

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

**Tuesday, July 15, 2008, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-chair: Dave Nielsen Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Secretary: Laurie Christiansen Tourism, Parks & Recreation

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

Absent: Tas Kollias Infrastructure & Transportation
 Param Sekhon Infrastructure & Transportation
 Kevin Wilkinson Environment

Guests: Rob Wolfe Environment (teleconference) – Item 6
 Monique Dietrich Environment (teleconference) – Item 6
 Don Cockerton Tourism, Parks & Recreation – Item 7
 Rick Guinn Boundary Ranch – Item 8
 Eric Toker Toker & Associates – Item 9
 Dedre Toker Toker & Associates – Item 9
 AJ Evenson Tourism, Parks & Recreation – Item 9
 Merinda Conley Community Design Strategies Inc. – Item 9
 Stew Walkinshaw Montane Forest Management – Item 11
 Chris Miller Assoc. of Bow Valley Rock Climbers – Item 12
 Jamie McVicar Climbers' Access Society of Alberta – Item 12
 Nancy Hanson Alpine Club of Canada – Item 12
 Eric Hoogstraten Calgary Mountain Club – Item 12
 Janet Miller Assoc. of Canadian Mountain Guides – Item 12
 Al Black Mountain Equipment Coop – Item 12

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

- 2) Review Minutes of May 13, 2008, Meeting (All)
 - Minutes were approved as written.

- 3) Fortress Mountain Ski Resort Update (R. Blackwood)
 - SRD cancelled dispositions held by Banff Rail Co. Ltd.
 - There is an appeal period of six months following cancellation of a disposition
 - There is interest in the cancelled dispositions
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**

- 4) Mount Nestor Prescribed Burn Update (R. Blackwood)
 - Approximately 220 hectares of the proposed 1700 hectares has been burned.
 - Weather has not cooperated – cooler temperatures and greater humidity have hampered efforts. If the weather changes to hot and dry, another attempt will be made.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**

- 5) Mountain Pine Beetle Update (R. Blackwood)
 - The beetle flight has not happened yet – likely in the next week or so.
 - Surveys indicate the population is increasing and mortality is low.
 - High winds forecasted for predicted flight time would be a big problem.
 - Infected trees are being spotted in the Evan Thomas, likely coming in from the Spray Valley.
 - Approximately one year left for Level 1 control (single tree) then efforts will have to move to Level 2 control (stand removal)
 - Surveys have found trees that were missed in last year's survey
 - Regarding the Spray Lake Sawmills re-sequencing, the high-visibility work is done and work will continue further back towards the Jumpingpound Demonstration Forest
 - Very few trees spotted North of Highway 1; beetles seem to be staying South of Highway 1.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**

- 6) Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan & Elbow River Basin Water Management Plan: Update (R. Wolfe & M. Dietrich call in)
- AENV would like to obtain all signatures of endorsement of the plan
 - Concerns with the Elbow River Basin Water Management Plan (ERBWMP) for both TPR and SRD
 - Wording in the plan restricts development/redevelopment on the alluvial aquifer in the riparian zone
 - TPR has facilities within this zone and the plan would impact maintenance of these sites
 - M. Dietrich stated that the groundwater monitoring plan will lead to baseline data and the plan indicates best practices which will enhance water quality
 - D. Nielsen stated problem areas are downstream not in the facility zone
 - M. Benny asked what the use/intent of the plan is once it has been signed off.
 - R. Wolfe responded that it is a “decision-support tool” and will provide recommendations. Specifically, the Bow plan has 15 recommendations and AENV has a staff person working to achieve these recommendations
 - R. Andrews stated that the difficulties are with Section 5.2 and the Riparian zone and recommended that wording in this section be revised
 - M. Dietrich suggested rewording this section is unlikely as the Steering Committee has already been disbanded
 - R. Blackwood stated the wording may impact dispositions and further structure/definition is required
 - **Decision: A meeting is required to discuss further and to address the outstanding issues.**
- 7) Management Plan Updates (D. Cockerton)
- Sheep Valley Protected Areas
 - Kananaskis Country Provincial Recreation Areas
 - Bragg Creek Provincial Park
 - Approximately 30 comments have been received regarding the Sheep Plan
 - The opportunity to comment on the other two plans is open until the end of September 2008.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**
- 8) Helicopter Tour Partnership (R. Guinn)
- Due to food, beverage, and entertainment being the bulk of the Ranch’s business now, a proposal is being put forth to facilitate stops in coordination with the Rocky Mountaineer train, which would include both horse trips and helicopter tours.

- The rail trips both start and end in Banff and this would provide an opportunity to detour from the Banff – Calgary route for an additional outing for a few hours.
- Flights would be independent of the Rocky Mountaineer, but would be offered to their clients as well.
- Visitation for helicopter tours is expected to be approximately 40 people per day, with six per helicopter, and approximately seven helicopter flights per day. Approximately 8 – 10,000 people per year are anticipated on buses.
- A helicopter operator from Columbia Icefields is interested in a partnership. Flights would be short in duration (approx. 15 minutes).
- To accommodate this new venture, helicopter refueling would be required on site, plus development of two heli pads is required on-site
- A lease amendment is required.
- A development permit is required.
- **Decision: Proposal is supported by the KCICC Membership.**

PUBLIC SESSION:

- 9) Kananaskis Village Centre Upgrading (Eric Toker)
- AJ Evenson provided an overview of the refurbishment project for the KV Centre. A Request for Proposal for the planning and design was held and Toker & Associates was awarded the contract in February 2008. The final design is anticipated to be completed for September 2008, with the project being tendered in October 2008, funds permitting. Construction could then commence September 2009 and the facility will reopen in 2010.
 - E. Toker indicated two to three months has been spent on design, with the goals of meeting the needs of stakeholders, better utilization of space, utilizing “green” products and creating a sustainable design to ensure the facility functions well in coming years.
 - An engineering firm has been brought on to plan the mechanical, electrical, and plumbing aspects of the refurbishment.
 - A presentation of renderings was viewed.
 - M. Benny stated that the planning team has met with all stakeholders. Issues regarding program delivery and messaging have been addressed. KID Council will continue to use the lower level of the Centre in the short term. The building will be completely closed off during the construction phase.
 - Three lease-holders whose leases expire December 31/08, will have their leases extended until September '09, or until the building closes.
 - The goal is to have tenders in place and to pre-order materials prior to the construction close-down in order to eliminate delays.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**

10) Fortress Junction Service Centre – Fuel Tank Upgrades (M. Benny)

- M. Benny advised that the owner/operator of Fortress Junction Service Centre is considering replacement/upgrading the fuel tanks.
- The fuel tanks at the site are 25 years old and are requiring replacement. The existing tanks are underground, but research indicates above ground tanks are the way to go.
- Above ground tanks would also take into account the high water table.
- There is space available adjacent to the water treatment plant, but this area is outside of the current lease boundary and would require amendment.
- **Decision: Amend the boundary of the current lease to extend and ensure the tanks are on Parks land versus Public Land. Above ground tanks are to be installed. A development permit application must be submitted to the KID SDA for review.**

11) FireSmart Plan for Kananaskis Improvement District (Stew Walkinshaw)

- A FireSmart Committee was formed with representatives from KID, KES, Residents, Businesses, TPR, and two reps from SRD. The goal of the committee was to develop and maintain a long term FireSmart plan within the context of other existing plans.
- Additional committee objectives are to:
 - Direct/lead FireSmart initiatives
 - Public education
 - Community involvement
 - Develop partnerships
 - Ensure on-going funding through municipal and provincial funding plus grants
 - Present committee priorities to KID Council for endorsement
- In 2007/08 funding of \$50,000 was received.
- A FireSmart Plan has been built, drafted, and is available for review, with the primary goals of:
 - Reducing threat of wildfire to existing development
 - Reducing threat of wildland fires
- Recommendations were developed regarding “who?”, “what?”, and timelines for action
- A fuel reduction plan was developed and carried out at the Kananaskis Country Golf Course housing loops
- Kananaskis Country Recreation Association facilitated “Stewardship Days” with support and involvement of KES and KID to promote FireSmart
- Lower Kananaskis Lake Cottage Area (LKLCA) residents have been proactive by flagging trees requiring removal, removing trees on cottage lots and piling for pick up by KID
- Hazardous materials disposal has been made available at KES

- RedZone3 Software has been purchased/installed at KES which gives KES access to data from SRD (Forestry), and the Fire Officers are trained in its use
- Next Steps:
 - Final Plan and seek Approval
 - 2008/09 Grant application pending to fund:
 - Continued fuel reduction at LKLCA
 - Pre-attack plan development for Peter Lougheed Provincial Park Facility Zone
 - Resident, business owner, facility operator awareness
- M. Benny indicated there is a sign-off page on the Plan to ensure commitment
- A condition of receiving the first grant was to demonstrate how the money would be spent. In applying for further funding those goals need to have been met
- Initiatives are proactive and positive at the LKLCA and there has been development of a community strategy
- There is a need to identify the contributed services from the community, businesses, and operators
- **Decision: KCICC endorsed the plan as submitted and Co-Chairs will sign-off as required.**

12) Grassi Lakes – Highway Gabion Repair (Chris Miller, et al)

- The group gathered to express their concerns regarding the long term closure of the climbing area in the upper canyon above Grassi Lakes trail due to the slipping gabions above.
- The area is a critical one for climbers, with 200-300 climbers coming to the area per day on a weekend, and about 100 climbers per day on weekdays. They travel from all over and want to stay in the area and climb this canyon
- The pictographs in the canyon draw many hikers
- The area is one used for field study by U of C geology students
- The area has been closed for close to a year and people who want to access the area for climbing are going around the closure and climbing regardless of the hazard
- The climbing groups have done a lot of work to the area and want to be able to access it
- What are the plans for the area? How do we get it open again?
- R. Rolston responded that a consultant looked at the area last year in order to develop a strategy to deal with the slipped gabions
- Volkerstevin will remove the fallen gabions after which some testing of the area will take place to check stability
- A closure of a few days will be required when the actual work is taking place. The gabions will be pulled up and onto the road

- C. Miller asked to be contacted when the closure has been lifted. Also if future short-term closures are required, there will be greater compliance if he were contacted and spread the word to fellow climbers and groups
- D. Nielsen expressed appreciation to C. Miller and others for the work they have done to improve the area
- **Decision: Item presented for discussion purposes and communication of decision.**

13) Roundtable (All)

M. Benny

- o KID Council would like to ensure the KCICC/KID Working Group gets back on track. Next meeting scheduled for August 12, 2008, at 2:00 p.m., in Calgary.
- o No response from the Minister regarding KID Council's request to meet was disappointing.
- o Paving will go ahead at Lower Lake, Interlakes, and Eau Claire campgrounds as well as Mt. Lorette Ponds day use area.
- o PLPP Day Use Site Modernization projects are underway. Sites will be closed during the construction. There will be two crews working so that there is always one facility open during this project.

D. Cockerton

- o A planning group with staff from SRD and TPR is looking at sites for potential development sites in East Kananaskis for additional camping/hiking opportunities

K. Crockett

- o Is there an update on the Evan Thomas Water/Sewage Treatment Plant?
- o Infrastructure has placed this project on its "Super A List" to try to secure funding for the detailed design of the project.

R. Blackwood

- o Requested a meeting to further discuss the potential campground/trail design in East Kananaskis.
- o Petro Canada will be drilling next to Plateau Mountain. They are also rebuilding the approach to existing well sites.

L. Christiansen

- o Request that meeting minutes can be approved via email in order to expedite processing and posting on the website. Approved.

R. Andrews

- Parks Day will be held in Willow Rock Campground, in Bow Valley Provincial Park, on Sunday, July 20, 2008, between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. The theme this year is the 30th Anniversary of Kananaskis Country.

D. Nielsen

- Question for R. Rolston, has work commenced on paving Highway 68? Not paving yet, but there is a crushing unit working on Highway 68.
- Camp Cadicasu needs to comply with FireSmart planning at the new site.

14) Next Meeting:

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

Minutes approved by:

Dave Nielsen, Co-Chair, KCICC

Rick Blackwood, Co-Chair, KCICC