

**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE  
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 13, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.  
Main Floor Boardroom  
Canmore Provincial Building  
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

**Present:**

Co-chair: Rick Blackwood Sustainable Resource Development

Secretary: Laurie Christiansen Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Members: Ray Andrews Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Mike Benny Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Tas Kollias Infrastructure & Transportation  
Dave Nielsen Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Param Sekhon Infrastructure & Transportation

Absent: Kevin Crockett Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Guests: Nigel Slater Team Lead, EarthTech – Item #4  
Jennifer Roste Water Treatment, EarthTech – Item #4  
Brandon Stearns Waste Water Treatment, EarthTech – Item #4  
Gloria Wilkinson Elbow River Water Management Plan – Item #5  
Don Cockerton Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture – Item #6

- 1) Review Minutes of September 11, 2007, Meeting (All)
  - Minutes were approved with minor changes.
  
- 2) Review of the Agenda (All)
  - M. Benny requested an addition to the agenda; #6 becomes “Water Licenses” and subsequent items are renumbered.
  - An update on Highway 68 paving by T. Kollias will be received under Roundtable.
  
- 3) Fortress Mountain: Update (R. Blackwood)
  - The five leases held by Banff Rail Co. concerning Fortress Mountain were cancelled on October 26, 2007.
  - A reclamation plan is due by November 15, 2007.
  - Removal of improvements from the site is to start November 25, 2007.
  - **Decision: Information provided as an update.**
  
- 4) Evan Thomas Water Treatment & Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades – Status Report (P. Sekhon)
  - The current treatment facilities were built in 1982-83 and the technology that was utilized at that time no longer meets the current standards.
  - Small upgrades have taken place during the past 10 years.
  - Increased visitation has increased demand for water and sewage treatment.
  - EarthTech was contracted by Alberta Infrastructure to study options for water and sewage treatment upgrades to the Evan Thomas plant.
  - The main issues are:
    1. Water – the need for increased capacity, including new wells and a new building to house the new system
    2. Sewage – A new biological system is being recommended and a new building may be required to house the new system. The old system includes equipment that is obsolete and replacement parts are no longer available.
    3. Water storage – Having enough supply on hand for fire suppression is crucial. Two locations are being looked at: one option is within the Kananaskis Village, Kananaskis Country Golf Course and Mt. Kidd sites; the second option is Nakiska.
    4. Regional system – the consultant is looking at the feasibility for two major systems with one at Evan Thomas and the second at Nakiska.

- The study looked at developing a new system to meet current and future capacities and regulations, as well as utilizing modern technology and regionalization where feasible.
- Regarding the water treatment upgrades, meeting current and future capacity and regulations were the primary concern. Upgrades are required to water treatment to ensure potable water. Recommendations are for a membrane filtration system, chlorination, and a larger reservoir.
- Fire suppression will also require upgrades to the reservoir and distribution system.
- Regionalization of the upgraded system makes the most sense and could be phased in without a disruption to services: Phase I – potable water upgrades; Phase II – fire water storage & regulatory upgrades, second cell of reservoir and piping; Phase III – Arterial (fire) distribution piping upgrade.
- Regarding waste water treatment, the Evan Thomas Sewage Treatment Plant serves the Kananaskis Valley. The current system is approximately 90 percent capacity with it maximizing by 2011/2012.
- In 2005, daily flows exceeded capacity several times during peak season.
- The current technology is 25 years old and cannot meet nutrient removal standards and replacement parts for the system are no longer available.
- The technology must be simple, expandable and meet the following needs: fine screening, silt removal, clarifying, second stage bio-nutrient removal, second clarifying process, UV disinfection, an additional digester, and onsite de-watering.
- As well the system must accommodate: septage receiving, lagoon lift station, chemical storage, office and lab space, instrumentation and controls, and HVAC systems.
- It will be a long process to upgrade with detailed designs taking 4 - 6 months, tendering 2 months, pilings and foundation 2 -4 months, and the construction component 6 – 8 months.
- **Decision: Item received as information at this time.**

5) Elbow River Water Management Plan (Gloria Wilkinson)

- Introductions were conducted.
- Gloria Wilkinson is the Steering Committee Chair for the Elbow River Water Management Plan (ERWMP) and Co-Chair of the Bow River Basin Water Council (BRBWC).
- In introduction, the Technical Committee for the ERWMP pulled together all the hard science into a complete technical report over the winter 2006/07.
- The research looked at the Bow and Elbow rivers plus Nose Creek and pulled together all information.
- The focus of Phase I was water quality.

- The river areas have been broken into reaches and these have been used to make decision which could affect water quality around facility areas. As an example, bladders may be necessary under bridges to protect water quality.
- From the research 60 “reach specific” recommendation have been put forward in the management plan.
- It is the goal of the BRBWC that these recommendations will be part of the decision-making processes when managing facilities in watersheds.
- Throughout November and December, G. Wilkinson is making presentations to governing bodies as part of the Steering Committee’s “engagement strategy”.
- Fact sheets are being prepared which will be quick reference to the ERWMP.
- D. Nielsen commented that he has read the ERWMP and that following the recommendations of the draft plan will seriously limit the mandate of Kananaskis Country and there are facilities and programs will not be able to continue as they are.
- The specific concern raised relates to “no development in the alluvial aquifer”.
- D. Cockerton added that detailed mapping of the alluvial aquifer within Kananaskis Country has not happened and is not planned for. Existing facilities can remain. The goal is to reduce human impact on the river. Upgrades can include recommendation to limit impact.
- R. Blackwood added that SRD has a new hydrologist working to address issues in the Green Zone with regard to the alluvial aquifer.
- D. Nielsen added that the Land Use Order has a very broad definition of development, i.e. moving dirt and removing trees, which become an issue.
- G. Wilkinson suggested that the Steering Committee should obtain a copy of the Land Use Order to look at issues in the Green or White Zones.
- T. Kollias requested clarification regarding the hierarchy of decision-making bodies.
- G. Wilkinson offered that the Alberta Water Council was formed by Alberta Environment over two years prior. Eight Watershed Protection zones were formed and became partners with Alberta Environment in the “Water for Life” strategy. The management plans are viewed as decision-support tools. Compliance is voluntary. The various Watershed Protection zones have no decision-making authority, but hope to use moral persuasion to influence decisions. The goal is to provide science, tools, and recommendations to move forward with science.
- R. Andrews suggested that terminology between documents may be part of the issue and that common language is necessary.
- R. Blackwood suggested that a sidebar meeting with SRD, TPRC, and KID may be helpful to put together some comments regarding Kananaskis Country/KID.

- G. Wilkinson responded that the management plan is a work in progress and although the science is done the wording in the management plan is just beginning.
- **Decision: Presented for information.**

6) Water Licenses in Kananaskis Country (M. Benny)

- M. Benny raised the issue of water licensing within Kananaskis Country/KID, and that when a lease expires or is terminated the leaseholder water license is defunct and Alberta Environment won't reissue that license to another user.
- If the licensee is a contracted operator within KC/KID, then the license should be kept by KID/TPRC.
- Alberta Environment has the first right to pull back 10 percent of the license.
- The recommendation is to keep all licenses within the department, even if the lease expires or is cancelled.
- **Decision: KCICC concurred with this recommendation.**

7) Approved Draft Terms of Reference: Kananaskis Country (D. Cockerton)  
Provincial Recreation Areas Draft Management Plan

- This management plan addresses all areas within Kananaskis Country that are not part of other management plans, due to the location and facility types.
- Most of the area is in the Elbow Valley, Jumpingpound, and the south end of Kananaskis Country, with the exception of Bragg Creek Provincial Park, which will be included in this management plan because it is day use only.
- The Draft Terms of Reference have been distributed to the original planning team members.
- Open Houses are scheduled in Calgary and Bragg Creek the last week of November '07.
- At the January KCICC meeting revisions and comments from the Open Houses will have been incorporated into the Draft Terms of Reference, and approval of the Final Terms of Reference will be sought.
- R. Blackwood inquired regarding timelines.
- D. Cockerton responded that ads have been placed to announce the Open Houses. The Draft Terms of Reference will be posted on the website prior to the Open Houses to give the public an opportunity to review.
- D. Nielsen requested that Draft Terms of Reference to be posted also be circulated to KCICC, prior to the Open Houses.

- D. Nielsen stated the goal is to keep the process moving with the Draft Management Plan ready by the end of March 2008.
- **Decision: Item presented for information.**

8) KID Council Representation on Committees (M. Benny)

- (a) KCICC/KID Working Group  
The KID representatives on this committee are Dan DeSantis and Linda McNeely, with Ken Kelly and Jamie Tiessen as Alternate members.
- (b) KID Subdivision and Development Authority  
The KID representative on this committee is Dan DeSantis with Ken Kelly as Alternate.
- There remains a vacancy on KID Council in the area of Small Business Representative. The Minister has decided to leave this position vacant for now.

9) KCICC Approval of KID 2008 Fee Schedule (M. Benny)

- M. Benny presented the KID 2008 Fee Schedule and requested endorsement by KCICC.
- KID Council Motion #766/07 was distributed to the committee for review.
- KCICC is requested to endorse the fee schedule for the Development Permit Application process for KID. The fees will remain the same for 2008 as endorsed in 2007.
- The current fee schedule covers administration costs for the program. In 2006 the development permit fees also generated some revenue for KID.
- **Decision: KCICC endorses the KID Development Permit Fees, as per KID Council Motion #766/07.**

10) Roundtable (All)

M. Benny

- o An issue has been raised regarding the Elbow Falls maintenance yard. Previously ATCO was approved to utilize the yard for a temporary base camp for staff trailers. ATCO has now moved out. AIT has received a request from a local contractor to utilize the site for some shop work and to park equipment. The site is slated for demolition and reclamation. One building may be moved off site to Camp Easter Seals.

- Decision: Respond no to the request for contractor use of the site and move ahead with the demolition and reclamation.

D. Cockerton

- Requested an update regarding the MPB logging initiatives.
- R. Blackwood responded that Spray Lakes Sawmill is actively harvesting in the Barrier/Jumpingpound/Sibbald areas at this time. One group is encouraging a letter writing campaign against the process. The quality of removal is being stressed – only pine and spruce are being harvested, all else must remain.
- R. Andrews inquired if it's possible to obtain a brochure or and information item for the Visitor Information Centres? R. Blackwood responded that he will distribute the SRD fact sheet. The harvesting is starting in the Jumpingpound area and will move to the Mt. Baldy area last. Some work will take place behind the Tim Horton's Children's Ranch.

T. Kollias

- There is money available for some work on Highway 546 – approximate \$300,000.
- Approximately 12 km of paving is slated for Highway 68, starting at the Trans Canada and working west.

R. Blackwood

- Will send email updates to the committee regarding the SLS MPB logging in Kananaskis Country.

11) Next Meeting: January 15, 2008

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Squirrel Room**  
**Radisson Hotel & Conference Centre**  
**511 Bow Valley Trail, Canmore, Alberta**

Minutes approved by:

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Dave Nielsen, Co-Chair, KCICC

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Rick Blackwood, Co-Chair, KCICC