

**MINUTES OF THE 51st MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 18, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.
Meeting Room 'A'
Canmore Nordic Centre Day Lodge
1988 Olympic Way, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-Chairs: Mark Storie ESRD – Parks Division
Darryl Johnson ESRD – Operations Division

Recorder: Laurie Christiansen ESRD - Parks

Members/: Dave Hanna ESRD - Parks
Alternates Fred Lee Transportation - Operations
Shawn Polley CAO, Kananaskis Improvement District
Paul Radchenko Culture & Tourism – Tourism Division
Ross Spence ESRD – Operations – Land & Range Manager

Tele conf: not used

Absent: Maria Lynn ESRD – Parks
Param Sekhon Infrastructure – Capital Projects
Rob Simieritsch ESRD/Operations – Flood Recovery Manager

Guests: Henri Soulodre – ESRD – Operations – Approvals Manager
Brad Jones – ESRD – Operations – Forest Health Officer
Jason P. Russell – Transportation – Bridge Engineer

ESRD = Environment and Sustainable Resource Development

- 1) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - The agenda was accepted as written.
Request to discuss Item #4 earlier than scheduled, as Param Sekhon must leave early.

- 2) Review of Minutes (All)
 - The September 9, 2014, minutes were approved as written.
 - The May 13, 2014 and September 9, 2014, minutes signed off.
 - Request for final approved minutes to be scanned and sent to Shawn Polley for KID Council

 - Review of September 9, 2014, Action Items:
 - Proposed Winter Closure of Highway 532 and south end of Forestry Trunk Road (F. Lee)
 - Support of ESRD/Operations and the MD of Ranchlands for this proposal has been confirmed.
 - Preparation of revised ‘annual road closure’ Ministerial Order is underway and will be finalized prior to November 30, 2014.
 - Road closure will be in effect as of December 1, 2014.
 - Information will be updated on the web site www.511.alberta.ca/
 - F. Lee will advise KCICC and KID once the MO is finalized.
 - Closure gate will be located east of Indian Graves

 - Evan Thomas Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant (S. Polley)
 - The draft letter from ESRD Minister to Infrastructure Minister is being revised today by S. Polley. This letter and a briefing note will be forwarded for review/approval via ARTS.

 - Nakiska Mid-Mountain Lodge Water Line (M. Storie)
 - A memo was sent from M. Storie to K. Phillips, Executive Director of Capital Projects, outlining the need for a water line to the Mid-Mountain Lodge at Nakiska to support operations at the ski hill. A return memo has been received indicating that Infrastructure will commence a feasibility study regarding this request followed by a request for funding within Infrastructure. If funding is not available for this capital project, then a joint submission will have to be prepared and forwarded to Treasury.

- 3) Mountain Pine Beetle – Kananaskis & Bow Valleys – Aerial Survey (B. Jones)
 - Since the early 2000s ESRD has been managing the provincial strategy to monitor MPB and prevent its spread to the south and east.
 - MPB is cyclical and past peaks of infestation occurred in the 1940s and the 1970s. The current wave of MPB peaked around 2009-2010, with small areas requiring control since then. Weather patterns have also

helped control MPB when there are extended cold periods during the winter.

- Current practices monitor MPB with bait and traps. The control cycle is always one year behind the beetles. Aerial surveys locate trees killed the previous season by MPB, and then those trees are removed. On the ground surveyors look for where the beetles have moved.
- Approximately 300 trees in the Kananaskis and Bow Valleys will be controlled this year. The largest stand is 50 trees by Exshaw Creek, and 28 trees at the CNC.
- Infested trees on private property are addressed on a case-by-case basis. If the homeowner is cooperative and will allow the municipality to remove the tree(s) then the province will reimburse the municipality for tree removal.
- Communication strategies include the local papers and CTV news to alert residents of potential smoke issues.
- **Decision: Update provided for information.**

4) Flood Recovery Updates (All)

- **Transportation – F. Lee** – All numbered highways have now reopened post-2013 flood. The last to open was #547 where the Minister did a ribbon-cutting to acknowledge this. There will be continued construction at Lineham Creek starting in the spring, but the road is open. The target for completion is August 31/15, following a fisheries window August for creek work. Hwy 533 has been restored. Forestry trunk road – was open last year at this time, prior to the seasonal closure. The winter closure starts December 1 and there is still some culvert work to be done in the spring. Powderface Trail – there is a contract to build bridge-size culverts which are hoped to be done before Christmas, and will replace 4 – 5 smaller culverts. There will be a contract in summer 2015 to finalize this work.
- **Transportation – Bridges – J. P. Russell** – There are 12-15 Parks bridges which were transferred to Transportation. Evan Thomas Creek – work on the pedestrian bridge is on-going. The contractor is late with completion and working on penalty now. They hope to be done by the end of November. Blue Rock bridge – remains in place but is damaged and not passable. The process of obtaining an engineered design, then tendering for construction is underway, with construction planned for summer 2015 and completed in September 2015. D. Hanna inquired about the load rating for this bridge. The load rating will be maintained at the same level as the existing bridge. D. Hanna added that with the Commercial Trail Riding guides they can travel with 2-4 horses and a gear wagon, so capacity for this needs to be noted. Possibly the capacity needs to increase to accommodate this use. Two destroyed bridges will be replaced at Little Elbow and Indian Oils with work starting in 2015 and completed in September. Minimum capacity will be 1500 tons to

accommodate servicing the fire lookout tower (small/medium size hoe will be accommodated). These will be pre-fab structures. Minor repairs will be done at Tombstone. Trail work is done but the bridge requires repositioning. At Galatea the trail and bridge are open but the tensioning cables need some work. Work not being done at this time – Ribbon Creek – the trail work needs to be done first and then bridge work can take place. Similar for the Kananaskis Country Golf Course – two small bridges with one destroyed. Bridges here need to accommodate maintenance vehicles and golf carts. Livingstone Creek – work should be complete by summer 2015. Hood Creek has debris clean up needed and culvert replacement work planned for summer 2015. R. Johnson inquired about Valleyview Road to Elpoca, which requires some work. It isn't on the list but will be inspected. Also mentioned is the Springbank dry dam which is an ESRD project being developed by Infrastructure.

- **Culture & Tourism – P. Radchenko** – The focus has been on infrastructure damage which impedes tourism businesses and advocating when it may be helpful. The Travel Alberta VIC parking lot expansion is now complete but already fills up by 10 am on weekends. The Legacy Trail had approximately 100K users this year. Also P. Radchenko has met with D. Robinson of KanAlta regarding the Kananaskis Country Golf Course
- **ESRD – Operations - D. Johnson** – Backcountry trails – inventory/survey work almost 100 percent, covering Nordegg to Waterton. Contract preparation work is underway for work happening in summer 2015. FISHES – fish habitat restoration work. The team has been assembled for work taking place in 2015. River telemetry – inventories of the Highwood and Bow rivers – recalibrate water models and flow regimes. M. Storie added that there is a need for modelling in the Kananaskis Valley – people capital investments at risk from the Evan Thomas and King creeks. D. Johnson responded this will be part of the long-term disaster planning once mitigation issues are addressed. Also, the McLean Creek dry dam mitigation proposal is still a possibility – further evaluation is being done – No Terms of Reference have been developed for a potential EIA.
- **ESRD – Parks – M. Storie** – 2013 – 87 projects were completed, i.e. 'low-hanging fruit', to get facilities open again. 2014 – 42 projects were planned for this season with 23 completed, 16 are in progress (complete this year or in 2015), and others are in planning stages. 2015 – 60 – 65 projects are planned. Contracts will be utilized for some of this work. Large-scale projects such as Elbow Falls and Allen Bill Pond require consultation and will be long-term projects. Two public information sessions have been held – one in Fish Creek PP and another in Canmore. Public interest was mainly regarding trails and the golf course. Feedback was positive regarding work done to date. Another Calgary session will be held in the near future and ESRD - Parks will extend the invitation to other Ministries which may wish to attend. The budget target for 2014/15

is \$16M and thus far \$10.5M has been spent. Funding of \$81M was allocated for flood recovery. While this figure is accurate the split between DRP and non-DRP is off and there is a need to adjust the allocation. It may be possible to move allocations between departments rather than have to approach Treasury for an adjustment. A new initiative that has come out of the flood recovery program is using an RFP bundling process – where like projects are contracted out together to utilize economies of scale. Two such bundles are being utilized in the Trans Canada/Highway 40 area and another in the Elbow/Sheep. Other projects: Mt. Kidd RV work is done, Porcupine group camp move to Bow Valley South; Lower Lake bridge/waterline; Highwood House; Nakiska, King Creek, Evan Thomas Creek – hauling riprap; Kananaskis Country Golf Course - \$13M for reconstruction and \$3M for mitigation. Gary Browning Management Inc. is working with contractors on clean up and preparations at the golf course for spring 2015 work. An RFP is posted (closes Nov. 20/14, 2pm) for a golf course oversight position to work with KanAlta and Gary Browning to oversee technical aspects of the reconstruction. The goal is to reopen in 2016. Aboriginal consultation is a big aspect of reconstruction work. The Kananaskis River mitigation design is almost complete then the Aboriginal Consultation Office (ACO) will be advised. If there is a trigger for consultation it needs to start soon so as to not hold up mitigation work in 2015. M. Percy and D. DePape are in communications regarding this. The golf course work is not in scope of the ACO but the Kananaskis River mitigation is and has potential to enhance fish habitat.

- **ESRD – Parks – R. Johnson** – Three flood trail crews worked through the summer season with contractors as well, the last of which started work yesterday. Trails rebuilt – 24.5 kms; bridges requiring replacement/repair – 21, with 13 finished; 23 trails started in 2014 that will be finished in 2015. Winter will be time to obtain approvals and line up contractors for work in summer 2015. Joint training between Parks and ESRD trail crews went well and will likely be repeated for 2015.
- **Parks – D. Hanna – Burns Property update** – This is regarding repair of a trail that crosses private land (Burns) and was damaged in the flood. DRP will not fund the repair if there wasn't a pre-existing agreement for public access. There was no formal agreement in place but public access has historically been granted. An agreement is close to being signed.
- **Questions** – H. Soulodre inquired about volunteer involvement in Parks projects. M. Storie responded that a Flood Recovery Volunteer Coordinator has been hired as a liaison between volunteers and project managers to find suitable projects for individuals/groups to participate in the flood recovery and our Coordinator has been working closely with the ESRD Volunteer Coordinator. Approximately 2000 hours of volunteer time was put towards flood recovery projects this season. A recognition program for volunteers is currently being developed.
- **Decision: Updates provided for information.**

5) MOA – Spray Road (D. Hanna)

- This refers to the MOU between Transportation and Parks regarding avalanche control on Canmore hill (towards the Spray) and to a lesser extent the Highwood Pass/Hwy 40.
- The MOU and the 2013/2014 Report was distributed to all for review.
- Costs are covered with TRANS paying the first \$10K, then Parks \$5K, then TRANS the second \$10K, with Parks providing the forecasting and avalanche control expertise and TRANS providing the road clearing manpower.
- Highway 40/Highwood Pass control is mainly in the spring to prepare for the end of the winter closure and road opening on June 15.
- Issues have related to signage and the closure gates being too far south (from Canmore) or too far north (from PLPP) so that people are either stuck at the gate or frustrated with having to turn around. There is a need to relocate the signage and possibly the closure gates.
- **Decision: Item presented for information/update.**

6) Firearms on recreation lands (H. Soulodre, R. Spence)

- Discussion of issues regarding shooting on Public Lands adjacent to recreation areas. It is legal to shoot on PL for target practice, FN hunting, etc.
- Issues: public safety is the primary concern and then public disturbance and debris left behind – shell casings, targets, etc.
- Public safety is a serious issue as there have been trails users trapped with shooting too close, a vehicle hit by people target practicing, and alcohol is often a factor accompanying this activity, i.e. behaviours change, drinking and driving, higher risk enforcement, etc.
- Hot spots seem to be around the Sibbald PRA and Mesa Butte.
- Signs have been created with messaging that “target practice is prohibited” and cite the Public Lands Act. This is a pilot with the hope that signs and education will change behaviours. If outcomes are positive then signage will be used in additional areas. If signage redirects the problems to new areas then this will have to be revisited.
- There is a shortage of gun ranges where people can legitimately target shoot. The Alberta Provincial Rifle Association is promoting stewardship and cleaning up after oneself. There needs to be more support for legitimate gun ranges and gun clubs to facilitate safe practices in an approved area.
- **Decision: Item presented for information/update.**

- 7) KCICC Membership & Terms of Reference (All)
- Review of the KCICC membership with regard to the recent reorganization and move of Parks Division from TPR to ESRD, and the concern that the membership is heavily represented by ESRD.
 - Suggestion to look at the MOU and the KID Land Use Order and ensure the required representation is on the committee, regardless of the department represented.
 - D. Johnson represents Resource Management and will address issues of: fish and wildlife, water, and forest health. H. Soulodre will address land approvals and R. Spence rangeland approvals.
 - Kananaskis Regional Planner will be brought in as a resource and others can be invited to attend on an 'as needed' basis depending on the issue at hand.
 - Question regarding adding representation from the Alberta Energy Regulator (AER). This is important for compliance with the KID LUO. Further discussion needed.
 - **Action: D. Johnson to set up a meeting with Barry Cole (AER) including M. Storie and S. Polley to discuss AER membership in KCICC.**
 - **Decision: H. Soulodre will be alternate for R. Spence on KID/SDA.**
 - **Decision: Item presented for information/update.**

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

- 8) Kananaskis Visitor Information Centres – Renaming (D. Carruthers Den Hoed)
- D. Hanna introduced D. Carruthers Den Hoed, Public Engagement Team Leader for Kananaskis Region. Don is seeking support from the Ministries who are part of KCICC before getting too far along in the process to rebrand the Kananaskis Country Visitor Information Centres as 'Discovery Centres', each with its own primary focus
 - Current operations:
 - Barrier VIC – open 365 days/year; information line; backcountry registration; advisories; hub for information coordination; kiosk for routes/way-finding; 1300-1500 people per day
 - Peter Loughheed VIC – museum quality displays; theatre; fire place/comfortable seating
 - Elbow VIC – open weekends through the end of November; information; sees a lot of new Canadians
 - Future operations:
 - Look at attracting different audiences to each of the three VICs
 - Barrier VIC to become "*The Kananaskis VIC*"- continue as information 'hub'; new signage

- Peter Lougheed VIC to become “*Peter Lougheed Discovery Centre*” – display First Nations artwork; Friends of Kananaskis Country – erosion display, interactive; theatre – license to show high-end environmental/educational films; displays remain; Wi-Fi; roving staff; promote as a *destination* for locals, travelers, campers, etc.
 - Elbow VIC to become “*East Kananaskis Discovery Centre*” – information hub for the East; reach the diverse recreational users in the area (new Canadians, mountain bikers, OHV, hunters); starting point for those new to Parks; house adaptive equipment; add a second way-finding kiosk; open Friday to Sunday only.
 - Recommended by D. Johnson to work with the ESRD Outreach and Education folks in Edmonton, as this is great opportunity to work together to promote stewardship on Public Lands, educate about resource management, MPB, forestry, fisheries, etc. Suggested that D. Carruthers Den Hoed link up with Rob Harris and Glenn Gustafson to discuss opportunities and support for this rebranding.
 - Requires new signage and rebranding, and need to make the commitment to move forward without a ‘test phase’.
 - Need to align with messaging of SSRP and should align with Travel Alberta VIC messaging.
 - “Discovery Centre” – is there support for this? Not ‘stuck’ on this name, but definitely feel moving away from ‘VIC’ is needed to expand programming. As well, the possibility of corporate sponsorship is more likely with a “Discovery Centre” versus a ‘VIC’. As well, driving into the area from British Columbia, travelers pass by four other ‘VIC’s and this is an opportunity to do something different.
- **Decision: KCICC supports the rebranding of the Kananaskis Country Visitor Information Centres (Barrier, Peter Lougheed, and Elbow) to ‘Discovery Centres’ (or other name) including new signage on buildings and potential building modifications to develop three unique centres within Kananaskis Country.**

9) Roundtable (All)

- Roundtable was deferred at this meeting due to time constraints.

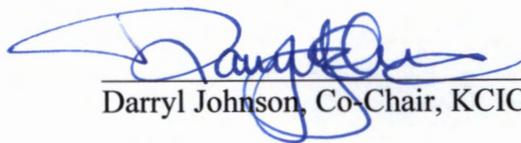
Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

10) Next Meeting: January 13, 2015, 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