

1 **MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION MEETING HELD**
2 **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 AT 3:00 P.M. IN THE COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS**
3 **CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 2277 EAST BENGAL BOULEVARD,**
4 **COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, UTAH**
5

6 **Present:** Commission Chair Chris McCandless, Commissioner Mike Peterson,
7 Commissioner Andy Beerman, Commissioner Jackie Biskupski,
8 Commissioner Chris Robinson, Commissioner Harris Sondak,
9 Commissioner Jenny Wilson (via telephone)

10
11 **Staff:** Executive Director Ralph Becker, CWC Attorney Shane Topham, Deputy
12 Director Blake Perez, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen
13

14 **Others:** Carly Lansche, Carly Castle (Salt Lake City Public Utilities), Megan Nelson
15 (The Nature Conservancy), Ned Hacker (Wasatch Front Regional Council)
16

17 **Excused:** Commissioner Jeff Silvestrini, Commissioner Jim Bradley, Commissioner
18 Carlos Braceras
19

20 **A. OPENING**
21

- 22 **i. Commissioner Chris McCandless will Open the Meeting as Chair of the**
23 **Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”).**
24

25 Chair Chris McCandless called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m.
26

- 27 **ii. The Commission will Consider Approving the Meeting Minutes of Monday,**
28 **August 5, 2019.**
29

30 **MOTION:** Commissioner Biskupski moved to accept the minutes of Monday, August 5, 2019.
31 Commissioner Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of
32 the Board.
33

34 **B. PRESENTATION ON 2018-19 CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION AUDIT –**
35 **3:05-3:15 P.M.**
36

- 37 **i. Audit Presentation by Greg Ogden CPA on the CWC’s Financial Statements**
38 **and Related Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2019.**
39

40 CPA Greg Ogden presented the Audit Report and stated that there were no findings. He referred
41 to page seven and found it interesting that the members were not billed for membership fees this
42 year. As a result, there was very little revenue. He thanked CWC Accountant Dave Sanderson for
43 providing him with the needed information early on in the process.
44

45 In response to a question raised by Commissioner Peterson, Mr. Ogden confirmed that the fund
46 balance going forward starting the fiscal year is \$1.175 million.

1
2 Commissioner Biskupski asked if it was fixed internally so they are billing within the fiscal cycle.
3 Executive Director Ralph Becker explained that they provide invoices to each of the jurisdictions.
4 He clarified that they have been receiving payments from the various jurisdictions. Commissioner
5 Biskupski suggested that information be put on a calendar for billing purposes since each of the
6 municipalities are on a different cycle. She suggested a system be set up that triggers the invoicing.
7

8 CWC Attorney, Shane Topham reported that the next step will be for the audit to be filed with the
9 State. This will be done by Dave Sanderson.

10
11 **C. RESOLUTION 2019-26 APPROVING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT WITH**
12 **RONALD DEAN FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONSULTING LOBBYING**
13 **- 3:15-3:20 P.M.**
14

15 **i. Consideration of Resolution 2019-26 Approving Entry into a Contract with**
16 **Ronald Dean for Federal and Local Governmental Affairs Consulting and**
17 **Lobbying.**
18

19 Mr. Becker reported that the above matter was on the last agenda at which time there was
20 discussion and questions were raised. The issue was ultimately tabled to tonight's meeting. They
21 were looking to increase effectiveness at the State and Federal levels in terms of their work on the
22 legislation. Ronald Dean applied for a position with the Central Wasatch Commission and spent
23 his career with Senator Hatch working on natural resources and policy issues. Some members of
24 the Congressional delegation specifically asked that they take advantage of Mr. Dean's skills and
25 expertise. Mr. Dean was interviewed and agreed to provide assistance on a part-time basis.
26 Mr. Dean has tremendous knowledge, background, and a skillset that they believe will be
27 advantageous to the Commission moving forward.
28

29 In terms of budgeting, Mr. Becker stated that the CWC has had a contract with Bill Simmons in
30 Washington, D.C. who has provided representation. Mr. Simmons' contract has been reduced by
31 \$36,000 with his total pay now at \$60,000 per year. Flexibility was provided in the budget to
32 create a funding source to hire Mr. Dean.
33

34 Commissioner Biskupski was not supportive of hiring additional lobbyists. As she mentioned at
35 the last meeting, she already has lobby support that can be shared. Others have lobbyists as well.
36 She did not think that hiring someone from a previous administration was a good idea and her
37 opinion was that it reflects poorly upon the Board as a whole. She was not supportive of moving
38 forward with the hire.
39

40 Commissioner Peterson was surprised that the matter was on the agenda without the Board meeting
41 and discussing it. He supported having further discussion on the formation of a strategic plan on
42 how additional lobbyist would be used. Commissioner Peterson reported that Mr. Dean was
43 interviewed for the Deputy Director position and was not selected.
44

45 Commissioner Wilson also had questions at the last meeting but was comfortable with the
46 proposal. She had engaged with Bill Simmons directly via telephone over the past four or five

1 months about the federal legislation and the opportunity at some point to move a couple of barriers.
2 She felt engaged with him and believed he was doing a very good job. Commissioner Wilson
3 asked him about adding an additional person at the federal level and Mr. Simmons was very
4 comfortable with that. He felt that with the reduction he is facing, this person will complement
5 the work he is doing. She expressed her support. Commissioner Wilson wanted to make sure that
6 they have the right person in order to move forward at the local level. She is very involved with
7 the Utah Association of Counties and wanted to make sure that their federal contacts will defer to
8 her and her partners in Summit County who are involved in this organization and that their local
9 lobbyists will be the right people to work for them on Capitol Hill.

10
11 Commissioner Sondak appreciated Commissioner Wilson’s comments but was also surprised to
12 see the matter on the agenda without having had prior conversation. He wondered about a local
13 lobbyist and what the cost would be. He noted that at the most recent Finance Committee Meeting
14 they discussed the balance of overhead and actual costs. Lowering lobbying costs with Mr.
15 Simmons does not imply that they should spend the excess funds on lobbying.

16
17 **D. RESOLUTION 2-19-27 APPROVING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT WITH**
18 **CASEY HILL FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONSULTING/LOBBYING**
19 **3:20-3:25 P.M.**
20

21 **i. Consideration of Resolution 2019-27 Approving Entry into a Contract with**
22 **Casey Hill for Governmental Affairs Consulting and Lobbying.**
23

24 Chair McCandless commented that Casey Hill is the local legislative person they would like to
25 have work for the CWC. He concurred with Commissioner Wilson and commented on the CWC’s
26 efforts on SCR-10. He pointed out that they missed that opportunity by two votes and it cost them
27 one year. He expressed his wholehearted support. Chair McCandless pointed out that nothing
28 seemed to have changed since last year. Time was growing short and he did not want to wait until
29 the next meeting.

30
31 Commissioner Beerman was of the opinion that they will need a lobbyist in Washington, D.C. and
32 in the State Legislature. He also thought there was a lot of merit in whether they are following a
33 strategic plan. He suggested that action be taken immediately. Chair McCandless agreed and
34 stated that the intent is to have a point person in charge.

35
36 Commissioner Biskupski’s opinion was that the role of the Director is to be the point person on
37 both the State and Federal legislation. She reiterated that there are already several lobbyists
38 involved through their separate teams, yet they still have nothing solid to deliver to the community.

39
40 Commissioner Robinson commented that the key decision is whether to advance the National
41 Conservation Recreation Area (“NCRA”) legislation. If that is the desire, Messrs. Dean and Hill
42 are good choices along with Bill Simmons and they should pay the price. If they do not wish to
43 advance it, they should not pursue any lobbying efforts.

44
45 Commissioner Biskupski did not want to leave out the other three lobbyists in Washington, D.C.
46 that work for the County. Commissioner Robinson recognized that the current contract has been

1 reduced from \$8,000 to \$5,000 or \$6,000 per month. It was noted that Mr. Dean's contract it is
2 not to exceed \$3,000 per month or \$75 per hour. Mr. Hill's contract is not as specific. Mr. Topham
3 stated that the document has been modified to clarify that the total compensation be \$20,000 for
4 the initial term running until August 15, 2020.

5
6 Chair McCandless asked if there was adequate time to defer the matter to the next meeting and
7 come up with a definitive plan. Mr. Becker responded that with the actions that are occurring at
8 the State Legislative level and the urgency relative to the federal legislation in terms of timing to
9 get a bill introduced and considered for passage in this Congress, every month they lose valuable
10 time. On the State Legislative side they will be hosting a site visit the following Monday and the
11 matter will be on the agenda in the coming months. Mr. Becker stated that Bill Simmons' position
12 was that Ron Dean be used as an important complementary piece of what he can accomplish. In
13 addition, they have worked closely with representatives from each of the jurisdictions at the state
14 and federal levels. They were two votes short because of a change in a few positions. They are
15 looking to bolster their strength. Mr. Becker had been meeting regularly with representatives from
16 the local jurisdictions, which has been very helpful. If the intent is to pursue the legislation, this
17 will provide the best chance to pass it.

18
19 Commissioner Peterson agreed that one of their goals is to move the legislation forward. He
20 supported having the appropriate resources in place to make that happen.

21
22 Chair McCandless suggested that the Board tentatively approve Resolutions 2019-27 and 2019-26
23 and ask that they be ratified at the next meeting. He also suggested that they let Ron Dean and
24 Casey Hill know that the Board has tentatively approved the resolutions in order to employ and
25 engage them. During now and when it is ratified, staff should be directed to draft a strategic plan.
26 He expected that would satisfy most of the concerns expressed. The matter should then be brought
27 forward for final ratification at the October meeting.

28
29 Commissioner Robinson questioned how they can hire someone tentatively for future ratification.
30 Chair McCandless explained that Messrs. Dean and Hill would proceed in good faith.
31 Commissioner Robinson suggested they either approve the resolutions without that condition or
32 postpone the decision.

33
34 Mr. Topham explained that Mr. Becker could tell the providers that the sense of the Council is that
35 the Resolutions may be acceptable but they will have to be presented for final approval at the next
36 meeting, further discussions need to occur in the meantime. He disagreed with the concept of
37 tentative approval.

38
39 Commissioner Beerman commented that the proposed action makes sense if they intend to move
40 forward with the NCRA legislation, however, they are in the middle of a public comment period
41 and trying to make that determination. To him, it seemed premature to proceed.

42
43 **MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved to postpone a decision on Resolution 2019-26
44 approving entry into a contract with Ronald Dean for governmental affairs, consulting, and
45 lobbying and Resolution 2019-27 approving entry into a contract with Casey Hill for governmental

1 affairs, consulting and lobbying to the next meeting scheduled for the first Monday in October.
2 Commissioner Biskupski seconded the motion.

3
4 Commissioner Wilson suggested the Board move forward and take action today on both
5 resolutions.

6
7 Vote on motion: Commissioner Biskupski-Aye, Chair McCandless-Aye, Commissioner Peterson-
8 Aye, Commissioner Sondak-Aye, Commissioner Beerman-Aye, Commissioner Robinson-Aye,
9 Commissioner Wilson-Nay. The motion passed 6-to-1.

10
11 **E. STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL UPDATE AND DISCUSSION 3:25-3:35 P.M.**

12
13 **i. Stakeholders Council Chair and Vice Chair, Greg Summerhays and Dr. Kelly**
14 **Bricker, will Provide an Update on the August Stakeholders Council Meeting**
15 **and Work Moving Forward.**

16
17 Stakeholders Council Vice Chair Dr. Kelly Bricker reported that in their most recent meeting they
18 addressed trails exploration. The group first heard from Walt Gilmore from Salt Lake County.
19 Mr. Gilmore shared with the Stakeholders Council the process for the County's upcoming Trails
20 Master Plan process and how they can engage. The study will focus on all levels and surface types
21 of trails in the Salt Lake Valley.

22
23 Sarah Bennett and John Knoblock then gave a presentation on the work Trails Utah is doing. They
24 raise funds, write grants, leverage monies, and provide education and communication pertaining
25 to trails. The goal of the organization is to serve as a catalyst for stakeholder development and
26 create funding partnerships. Messrs. Bennett and Knoblock also shared with the group the
27 potential of starting a Trails Committee in the coming year.

28
29 Dr. Bricker reported that the Capacity Committee was formed during the last meeting. There were
30 17 members interested in participating. They held their first meeting on August 28 and are
31 scheduled to meet the fourth Wednesday of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Metro
32 Water facility. At the first meeting, they discussed what the study might entail. Dr. Bricker was
33 tasked with putting a proposal together for the next steps, which will be presented at the next
34 meeting.

35
36 The last item discussed was the Millcreek Shuttle. Brian Hutchinson provided an update on the
37 Millcreek Shuttle Sub-Committee. The group met on August 12 and determined that at this time
38 a shuttle pilot program was not feasible in Millcreek Canyon. The committee, however, prepared
39 a list of things to be accomplished before a pilot shuttle can be launched. The committee was
40 interested in partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to pursue a Federal Lands Access Program
41 Grant.

42
43 Dr. Bricker reported that the Stakeholders Council received an update on possible short-term
44 transportation solutions for the upcoming winter season. They included improved communication
45 with canyon users, possible reevaluation of current fines, supporting UTA during heavy snow days
46 to help improve service delivery, and working with car rental companies to provide correct

1 information to drivers about canyon requirements. It was suggested that consideration begin on
2 transportation solutions for the summer season as well.

3
4 Commissioner Beerman commented that in the event they proceed to form a Trails Committee,
5 Will McCarvill chaired a previous trails committee and it may be useful to contact him and obtain
6 the results of the work they have already completed.

7
8 **F. STAFF MONTHLY REPORT – 3:35-3:45 P.M.**

9
10 **i. Presentation by Executive Director Ralph Becker of His Monthly Report.**

11
12 Mr. Becker reported on ongoing work performed by staff. They have been involved with the
13 Stakeholders Council and a new draft of the Central Wasatch National Conservation Recreation
14 Act (“CWNCRA”) bill, which was made available to the public on August 19, 2019, for a 30-day
15 period. A summary by topic of the comments received will be prepared.

16
17 Mr. Becker stated that work on the environmental dashboard is proceeding on course, on time, and
18 on budget.

19
20 They are also in the process of hiring an administrative person to help with ongoing administrative
21 tasks.

22
23 **G. PUBLIC COMMENT**

24
25 Chair McCandless described the process and stated that from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. they will convene
26 into a separate meeting to discuss the specific NCRA legislations in small groups. Once that is
27 complete, they will reconvene and the group leaders will make comments on the input received.
28 That information will be logged and changes made accordingly and brought forward at the October
29 meeting for further discussion.

30
31 Chair McCandless opened the meeting to public comment. There were no public comments. The
32 public comment period was closed.

33
34 Mr. Becker described the procedure for providing public comment. The group was to be split into
35 small groups for a roundtable discussion. There will be a facilitator and a scribe for each group.
36 The focus will be the draft legislation. Staff was interested in hearing likes and dislikes as well as
37 specific provisions participants may be interested in.

38
39 Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen explained that anyone who is interested in participating
40 in the public comment forum and discussion will be placed in a group. At the conclusion of the
41 discussions they will reconvene as a group and review the main comments.

42
43 **H. COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

44
45 There was no Commissioner comment.

1 **I. NCRA PUBLIC COMMENT AND FORUM DISCUSSION – 4:00-6:00 P.M.**

2
3 **i. Formal Public Meeting will Shift to a Small Group Facilitated Discussion**
4 **about the Latest Draft of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and**
5 **Recreation Area Act (i.e., the Proposed Federal Legislation).**
6

7 The group next moved into the Community Room at Cottonwood Heights City Hall to break out
8 into small discussion groups concerning the current draft of the CWNCRRA.
9

10 **J. ADJOURNMENT**

11
12 **MOTION:** Commissioner Peterson moved to adjourn. Commissioner Biskupski seconded the
13 motion. The motion was not seconded. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the
14 Commission.
15

16 The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

1 *I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate and complete record of the Central*
2 *Wasatch Commission Meeting held Monday, September 9, 2019.*

3

4 Teri Forbes

5 Teri Forbes

6 T Forbes Group

7 Minutes Secretary

8

9 Minutes Approved: _____