

**MINUTES OF THE 49th MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, May 13, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-Chairs: Mark Storie Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Darryl Johnson Environment & Sustainable Resource
Development (via telephone)

Recorder: Laurie Christiansen Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Members/: Dave Hanna Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Alternates Fred Lee Transportation
Shawn Polley CAO, Kananaskis Improvement District
Param Sekhon Infrastructure
Ross Spence Environment & Sustainable Resource Development
Joey Young Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Absent: Paul Radchenko Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Rob Simieritch Environment & Sustainable Resource Development

Guests:

- 1) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - Two items were added to the non-public session.
 10. Evan Thomas water treatment plant
 11. Evan Thomas septage receiving system

- 2) Review of Minutes (All)
 - The March 11, 2014, minutes were approved as written.

- 3) Bragg Creek Emergency Access Route (R. Spence)
 - ESRD has been contact by MLA Ron Casey about developing an emergency access road for Bragg Creek residents. The proposal is use the Spray Lakes Sawmill (SLS) haul road through the PRA to Homestead Road. Roadway will require upgrades to be used as an emergency access road.
 - Potential emergency issues: fire, flood, sour gas leak, etc.
 - Road would be closed by a locked gate and only open if an emergency situation warrants access.
 - This emergency road was identified in the West Bragg Creek (WBC) All Season Trail Plan, which has been approved.
 - Conceptual plan for the WBC parking lot is pending.
 - SLS intends to reclaim this road over the summer if not needed as an emergency access road.
 - MD of Rocky View will need to have surveys done and apply for development to secure this access.
 - **Decision: Provided for information.**
 - **Action: R. Spence to follow up with the proponent and direct them to KCICC if they wish to go ahead. R. Spence to forward a map of the proposed route.**

- 4) Review of Gruel Events Ltd. Proposal (J. Young/All)
 - A detailed review of the proposal was done by Joey Young, Jon Jorgenson, and Melanie Percy to address planning/wildlife/ecological impacts of this proposal.
 - A draft letter and draft briefing note have been prepared for review.
 - Review of the b/n indicates several issues with this proposal in this area, including:
 - Proposal is not consistent with prescribed land uses of the Wildland Provincial Park, Public Lands designations, Town of Canmore land designations, or the NRCB decision of 1992, and is inconsistent with the BCEAG guidelines of 1999 and 2012.
 - Public safety issues regarding wildlife as this is a regional habitat patch frequented by elk, sheep, black bear and grizzly bear, and cougars.
 - Review of the letter to the proponent recommended some wording changes.

- Redraft of letter will be signed by both Co-Chairs and sent by the end of the week.
 - **Decision: Joey Young to revise draft documents as directed. Briefing note to be recirculated for review/approval. Letter to be revised and sent by the end of the week.**
 - **Briefing note to include: maps, BCEAG documents, Land Managers map, lease. B/N will be forwarded to ADMs of both TPR and ESRD.**
- 5) SSRP Development Update (D. Johnson)
- Priority planning and completion of pending plans are the focus.
 - Pending plans include “Recreation Management Plan” and the “Ghost-Waiparous Management Plan”, with a July timeframe for approval by Cabinet. These plans will be implemented concurrently.
 - Priority Planning includes:
 - Biodiversity Task Team Management Framework due by the end of July.
 - Lafarge expansion – Land Use Secretariat is meeting June 2/14. Lafarge is seeking an amendment to the boundaries in SSRP to accommodate expansion.
 - **Decision: Item presented for information.**
- 6) GoA Flood Resilience and Mitigation Program (D. Johnson)
- Potential mitigation projects in the area were presented:
 - Springbank off-stream storage
 - City of Calgary tunnel from the Elbow River to Glenmore Reservoir
 - McLean Creek dry dam
 - The first two projects are being considered by the McLean Creek dry dam is ‘on the shelf’. Potential projects will be revisited at the end of June. All are hugely controversial and impact infrastructure.
 - SSRP proposal are impacted by these mitigation projects (i.e. expanded PRAs)
 - Other impacts: new highways will require extensive work/bridges at huge cost, lost grazing/forestry/recreation opportunities, property assessments and reduced taxation to KID, FMAs, sub-surface leases, etc.
 - A new program is being introduced – non-infrastructure funding of \$21M/3 years
 - Focus will be conservation/restoration/securing of wetlands and riparian areas
 - Overall watershed health is reduced by the magnitude and frequency of flood events
 - Program to work to restore watershed health
 - Rob Simieritsch will be the lead on this program.
 - **Decision: Presentation for information purposes.**
 - **Action: Joey Young to share link to report.**

- 7) FISHES and Backcountry Trails Restoration Programs (D. Johnson)
- FISHES stakeholder meeting April 3/14. Hiring staff and the program is moving forward.
 - Trails program – staff have been hired and are currently in training with TPR staff at ‘boot camp’. Following training, crews will be on the ground.
 - **Decision: Presentation for information purposes.**

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

- 8) KCICC/KID Council Orientation, June 17, 2014 (S. Polley)
- KID invitation to KCICC members (Mark Storie, Darryl Johnson, Param Sekhon, Fred Lee, Paul Radchenko) to present at the upcoming session on June 17/14.
 - Council would like to hear about interdepartmental work impacting KID through a presentation and provision of handouts.
 - KID Council is developing its five year Strategic Plan.
 - Topics to address: Business Plan, immediate plans in KID, flood recovery topics, Ministerial direction, SSRP, initiatives that KID can support, impacts of initiatives on KC/KID, Plan for Parks, Results Based Budgeting, Regional Trails Plan, KESC, ETWWwTP, Hwy 40, rumble strips, etc.
 - **Decision: Presentation for information purposes.**
- 9) Lower Kananaskis Lake Cabin Area Concerns (S. Polley)
- Cottage area KID Council rep, Arnold Hoffman has asked that S. Polley bring forward at KCICC concerns the cottage owners have regarding the disposition renewal process. There are currently 60 leases requiring renewal prior to 2016.
 - The request is put forward for ESRD to notify the cottage owners with pending dispositions of the current status of those pending and those to be done before 2016.
 - There is a huge backlog of assignments being held up in Edmonton (3,000+).
 - Inspections are required prior to renewals, regardless of renewal dates. Only those assignments which are impacted by sale or remortgage are being done at this time.
 - Requested that cottage owners deal with local office (Calgary) rather than contacting the Minister’s Office.
 - If a lease has expired, the cottage owner will be invoiced monthly and the same conditions will apply as when the lease was in place.
 - **Decision: Presentation for information purposes.**

- **Action: S. Polley will send an email to R. Spence and R. Spence will respond to the cottage owners.**

10) Evan Thomas Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWwTP)

- The Kananaskis River watercourse has been altered by the flooding and has created an issue where the sewage outfall (treated effluent) enters the river.
- The river is also scouring the bank and there is only approximately 3 metres to expose the water line to the Kananaskis Village.
- This is a DRP program eligible cost.
- Engineers have looked at options for addressing the issues and it was determined that rechanneling the river to its pre-existing location is the best choice, plus construction of a berm, and additional armouring of the river once the channel has been returned.
- Cost of project is approximately \$200K and is moving through the necessary approvals for a construction window in August 2014.
- Risks of not proceeding include: risks to water/utility/sewage services, no water to Kananaskis Village, sewage discharge, risk to telecommunications services, power is temporarily over-head and returning this to underground is the goal, which could not be done.
- **Decision: Request for approval to the concept plan. All were in favour of proceeding.**
- **D. Hanna to have Ecology group review Environmental Assessment.**
- **Prepare for potential high spring run-off – Plan B – have rock/equipment available to divert run-off.**

11) Evan Thomas WWwTP Septage Receiving

- Proposal to deal with septage collected from campgrounds and cottage area at the ETWWwTP, which was not initially planned for at this site.
- It is an opportunity for TPR and KID.
- An RFP would add this scope to the operation of the ETWWwTP. Septage could be treated at the plant which will be on-line at the end of July.
- Requesting that TPR seek approval from the Deputy Ministers of TPR and INFRA to issue an RFP for addition to the site.
- KID would contribute \$150K to the project.
- This would include a change in the contract to EPCOR which operates the site.
- Trucking takes place between June 1 and October 15 with 15% the first week of June and 85% mid-late October. The golf course has concerns with trucking past the course. It may be possible to mitigate for this by planting trees. Ensure the golf course is advised of any changes and manage timing of trucking.

- EPCOR has typically not been involved in P3 projects and so any changes to the contract will have to be carefully negotiated.
- Cottage area would no longer be approved for septic fields – only holding tanks for water/grey/black to be trucked away.
- **Decision: S. Polley to prepare both a letter and briefing note to be forwarded by KID to the Deputy Ministers of TPR and INFRA. Confirm costs in b/n and consult with the golf course on proposal.**

12) Roundtable (All)

- o D. Hanna
 - Heads up regarding spring melt as the snowpack in 2013 was approximately 110% and this year is estimated to be 125 – 140%.
 - GPS collars – 10 new for grizzly bears.
 - P. Sekhon asked about Highwood House repairs. Tenders are out for reconstruction of the site. Hoping for a mid-summer reopening.
- o R. Spence
 - WBC
 - 20 piles are remaining for mulching – not burning these
 - Class action suit by the residents of Bragg Creek regarding smoke issues
 - FMA
 - Renewals ongoing with Spray Lake Sawmills
 - Discussions needed with TPR regarding Appendix B and the clause regarding harvest/utilize/salvage. There is an option to charge if they utilize/salvage the wood.
 - Recreation Enforcement
 - There won't be any Public Land enforcement wage staff this year
 - Will be talking with D. Hanna about assistance on Public Lands from COs
- o P. Sekhon
 - Evan Thomas Water Waste-water Treatment Plant – work is close to 85 percent complete. Behind schedule due to flooding. Bringing on the new plant in stages. EPCOR is pursuing a corridor for services in various areas including Canmore/Banff.
 - Suggest KCICC tour the facility on June 17/14, after the KID session.
- o D. Johnson
 - Interviews are being done for Senior Manager and Program Manager positions.

- Announcements should be made in short order, finalizing the management structure of the South Saskatchewan Region.
- S. Polley to D. Johnson – wondering about funding for the bear aversion program. ESRD is waiting to hear the final cost and reviewing the risk management of the program but funding is expected.
- F. Lee
 - Parks contacts are Perry Roberts and Rick Nash. Work is continuing well.
 - Elbow River bridge work is complete.
 - Highway 40 will be open right through but there will be one-lane through construction area.
 - Forestry trunk road was open through to Carrot Creek in the winter. Now 19kms closed again. Hoping to have it open again by mid-June for interim traffic.
 - Hwy 532 – work is on-going with the hope of completion by late June, early July
 - Gorge Creek – culverts will be replaced with larger sizes
 - D. Hanna – Gorge Creek slump – need to store material somewhere
 - D. Hanna – Etherington issues – lost access to group campground and day use. Indian Graves opened this a.m. Need information/lead time of a week for any openings in order to have the sites ready for the public.
- J. Young
 - Debbie Mucha, Flood Recovery Planner commences May 20/14, and will be in touch regarding priority sites in the Evan Thomas and East Kananaskis.
 - Social science strategies will look at visitation numbers, where people go, and what they do in East Kananaskis. Seeking opportunities to increase information about these areas.
- M. Storie
 - Flood Recovery – Close to fully staffed with new positions for flood recovery. Outstanding are technologist positions with the Infrastructure group.
 - Flood recovery website now includes the interactive map.
 - Complete/near completion of mitigation work on Ribbon Creek, Evan Thomas Creek, and King Creek. Design work is being done on Etherington Creek as well as design work on the campground and day use area.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

- 13) Next Meeting: September 9, 2014, 9:30 start
 Main Floor Boardroom
 Canmore Provincial Building
 800 Railway Avenue
 Canmore, AB

Minutes approved by:



Mark Storie, Co-Chair, KCICC



Darryl Johnson, Co-Chair, KCICC