

<b>TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE</b>	
<b>STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	
Version: Final	Issue Date: May 31, 2013

<b>Minutes of Meeting</b>		
<b>Location:</b> Elkford Community Conference Centre 750 Fording Drive	<b>Date:</b> April 29, 2013	<b>Time:</b> 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
<b>Purpose:</b> Steering Committee Meeting 2013 Q2		
<b>Attendees:</b> See attached		

Meeting commenced at 1:05 pm

### **Introductory Remarks**

Chair Halko welcomed the committee members and guests before inviting Gordon Galloway to provide a safety message.

Gordon, as the Provincial Safety Chair with ATV/BC, and President of the Elkford ATV Club, stressed the importance of safety at work or play. As in the mining industry, where one must wear personal protective equipment to prevent certain injuries, so must protective gear be worn while at play. For example, if out snowmobiling or riding ATVs, helmets, goggles and other protective clothing should be worn. Gordon advised that he is involved with training safety instructors for ATV/BC as well as trail patrols. He also provides youth education in the safe operation of ATVs. The impact of not being educated about how to operate recreational vehicles safely was made notable when Gordon identified that there were 80 fatalities in BC from 2005-2010 caused by factors such as excessive speed, impaired driving, improper protective gear and inadequate or no training. Gordon ended his safety message by pointing out that various related brochures are available at the Elkford Visitors' Centre.

Chair Halko identified where restrooms and emergency exits were located. This was followed by an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves and identify which community of interest they represent.

Chair Halko reviewed the agenda, noting that item 6.2 would be moved up to allow for the Teck representative, Kirsten Gillespie, to leave in time to participate in a conference call.

The minutes from the February 14, 2013 Steering Committee meeting were accepted as written.

### **Summary of Communities of Interest Advisory Initiative**

For the benefit of the guests, Sharon Strom gave a bit of background to the Initiative of which the Steering Committee is a part. She noted the foundational meeting was March 28, 2012 and that since then, the Terms of Reference was developed and the structure of the Initiative was determined. The purpose of the Initiative is to assist Teck achieve its short- and long-term community sustainability goals. The Initiative provides Teck a mechanism for collaborative relationships with communities in the Elk Valley and Crowsnest Pass.

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

### **Curtis Helgesen, CAO District of Elkford**

Curtis Helgesen introduced himself as the Chief Administrative Officer for the District of Elkford, a role he's had since June 2012. He also noted that he is a Trustee for School District #5. Curtis informed the attendees that Council is currently working on short- and long-term budgeting and the follow-through of previous commitments. A key focus is to build internal capacity so that the District is ready to respond when economic development opportunities arise. Amber Biberdorf has been hired as a Development Technician to assist in this direction. A Director of Planning and Development will be hired in the near future. Currently there are a lot of challenges and lengthy processes concerning crown land and the use of it for Elkford's growth. Elkford sold all of its industrial land a number of years ago. Affordable housing is a concern in Elkford as prices go up. This is resulting in some families of Teck employees choosing to live in another community while the employee takes up an 'affordable bed' in Elkford. The District is concerned about the safety of situations where there are as many as 8 beds in one house for shift workers to bunk. This is a bylaw issue that has to be looked at from a safety perspective. Shortage of childcare is an ongoing concern for the community of Elkford, as well.

### **Kim Bauer, Executive Director Elkford Women's Task Force Society**

Kim Bauer is the Executive Director of the Elkford Women's Task Force Society which is a registered, not-for-profit organization serving the Elk Valley and South Country regions of the East Kootenays. Ongoing programs of the Task Force Society are:

- the Elk Valley Safe Homes program which provides shelter for abused women and their children,
- the Elkford Early Childhood Development Committee which promotes and supports programs and initiatives that encourage healthy child development,
- the Kids Count Too counseling program for children ages 3 – 18 who witness abuse and,
- the Elkford Play School/Preschool program for children aged 30 months to 5 years.

Kim informed the attendees that the Play School/Preschool program has moved into its new space in the Community Conference Centre and that they successfully fundraised for a safe outdoor playground for the facility. Kim mentioned that the shortage of licensed childcare in Elkford has led to a Before and After School Care Program proposal being drafted as a pilot project for September 2013.

### **Dean McKerracher, Mayor District of Elkford**

Mayor McKerracher took the opportunity to express his appreciation of Marcia Smith, Sr VP Sustainability & External Affairs, Environment and Corporate Affairs with Teck Resources and her willingness to meet with him to discuss issues of concern to Elkford. He felt she was genuinely interested in the community and what he had to say. He is looking forward to his next conversation with Marcia. Some issues of concern to Mayor McKerracher and his community are the shortage of childcare, shortage of affordable housing, Elkford's healthcare crisis and the lack of a full-time Teck office in Elkford.

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

### **Jennifer Cherney, Elkford Early Childhood Development Committee Coordinator**

Jennifer Cherney is the coordinator for the Elkford Early Childhood Development Committee which follows the Success by 6 Program. The desire of the Committee is to make Elkford the best place to raise children. This is done by helping local parents develop skills needed to prepare their children to succeed in school when they start at around age 6. The committee meets the second Tuesday of each month. The attendees have mostly consisted of parents whose children are in early childhood programs but Jennifer encourages anyone to attend in order to provide a variety of a representation from the community. Childcare is provided. Jennifer noted that one of the services her organization supervises, in partnership with the Elkford Women's Task Force Society, under whose umbrella they are registered, is a monthly calendar of community activities for children from 0-12 years of age. Families can ask to be put on the email distribution list to receive the Kid's Community Calendar which also provides contact information for important family resources in the Elk Valley.

### **Carmen Murray, Manager Elkford Chamber of Commerce**

Carmen Murray started as the Manager of the Elkford Chamber of Commerce in January of this year. Hers is a part-time role since the Chamber now deals strictly with commerce and not in conjunction with tourism, as in the past. Because of a fire, which started in the attached restaurant, the Chamber's office space is not available. Carmen is working from home until a commercial office space is available. She noted that with the newest board of directors, elected at the recent AGM, she feels the Chamber will see positive changes. One of the aims of the Chamber is to focus closely on building a strong constructive relationship with the District of Elkford. Another is to encourage businesses to locate in Elkford and to become members of the Chamber. Operating costs must come from membership fees and fundraising such as the Wildcat Days Silent Auction and the Craft and Trade Fair. A couple of upcoming Chamber-hosted events to note are The All Candidates Forum on May 8<sup>th</sup> and the Elkford Development Forum on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Dialogue Topics**

#### **Housing:**

Curtis Helgesen informed the attendees that the District of Sparwood and the District of Elkford partnered in commissioning a Housing Needs and Demand Assessment, for which the report was publicized in March 2012. Support was provided by Columbia Basin Trust, BC Non-Profit Housing Association and Teck. The report showed there is clearly a shortage of affordable and adequate housing for rental and ownership in both communities. Elkford is beginning to formulate its action plan to address this issue but Curtis believes the District of Sparwood is further ahead.

Mayor Halko confirmed that Sparwood's Housing Strategic Objectives are:

- 1) To prevent the loss of existing affordable housing
- 2) To make better use of existing affordable housing assets and resources
- 3) To encourage the development of new affordable housing
- 4) To build additional community capacity to promote affordable housing

An example of Sparwood Council meeting objective 1) is when a developer totally renovated an apartment building and maintained it as a rental unit rather than a strata.

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

Contributing to Elkford's problem is that they haven't any land for development and must pursue Crown land. The District is considering a piece of land that would accommodate approximately 70 mobile homes. In addition, residential lots were sold privately to pay down a previous tax deficit, according to Mayor McKerracher. There are over 200 undeveloped, but serviced lots, in Elkford that are privately owned without a deadline for construction. There are 1 or 2 houses in some of the privately owned subdivisions which create a requirement for servicing (plowing, flushing water lines etc) by the District. This is a strain on taxpayer dollars. Going forward the District has a policy where purchasers of residential lots must start building within two years and must complete building within a specified timeframe. If owners don't comply, the District will take back the land for the price the purchaser paid. Mayor McKerracher said the District of Elkford must create strategic plans for housing. Does Elkford want camp housing and/or flophouses? There are a number of 30 or 40 year old affordable homes for sale but most come with a costly need to renovate.

Chair Halko asked Simon Howse what the vacancy rate is in Fernie. He stated that it is very low with a mix of rental and ownership opportunities. There is a lack of affordable rental accommodations.

### **Childcare:**

Another issue of concern for Elkford is the childcare shortage. Kim and Sharon discussed the Kids Care Survey that was done in the Elk Valley in 2008 and how the results are no longer relevant. Kim felt it might be helpful to do one again. Curtis Helgesen met with Teck representatives several weeks earlier to discuss this issue, among others. Of particular concern is that families left or are planning to leave Elkford to move to a community where there are more childcare options. That puts the sustainability of the community at risk. Curtis and Kim said they are considering piloting a Before and After School Care program in the Fall. Sharon took the opportunity to highlight that the childcare issue has arisen many times over the past few months at varying venues and in different communities. She produced a partially completed draft proposal seeking approval from the SC to move forward. The proposal is to create a Task Force, launched by the Advisory Initiative Committee but including individuals or representatives from organizations within the Elk Valley communities who share the same concern. It is felt that there are efficiencies to be had by pooling resources and operating as one voice. A number of attendees were very interested to be part of a Task Force as outlined in the proposal and agree that it will be more effective and efficient to combine interested parties throughout the Elk Valley. The SC supported the idea and approved Sharon to move forward.

### **Healthcare:**

Mayor McKerracher informed the attendees that Elkford is considered a 'community' in crisis regarding healthcare. They currently have only one doctor on a 3 year contract that provides only half time service. Unfortunately, Elkford was overlooked when the Ministry of Health offered an incentive to doctors to provide service for 3 years in designated rural BC communities in crisis. The District of Elkford is trying to recruit doctors and although the District can't control what the Province or Interior Health does, they can encourage them to do more advertising. Mayor McKerracher noted the difference of pay structure for doctors in the Elk Valley communities. Elkford and Sparwood offer their doctors a salary while Fernie's doctors receive a fee for service.

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

### **Teck Presence:**

Simon Howse brought up that in Sparwood, the lead employer is operating from numerous temporary offices. He had the opportunity to point out to Marcia Smith that people may have a lack of confidence in Teck because of this, and it may prevent some people from living in Sparwood. He feels strongly that a permanent head office is required. It should be an iconic building of substance with a long lifespan that will contribute to the community's sustainability after Teck stops operating. Simon praised Elkford for making a commitment to its community with the construction of its new Community Conference Centre.

Mayor McKerracher and Curtis Helgesen added that Teck should have a fulltime corporate presence in all of the Elk Valley communities. There was general agreement around the room. Gordon Galloway, as a retiree speaking for himself and other retirees, finds it frustrating that there seems no longer to be a point of contact at the Calgary Office for those with questions or concerns about their benefits. He feels a Teck office in the community would alleviate some of that frustration.

### **Previous Action / Discussion Items**

Sharon Strom reviewed the action items arising from the previous meeting noting they were complete with the following exceptions:

- Did not respond to Lee-Anne Walker with the name of the Teck Champion for the Water Key Focus Area before she launched her Elk River Alliance (ERA) video thanking Teck for their support.
- There is still no information indicating when Teck will launch its Team Teck Community Giving Program.
- Contact information for SD#5 Secretary Treasurer Rob Norum was not provided to Simon.
- Inviting Marcia Smith to tour the communities was put on hold due to Marcia's extremely busy schedule.

Sharon informed the attendees that there was a slight change of plans regarding the previously discussed Ipsos Reid survey. Because of recent media surrounding Teck and Elk Valley water quality, a different telephone survey is taking place in the Elk Valley and Teck Corporate suggested the committee postpone its survey until fall. Several attendees noted they had been surveyed by phone. Ben Voysey was called April 24<sup>th</sup>, Bunny Mercereau, Curtis Helgesen (District Office) and Dean McKerracher were contacted over the weekend. It became apparent there were likely 2 or more surveys taking place concurrently, since the Teck one took place from April 26 -28. Ben felt his questions were in-depth and professional. The others felt their questions were intrusive and led them to be defensive of Teck. Bunny found it discomforting that she was asked questions about the Flathead. Lee-Anne Walker stated that it would be very inappropriate for Teck to include Flathead questions in its survey. Sharon committed to find out more information about the surveys to lessen the confusion and concern.

Sharon was pleased to tell the Committee that Randy Moody, a previous meeting guest, was working with Teck this week (BC Mining Week) to educate school children about the whitebark pine and its plight.

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

### Teck and Elk Valley Water Quality

#### **Kirsten Gillespie:**

Kirsten Gillespie, who is the Cumulative Effects Project Lead with the Environmental Department for Teck Coal, attended the meeting to provide an overview of Teck's Draft Valley Wide Selenium Management Plan and an update on the Area Based Plan Order. She noted that the Ministerial Order outlining the process and timeline for the Elk Valley Area Based Management Plan was welcomed by Teck since its commitment has been and will be to safe drinking water.

#### Questions:

- What are the current levels of Selenium in Lake Koochanusa? LH
- What is the water treatment plant implementation schedule for the Elk Valley coal sites? LH
- Why are the Metis in the Elk Valley not considered as a Community of Interest in the Ministerial Order? TA
- Can the technology of the treatment plants handle the volumes of water in the Elk River at all times of the year, for instance during spring runoff? TA
- What are some of the other constituents in the water that may need to be treated and will the plants take care of them as well? TA
- How can we see if trends are reversing if there is no baseline? LW
- What is the process behind the West Line Creek Active Water Treatment Plant? TA
- Depending upon which way it goes, can the election results cause delays to current permit applications? CM
- Is the Line Creek Phase 2 permit still being pursued? GG
- Is Elkford's drinking water tested for Selenium? TA
- Although, the Selenium levels have shown an increasing trend, are they below acceptable levels? JC
- What will happen to the water and treatment facilities post Teck? TA
- What is the difference between the Elk Valley Water Quality Plan and a watershed plan? LW
- Who will be the owner of the Water Quality Plan, the Provincial Government or Teck? LW
- How and when will NGOs/ENGOS/general public be involved in the Area Based Plan Order? LW

#### Comments:

- The interchangeable use of two units of measure when referring to Selenium – ug/L vs mg/L - is a source of confusion and should be standardized to use one. LH, CH, LW
- Sparwood Council is still awaiting a water quality session with Teck as was requested earlier this year. There is also an interest for ongoing discussions regarding Sparwood's drinking water. LH
- Drinking water questions are being asked of the District of Elkford by concerned residents. Some have been led to believe Elkford drinking water is not tested. CH
- Niché Environmental Ltd. is an Aboriginal company out of Salmon Arm that provides resource planning and management, among other services. TA
- Some feedback heard in the communities is that people want to see or believe that the Selenium trend will reverse before seeing new mining occur. LW
- Elk River Alliance is working with Teck on a plan for future recurring reporting to communities and town councils on water. LW

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

- More information on Lake Kocanusa should be included in education/open house/other materials regarding Selenium and water quality. LH, LW
- An independent study done of Sparwood's drinking water showed that the Selenium content in the wells does not exceed the applicable BC drinking water standards although the levels are increasingly elevated in one of the three wells (the one furthest from the river). LH

### Lee-Anne Walker

Lee-Anne Walker presented a video that she created for the Elk River Alliance as a thank you to Teck for their support. The video depicted the large number of events and activities ERA was successful in implementing with help from funds provided by Teck.

One of this year's goals for ERA is to provide better stewardship of Silver Springs as there have been reports of trash, human feces, broken glass and more from an ever-increasing number of people camping there. The annual river cleanup will take place in September. Simon asked if anything was being planned to deal with the car bodies that were filled with gravel and used in the dike in West Fernie. Metal from the cars is being exposed as the river bank erodes. Lee-Anne noted that ERA is aware of the situation but it is a huge project and people are unsure of how to tackle it. Simon wondered if there is a good balance of areas to swim safely. Lee-Anne assured him there were several safe swimming spots in the area.

### External Verifications Elkview (EVO) and Fording River (FRO)

Sharon Strom apprised the attendees of the expected results from the external verifications performed for Elkview Operations and Fording Operations in April regarding Aboriginal and External Outreach. The verifiers were Deloitte, for the International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM) performance indicators, and ERM for the Mining Association of Canada's Toward Sustainable Mining performance indicators. The role of the external verifiers is to ensure that the assessments provided by Teck, for various protocols and indicators were true and accurate. Sharon Strom assessed the coal sites in the Elk Valley at the highest level of ranking for Aboriginal and External Outreach, that is, AAA for TSM. Although not yet formal, the feedback from the verifiers is that the self-assessments will be accepted as true and accurate. Sharon thanked the Advisory Initiative members for their role in this success.

### Next Steps/Action Items

Action Items	Who	When
Inform the committee about the details of Team Teck Community Giving Program once it is launched	Sharon	TBD
Find contact info for SD#5 Secretary Treasurer Rob Norum and forward to Simon	Sharon	✓ 2-May-13
Organize Benchmarking Task Force meeting, perhaps in conjunction with Ipsos personnel, regarding questions to ask within the survey	Sharon	Mid June
Clarify if more than one telephone survey is being performed in the Elk Valley and if so, which one is Teck driven (EROS?)	Sharon	*Note below
Provide the Valley-Wide Water Treatment Plant implementation schedule to SC members	Sharon	✓ 6-May-13
Provide information about the West Line Creek Active Water Treatment Facility	Sharon	23-May session & Open Houses

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

Send email to SC members requesting the top 5 issues for the committee to stress to Teck that they feel need to be addressed	Sharon	End May
Arrange venue for Teck's EVWQP Open House for Advisory Initiative Group at large and send invitations	Sharon	Done
Find out who the Calgary Office contacts are for benefits for retirees and advise retirees of this information	Sharon	Asap
Arrange venue for Advisory Initiative Group at Large biannual meeting and send invitations	Sharon	End May
Arrange venue in Fernie for next SC meeting	Sharon	End June

### Closing Remarks

Prior to ending the meeting, Chair Halko asked everyone to comment on the session.

- Gord Galloway likes having the meetings in different communities and thought it was good to hear Elkford's issues in discussion with various groups.
- David Galloway, a guest of his brother Gordon, found the meeting and discussions interesting.
- Lee-Anne Walker also likes that the meetings move to different communities. She also noted that, as someone who is well read and knowledgeable about the waters in the Elk Valley and the recent media about Selenium, she found it valuable to have a Teck representative (Kirsten Gillespie) here to explain what Teck has done, is doing, and is planning to do to protect water.
- Bunny Mercereau likes having the meetings in different communities to help her become more aware of other communities' issues. She learned a lot about Selenium in this meeting and enjoyed the Elk River Alliance's video (thanking Teck for their support).
- Ben Voysey is in agreement with a previous comment from Simon Howse that it would be beneficial for the committee to focus on 4 or 5 main topics which seem to be recurring issues. In addition, he is happy to see that Teck is continuing to make forward steps with their water quality objectives and monitoring.
- Jennifer Cherney thanked the members for inviting her as she found the meeting and dialogue to be interesting.
- Terry Anonson would have liked more information on the ability of the water treatment plants to handle the Elk River's volume of water but understood that more information will be provided at an upcoming meeting for the group specifically talking about water quality. Otherwise, he felt the meeting was really good and informative.
- Simon Howse said the meeting was very good but reiterated his recommendation that the committee decide on the top 5 community issues on which they will focus their support and feed back to Teck.
- Kirsten Gillespie commented that she enjoyed the forum and, as a mom of an 18 month old daughter, particularly was interested in the dialogue about childcare.
- Sharon Strom felt that although the meeting covered a large number of topics, they were all sufficiently discussed. She found the members and guests to be very involved in the meeting and provided valuable input throughout the discourse.



# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST INITIATIVE

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Version: Final

Issue Date: May 31, 2013

- Chair Halko commented that she appreciated the engagement and participation from everyone attending the meeting. She enjoyed meeting in Elkford and hearing from community members regarding their issues of concern. She especially found the discussion regarding child care to be informative.

Chair Halko thanked the guests and the Committee members for their attendance and participation then called the meeting to a close at 4:10 pm.

**The next Steering Committee meeting will be held late in July 2013 in Fernie. Date options will be circulated by mid-June for members' votes.**

**NOTE:** The Teck Coal Communities of Interest Advisory Initiative group will soon be receiving an invitation to attend a dialogue/question/answer session focused solely on Teck's Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. Teck appreciates the group's involvement over the year and values members' input.

**\*NOTE:** We are unable to speak to all of the polling calls people may have received, particularly during an election, but Teck did commission a public opinion poll which ran April 26 – 29. The survey is intended to help guide our engagement efforts, which will be very public. In fact, we've begun running advertisement and plan to distribute informational brochures about the development of an Elk Valley Water Quality Plan. Moving forward, we will be consulting extensively with all stakeholders to develop this plan cooperatively.

# TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST STEERING COMMITTEE

## APRIL 29, 2013 ATTENDANCE LIST

Name	Representing	Phone #1	Phone #2
Anonson, Terry	Metis Nation BC	250-946-6765	250-865-2401
Galloway, Gordon	Motorized Recreation	250-865-2674	
Halko, Mayor Lois	District of Sparwood	250-425-7256	250-425-6271
Howse, Simon	Business-Parastone & CHBA	250-423-8674	250-423-4136
Mercereau, Bunny	Seniors' Society	250-425-7009	250-425-5851
Strom, Sharon	Teck Community Affairs	250-425-3343	250-433-1096
Voysey, Ben	Youth - FSS	250-423-4883	250-278-0725
Walker, Lee-Anne	Elk River Alliance	250-423-3322	250-423-1682

### Guests:

Name	Representing	Phone #1	Phone #2
David Galloway	Motorized Recreation		
Curtis Helgesen, CAO	District of Elkford		
Kim Bauer	Elkford Women's Task Force		
Jennifer Cherney	Elkford Early Childhood Develop.		
Carmen Murray	Elkford Chamber of Commerce		
Mayor McKerracher	District of Elkford		
Kirsten Gillespie	Teck		

### Unable to attend:

Name	Representing	Phone #1	Phone #2
Craig, Lorne	Community Safety - RCMP	250-425-6233	
Mercier, Shirley	Interior Health	250-423-8250	250-423-1742
Mertz, Mike	Social - Prov of Alberta	403-562-3241	403-563-0674
Regular, Keith	Education - ESS	250-865-4674	250-865-2035
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Creek Residents	250-425-6642	250-425-3761

### Meeting Related Links

Draft Affordable Housing Strategies Report: <http://www.elkford.ca/include/get.php?nodeid=650>

Elkford Women's Task Force Society: <http://find.healthlinkbc.ca/search.aspx?d=RG000879>

Elkford Early Childhood Development: <http://elkford.ekkids.ca/>

Elkford Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.elkfordchamberofcommerce.com/>

ERA video: <http://animoto.com/play/QZZheSwSrCOxZ0B1gcluMA>