

Minutes of Meeting		
<b>Location:</b> Elkford Recreation Centre Hobby Room 816 Michel Road	<b>Date:</b> Dec 2, 2015	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
<b>Purpose:</b> Steering Committee Meeting 2015 Q4	<b>Version:</b> Final	
<b>Attendees:</b> See attached	<b>Issue date:</b> January 7, 2016	

Meeting commenced at 9:10 a.m.

### Welcome, Housekeeping, Safety Share

Sharon Strom welcomed the members to the meeting, noting that Simon would be a little late. She pointed out the exits and restrooms in the facility.

Lee-Anne provided a safety share reminding everyone that with changing road conditions and many animals on the side of the road or crossing the highway, it is important to reduce speed making it easier to stop suddenly. She also pointed out that drivers should note where they see animals on roads which they frequently travel. Animals have patterns and, once people become accustomed to where they may be, speed can be reduced even more at those areas.

### Review of Agenda

Under New Business, items should be labelled 5.1 and 5.2.

### Previous Action Items Follow Up

Steering Committee executive to draft 2015/2016 objectives – Simon, Anita and Sharon met in Anita's office the afternoon of November 24<sup>th</sup> to create the draft which will be discussed at this meeting.

SC executive to consider succession plan and focus for the year – This was discussed during the above-mentioned meeting.

Add Wall of Wins/Accomplishments to COI Advisory Initiative website – Sharon made contact with Christine from Claris media and will meet with her in the near future.

Write article/blog about benefits of new college to Elk Valley – Nothing done yet.

Discuss updating housing assessment for City of Fernie – Simon brought the topic up to Mayor Giuliano but a more formal approach is required.

Invite Shirley Mercier to give IHA update at Partners meeting – Janice has taken care of this.

Research accident statistics from Elkford to Cranbrook – Scott was not able to capture accident statistics for this route but he did research the topic of driving while drowsy and it has been found that driving without sleeping for 18 hours is like driving with a blood alcohol reading of .05 and .10 if one hasn't slept for 24 hours or more. The website with the information is: <http://drowsydriving.org>

## Discussions around Action Items

Elk Valley Surgeon - Janice asked for confirmation about the topic Shirley was being asked to address at the upcoming Partners' meeting. The committee would like an update on the recruitment of a surgeon for the Elk Valley to replace Dr. Nally when he retires. Lee-Anne had heard that the topic is a matter of contention with some and that the position might be eliminated. Anita shared that she had just attended a meeting that was called by Doctors Clarke and Michal to discuss surgeon recruitment. Also in attendance were the mayors of Elkford and Fernie, the Director of RDEK A, the Fernie Chamber Manager, Director of Marketing Best Western, Director of Acute Care with Interior health as well as one additional physician. The recruitment steps taken to date were discussed as well as the possibility of hiring a pro recruiter. RDEK A has committed \$10,000 to assist with recruitment.

Accident Statistics Elkford to Cranbrook – In doing research, Scott found out that the highway from Fort Steele to the Alberta border has the highest elk and deer mortality rate in BC. Lois noted that the Miistakis Institute has done research on animal road kills from Lundbreck through Wardner. Sharon said they are putting up sensors at the most common locations of impact on Hwy #3. Anita and Shelley both find there are more animals on the road and that they have come down earlier this year.

In reference to driving drowsy, Lee-Anne said she listened to a radio broadcast that spoke to how sleep or lack of sleep can increase ones chance of getting diabetes or Alzheimer's. Scott added that people who are on call 24/7 have a difficult time getting the appropriate amount of sleep. Gordon said that Fording River Operations has prohibited employees from driving a shift bus if they are also scheduled to work for reasons of safety and regulations.

Further discussion was had around the pros and cons of 12 hour shifts and different variations of shifts, particularly for Teck. Shelley said that IH support services are looking at eliminating extended days which has some employees upset but it is based on increased injury rates to those working longer shifts. Terry noted that there are many options that have been considered and what seems to make the most sense isn't always favored. He recommended we have a union representative for the COI Advisory Initiative so we can understand such things as shift schedules from that perspective. Simon and Scott felt that shifts should be looked at from a safety angle, especially regarding fatigue and the operation of machinery. Lois pointed out that she was involved in discussions over this issue but never had a better conversation than the one today. Sharon thought there may be an opportunity to acquire a grad student who may be looking for a thesis idea to come and study the different shifts and if there is a relationship between them and health and safety.

## Project and Other Updates

Elk Valley Child Care Advisory Initiative (EVCCAI) – Kim and Sharon gave a brief overview of what the EVCCAI has done since the last meeting and what the next steps are. At a meeting of the Steering Committee (SC), the survey report recommendations were analyzed on Value vs Ease. On December 7, the SC will meet to set up Task Forces with survey participants who made an offer to assist.. When Lee-Anne asked what was needed to be a childcare worker, Kim explained the different level of workers and what the requirements were for each. Anita mentioned that the committee was looking into a possible partnership between the College of the Rockies (COTR) and Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) to offer a face-to-face ECE program. Lee-Anne wondered if CBT might hold back on any funding to see if there will be a National Childcare Policy forthcoming with the change in Federal government. They may feel childcare is the governments' responsibility.

**Housing** – Simon shared that individuals from the Canadian Home Builders Association (CHBA) will be visiting communities to share with municipalities the Get it In Writing Program. Someone will visit Cranbrook for the East Kootenays sometime in January 2016. Government relations continue to be a focus for the BCCHBA. The National President of CHBA will be coming to Fernie in February 2016 to discuss potential affordable housing dollars which may come available soon. This may be important for Elkford. For these and other purposes, it is important that housing studies and reports for the Elk Valley communities are current. A five-point report card is being developed for communities to look at such things as home inspections. Some home inspection reports are unnecessarily long and the cost for them goes back to the homeowner. Simon mentioned that he is taking a course for the educational upgrading required for being a licensed builder. It is online through COTR and in the Cranbrook classroom. He had his first test the day before. Gordon mentioned he heard the snow weight rating for roof trusses has changed. Simon agreed and said that with climate change it is a necessary adjustment.

**College** – Simon confirmed that he has a handshake deal with a well-known university to offer four two-week courses in the Elk Valley in a facility Simon will develop. This agreement will run for five years. The paperwork is being drafted. Simon will work with Anita to grow the concept into something that could be a workable model for COTR. Gordon asked where it was going to be located and Simon confirmed it is near the Rocky Mountain Village on Cokato Road by the old Dickens bus barn. Simon's design includes a childcare and 20 student housing units (two dorms for four and 12 single units). The project is to be ready by June 2017. Lee-Anne expressed that there appear to be lots of opportunities as a result of Simon's agreement.

## **New Business**

### Draft revised Terms of Reference/Strategic Direction 2015-2016

The Terms of Reference was reviewed by Simon, Anita and Sharon on November 24, 2015 and a few amendments were made to the wording and the Strategic Direction was revised for 2015-2016. Each member was given a copy and the changes were reviewed by everyone. The objectives and strategies for the strategic direction were accepted as revised. Wording adjustments to the Terms of Reference were also accepted.

Lois recommended that the footer should appear on the first page in addition to others and suggested having the web address on all documents. Lee-Anne felt it would be good to start using the COI website logo on all documents as well.

From Terry's earlier suggestion, a Union rep will be added to the list of Partners and Steering Committee members.

## **Round Table**

**Terry** – felt the meeting was very informative. There were well-rounded discussions in which everyone participated. It was well worth being present. He thanked everyone.

**Anita** – stated she loved the discussions and found them to be very helpful. As the group members continue to share, their stories will reach further. It was a very positive meeting.

**Lee-Anne** – noted that members engage in meaningful dialogue and her participation in the meetings is something that was strategically added into Elk River Alliance's Annual Report. Even though she, personally, has no involvement with such things as childcare, it is important to be aware of issues that she can discuss with other partners. She always leaves the SC meetings with things to work on.

Lois – said she enjoys the levels of sharing and discussion and always share minutes and such with all of the Elk Valley municipalities.

Gordon – suggested that there were a lot of things brought up for discussion that are unfinished, such as the hours of work at the mines, but these things take time. He advised people there was an upcoming Avalanche Course for skiers and snowmobilers in Fernie by the Canadian Avalanche Centre (CAC). Anita clarified that what CA was offering was an awareness workshop. Actual courses are offered through the College of the Rockies. Gord also shared that he had submitted a report to Teck’s Tammy Ogden and Nic Milligan since Teck helped fund the bear sample collection project. They were pleased that 143 bear samples were collected at 34 positions. There were 311 volunteer man hours committed to the project which is a significant if considered at minimum wage.

Janice – said the meetings are great and even though she has been able to attend only a few, she has been able to see how issues are identified and dealt with. She is looking forward to seeing how they evolve. Janice added that emergency service workers and Interior Health disaster planning experts have been meeting to ensure preparedness in case of a Code Orange event which includes external disasters with mass casualties. There has been discussion with Teck, BC Ambulance, and such, around a large scale mock disaster in the Spring of 2016.

Shelley – felt it was a great meeting with great conversation. As far as Michel Creek Road (MCR) goes, she noted that there have been a lot of crazy drivers on that stretch recently. Shelley shared that in late summer 2015, her husband Doug was in the yard and noticed Elkview’s Ernie Canlas standing on the road looking toward the mountain. When Doug asked Ernie what he was looking at, Ernie invited him to stand and watch with him. Shortly there was a blast with very little sound, dust and vibration. Doug went into the house and asked Shelley if she just felt a blast. She had no idea a blast had taken place. It was good to see Teck making changes in blasting practices so the blasts don’t affect MCR residents as much as they have in the past. Shelley also noted that the mountain is coming down quickly.

Scott – thanked everyone for the meeting. He announced that Search and Rescue has placed an avalanche transceiver at the ski hill in Fernie. It is a portable unit which can be used for practice and training. The Elk Valley hosted its last emergency management mock exercise in 2013 with the theme being around hazmat. The Elk Valley is due to host another mock exercise in 2016. The four disasters for mock exercises are: fire, flood, hazmat and pandemics. There is some talk about wildfire being the theme of the exercise which will require a lot of public involvement. If people want to be involved, Marianne Stone will be organizing participants.

Simon – apologized for being late. Simon said it was good to see such a great turnout and hear such valuable feedback. He asked Sharon about the Wall of Wins and she noted she has made contact with Christine from Claris and will work on it with her. Simon noted that he liked seeing the action items on the minutes.

Kim – stated that she is on a lot of committees but this one is the best for actually accomplishing lots of things. She added that Ambulance service in Elkford is almost non-existent and that the Government of BC pays very little to support it. This topic is near and dear to the municipal government in Elkford. Janice shared that there are discussion around some creative initiatives which may relieve this problem but she is not at liberty to share them yet. Kim was pleased to hear that.

Sharon – thanked everyone for coming out and was also pleased with the diverse discussions had today with so much participation.

### Closing Remarks

Simon thanked everyone for their attendance and participation and closed the meeting around 12:15.

**Next Community Partners Meeting:**

December 16, 2015 – Sparwood Senior Drop In Centre

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

March 2016

### Action Items

Action Items	Who	Deadline
Add Wall of Wins to COI Advisory Initiative website	SS	Before year end
Write article/blog about benefits of new college to Elk Valley	SH/SS	Before year end
Discuss updating housing assessment for City of Fernie	SH	Before year end

### Attendance

Name	Representing	Role	
Anonson, Terry	Metis Nation/Elkford		
Bauer, Kim	Social Services/Elkford		
Galloway, Gordon	Motorized Recreation/Elkford		
Halko, Lois	Municipal Government/Sparwood		
Howse, Simon	Business & CHBA / Fernie	Chair	
Palmer, Anita	Education/RDEKA	Vice Chair	
Robinson, Scott	Community Safety/Fernie		
Strom, Sharon	Teck / Communities	Secretary	
Talarico, Janice	Healthcare/Sparwood		
Walker, Lee-Anne	ENGOS/Fernie		
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood		

### Unable to attend:

	Representing	Role	
Arbuckle, Liam	Youth/Crowsnest Pass		
Drain, Joanne	Seniors/Crowsnest Pass		