****

**Visitor Use Study Funding Strategies:**

**“Hybrid” model: completed August 31, 2022**

**Follow up to 6.7.2021 CWC Board Meeting**

**Updated: June 10, 2021**

**Strategy 1.** Request waiver of indirect costs (completed: approved) This step has been addressed with the USU team, a letter of request as previously submitted handles this request; proposal for Phase 2 “hybrid” model balance adjusted becomes **$288,212.64.**

**Strategy 2.** Include the **$288,212.64** into CWC 2021-2022 fiscal year budget, through a budget amendment: July/August 2021. (stick with me here).

CWC has an existing $95,000 appropriation (State Legislature, 2021) for a Visitor Use Study. At the end of Phase I we will have spent $33,931.43, leaving a balance in the appropriation of $61,068.57 which can be applied to fund Phase II.

Recently, during the 2021-2022 budget building process, we returned, to reserves, the$50,000 which the board had approved for the visitor use study through the previous fiscal year (2020-2021) budget amendment process. It would be possible to pull that $50,000 back from reserves. Added to the balance of appropriation dollars that could provide $111,068.57 available for the Phase 2 Proposal. We would still need **$177,144.07** to complete Phase 2.

Since this appears to be a priority item for the commission, stakeholders and particular jurisdictions, strategy 2 recommendation is to seek additional funding needed from **SLC ($59,048.02) SLCO ($59,048.02) and other entities ($59,048.02).**

**Strategy 3. [This option is now off the table for consideration.]**On May 19, 2021, the Legislature is returning to a special session with an intended distribution of $600 million dollars. Request an additional $250,000 to the existing Visitor Use Study appropriation. The Legislature is quite familiar with the research of Utah State University; if presented with the USU proposal, there might be a willingness to provide additional funding for the Visitor Use Study. Presented with a letter of request from our commission, carried by our lobbyist Casey Hill, could this work?

**Strategy 4.** Recommend to the CWC board a spend down of the reserves to provide funds for the entire Visitor Use Study due to its importance as expressed numerous times at the board level. Increase the member contribution across all jurisdictions to replenish the reserves by the dollar amount used. The member contributions would then become: SLC ($259,048.02), SLOC ($259,048.02) and other entities ($59,048.02).

Page -2-

**Strategy 5.** Recommend to the CWC board to simply spend down reserves to provide funds for the entire Visitor Use Study. Again, note its importance to the commission as a whole: stakeholders, and specific commissioners/jurisdictions.

On 6.30.2021 the CWC projected reserve in the Public Trust Investment Fund will be $966,000 - our investment policy calls for a hold of one-year operational expense for the Central Wasatch Commission. Our operational expense over the past two years has totalled an approximate $600,000 per year - this figure excludes all projects and is just basic operational expenses - no government relations consultant, no Environmental Dashboard costs, no short-term projects, no Mountain Transit System support, no contingency; just operations.

**Strategy 6.** This strategy takes into consideration the longer study time frame and the fact it then covers two fiscal years (July 2021 - June 2022) and (July 2022 - June 2023) - the total cost of the long term study is projected to be $288,212.64 or $20,586,62 per month.

$247,038.80 would be paid in fiscal year July 2021 - June 2023

$41,173.24 would be payable in fiscal year July 2022 - June 2023

This longer timeframe would allow for other partners to be approached for contributions to the study effort; Save Our Canyons has stepped forward with a statement to assist, to what degree will be up to their board. Perhaps there are other organizations also willing to step forward, plus the option for directly working donors, and a possibility of additional funding from the state.