**MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (“CWC”) STAKEHOLDERS COUNCIL TRAILS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD, THURSDAY JUNE 10, 2021, AT 2:00 P.M. THE MEETING WAS CONDUCTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM**

**Present:**  John Knoblock, Chair

Sarah Bennett

Barbara Cameron

Kurt Hegmann

Zinnia Wilson

Dennis Goreham

Pat Shea

**Staff:** Ralph Becker, CWC Executive Director

Blake Perez, CWC Deputy Director

Kaye Mickelson, Office Administrator

1. **Introductions.**

Chair John Knoblock called the meeting to order at approximately 2:00 p.m.

The Legislature, pursuant to Section 52-4-207(4), required the Committee to make a determination, which was as follows:

‘Notice is hereby given that the Central Wasatch Commission Stakeholders Council will hold a Trails Committee meeting at approximately 2:00 p.m. or soon thereafter on Thursday, June 10, 2021. In view of the current COVID-19 pandemic, this session will occur only electronically, without a physical location, as authorized by Utah Code 52-4-207(4). The public may remotely hear the open portions of the meeting through live broadcast by connecting to the following Zoom link.’

Chair Knoblock reviewed the agenda items for the Central Wasatch Commission (“CWC”) Stakeholders Council Trails Committee. He asked those present to introduce themselves.

1. **Review and Approve Past Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION:** Barbara Cameron moved to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2021, Trails Committee Meeting. Sarah Bennett seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

1. **Update on Trails Master Plan.**

Chair Knoblock reported that Salt Lake County had most recently done a Regional Trails Master Plan that focused on paved trails in the valley. The Trails Committee had previously encouraged Salt Lake County to do a Natural Surface Trails Master Plan as well. Chair Knoblock noted that the last two recreation surveys conducted by Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation identified trails as the most appreciated amenity and the amenity that people wanted to see more investment in. As a result, it made sense for there to be a Natural Surface Trails Master Plan.

Chair Knoblock reported that he had spoken to Ann Granato from the Salt Lake County Council. Ms. Granato was going to work with Dea Theodore from the Salt Lake County Council. Both Ms. Granato and Ms. Theodore reached out to Martin Jensen from Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation about a proposal for the Natural Surface Trails Master Plan. There had not been a reply yet. Chair Knoblock sent an email to Mr. Jensen and Walt Gilmore from Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation but had not received a reply either. Chair Knoblock noted that they would continue to follow up and engage with appropriate County Council representatives.

Pat Shea suggested that members of the Trails Committee contact County Council Members about Natural Surface Trails Master Plan funding. Chair Knoblock explained that this had been done at a previous meeting. Both he and Barbara Cameron followed up with members of the County Council. Mr. Shea felt that renewing the effort to talk to various County Council Members would be beneficial. Chair Knoblock suggested that Trails Committee Members look back at the previous Meeting Minutes and follow up on any action items.

Dennis Goreham asked that the list of County Council Members be sent out via email. Sarah Bennett noted that a spreadsheet could be created and Trails Committee Members could update the spreadsheet after they had spoken to a member of the council. It would be helpful to have a document that Committee Members could refer to as needed. Chair Knoblock stated that he would create the list on a Google Sheet and email the link to Trails Committee Members.

Chair Knoblock reported that the U.S. Forest Service Salt Lake Ranger District continued work on their trails inventory. That was the first step toward a Master Plan for Forest Service owned properties. Chair Knoblock reported that Chelsea Phillippe was still working on the trails inventory. The Zoom meeting link was sent to Zinnia Wilson from the Forest Service. It was noted that Ms. Wilson was the Salt Lake Ranger District Trails Manager. Chair Knoblock discussed the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan. He noted that Patrick Nelson from Salt Lake City Public Utilities informed him that there was no new update or identified timeline.

Chair Knoblock noted that the Town of Brighton Mayor, Dan Knopp, wanted the township to move forward with a Brighton Trails Master Plan. Ms. Cameron explained that the Town of Brighton needs to create its own General Plan. The trails are an important part of the town and it made sense to put some money into trails planning in the area. Mayor Knopp believed the town had some funds to put towards a Brighton Trails Master Plan.

Chair Knoblock noted that Ms. Wilson had joined the Trails Committee Meeting. He discussed the trails inventory and asked if there were any updates. Ms. Wilson commented that the user-created trail inventory had largely been completed last summer. This summer the Forest Service would look at the conditions and uses of various system trails. Chair Knoblock explained that Ms. Phillippe sent him a KMZ file with the user-created trails. He noted that some of the trails were on Forest Service land, some were on private property, and some were on service roads at the ski resorts. He suggested that the different trails be color-coded. Ms. Wilson confirmed that the trails could be color-coded for easier reference.

Further discussions were had about the Town of Brighton and the potential Brighton Trails Master Plan. He asked if Ms. Wilson had any comments to share. Ms. Wilson felt there could be overlapping efforts between what the Forest Service was trying to do and what the Town of Brighton wanted to do. She was hopeful that both sides would be able to work together. Ms. Cameron commented that maps had been sent to Marshall Alford and Beckee Hotze at the Forest Service. They could also be sent to Ms. Wilson. She noted that nothing had been done at the County level yet because the potential Brighton Trails Master Plan was still in the very early stages.

1. **Update on Watershed Management Plan.**

Chair Knoblock reported that there was no further update on the Watershed Management Plan.

1. **Review List of Trail Projects for this Summer and Identify Volunteer Needs and Opportunities.**

Chair Knoblock reported that CWC Communications Director, Lindsey Nielsen, suggested a list that would highlight ongoing summer trail projects. The list could be posted on the CWC website so residents were aware of the work that was taking place. Chair Knoblock shared the Central Wasatch Trail Projects 2021 document with the Trails Committee Members. It included the following trails projects:

* Bonneville Shoreline Trail between Big Cottonwood Canyon and Ferguson Canyon;
* Wasatch Crest Trail maintenance and reroute;
* Red Pine Lake Trail reroute in the upper portion;
* Desolation Trail maintenance between Mill A Basin and the Wasatch Crest Trail;
* Lake Blanche Trail maintenance;
* Desolation Trail bridge installation;
* Upper Pipeline Trail bridge installation above Elbow Fork;
* Rattlesnake Trail construction;
* Cardiff Trail Bridge and Boardwalk;
* Willow Heights Trail Bridges;
* Upper Pipeline Trail Construction in Millcreek above Elbow Fork;
* Butler Fork Trail bridge installation;
* Mount Olympus Trail reroute; and
* Snake Pit Trail widening.

Chair Knoblock discussed the Desolation Trail maintenance. He reported that it was being funded with $20,000 of CWC funds. There was one section where a minor switchback had been discussed. He asked Ms. Wilson if it could be built without having to go through a National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) process. Ms. Wilson explained that it would be taken to Mr. Alford or Ms. Hotze who would determine whether it could be done as part of general maintenance or whether it needed an outside process. Ms. Wilson shared information on trail projects outside of the Central Wasatch area. For instance, the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in Davis County would start construction this summer. Davis Creek Trail would also have a major reroute.

Ms. Bennett asked Chair Knoblock to share the Central Wasatch Trails Projects 2021 document with Trails Committee Members. She also suggested that the document include the estimated timeframe for each trail project as well as information about who had funded each trail project. Chair Knoblock offered to add that additional information to the document.

Ms. Cameron wondered if the Silver Lake Boardwalk should be added to the list. She noted that it was an important project for Big Cottonwood Canyon and work would begin in the summer. Ms. Cameron also wondered if the Geo Sign Project that was approved by the CWC Short-Term Projects Committee should be added to the list. Those signs would be added in the summer or very early fall. Discussions were had about the Silver Lake Boardwalk.

Chair Knoblock made note of volunteer needs. The Utah Conservation Corps would be working on the Desolation Trail maintenance. It was vital that they had enough drinking water. Some may be accessible at certain springs but the rest would need to be carried up in five-gallon jugs. He asked Mr. Goreham about possible volunteers from the Wasatch Mountain Club. Mr. Goreham explained that he would need to know the exact dates so they could be added to the activity calendar. Chair Knoblock offered to reach out and share the necessary information.

1. **Next Steps for Our Family-Friendly Hikes List.**

Chair Knoblock noted that Kirk Nichols suggested there be a list of short family-friendly hikes. This list could reduce some of the overcrowding at Silver Lake and Donut Falls. The Trails Committee had come up with a list that included 13 different trails. Some were already in good condition and others would need there to be some improvements made. Ms. Wilson asked that Chair Knoblock share the family-friendly hikes list with her. Chair Knoblock noted that he would share the list after the Trails Committee Meeting ended.

1. **Draft List of Trail Projects that May Proceed Before the Master Plan is Done.**

Chair Knoblock reported that the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan only mentioned two trails consisting of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and the Great Western Trail. The Forest Plan stated that the goal was to complete both of those trails within the forest area. Chair Knoblock shared a draft list of possible future trail projects with the Trails Committee Members. He noted that some of the areas were located on several different types of land, such as Forest Service land, Salt Lake City Public Utilities land and private land. The draft list included the following areas:

* Parleys Canyon to Big Mountain Pass;
* Millcreek Canyon to Lambs Canyon;
* I-80 exit to The Sheep Trail;
* The Sheep Trail to cell towers north of Parleys Summit;
* Brighton to Guardsman Pass;
* Lake Mary Trail reroute in the Brighton Ski Area;
* Pipeline Trail to I-80 across Grandeur Peak;
* Rattlesnake Gulch Trailhead down toward the Millcreek Fee Station;
* Z Trail to Neff’s Canyon;
* Ferguson Canyon Trail South;
* Yellow Fork Canyon to Butterfield Canyon;
* Twin Lakes Dam Trail reroute;
* Reroute on the Mormon Pioneer Trail;
* Little Dell Reservoir up to Little Mountain Pass;
* Blacksmith Loop from Little Mountain Pass; and
* Burr Fork to Killyons Canyon Trail.

Chair Knoblock hoped the list would continue to be built upon. He mentioned the Adopt-A-Trail program and commented that it was a possible way to focus on regular maintenance. Chair Knoblock also noted that Laura Briefer from Salt Lake City Public Utilities said that the number one priority for Salt Lake City was supplying drinking water that was adequate in terms of both quantity and quality. Recreation was a distant second. Chair Knoblock did not think that Salt Lake City would allocate significant amounts of money towards trail maintenance for that reason. CWC Executive Director, Ralph Becker felt that was accurate, but noted that Salt Lake City had always stepped up in terms of supporting trail work and trails. It was simply secondary to their primary responsibilities.

Mr. Becker believed the work the Trails Committee had been doing was impressive. He felt the challenge with the draft list would be getting approval and funding for the various trails and trail areas. However, the list would allow the Trails Committee to start thinking about next steps. Chair Knoblock stressed the importance of funding that went towards operations and maintenance.

It was noted that the Great American Outdoors Act (“GAOA”) was providing a lot of funding for the next five years. There was also the Land and Water Conservation Fund (“LWCF”) to consider. Mr. Becker wondered if the increased funding made it possible for there to be more maintenance improvements on trails. Ms. Wilson was interested in seeing how the upcoming projects would be selected and what kinds of work that money would fund. She felt the Forest Service would be able to make major improvements on the Silver Lake Boardwalk and larger infrastructure items with the GAOA funds. She hoped that once some of the larger projects had been taken care of, there would be more funding available for trail maintenance.

Mr. Becker commented that nearly every community in the State had benefited from the LWCF. He noted that it might be a good source to fund trail work. Chair Knoblock believed the priority and focus of the LWCF was for the purchase of land within the proclaimed Forest Service Boundary. He noted that Renee Flanagan had a long list of parcels that needed to be purchased for a variety of reasons. Mr. Becker stated that there were a lot of community parks and trails that had been funded through the LWCF as well.

Ms. Cameron asked about the Watershed Restoration Initiative. She wondered if there was funding for trails in that program. Ms. Wilson suspected that if the proposal included both trails and fuels reduction or another larger project, there would be. She added that the Recreation Restoration Infrastructure (“RRI”) grant was more focused on repair and restoration and would be a good source for projects like Butler Fork Trail and Lake Blanche Trail. Those areas did not need an entirely new trail but required a few weeks of labor to address various issues. Ms. Wilson explained that there were some good sources of funding that the Forest Service could pursue.

Further discussions were had about the LWCF. Mr. Becker reported that he had a list of funded projects from the LWCF. He offered to send that list out to members of the Trails Committee for review. Chair Knoblock felt it would be valuable to look over the list. He noted that it may trigger some ideas related to future trails funding.

Ms. Cameron brought up the Adopt-A-Trail program. She commented that the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation was doing a great job with that. Ms. Wilson explained that the Adopt-A-Trail program was paused last year due to COVID-19. Ms. Cameron felt it was important to encourage businesses to participate in the Adopt-A-Trail program. Chair Knoblock noted that he could reach out to the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation to see if they were interested in participating in the next Trails Committee Meeting.

Chair Knoblock asked about new Trails Committee business. Ms. Bennett reported that she interviewed Doug Fabrizio from RadioWest. It was for a segment related to the new trail development in the foothills. She felt it was important to consider the different reactions to trail development. Ms. Bennet noted that the segment would also include interviews with Brian Maffly from The Salt Lake Tribune and Daniel Schelling, who had formed an organization dedicated to the prevention of further trail development in the foothills. Ms. Bennett believed it would be beneficial for Trails Committee Members to hear the different perspectives. She commented that the City deserved a well-designed, implemented, and maintained trail system.

Kurt Hegmann shared a suggestion related to the Adopt-A-Trail program. He thought it would be beneficial if different high schools adopted their own trail. That might be a good way to focus on maintenance moving forward. Ms. Bennett agreed. She noted that some of the high school mountain biking teams had between 60 and 90 members. She liked the idea of having certain trails or pockets of trails affiliated with a certain high school, especially those that had biking teams. Mr. Shea noted that they could approach each of the high schools and see whether they would be willing to adopt a particular portion of a trail. The students could also take part in the fall or spring maintenance of that trail. Chair Knoblock noted that this could build a sense of stewardship.

1. **Adjourn.**

**MOTION:** Sarah Bennett moved to adjourn. Barbara Cameron seconded the motion. The motion passed with the unanimous consent of the Committee.

The Central Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

***I hereby certify that the foregoing represents a true, accurate, and complete record of the Central Wasatch Commission Transportation Committee Meeting held Thursday, June 10, 2021.***

Teri Forbes

Teri Forbes

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Minutes Secretary

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_