

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

**Tuesday, July 10, 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:	Kevin Crockett	Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
	AJ Evenson	Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
	Ron Henderson	Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
	Tas Kollias	Infrastructure & Transportation
	Dave Nielsen	Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
Absent:	Ray Andrews	Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
	Mike Benny	Tourism, Parks, Recreation & Culture
Guests:	Doug Olson	O ₂ Planning & Design
	Karina Verhoeven	O ₂ Planning & Design
	Merinda Conley	Community Design Strategies

- 1) Review Minutes of May 8, 2007, Meeting (All)
 - Minutes were approved as written.

- 2) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - The agenda was approved as written.

- 3) Gorge Creek Trail - Opening (T. Kollias)
 - Members of the public are contacting AIT requesting that the Gorge Creek Trail be reopened to Volcano Ridge.
 - A letter writing campaign is underway with copies being sent to Ministers Goudreau, Morton, and Ouellette.
 - A briefing note should be developed to present a uniform position and be sent up from KCICC to the three Ministers who are being contacted about this issue.
 - AIT will support the recommendations in the Sheep Valley Protected Areas Draft Management Plan.
 - **Decision: KCICC to draft a briefing note and forward for use by Ministers Goudreau, Morton, and Ouellette.**

- 4) Barrier Lake Facility Node (K. Crockett)
 - Donna Poon (Tourism Development Branch) is working on an update of the 2003 Call for Proposal.
 - The Barrier Lake Facility Node will be developed prior to the other two facility nodes, but it will be made clear to any proponents that an additional two sites have been planned for in the Evan Thomas Provincial Recreation Area.
 - The Call for Proposal package will be available for review by late August, with the goal of a site visit in September and then a deadline for proposals in October.
 - A \$5,000 bid deposit will be required. This will eliminate those who are curious and ensure serious proponents only. The bid deposit will be returned if the bid is not successful.
 - **Decision: Information provided as an update.**

- 5) Evan Thomas Water Treatment & Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrades – Status Report (AJ Evenson)
- A consulting company, EarthTech, has been hired by Alberta Infrastructure to study options for water and sewage treatment upgrades to the Evan Thomas plant.
 - The report to Infrastructure is due by August 31, 2007.
 - Once the study report has been completed, preparing the appropriate funding requests will follow.
 - D. Nielsen asked whether Infrastructure is looking at the entire project at one time or if it is setting the terms of how the project is completed. AJ Evenson responded that the whole project is being addressed at one time versus a piecemeal approach.
 - Infrastructure is estimating six months for design work, so the project needs to get underway as soon as possible.
 - **Decision: An update on this project and report is requested for September 11, 2007.**

PUBLIC MEETING:

- 6) Conceptual Designs for 13 Kananaskis Country Sites 10:30 (D. Olson/K. Verhoeven)
- The first step with these projects is to get the sites on paper and develop conceptual designs, followed by detailed designs.
 - Once the detailed designs have been worked out and approved, then Request for Proposal documents are prepared and made available.
 - The cost of these projects is ridiculous and they will continue to climb.
 - Two main areas being looked at now are Peter Lougheed Provincial Park and Spray Valley; and the second area is the Bow Valley and Ghost Provincial Recreation Area.
 - The purpose of the refurbishment is to address growth issues, replace worn out infrastructure or repair what is viable for repair, and to ensure future needs are met.
 - Details were presented regarding: Elkwood campground, Lower Lake campground, day use area and group camp, Eau Claire campground, Chester day use area, Sawmill day use area, Mount Shark, and Sparrowhawk.
 - In the Bow Valley/Ghost area details were presented regarding: Willow Rock campground, Barrier Dam day use area, Barrier Lake day use and boat launch, and Barrier Lake upper day use area, Lac Des Arcs

campground and day use area, Widowmaker day use area, Canoe Meadows day use area, and the Ghost Reservoir campground and day use area.

- **Decision: Presented for information and feedback provided. Revisions to conceptual designs to be reviewed at a future meeting.**

7) Conceptual Designs for 3 Kananaskis Country Sites 11:30 (AJ Evenson)

- AJ Evenson presented UMA Engineering's work to date on these sites.
- Upgrades to both Sandy McNabb campground and Sheep Falls day use area are proposed for the same time period next year.
- Sandy McNabb upgrades may include: power, corrals, hitching posts, and, planned for in the future, a comfort station and amphitheatre.
- Plans for Sheep Falls day use area are similar to the refurbishment of Elbow Falls day use area to accommodate bus traffic and enhanced viewing nodes.
- Canyon campground and Bow Valley campground conceptual designs entail creating more sites and some sites specific for bike travelers.
- Conceptual designs seek to expand parking areas and ensure that the traffic flow is correct and the space utilized correctly with enhanced viewing nodes.
- **Decision: Submit comments back to AJ Evenson by July 31, 2007.**

8) Roundtable

K. Crockett

- o Restructuring of Tourism Marketing is taking place and Travel Alberta will now report to the DM of TPRC.
- o A group has been formed to discuss tourism development leading up to the 2010 Olympics, including a website to promote winter sporting events leading up to 2010.

T. Kollias

- o There has been interest expressed to pursue paving of Highway 68 by both individuals and the MD of Bighorn. What is the history regarding this road and is there any merit in pursuing this project?
- o D. Nielsen responded that this project was looked at years ago, but rather than having pavement in a poor state, a gravel road was preferred. It is worth discussing now.

- Within Kananaskis Country the Turner Valley Road would be a priority to pave. The interest in the Sheep area is growing and the intention is to increase visitation to the Sheep to relieve pressures in other areas of Kananaskis Country.
- The same could be said for the Jumpingpound, Sibbald/Highway 68 areas that the goal is to increase visitation to these sites.
- Decision: To include road surfacing projects in the Kananaskis Country Provincial Recreation Areas Management Plan as a means of long-term planning and to identify areas that will see increased visitation.

D. Nielsen

- A partnership has been established with the Crime Stoppers organization in a campaign called “Stop Green Crime” and has been developed as a means of reporting environmental crime. Offences that can be reported are poaching, removal of artifacts or flora and fauna, illegal cutting of brush or trees and hazardous spills.
- Significant capital funds have been received (\$5M) to redevelop Nakiska in support of training for 2010 Olympic athletes. As well a full refurbishment of Nakiska has been prepared to bring the facility back to its original mandate of 1986. The concept has been endorsed by the Department.

R. Blackwood

- Several outstanding issues remain with Fortress Mountain Ski Area.
- There is a high survival rate for the Mountain Pine Beetle (approximately 70 percent) and anything over 5 percent indicates an expanding population. There has been an aggressive outbreak at the BC/Alberta boundary, with beetles moving into Banff National Park and Kananaskis Country. The beetle flight takes place around late August and then the situation will be reassessed. The hope is for calm winds around the flight. On a positive note, the population appears to be declining in northern Alberta.

9) Next Meeting: September 11, 2007

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Minutes approved by:

Dave Nielsen, Co-Chair, KCICC

Rick Blackwood, Co-Chair, KCICC