

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 13, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.
Boardroom B
Canmore Nordic Centre
1988 Olympic Way, Canmore, AB

Present:

Co-chair: Rick Blackwood Sustainable Resource Development

Secretary: Laurie Christiansen Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Members/
Alternates Ray Andrews Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Mike Benny Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Ralph Rolston Infrastructure & Transportation
Loren Winnick Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Absent: Kevin Crockett Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Tas Kollias Infrastructure & Transportation
Dave Nielsen Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Param Sekhon Infrastructure & Transportation
Kevin Wilkinson Environment

Guests: Don Cockerton Tourism, Parks & Recreation – Item #3
Steve Donelon Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Peter Barr Alberta Trail Net – Item #8
Linda Strong-Watson Alberta Trail Net – Item #8

- 1) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - Item #7 should be in the closed session rather than the public session.

- 2) Review Minutes of January 15, 2008, Meeting (All)
 - Minutes were approved as written.

- 3) Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association: Trail Designation in Recognition of Don Gardner – “Gardner’s Expressway” (D. Cockerton)
 - In a November 15, 2007, letter to the Director of Kananaskis Country, the Greater Bragg Creek Trails Association requested the new “loggers loop” trail be named the “Gardner Expressway”.
 - Kananaskis Country is in favour of development of this trail.
 - This will be a groomed trail ready for next season and will be accessible from the Sundog and Crystal line trails.
 - The trail development is utilizing a former logging road which may be required again at some point in the future, if there is a timber need.
 - **Decision: Continue to work with volunteers to complete the trail. Naming the trail “Gardner Expressway” is not supported by the committee.**

- 4) Mountain Pine Beetle Update (R. Blackwood)
 - There has been a positive outcome from the rerouting of the TransCanada Trail work being done in conjunction with MPB control. The view while hiking is better.
 - Scarification and reforestation work will continue this spring.
 - Survey and control work will commence again for spring:
 - Some areas were missed in the last survey
 - There was low mortality over winter
 - MPB population expansion is likely
 - \$55 million in additional funding has been committed to MPB
 - May 17/08 the Minister of SRD, Ted Morton, will tour the area by helicopter
 - The prescribed burn planned for Mount Nestor will go ahead this year when weather permits, regardless of the peak season
 - “Beetle Bulletins” will be developed on a weekly basis
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**

- 5) Parks Capital Program (M. Benny)
 - The refurbishment budget for 2008/09 is \$9 million
 - The following paving projects will be completed:

- Evan Thomas Trail from the Kananaskis Village to Wedge Pond (12 kms),
 - PLPP:
 - Lower Lake Campground
 - Interlakes Campground road
 - Mt. Lorette Day Use
 - William Watson Lodge gutters and pathways
 - Tender packages will be available by May 23, 2008, regarding site modernization for:
 - Upper Lake Day Use
 - Elk Pass Day Use
 - North Interlakes Day Use
 - Highwood Meadows Day Use
 - This work is part of the budget and will go ahead if the contract is awarded
 - Phase II of the Highline Traverse trail in Canmore
 - New sign for Canmore Nordic Centre
 - Vault toilet replacements (<\$1 million)
 - Plans are in the works for a regional waste water treatment plant in the Elbow. Camp Easter Seals will tie into this facility through a Lottery Fund grant.
 - Trail refurbishments will take place in the Elbow and Sheep
 - R. Rolston added that paving Highway 68 within Kananaskis Country to the MD of Bighorn boundary will take place this fiscal year. Highway 40 in the Ghost and the Harold Creek Road are also identified projects, depending on funding.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**
- 6) Evan Thomas Water/Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrades (M. Benny)
- The conceptual design work for this project is complete
 - A briefing note has been prepared and sent to the Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation
 - Next steps:
 - Have this project committed to under Capital Projects
 - Undertake eight to nine months of detailed design work
 - Obtain budget approval and commitment for the project
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**
- 7) Kananaskis Country Provincial Recreation Areas Management Plan: Draft Plan Approval (D. Cockerton)
- A May 12, 2008, version of the draft plan was distributed. This version includes sites along the trunk road and in the Ghost/Waiparous area.

- Since the January meeting the Planning Team has met twice to continue work on the plan in order to have it ready for public review over the summer and into September.
- Highlights:
 - The format of this plan is different as tables have been used to emphasize management objectives.
 - Reclassify the Elbow Valley Provincial Recreation Areas to Provincial Parks, excluding McLean Creek – this was decided due to the existing infrastructure and the high visitation statistics
 - Old amphitheatres in the Elbow area enable interpretive programming to take place again
 - Interpretive signs at Elbow Falls could increase
 - Draft Management Plan for Bragg Creek Provincial Park will be a separate document, but will be released for public review at the same time as the PRA Management Plan
- Issues Raised:
 - Ice caves – Protection of site via this process or deal with independently? Must determine the classification that offers the most protection.
 - McLean Creek and off-highway vehicles (OHVs) that are visible across the river from Elbow Falls – enforcement is an issue due to the river. Designating some land as “Parks” and removing it from the FLUZ may address this issue. Decision: R. Blackwood instructed that it be noted within the draft management plan that SRD and TPR have identified the issue and will work towards a solution.
 - Move Ings Mine PRA to the current location identified on maps
 - Boundary amendments (≈2) are necessary to bring sites into alignment with roadways and allowances. Some noted are: Elbow Falls, Elbow River Launch, Station Flats, and Wildhorse Backcountry Campground
 - Future development of additional PRAs has been identified where there is a demand or will likely be a future demand
 - Ghost/Waiparous PRAs need to facilitate staging of OHVs to connect to the trail system
 - Dawson is identified as a day use site only and needs to be identified as a campground
 - Facility Areas for possible Fixed Roof Accommodation sites:
 - Lusk Creek PRA
 - Sibbald Lake PRA
 - Elbow Falls PRA
 - Candidate sites will be identified and public consultation will take place prior to any proposal call
 - Grazing/cattle management needs to be addressed

- Firepits – identify specific day use sites where firepits will be reintroduced
 - Four existing PRAs with either no facilities or almost no use will be turned back to forest preserve
 - PRAs need to be recognized as integral to trail use – staging area and must function as such
 - Need to educate the public that the landscape will change in the future due to the draw on resources – planning based on changing needs/requirements
 - Fisher folk have requested a new berm installed at Allen Bill day use to redevelop the fishing pond. Mention is made of this in the draft plan but funding is not being pursued
- **Decision: Comments and identified issues will be incorporated into the plan in the coming weeks. Comments due to D. Cockerton by May 27, 2008.**

PUBLIC SESSION:

- 8) Alberta Trail Net: TransCanada Trail Routing (Peter Barr & Linda Strong-Watson)
- P. Barr shared that he met with Loren Winnick and Bill Werry in Edmonton and it was suggested then that they present to KCICC.
 - Alberta TrailNet is the agent in Alberta for the TransCanada Trail (TCT).
 - The group is seeking support in routing the TCT from the Goat Creek Trail through the Spray Valley to the Elk Pass Trail, from which routing has already been established.
 - Those involved in this initiative have secured support from various jurisdictions and the timing is very good now to secure the routing through this leg of the trail.
 - Banff National Park (BNP) has endorsed/approved the portion of the trail that needs to be developed within BNP, including a fact sheet.
 - Challenges to be addressed with routing through the Spray Valley include wildlife, public safety, camping, services, etc. It needs to be feasible for people to get through the valley.
 - The goal is to route the trail through scenery versus the valley bottom.
 - L. Winnick stated that British Columbia is going ahead to the provincial boundary, it would be good for AB to deal with this now rather than having to play “catch up”.
 - R. Blackwood suggested a meeting of the various jurisdictions to start route planning.
 - **Decision: A working group will be initiated, including L. Winnick, S. Donelon, D. Cockerton, D. Schley, as well as a representative from Infrastructure and Transportation. The goal of the group is to work**

on the routing of the TCT between the Goat Creek Trail and the Elk Pass Trail in Kananaskis Country.

9) Roundtable (All)

S. Donelon

- Working on an amendment to the OC for Bow Valley Wildland Provincial Park and need confirmation from SRD regarding lands being added to the wildland park.

L. Winnick

- A trail mapping exercise is underway (initiated 18 months ago) to map Alberta. The pilot project started with mapping the Northeast part of the province. Tourism provided some funding and assistance with coordinating the project. Next three additional maps will be produced and Tourism is providing \$100,000 in funding towards this phase. Trail etiquette is being promoted and sensitive areas or areas that don't have a volunteer network for maintenance are not being promoted on the maps.
- R. Blackwood raised a concern regarding the Southwest. The grizzly bear recovery plan will change use in this area of the province in the coming few years.
- S. Donelon offered that "Map It First" is a digital mapping program available for desktop use. There is a huge inventory of maps available.

R. Rolston

- Inquired regarding a decision on the Gorge Creek Trail.
- R. Andrews responded that TPR is awaiting Ministerial approval of the Sheep Valley Protected Areas Management Plan. Permanent closure of the trail is recommended in the plan and has department support.

R. Andrews

- Routing the TransCanada Trail through the Spray Valley will be challenging. The grizzly bear recovery plan could have an impact that isn't foreseen at this point.
- Mount Nestor Prescribed Burn is a priority for this year. The burn will go ahead when the weather permits, regardless of the season.
- Staffing levels are good for the peak season.
- Requested an update on gabions at Grassi Lakes from R. Rolston. Attempts to keep people away from the area is not working the hazard needs to be dealt with. R. Rolston replied that a consultant has looked at the site and does not see it as a huge hazard. R. Andrews responded that the site cannot

be opened with the gabions as they are, according to Risk Management and Insurance. Infrastructure and Transportation must address this issue.

M. Benny

- Ian Britton has resigned from his position which impacts KID in terms of the Development Officer position and work being done on the Land Use Order. An ad is out to recruit to this vacancy. In the interim Leah Schmidek is handling development permit applications.
- The Tim Horton's Children's Ranch has ongoing water issues. They have hired a consultant to work towards a solution. In the interim, Operations Support has agreed to a temporary transfer of water use to TDL Corporation. This will assist them in moving forward with the modernization of the ranch while they look for an independent water supply. Water use is co-terminus with the lease.
- The Banff Rail Co. Ltd. filed a complaint with the Ombudsman's Office regarding the lease to operate Fortress Mountain Ski Resort. Papers were filed with the Ombudsman's Office in January 2008. Operations Support and KID provided initial information on May 8, 2008. Information relates to people involved, specifics regarding the role of KID and other agencies. Supplementary information will be provided next week to the Ombudsman's Office.
- Regarding KID Wireless Internet service, D. Nielsen, I. Britton, and C. Dubuc met with the service provider, Brant Jeffery of MyCanopy. This project has been approved. One tower will be installed at Mount Kidd maintenance compound and dishes will be installed at the Kananaskis Village. A solar system will be installed on Mt. Indefatigable to link with the FireNet system. This will provide wireless service only as neither Rogers nor Telus were interested in expanding cellular service.
- S. Donelon inquired about leasing and service contracts. M. Benny responded that the tower will be owned by KID or GOA and that it will be incorporated into the existing lease at the Mount Kidd maintenance compound.

D. Cockerton

- Sign-off is being requested of municipalities regarding the Bow Basin Water Management Plan and the Elbow River Basin Water Management Plan.
- R. Andrews responded that as KID does not have land authority this will need to be reviewed by both SRD and TPR.
- R. Blackwood will send an email to arrange a meeting to review both water management plans.
- M. Benny suggested a letter from ENV should be requested which indicates that these management plans are a guideline and not legally-binding.
- R. Blackwood to request such a letter from AENV.

R. Blackwood

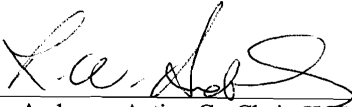
- An ERCB hearing will take place August 18, 2008, in High River, AB regarding Petro Canada's Sullivan and Savanna projects.
- Regarding Mountain Pine Beetle, the new Deputy Minister will be here touring on May 30, 2008, to see the work being done around Barrier Lake. It will also be an opportunity to see McLean Creek.
- July 30, 2008, the Minister of SRD, Ted Morton will be touring the area. It would be a good time for the TPR Deputy Minister to tour as well.
- The Discovery Channel would like to do a documentary on MPB in Kananaskis Country and they have been directed to J. Dennis.
- May long weekend in FLUZ is expected to be busy for RCMP, COs and the Sheriffs.
- The Land Use Framework will be out for public consultation over the summer with a deadline for review Fall '08.
- Data gathering is underway for a "healthy forest exercise" following the Vegetation Management Plan.


10) Next Meeting: July 15, 2008

- M. Benny requested a change to the next meeting date, due to the July 1st statutory holiday. Next meeting will be held on the THIRD Tuesday, July 15, 2008, rather than the second Tuesday.

Next Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
8800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, Alberta

Minutes approved by:


Ray Andrews, Acting Co-Chair, KCICC


Rick Blackwood, Co-Chair, KCICC