

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-Chairs:	Dave Hanna Ross Spence	Tourism, Parks & Recreation Sustainable Resource Development
Recorder:	Laurie Christiansen	Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Members/ Alternates	Shawn Polley Ralph Rolsten Param Sekhon Loren Winnick Joey Young	CAO, Kananaskis Improvement District Transportation (for F. Lee) Infrastructure Tourism, Parks & Recreation Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Absent:	Louella Cronkhite Fred Lee	Environment Transportation

Guests:

- 1) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - Approved

- 2) Review of Minutes (All)
 - The January 17, 2012, minutes were approved as written and signed off

- 3) RCR Twin Creek Discussion (J. Young)
 - In follow up to the RCR presentation at the January KCICC meeting, the proposal was reviewed by a sub-committee.
 - J. Young distributed the sub-committee's report and presented the issues discussed by the group.
 - As the Evan-Thomas Provincial Recreation Area Management Plan (ET PRA MP) is not yet up for review (2014), and a formal process was part of the development of the plan, it is challenging to assess this proposal as it extends the ski area beyond established expansion boundaries
 - Advantages of proposed expansion:
 - Recent upgrades and expansion will increase visitation
 - Enhanced beginner skier program is proposed
 - Mid-Mountain Lodge is currently underutilized
 - Direct value to KID: increased users=increased economic spin-offs to other businesses in the Kananaskis Valley=increased benefits to KID
 - Challenges of proposed expansion:
 - Conflicts with the ET PRA Management Plan
 - An approved expansion area was defined in the ET PRA MP
 - Expansion into this Preservation Zone requires legislative changes
 - Wildlife sensitive area: Bighorn sheep lambing area, bear habitat
 - Above tree line: road/snowmaking – visual, access to next ridge
 - Hunting regulations will require amendments
 - Discussion of process and whether or not the ET PRA MP would require complete review at this time, or if an amendment could be made to address this proposal.
 - If RCR were to stay within the approved expansion area, the process of review would be much quicker than opening the MP to a full review. It is not possible to change one area of the MP without a full review.
 - **Decision: Communicate with RCR via KCICC. As TPR is the land manager, TPR will draft the response. Present timelines for processes, indicating that limiting the proposal to the approved expansion area will be a quicker process than reopening the MP, and requiring legislation/regulation changes. Response to RCR by 31 March '12, with M. Roycroft to sign letter as A/Regional Director.**

4) Spray Lakes Road Closure (D. Hanna)

- Due to avalanche control and blasting the road was closed for 2 ½ days.
- This has huge implications for businesses operating in the area – guiding and especially the dog sledding companies, who have been extremely upset
- The sled dog industry has indicated they can lose up to \$50,000/day when the road is closed
- Public safety is the number one concern from TPR perspective
- There are also natural releases that take place; not all closures are due to avalanche control
- Recent controls saw the snow reach the Grassi Lakes trail, taking out a guard rail on the road
- It is necessary to have quick response and get the road cleared as soon as possible after these closures
- **Decision: Item presented for information. Complaints are expected from the public and businesses due to the recent closure.**

5) Sheep Ranger Station Update (J. Young, R. Spence, D. Hanna)

- Historical Resources is not interested in this site.
- **Decision: R. Spence to action decommissioning of the site.**

PUBLIC SESSION: Start at 10:30 a.m.

6) Roundtable

o Joey Young

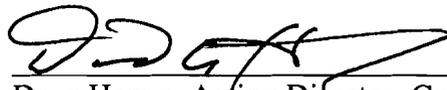
- SSRP Open Houses have been postponed in to June or July
 - RAC advice extended to workbook and public on-line components
 - RAC review of private lands has been completed and the property rights report is complete
- LUF/P4P
 - Coordination with Regional Parks Plan regarding access planning, roads, capital infrastructure projects
- Integrated strategic management will go ahead
 - In year 2 of 3 of funding for modernizing facilities and recreational opportunities
 - Identify projects and set priorities to meet goals
 - Kananaskis Region sees 40 – 50 percent of provincial use
 - There are about 40 projects identified: group use, staging areas, infrastructure (roofing, roads), some plans already exist and have been waiting for funding

- Group use areas are a focus for both day use and overnight camping – revenue generation
 - Update for information. Request that J. Young send out the report to KCICC.
 - With Kananaskis Region within 100 km of huge population growth, increased use and demand is inevitable. Facilities are at capacity and some over capacity already.
 - Some areas are ideal for expansion while in other areas increasing density is unfavourable.
- R. Spence
- Prescribed burns are planned for Buller and Galatea
 - Mountain Pine Beetles are at endemic numbers according to spring surveys
 - Spray Lakes Sawmills (SLS) are now done harvesting in McLean Creek and Jumpingpound and are hauling
 - West Bragg Creek harvest plans are being developed. SLS is developing a mitigation strategy and will have open houses to address public concerns. Plans are due by April 1/12, with harvest taking place July/August.
- Loren Winnick
- SSRP – Recreation Tourism Inventory Project – same boundaries as LUF – LARP and SSRP. O₂ is doing a recreational site inventory
 - Tourism Levy – funding from this will pay to do the whole province with website inventory data available to the public
 - Grow Alberta – Rural Tourism Conference – recreation and tourism them to grow the market in Alberta, promote recreational opportunities, Travel Alberta marketing sustainable tourism with municipalities
- S. Polley
- KID Council, Alberta at Large member being recruited through Executive Search. Four interviews were conducted with two candidates being “short listed” and currently the required follow up is taking place. This position will soon be filled, as the recommendation goes forward.
 - Request KCICC membership review the KID Land Use Order as there is a checklist in the LUO for reviewing development permit applications.
- R. Rolston
- Gravel crushing is complete and there is a 30 year supply.
 - Spring seeding will take place.

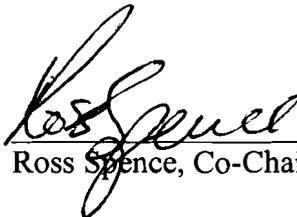
- Spray Lakes Road – safety work continues. Concrete barriers have been installed by Whiteman Pond and speed signs are in place
- o Dave Hanna
 - Approval has been given to close Canyon campground during the Pocaterra Penstock construction. Construction noise, dust, traffic, will all create complaints to the Facility Operator if the campground is open to the public
 - WWL – visioning and redevelopment plans have been developed. The current facilities are 25 years old, are showing wear, and do not meet current standards. Two buildings will be replaced. Once concept designs are complete, they will be brought to KCICC.
 - J. Young indicated this may tie in with other capital work, i.e. roof replacements
 - CNC – Frozen Thunder – sponsorship from WinSport and “Own the Podium” to cover costs
 - Steve Donelon continues in Edmonton. The Executive Director position will soon be posted for recruitment
 - M. Roycroft will be Acting Regional Director for the next meeting

7) Next Meeting: May 8, 2012

Minutes approved by:



Dave Hanna, Acting Director, Co-Chair, KCICC



Ross Spence, Co-Chair, KCICC