City Council  
Staff Report  

Subject: 2020 Central Wasatch Commission Update  
Author: Matthew Dias, City Manager  
Department: Executive  
Date: March 5, 2020  
Type of Item: Administrative

Summary Recommendation  
Receive an update regarding the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC), provided by Executive Director, Ralph Becker.

Executive Summary  
The Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) was formed as an intergovernmental entity to implement the strategies outlined in the Mountain Accord (MA). Since formation, the CWC created a new Executive Committee, 35 member Stakeholder Council, legally defined the physical area of focus, reinvigorated efforts to maintain an environmental dashboard, coordinated with UDOT on corridor transportation planning, and continued to push for Congressional legislation to protect the interests of the Central Wasatch.

Park City occupies a seat on the CWC, with Mayor Beerman representing the City’s interests.

This summer, Council reviewed a funding request for Park City to reauthorize its annual financial support ($100,000). Council considered the request and, ultimately, decided to continue the item until further notice and information could be provided.

Park City’s involvement in both the Mountain Accord and CWC has built and strengthened intergovernmental relationships, expanded regional planning and environmental programs, ensured Park City business and community representation on stakeholder committees, and overall improved our community’s standing and representation along the Wasatch Front. Regionally specific project benefits include, but are not limited to, the Valley to Mountain Alternatives Analysis/SR-224 Corridor Study, environmental and ecosystem monitoring, trail funding for UOP, and a master trail plan connecting the Wasatch front and back.

The CWC is seeking Park City’s continued financial support to continue their work.

Background  
- The MA was established in 2014 to build a public private coalition to settle decades of conflict over land use and other issues, and create a sustainable plan for preservation of the Central Wasatch Mountains. The effort included representatives from federal, state and local government, environmental advocacy groups, and private interests.
• Park City and Summit County were active MA participants, with Mayor Beerman on the Executive Committee.

• In 2017, the CWC was formed to implement the actions outlined in the MA and to continue the MA’s public engagement, transparency and consensus building.

• Originally, the CWC had a six-member board, which included Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Sandy City, City of Cottonwood Heights, and individuals representing UDOT and the Wasatch Back, respectively. Park City adopted an ILA with Summit County to set up a shared process to nominate a Wasatch Back Commissioner (defined by Interlocal Agreement). Both entities appointed Mayor Beerman to serve.

• In August 2018, Park City’s request, along with the Towns of Alta and Millcreek, was granted by the CWC Board and the legislative bodies of Salt Lake City and County, Sandy City, and Cottonwood Heights.

• The Valley to Mountain Alternatives Analysis/SR-224 Corridor Study assessed viable mass transit options for SR-224 between Kimball Junction and Park City. Led by Summit County, with support from PCMC, the study narrowed options down from 14 to 1 Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA). This study is required prior to entering into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which allows for federal transit funding. The study cost approximately $400,000 and was funded by the MA.

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Exhibits

A  Draft 19-2020 Base Budget – Additional information forthcoming from CWC Executive Director