

**MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE  
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, January 9, 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: Mike Benny Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Kevin Crockett Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Sandy Fisher Infrastructure & Transportation  
Ron Henderson Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Tas Kollias Infrastructure & Transportation  
Dave Nielsen Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Absent: Heather Sinton Environment  
Ray Andrews Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture

Guests: Don Cockerton Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture (#5)  
Steve Donelon Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture  
Rob Berndt Spray Lakes Sawmills (#6)  
Christie Ward Sustainable Resource Development (#6)  
Joanna Buyers Sustainable Resource Development (#6)

- 1) Review Minutes of November 21, 2006, Meeting (All)
  - Minutes to be revised and distributed via email.
  
- 2) Review of the Agenda (All)
  - Additional Item (#3) KCICC Membership – requested by D. Nielsen.
  
- 3) KCICC Membership (D. Nielsen)
  - D. Nielsen requested each member confirm representation as set out on the KCICC organization chart as distributed.
  - S. Fisher noted that Param Sekhon will replace him upon retirement, and Don Gerlinsky will be Param’s alternate.
  - **Decision: D. Nielsen to follow up with Environment regarding its attendance at KCICC. Org chart updates will be made.**
  
- 4) Fortress Mountain - Update (R. Blackwood)
  - There are still several outstanding issues regarding Fortress Mountain opening this winter.
  - Ensuring public safety for those who ski at the resort is the primary focus for government departments involved in this matter.
  - The owner’s goal is to still have skiers on the site this winter.
  - **Decision: Update presented for information.**
  
- 5) Special Events 2007 (D. Nielsen)
  - D. Nielsen stated that Kananaskis Country, specifically the Kananaskis Village, has been identified as a potential site for a NAFTA leaders’ meeting in 2007.
  - If this site is confirmed, then issues surrounding security, maintenance, and facility operation will need to be addressed.
  - Fortunately, the experience of G8 in 2002, has resulted in templates which are adaptable to this situation as well.
  - **Decision: Item presented for information.**
  
- 6) Sheep Valley Protected Areas Management Plan - Update (D. Cockerton)
  - The Final Draft Plan was distributed for review.
  - Revisions have been incorporated following the public review period, which closed October 31, 2006.
  - Some issues raised through that process which have been addressed by the management plan are: Gorge Creek Road, R.B. Miller field research station, and grazing lease boundaries.

- A potential land swap in the Sandy McNabb area, would add land currently designated as forest reserve in trade for a piece of land at Volcano Ridge. D. Nielsen requested a formal proposal be drafted for review including detailed maps of the land parcels being discussed.
- **Decision: Item presented for information.**

### **PUBLIC MEETING:**

#### 7) Spray Lakes Sawmills (SLS) – MPB Control (M. Benny)

- Christie Ward, Forest Health Officer with SRD, presented information on Mountain Pine Beetle and its spread from British Columbia into Alberta. Learning from the experiences of BC, Alberta is being more aggressive in fighting MPB here, because the problem has far-reaching negative impacts.
- The MPB has flourished due to fire suppression (old, host trees), milder winters, and dry summers (reduces tree health) because dry trees have less sap cannot “pitch” beetles as well as healthier trees.
- MPB leave a blue stain fungus on/in the tree after using it as a host. The fungus inhibits water and nutrients from moving up the tree and the tree dies.
- The MPB Action Plan for Alberta has three strategies: Control (Beetle) Strategy, Prevention (Pine) Strategy, and Salvage Strategy.
- Control (Beetle) Strategy. In some areas Level 1 control is still feasible (removing and burning individual trees), but in many areas Level 2 control is necessary (harvesting an entire stand of trees or prescribed burns). This does not necessarily kill the beetle, but it does remove the host (old pine trees) which will impact beetle health and spread.
- Pine Strategy is to reduce spread and outbreak potential by reducing the number of susceptible pine stands to 25 percent in 20 years.
- Salvage Strategy kicks in when the infestation is beyond control. The focus moves to recovering dead/dying trees before the fibre is lost.
- SLS will be harvesting in two areas this spring/summer – Jumpingpound Creek and West Ghost. Approximately 1055 hectares (38 hectares/block) will be harvested in the Jumpingpound area for a total volume of 220,000 m<sup>3</sup>.
- West Ghost will see about 440 hectares harvested for a total volume of 100,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

- SLS will be hosting open houses to inform the public of these plans and to address any questions people have. The first is scheduled for February 1/07, to be held at the Cochrane Ranch House. A second open house will follow, if warranted. Advertisements have been on-going for several weeks in local area papers. It was suggested that ads should also be running in the Calgary Herald, if that isn't currently happening.
- Essentially, harvest plans remain the same, but some areas will be harvested sooner than originally planned, simply to address MPB in those susceptible areas.
- **Decision: Item presented for information.**

## 8) Roundtable

### S. Fisher

- o Sandy will be retiring in April 2007. Sandy may/may not attend the March meeting, depending on how transitions are going within his area.

### M. Benny

- o KID Annual General Meeting will take place Tuesday, February 6, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Kananaskis Village Centre - Charlie Beil room.
- o Infrastructure has put together a four-person planning team to work on the planning and design of the Evan Thomas water treatment and waste water treatment plant upgrades. The pre-development plans should be prepared by July 2007, so an update on this can be expected at the July meeting.

### K. Crockett

- o Tourism has been looking at "Learning Enrichment" tourism products, in conjunction with Community Development – Cultural Facilities & Historical Resources. An assessment tool has been developed to identify learning enrichment opportunities throughout the province. The project is moving forward to look at specific sites and opportunities at those sites. The consultant's report will be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year.

### R. Henderson

- o A question regarding MPB, how long will this work have to continue to keep numbers under control? R. Blackwood responded that the work will likely continue each year for 10 years. If a year is skipped, it can have extreme consequences.

D. Nielsen

- Community Development is now the department of Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture. The new department now includes Tourism, Film Commissioner's office, and Lottery fund programs.

R. Blackwood

- Regarding Spray Lakes Sawmills' Detailed Forest Management Plan, it was submitted to SRD early January 2007. There are some aspects that require revision.

9) Next Meeting: March 13, 2007

**Next Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Main Floor Boardroom**  
**Canmore Provincial Building**  
**800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, Alberta**

Minutes approved by:

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Dave Nielsen, Co-Chair, KCICC

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Rick Blackwood, Co-Chair, KCICC