

**FINAL MINUTES OF THE SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-chair: Dave Nielsen Community Development

Secretary: Laurie Christiansen Community Development

Members: Bruce Atwell Infrastructure & Transportation
Mike Benny Community Development
Roy Campbell Sustainable Resource Development
Tracey Cove Sustainable Resource Development
Steve Donelon Community Development
Sandy Fisher Infrastructure & Transportation

Absent: Jim Allen Sustainable Resource Development
Ray Andrews Community Development
Rick Blackwood Sustainable Resource Development
Kevin Crockett Economic Development
Heather Sinton Environment
Russell Stashko Sustainable Resource Development

Guests: Don Cockerton Community Development
Carlos Vargas UMA/AECOM (#3)
Jerome Szabo UMA/AECOM (#3)
Don Gerlinsky Infrastructure & Transportation (#3)
Frank Walsh Camp Cadicasu (#7)
Michael Nelson Camp Cadicasu (#7)

- 1) Review Minutes of January 10, 2006, Meeting (All)
 - Minutes approved as written.

- 2) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - Agenda renumbered as follows:
 - #4 becomes #6, and part of the public meeting
 - #5 becomes #7, and part of the public meeting
 - #6 moved up to #4
 - #7 moved up to #5
 - Other items will be addressed under Roundtable.

- 3) Evan Thomas Water & Wastewater System Upgrades (UMA/AECOM)
 - Carlos Vargas and Jerome Szabo of UMA/AECOM and Don Gerlinsky from Infrastructure & Transportation were present for this item.
 - M. Benny provided background for this item. The Evan Thomas Management Plan identified that three small potential facility nodes. UMA was contracted to work with Infrastructure to determine if upgrades to the water and wastewater systems would be required. As well, new regulations for water and wastewater systems come into effect in 2010 and these need to be planned for with any system upgrades.
 - Jerome Szabo worked through a PowerPoint presentation.
 - As soon as any work commences, it is necessary for licensing purposes to demonstrate how the 2010 requirements will be met.
 - Recommendations for the current system are: a reservoir and upgraded piping to address fire suppression; the existing wells are acceptable according to current standards but the 2010 requirements will have to be met for licensing.
 - Utility costs will continue to go up and the need for increased water testing may also increase costs somewhat.
 - Water conservation will be looked at with treated water being utilized for golf course and Kananaskis Village grounds watering, with very little treated water being discharged.
 - **Decision: S. Fisher, M. Benny, and D. Gerlinsky to work with J. Szabo and C. Vargas to complete a summary of necessary upgrades and make recommendations to KCICC.**

- 4) 2006 Capital Refurbishment (M. Benny/D. Nielsen)
- During 2006/07 several refurbishment and modernization projects will take place, including: Bow River Campground, Elbow Falls Day Use Area, Heart Creek Day Use Area, Mount Lorette Ponds, and Wind Valley parking lot.
 - Also scheduled are five boat launches, paving at McLean Creek Store and Kananaskis Village Rim Trail, trail upgrades at Allan Bill, Mount Indefatigable, Sulphur Springs, and Tombstone.
 - Flood damage will be repaired at Allan Bill Day Use Area.
 - A detailed design will be developed for Fallen Timber and the South Ghost campgrounds.
 - Leveling, sign replacement, tables, and kiosks will be replaced where necessary.
 - Two playground replacements and two new picnic shelters will also be completed.
 - Water and sewer upgrades will see new dump stations at Barrier and Mt. Kidd RV Park, which will be completed before July 1, 2006. The water system at Bragg Creek Provincial Park will be de-commissioned. The house and shop at Bragg Creek will be surplused. Water system upgrades are underway at Elkwood, William Watson Lodge, Peter Loughheed Provincial Park, Bow Valley Campground, and McLean Creek Camper Centre.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information only.**
- 5) Sheep/Bluerock Management Plan (D. Cockerton)
- KCICC is requested to take a final look at the management plan, prior to it being released to the public for review and comment.
 - If members have questions, they are asked to confer with their department representative on the planning team.
 - The public will have three months to review the plan and submit comments.
 - Highlights since the last review: Gorge Creek Road will be closed to vehicles, and a trail head will be established at each end of the road with appropriate signage; the old ranger station assessment is still pending, with the goal to remove the buildings if they are not historically significant; Map 3 is due in a few days and will be distributed to the planning team.
 - **Decision: Submit comments to D. Cockerton by May 26, 2006.**

PUBLIC MEETING:

- 6) Fortress Mountain Development Proposal (Zrinko Amerl & Brian Smythe)
- Zrinko Amerl, Banff Rail Company, and Brian Smythe, Iris Environmental Systems Inc. presented the long term vision for Fortress Mountain Resort. Handouts were distributed to all and a PowerPoint presentation was reviewed.
 - The development goals for Fortress Mountain Resort are to create a sustainable resort while keeping environmental, economic, and socio-economic factors in check.
 - KCICC was given the opportunity to ask questions.
 - T. Cove asked if they wish to expand the ski area. Z. Amerl responded that because of the large terrain and vegetation there has always been some skiing outside of the formal ski runs. They will thin out some of the vegetation that has grown in these areas and blade the area (30 metres wide) to gain back that historically skiable area.
 - T. Cove asked about the film industry use of Fortress Mountain Resort, as this aspect was not mentioned in the presentation. Z. Amerl responded that they will continue to work with Sustainable Resource Development (SRD) regarding filming. The Alberta Film Commission values the site. Z. Amerl would like to learn the permitting process and the guidelines and regulations followed by SRD in order for Fortress Mountain Resort to eventually take over the permitting aspect for filming at the ski area.
 - M. Benny inquired as to whether or not an extension has been applied for or granted regarding the “grandfathering” of the chalet expansion project at Fortress Mountain Resort. Z. Amerl responded that they intend to build the chalet units which were approved in 1994. They will utilize the same footprint and have identical positioning as the original plans. He will be asking for an extension of five years, with groundbreaking to take place in two or three years.
 - D. Nielsen commented that summer programming at Fortress Mountain Resort is outside of the current lease agreement. Z. Amerl responded that the two are not linked. They will go ahead with the accommodation plans prior to pursuing summer use at Fortress.
 - D. Nielsen stated they would have to go through the ATRL (Alberta Tourism Recreational Leasing) process to determine if summer programming is both warranted and could be approved. Z. Amerl responded that there are about 600 acres available for summer programming such as hiking, interpretation and education, and mountain biking. The resort incurs about \$4-500,000 in expenses each year with summer shut down. Summer programming would off-set some expenses and would help to stabilize the resort, but it would not be money-making.

- D. Nielsen asked the time frame for development during the 10-year master plan. Z. Amerl responded that the development phase would be on-going.
- M. Benny asked if the 10-year plan includes a financial plan. Z. Amerl responded that yes it does. He took over the resort December 15, 2005, and the 2005/06 season was a write-off. Next season 2006/07 will be the first real season and they will work on building the business during the first three years. The break-even point is 100,000 visitors per year. Sometime in the second year they will take the possibility of summer use through the ATRL process. T. Cove cautioned that ATRL can take upwards of 18 months, on average. Z. Amerl stated they want no negative impact to the area. They would limit access during sensitive times for wildlife. It is okay if the process is long as they want to have a full 12 months to observe the wildlife movements. Brian Smythe stated summer 2006 will see both a grizzly bear study and a rare plant study taking place at Fortress Mountain Resort.
- D. Nielsen asked if Fortress Mountain Resort is in a position to get off the ground again. Z. Amerl responded that they are optimistic and will move ahead with the 10-year plan.
- **Decision: Item presented for Information.**

7) Camp Cadicasu: Relocation into Kananaskis Country (Frank Walsh & Michael Nelson)

- F. Walsh is Chair of the Board of Directors for Camp Cadicasu and M. Nelson is the Camp Director.
- Camp Cadicasu is located outside of Bragg Creek and serves 1,000 kids over an eight-week period annually. Last year part of the camp was flooded and the camp also experienced a fire. The camp is looking to rebuild and would like to relocate in the process and is seeking approximately 20 acres within Kananaskis Country. There are two potential sites that the camp would like KCICC to consider for lease for the relocation, but if these sites are not deemed suitable, the camp would like to work with Kananaskis Country to find a potential site.
- The camps are one week long with about 120 kids per week. The camp is a Catholic camp, but open to all denominations. The land the camp currently resides on is owned by the Catholic Diocese. The camp is a registered society. Younger kids are kept on site. Some of the older kids are bussed to staging areas for longer hikes or overnight backpacking trips. Trail riding is contracted out and kids are bussed to the horses. There are no horses kept on site.
- The goal for the camp is to be rebuilt on a new site by June 2007. There is insurance money available for this project and contractors on line to go ahead once a site has been found.

- Bragg Creek has grown and spread out and what was once a remote camp is now crowded by private property. The camp wishes to remain within one hour of Calgary and would like a remote setting to provide a rustic experience for the campers.
- The camp offers two programs: first, summer camps to provide outdoor experience to kids and second, the camp can be rented by non-profit organizations during the spring and fall.
- The base requirements for the camp are: power, road access, and natural gas would be nice, but propane is another option.
- The existing camp has expanded to over 15 separate buildings. The proposed new camp would be more concentrated, a low-frills camp offering an outdoor education/outdoor pursuits program.
- Site option #1 – West Bragg Creek, reclaimed Shell Canada site of approximately 7 acres of flat area which does have power within 1 km of the site. This site is just east of the gate into Kananaskis Country. One issue identified with this site is potential conflict with cross-country skiers.
- Site option #2 – is next to a subdivision which borders Kananaskis Country. There is a Devon well site which is being reclaimed. There are grazing leases in the area as well. Benefits are the power supply to the neighbouring subdivision and road access.
- **Decision:** SRD and KID will work with Camp Cadicasu to potentially find another site as KCICC has concerns with both site options #1 & #2. Keep in mind the Kananaskis Country Recreation Policy, 1999, and other guidelines.

8) KID Events Sign (M. Benny/B. Johnston)

- At the January 10, 2006, meeting KCICC endorsed the sign concept.
- As an update, the sign location has been chosen as south of Barrier Lake Visitor Information Centre. The sign will be “high” version.
- KID will own and maintain the sign, control the messaging, and determine which groups can access the sign. If no event is posted, then a KID message will be on the sign, (i.e. Block Parent Community).
- KID Administration is seeking potential grant money to assist with the construction cost.
- **Decision: Item presented for information only.**

9) Idle-Free Zone – Kananaskis (M. Benny)

- The Idle-Free Zone project is a federal government initiative which did have funding available initially. With the federal leadership change, the funding has been withdrawn but KID Council would like to go ahead with this initiative.
- The approved signs will be posted in 15 to 20 sites. KID Administration will work with the hotels and others to promote this program. Other

potential messaging tools include license plates and stickers for distribution from the VICs.

- The cost of the program is approximately \$2,000 - \$3,000.
- Suggestions: check with other Ministries for support of this project; Rotary may be able to assist as they produce the Kananaskis Country license plates.
- **Decision: Item presented for information only.**

10) Roundtable

B. Atwell

- This is Bruce's last meeting as he is retiring. Ralph Rolston is his alternate but whether or not he will be the designated replacement has not yet been determined.
- All congratulated Bruce on his retirement and thanked him for his commitment to KCICC over the years.

11) Next Meeting: July 11, 2006

Minutes approved by:

Dave Nielsen, Co-Chair, KCICC

Rick Blackwood, Co-Chair, KCICC

Next Meeting
Tuesday, July 11, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, Alberta