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

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

Staff: Executive Director Ralph Becker, CWC Attorney Shane Topham, Deputy
Director Blake Perez, Communications Director Lindsey Nielsen

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

Excused: Commissioner Jeff Silvestrini, Commissioner Jim Bradley, Commissioner
Carlos Braceras

A. OPENING

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

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

ii. The Commission will Consider Approving the Meeting Minutes of Monday,
August 5, 2019.

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

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

i. Audit Presentation by Greg Ogden CPA on the CWC’s Financial Statements

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

In response to a question raised by Commissioner Peterson, Mr. Ogden confirmed that the fund
balance going forward starting the fiscal year is $1.175 million.
Commissioner Biskupski asked if it was fixed internally so they are billing within the fiscal cycle. Executive Director Ralph Becker explained that they provide invoices to each of the jurisdictions. He clarified that they have been receiving payments from the various jurisdictions. Commissioner Biskupski suggested that information be put on a calendar for billing purposes since each of the municipalities are on a different cycle. She suggested a system be set up that triggers the invoicing.

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

C. **RESOLUTION 2019-26 APPROVING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT WITH RONALD DEAN FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONSULTING LOBBYING**

   - **3:15-3:20 P.M.**

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Wilson also had questions at the last meeting but was comfortable with the proposal. She had engaged with Bill Simmons directly via telephone over the past four or five
months about the federal legislation and the opportunity at some point to move a couple of barriers. She felt engaged with him and believed he was doing a very good job. Commissioner Wilson asked him about adding an additional person at the federal level and Mr. Simmons was very comfortable with that. He felt that with the reduction he is facing, this person will complement the work he is doing. She expressed her support. Commissioner Wilson wanted to make sure that they have the right person in order to move forward at the local level. She is very involved with the Utah Association of Counties and wanted to make sure that their federal contacts will defer to her and her partners in Summit County who are involved in this organization and that their local lobbyists will be the right people to work for them on Capitol Hill.

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

D. **RESOLUTION 2-19-27 APPROVING ENTRY INTO A CONTRACT WITH CASEY HILL FOR GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS CONSULTING/LOBBYING**

3:20-3:25 P.M.

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

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

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

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

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

Commissioner Biskupski did not want to leave out the other three lobbyists in Washington, D.C. that work for the County. Commissioner Robinson recognized that the current contract has been
Chair McCandless asked if there was adequate time to defer the matter to the next meeting and come up with a definitive plan. Mr. Becker responded that with the actions that are occurring at the State Legislative level and the urgency relative to the federal legislation in terms of timing to get a bill introduced and considered for passage in this Congress, every month they lose valuable time. On the State Legislative side they will be hosting a site visit the following Monday and the matter will be on the agenda in the coming months. Mr. Becker stated that Bill Simmons’ position was that Ron Dean be used as an important complementary piece of what he can accomplish. In addition, they have worked closely with representatives from each of the jurisdictions at the state and federal levels. They were two votes short because of a change in a few positions. They are looking to bolster their strength. Mr. Becker had been meeting regularly with representatives from the local jurisdictions, which has been very helpful. If the intent is to pursue the legislation, this will provide the best chance to pass it.

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

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

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

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

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

**MOTION:** Commissioner Robinson moved to postpone a decision on Resolution 2019-26 approving entry into a contract with Ronald Dean for governmental affairs, consulting, and lobbying and Resolution 2019-27 approving entry into a contract with Casey Hill for governmental affairs, consulting, and lobbying.
affairs, consulting and lobbying to the next meeting scheduled for the first Monday in October. Commissioner Biskupski seconded the motion.

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

Dr. Bricker reported that the Stakeholders Council received an update on possible short-term transportation solutions for the upcoming winter season. They included improved communication with canyon users, possible reevaluation of current fines, supporting UTA during heavy snow days to help improve service delivery, and working with car rental companies to provide correct
information to drivers about canyon requirements. It was suggested that consideration begin on transportation solutions for the summer season as well.

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

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

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

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

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

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

G. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

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

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

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

H. COMMISSIONER COMMENT

There was no Commissioner comment.
I. **NCRA PUBLIC COMMENT AND FORUM DISCUSSION – 4:00-6:00 P.M.**

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

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

J. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The Central Wasatch Commission Meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.
I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Meeting held Monday, September 9, 2019.

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes
T Forbes Group
Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: _____________________