues
38 can be addressed in the Wasatch Front. Chair Gray noted that the request is for \$20,000. She asked
39 what would happen if the CWC was unable to fully fund the request. Mr. Stasinos explained that the
40 proposal is currently to run the shuttle on weekends for 13 weeks. With less funding, the number of
41 weeks would be reduced or service on one of the days would be eliminated. Utah Open Lands will
42 fund approximately 46% of the total project costs and 37% of the cost is requested from the CWC.

43
44 Mr. Stasinos provided additional information about the shuttle. He explained that there are no
45 additional shuttle stops being considered at this time, as the intention is to address the 100,000 visitors
46 to Bonanza Flat. He added that dogs are not being considered in this pilot season, but that could be
47 done in a subsequent year. This year, the focus will be on hikers and bicyclists. It was noted that one
48 of the lakes at Bonanza Flat does not allow dogs, so it makes sense to start the pilot without them.

1
2 The Advocacy and Education Program from the Utah Wildlife Federation was discussed. Isobel
3 Lingenfelter from the Utah Wildlife Federation introduced herself to the Short-Term Projects
4 Committee. She explained that this program will focus on wildlife connectivity and watershed
5 restoration. These efforts broaden participation in Central Wasatch planning conversations by
6 intentionally engaging audiences that are not traditionally reached through the work of the CWC.
7 Their membership base differs significantly, as it includes hunters, anglers, and rural communities.
8 There is also a conservation program for children where participants learn about wildlife conservation
9 through photography. Children are able to learn how to recreate with wildlife respectfully.

10
11 Chair Gray asked how the Utah Wildlife Federation connects with their target audience.
12 Ms. Lingenfelter explained that there is a connection through the Wildlife Summit and other events
13 that are organized. Many of the Board Members are also hunters and anglers. There is outreach
14 conducted through personal networks, email, and social media. It was noted that this is a one-time
15 request. Ms. Uipi asked how the advocacy and education have been funded in the past.
16 Ms. Lingenfelter reported that the program work is primarily funded with grants, but there is also
17 grassroots fundraising. Chair Gray wondered if it might make sense to fund this proposal at a lower
18 level than has been requested.

19
20 The last proposal is the Summit Cares Bikeshare Helmet Program, which was submitted by the WILS
21 Foundation. Jen Lundberg from the WILS Foundation answered Committee Member questions.
22 Chair Gray asked if riders will be willing to wear a helmet that others have also worn. Ms. Lundberg
23 explained that she has looked into various opens to sanitize helmets. In California, the helmet is put
24 under the seat and there are liners that are torn off. The goal is to use liners and also wipe down the
25 helmets after rides have occurred. She noted that the idea is to increase the use of helmets. Chair
26 Gray is a bicyclist and noted that she feels strongly about encouraging bicycle helmets to be worn.

27
28 Mayor Bennion asked how this project will benefit the Central Wasatch. Ms. Lundberg pointed out
29 that a lot of people visit the area for a season, which includes winter and summer. Visitors from all
30 over the State visit Park City, and that is part of the reason the bike share program has grown. There
31 is a desire for people to be able to use bicycles, but there also needs to be a focus on safety.

32
33 Ms. Uipi asked how many helmets the requested \$14,500 will purchase. Ms. Lundberg reported that
34 the funds will purchase 150 helmets and 400 replacement padding sets. It will also cover 15 secure
35 helmet deposit boxes at strategic location stations. She believes the location stations will be the high-
36 use locations. Chair Gray expressed support for the program and the focus on safety. She asked the
37 Committee to consider how this aligns with the objectives of the CWC work. Ms. Nielsen noted that
38 this project relates to recreational access, which is an important pillar of the organization. Chair Gray
39 asked if there might be more appropriate sources to fund this project. Mayor Bennion agreed that this
40 proposal is not as aligned with the mission of the CWC as some of the other proposals.

41
42 Chair Gray thanked all of the applicant representatives for sharing additional information with the
43 Committee. She asked Committee Members to start discussing potential funding amounts. It is
44 possible to start with the previous suggestion of 50% for each and then consider what projects could
45 be eliminated and what projects could receive additional funding. Ms. Munsey liked the Wasatch
46 Front Transit to Trails proposal, because it addresses existing visitors and can reduce congestion. She
47 is not as supportive of the Millcreek Winter Pilot Shuttle proposal. Mayor Bennion agreed.

1 Ms. Kilpack reported that there is a spreadsheet where notes have been added based on Committee
2 Member comments made so far. Chair Gray suggested that all of the proposals be listed at 50% with
3 the exception of the Summit Cares Bikeshare Helmet Program and the Environmental Sustainability
4 Education Program. When it comes to the Millcreek Winter Pilot Shuttle, she can understand the
5 need based on the high visitor levels on weekends, so she is supportive of that pilot shuttle.

6
7 Ms. Kilpack reviewed the spreadsheet document with the Short-Term Projects Committee. There is
8 50% funding currently shown for the Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program and the Tri-
9 Canyons Sustainable Trail and Habitat Restoration Program. There was an earlier suggestion to fully
10 fund the Central Wasatch Youth Symposium. Currently, the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Toilet Pumping
11 proposal is at 50% and the Environmental Sustainability Education Program is not shown as funded.

12
13 The 910 Ranch – East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed Management Project is
14 shown at 50%. There was an earlier comment about funding the Fixed Anchor Maintenance proposal
15 at \$5,000 instead of the \$7,500 that was requested. There is 50% funding shown for the Wilderness
16 Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids, East Canyon Creek Restoration, SR-244 Wildlife
17 Connectivity and Safety Project (Phase 2: Implementation Readiness and Targeted Mitigation),
18 Wasatch Front Transit to Trails, Advocacy and Education Program, and Backcountry Shuttle. There
19 is no funding recommended for the Summit Cares Bikeshare Helmet Program.

20
21 Based on the current recommendations, there is \$87,000 allocated, which means there is \$13,000 left
22 to allocate to short-term project proposals. Discussions were had about previous requests to the CWC
23 Board for additional Short-Term Projects Grant Program funding. Ms. Nielsen reported that in the
24 past, when additional funds have been requested for short-term projects, the CWC Board has
25 approved those requests. Chair Gray believed the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache Toilet Pumping should be
26 funded at a higher level, because it addresses both the recreation and the environment. Ms. Uipi
27 suggested that this not be funded on an ongoing basis, since the agency will be reimbursed. Chair
28 Gray agreed that this should be a one-time grant. She asked if it is possible to communicate concerns
29 about ongoing funding for this item to the Short-Term Projects Committee that is in place next year.

30
31 Chair Gray asked for Committee Member feedback on the Millcreek Winter Pilot Shuttle. Ms. Uipi
32 is supportive of the shuttle program, but noted that last winter was unusual. She wondered if it would
33 be possible to fund the shuttle so data could be collected on one of the weekend days. The full amount
34 of funding would allow the shuttle to run on Saturday and Sunday, but a portion of the funding would
35 allow the shuttle to run on one of those days. The current funding level is shown at 50%.

36
37 Chair Gray wanted to know if there are any other projects the Committee feels strongly about. Mayor
38 Bennion pointed out that the 910 Ranch – East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Priority Weed
39 Management Project is time sensitive. It was suggested that this be funded at \$12,500. Ms. Kilpack
40 reported that there is \$5,000 remaining in the budget to be allocated to short-term project proposals.

41
42 Ms. Munsey noted that the East Canyon Creek Restoration proposal would complete the work that
43 was started previously. The request is for \$8,000, and it might make sense to fully fund the request.
44 Chair Gray asked for additional information about the previous requests made of the CWC Board.
45 Ms. Nielsen reiterated that there have been requests made for additional funding. The most funding
46 received from the reserves was \$25,000. There is no restriction on what the Short-Term Projects
47 Committee can request. It comes down to what the Committee feels is appropriate and what the CWC
48 Board is comfortable with from a budget perspective. The project proposals were further discussed.

1
2 Chair Gray mentioned the Advocacy and Education Program application from the Utah Wildlife
3 Federation. She is concerned about alignment to the mission of the CWC. It is related, but is less
4 straightforward than some of the other proposals, because it covers a broader area. She suggested
5 that it be funded at \$5,000. There could then be more funding put toward another education-related
6 proposal. Ms. Uipi expressed support to fund that item at \$5,000, as proposed by Chair Gray.
7

8 Ms. Munsey liked the Central Wasatch Watershed Education Program proposal. She would suggest
9 similar funding for this proposal and the Wilderness Stewardship Project and Save Our Canyons Kids
10 proposal. It was determined that there would be \$10,000 of funding awarded to each of those.
11

12 The Tri-Canyons Sustainable Trail and Habitat Restoration Program was discussed. Chair Gray
13 would like to be able to fully fund the trail restoration work, as it will impact a lot of visitors. Mayor
14 Bennion suggested that there be a recommendation to fully fund that project at \$10,000. There can
15 be a request made to use reserves to cover the additional amount. Ms. Uipi mentioned the SR-244
16 Wildlife Connectivity and Safety Project. She pointed out that it is a one-time ask for data collection.
17 She would be open to funding that at a higher level, since there will not be a future request made.
18

19 Additional discussions were had about the Short-Term Projects Grant Program proposals. The Fixed
20 Anchor Maintenance project was considered by the Committee. It was noted that the request from
21 the CWC is 7% of the total project cost. Mayor Bennion suggested that the East Canyon Creek
22 Restoration be recommended for full funding. However, if the additional funding is not approved by
23 the CWC Board, then the funded amount would return to 50%. Wasatch Front Transit to Trails was
24 further discussed. Ms. Uipi thought the shuttle proposals should have equal funding recommended.
25

26 Ms. Kilpack informed the Short-Term Projects Committee that the current funding amount is
27 \$119,000, which is \$19,000 over the total budget. The past funding levels for Fixed Anchor
28 Maintenance were reviewed. \$7,500 has been requested and the full amount is currently proposed to
29 be funded. Chair Gray would like to lower the 910 Ranch – East Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative
30 Primary Weed Management Project amount. She feels the private sector should contribute more. It
31 was determined that if additional funding is not approved by the CWC Board, the amount shown will
32 be reduced. Ms. Kilpack summarized the Committee Member discussion. It is the 910 Ranch – East
33 Canyon Creek Corridor Cooperative Primary Weed Management Project and East Canyon Creek
34 Restoration proposals that will have funding reduced if the reserves are not used by the CWC Board.
35

36 It was noted that the Committee is now recommending \$16,500 over the \$100,000 budget. Chair
37 Gray suggested that the amount be reduced to \$110,000. There can then be a request made that the
38 CWC Board consider using reserves to cover the additional \$10,000. Ms. Uipi suggested reducing
39 the funding amounts for the two education programs proposed to be funded at \$10,000 each.
40 Ms. Kilpack noted that \$3,000 could be trimmed from each of those proposals. With that reduction,
41 the total funding recommendation was \$10,550 more than the \$100,000 budget. Ms. Uipi noted that
42 the Tri-Canyons Sustainable Trail and Habitat Restoration Program could be \$11,000 instead of
43 \$11,050.
44

45 The Short-Term Projects Committee decided to request \$110,500 worth of short-term project funding.
46 The proposed funding amounts and Mountain Accord tenants were reviewed by Committee Members.
47 Ms. Uipi suggested reducing the Advocacy and Education Program request to \$4,500 so the total
48 requested amount from the CWC Board is \$110,000. At the next CWC Board Meeting, Board

1 Members will review the recommendations made by the Short-Term Projects Committee. If there is
2 no support to use reserves to cover the additional \$10,000, the highlighted projects on the spreadsheet
3 will receive reduced funding. Chair Gray thanked all of the applicants for their interest and efforts.

4

5 **CLOSING**

6

7 **1. Chair Gray will Close the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting.**

8

9 **MOTION:** Emily Gray moved to ADJOURN the Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting. Bev
10 Uipi seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

11

12 The Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Short-Term Projects Committee Meeting held Monday, April 27, 2026.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____

10

11