

<b>TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST</b>	
<b>ADVISORY INITIATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	
Version: Final	Issue Date: June 24, 2015

<b>Minutes of Meeting</b>		
<b>Location:</b> College of the Rockies Fernie Room 120 116 Centennial Street, Sparwood, BC	<b>Date:</b> June 17, 2015	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
<b>Purpose:</b> Steering Committee Meeting 2015 Q2		
<b>Attendees:</b> See attached		

Meeting commenced at 9:05 a.m.

### **Welcome, Introductions, Housekeeping, Safety Share**

Simon Howse welcomed the members to the meeting. Sharon noted where the exits and restrooms were located in respect to the meeting room at the College of the Rockies.

Liam Arbuckle provided a safety share. He reminded people that wildlife are having their young now and extra care should be taken when driving along the highway. He and Joanne saw a road killed animal on their way to the meeting. In addition, Liam reminded attendees to be wary of bears as they are roaming about now. A brief discussion was had about the importance of apple capture or pick up in the fall. Lee-Anne noted that Wildsight has three machines they lend out for people to make homemade apple juice as well as tools to get the apples off the trees from the ground.

While on the topic of safety, Lee-Anne Walker shared that Elk River Alliance is launching new safe swimming in the river program this summer. Four key points will be addressed with program attendees: a) always wear a life jacket and ensure it is done up b) wear good, proper footwear - flip flops and bare feet are dangerous c) if one ends up immersed in the river, lay back with your feet downstream and scull with your hands – your feet have a better chance of hitting something that will stop you d) never stand up in water that is deeper than your knees – if in the water, get as close to the shore as possible (bum should touch the ground) before standing. She relayed a story of a recent rescue of a 12 year old boy from the Elk River near Fernie.

### **Review of Agenda**

Simon asked everyone to review the agenda and advise if changes were required. Gordon Galloway requested that 3.4 be added to discuss Greenhills access changes. He also asked to have 3.5 added to talk about the Grizzly Bear Study. Lee-Anne who added 3.6 to share information about the Great Canadian Shorelines Clean Up 2015 was followed by Lois who added 3.7 Elk Valley Columbia Basin Trust Community Directed Funds.

### **Project and Other Updates**

Childcare Advisory Initiative: Kim and Sharon updated the attendees on the progress of the Elk Valley Child Care Advisory Initiative. Phoebe Scotland, experienced in survey development and analyses, was contracted in March to begin work on the Childcare Barriers and Opportunities Survey. A series of community meetings was held in each of Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie per-survey to get a sense of questions to be asked and to capture anecdotal material about child care in the Elk Valley from various perspectives. The second round of community meetings is currently underway. The survey was

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launched June 4<sup>th</sup> and is open until July 5<sup>th</sup>. Information leaflets and paper surveys were brought to the meeting but Kim pointed out where to find the survey online as well. She noted that the survey is for more than just current parents to complete and submit. Parents, future parents, relatives, childcare workers/providers, employers and those who work in the Elk Valley, but reside outside of it, are encouraged to complete the survey. To date 164 surveys have been completed online with several paper copies turned in. It was explained that after the survey closes, Phoebe will take the rest of July and August to collate and analyze the data and in September, she will prepare a report with which may include recommendations and short and long term mitigations strategies. Lois asked what the website was where the survey could be found ([www.evcnpvoice.com](http://www.evcnpvoice.com)) and how this round of meetings in Sparwood and Fernie went. Kim explained that they were not as well attended as the first round of meetings but that those who attended this time were new faces and each provided great feedback. Twenty paper surveys were taken away from the Sparwood meeting while 25 were taken from the Fernie session.

COI Advisory Initiative Website: Sharon reiterated that the childcare survey link can be found on the home page of the COI website and there is some information in the childcare tab. She and Kim will work to provide more childcare content and encouraged people to provide ideas for other content.

College Project: Simon was pleased to say that he has been in talks with heads of a prominent university which cannot be named due to confidentiality agreements. It is looking very promising that they may be willing to offer 4 courses in a facility in Fernie. A proposal is being drafted for the university's board to review in September. Simon's group will be required to offer a 2000 square foot space at no charge to the university as well as 20 beds for staff and students. Some of the university professors and directors have been to Fernie to check out the community and its options. They are looking at offering four 2-week practicums including Integrated Watershed Management, Landscape Architecture, Urban development and another Simon was not able to remember. When asked if this project is in conjunction with the College of the Rockies (COTR), Simon said it was not although he is still pursuing a partnership with them. Currently, it seems there is a strong 50% chance of the unnamed university project to go forward while there is only a 10-20% chance COTR will agree to a partnership. Simon noted that the university people he has been in discussions with are of the belief that 'if you build it, they will come' as opposed to 'prove they will come, then build it'.

Housing: Simon indicated that the Canadian Home Builders Association is pleased to partner with the Federal Government which is supporting the 'Get it in Writing' campaign to the tune of \$750,000 over three years. The purpose of the campaign is to help homeowners protect themselves against unscrupulous contractors in the construction industry operating through an underground economy. The push is to educate people about the need for homeowners to ensure they have a written contract in place prior to renovations being started.

Simon also noted that the 2015 Federal budget includes a tax credit to seniors and disabled people to renovate their homes to make them safer, more accessible and functional. The credit will be up to a maximum of \$1500. Simon said that several years ago, the Federal Government offered a tax credit to anyone doing renovations. There was no gain or loss for the Government but there was an overall net social gain.

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Another focus of the CHBA is to address how changes in building codes affect housing costs and affordability. The Association wants to make sure the true cost is fully understood. Cost analyses are being done to consider such things as: adding an extra two inches of insulation to new homes being constructed and how it has an effect on such things as extra cement for foundation, deeper studs, loss of property space etc.

Lee-Anne asked Simon where the Elk Valley sits regarding affordable housing. Simon said the last study done was in 2007 but from a provincial perspective, the Elk Valley is deemed to have affordable housing. Considered are costs of living and average income against the cost to rent or own a home. Sparwood, at one time, had the highest average income in all of British Columbia. Kim noted that it flips back and forth between Sparwood and North Vancouver.

Lois pointed out that in some communities in BC, property taxes account for as much as 95% of expenditures. In Sparwood it sits at around 50%. Simon said the mine taxes account for around 32% of Fernie revenue. Joanne will find out what the percentage is for the Crowsnest Pass as she feels it is up around the 90% range.

Simon announced that CHBA representatives will be attending the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) meeting in September. They will address the fact that 15 – 20% of housing costs are due to government charges, municipal and other.

Lee-Anne shared that on a recent trip through Utah, she discovered that the state has a strategy called 'Housing First' intended to leave nobody, within the state, homeless. Studies have shown that providing houses for homeless people, then addressing other factors that led to their homelessness, significantly reduces costs of medical aid, shelters and incarceration for the state. Kim Bauer mentioned that BC Housing has some good projects like that. She is currently involved with one where women fleeing from domestic violence can receive financial support of up to \$450/month for housing.

Greenhills Access: Gordon explained that years ago at Greenhills Operations (GHO), there were numerous places on the property allowing access for motorized recreation. Over the years, due to safety concerns and tightening of regulations, users lost the accesses. During a meeting about hunting boundaries for each of the Elk Valley coal operations, there were some suggestions that consideration be given to providing some access again to GHO now that operations have shifted their mining activities to different locations. Gordon was pleased to note that the club president, Murray Haight, met with Jim Thorner and Jeff Zmurchyk from Greenhills on June 12, 2015 at which time the Teck staff announced that an access had had been opened up behind the railroad tracks for motorized and non-motorized recreation. Gordon felt that was a success resulting from Teck's open houses and engagement with community members.

Grizzly Bear Study: Gordon noted another success story resulting from a Teck open house. While attending an information session on the Fording River Swift project, Nic Milligan asked Gordon how the Elkford ATV Club was doing. Gordon explained about the Grizzly Bear study his club was assisting with by collecting hair samples from Elkford to the Elk Lakes. He said Nic responded by saying that the work being done is something Teck would support. It resulted in Teck funding the fuel and lunches for the participants. Around 1570 km of ground was covered in the 73 volunteer hours committed so far.

Great Canadian Shorelines Clean Up: Lee-Anne reminded everyone that the Elk Valley will be participating in the Great Canadian Shorelines Clean up during World Rivers Day which the last Sunday

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in September – September 27 for 2015. She noted the great support provided by Gordon and his club as well as a small group from Sparwood in addition to the Sparwood Secondary School Grade 8 students.

Lee-Anne added that Elk River Alliance (ERA) partnered with Teck to present to the regions Grade 7 through 11 students on the importance of healthy soils. This was fitting because 2015 is the United Nation's International Year of Soils. The students were fully subscribed as they discussed how this region is doing regarding soil health and what can be done better. The information shared was curriculum based.

Lee-Anne noted that ERA will be focusing on a flood solution strategy this year.

Elk Valley Columbia Basin Trust Community Directed Funds: Lois updated the group on the status of the Community Directed Funds that Columbia Basin Trust committed to the Elk Valley for regional projects. Only \$150,000 of the \$600,000 for a three-year period has been committed to organizations. It was decided that the remaining \$450,000 will be applied to the TransCanada Trail project for the stretch from Elk to Elkford (Elk Lakes). The Trail is mostly designated for non-motorized use but some parts of the Elk Valley portion of the Trail will be authorized for motorized use. Lois reminded people that the RDEK had stopped funding the Coal Discovery Trail several years ago so the District of Sparwood took it on. Lois noted that there are two areas between Hosmer and Sparwood where the trail is rated black diamond and not user friendly for the general population. Hopefully the Trans Canada Trail will better accommodate more levels of users. Both Lee-Anne and Gordon have seen various tour groups passing through on The Great Divide Trail.

#### **Partners' Meeting**

After discussing the agenda for the next Communities of Interest Advisory Partners' meeting it was determined that it will include:

- an update on Teck from Nic Milligan or designate
- a Flood Solution Strategy presentation by Lee-Anne
- a Childcare Survey update by Kim
- a Housing Affordability presentation by Simon
- one additional keynote speaker TBD by Sharon (something similar to last year's Westslope Cutthroat Trout Study)

Lois told Simon she would send him the link to the Housing Need and Demand Assessment done for Sparwood and Elkford a number of years ago for reference for his presentation. She noted that at a recent District of Sparwood Council Meeting the topic of affordable housing came up. Nelson Wight, Manager of Planning for the District said, at the meeting, that BC Housing's definition of affordable rent is that it be no more than 30% of a household's total gross monthly income.

After Simon mentioned how lucky we are to BC Housing who do so much for the Province, Kim concurred. She said they do a ton of stuff, are innovative, easy to work with and use efficient administrative models.

Everyone was asked to give some thought about finding nominees for the Partners' meeting. Sharon asked those at the table if they are planning to let their names stand. All but Simon confirmed they would. Simon feels he doesn't have the time to commit to the initiative in a way that is helpful but he already has names of people to nominate for his sector.

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The date for the meeting was decided to be Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. It will be held at the Sparwood Seniors Drop In Centre and lunch will be provided.

#### Other Updates

**Teck News** - Sharon summarized Teck's News Release of May 28, 2015 in which the company responds to steelmaking coal market conditions. She explained that each site in the Elk Valley as well as in-town office staff will be required to take three weeks of this summer and each department has been asked to further reduce their costs.

Sharon was pleased to share that Teck once again was recognized in two separate sustainability rankings. Teck was the fourth-ranked company overall and the top-ranked mining company on the Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada ranking by media and investment research company Corporate Knights. Teck was also named one of the Top 50 Socially Responsible Corporations in Canada by Sustainalytics, a global responsible investment research firm.

Teck President and CEO, Don Lindsay, was named to the Order of British Columbia in October 2014 with the investiture ceremony being held June 15, 2015 at Government House in Victoria. The Order of BC is the province's highest recognition of excellence and lifetime achievement and is awarded to those who have made extraordinary contributions to the province of British Columbia. Throughout his career, Don had made outstanding professional and personal contributions to the province and country with a particular focus on improving the lives of children and youth in BC, as well as internationally.

**Ben Voysey** - Dawn Voysey, mother of Ben who was former Youth representative on the Advisory Initiative Steering Committee, shared that with the economy being in its current weak state, summer jobs for post-secondary students aren't as readily available as they have been in the past. She was pleased to say that Ben secured a position and he attributes his time with the Steering Committee as having much to do with his successful application.

**Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)** - Lois commented on the FCM's Annual Conference and Trade Show that she and other area councilors and mayors attended. The four-day seminar took place in Edmonton with around 1700 delegates from across Canada in attendance. This is an opportunity for participants to look at municipal governments from different perspectives. The focus this year was on the Federal election. Municipalities were encouraged to share their issues with the nominees.

The three main topics of concern were: transit, housing, infrastructure. As the country is aging, infrastructures are breaking down and require upgrading. Simon asked how small towns like the ones in the Elk Valley get on the Federal government's radar when so many people live in large centers. Lee-Anne added that 80% of the population resides in cities. Lois pointed out that there are five British Columbians on the FCM Board and one of them is Leah Main who is on the Village of Silverton (near Arrow Lakes) Council. Her community has a population of only around 200 but she still has a voice on the board. Kim noted that one of the main issues with rural municipalities is transportation between them. Simon agreed that good transit is important to small communities. Lois said the small bus that runs between Elk Valley communities, is very costly to operate and maintain.

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Some other topics covered by guest speakers included: Reconnecting Public to Politics, Build it Once Build it to Last, Predictive Polling, Catastrophic Insurable Losses (with the main risk being flooding), and more.

Kim asked Lois if there was any backlash resulting from Stephen Harper choosing to go to the G8 Summit instead of the FCM conference. Lois said there was some criticism but once people saw the G8 Summit on the news, it was clear that Stephen Harper needed to be in Europe. It gave the FCM conference attendees an opportunity to share and speak openly without Prime Minister Harper being there.

**Federation of Canadian Municipalities Latin American Study Tour** – Sharon added that some FCM representatives brought a delegation of local and federal government representatives from Peru and Colombia to the East Kootenays. The group was interested in the heritage of the mining communities, and how they can learn about best practices to strengthen mining communities and to leverage the presence of mining development in Latin America. They spent a half day in Elkford at the Community Conference Centre where they learned about Teck's tax-sharing agreements with the communities, the relationship between Teck and the Ktunaxa Nation, communities of interest engagements and the Advisory Initiative, the Feedback Mechanism and more. Following lunch, the group was given a tour of Fording River Operations focusing on the reclaimed areas.

**Teck's Leadership for Change Training** – Lee-Anne shared a positive experience she had where eight Teck employees who were taking the Leadership for Change Training, came into the Wildsight office asking if there were things they could help out with. John Poirier had earlier that day voiced his concern about how a manmade swimming hole in Coal Creek might have a negative effect on the westslope cutthroat trout which will be spawning soon. The eight men went to the spot and dismantled the barrier that would have prevented normal spawning.

#### Round Table

Terry – Terry said that the meeting was very interesting with lots of information being passed along and many good things happening, with the exception of the shutdown news from Sharon. He suggested that because coal sales tend to be cyclical, Teck should consider put money aside for the tough times when they are receiving \$500 a tonne.

Lois – Lois really enjoyed the meeting with a lot of significant information exchanged. She took the opportunity to thank everyone who attended or participated in last weekend's Coal Miner Days in Sparwood. She reminded everyone that next year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sparwood's incorporation and there will many opportunities to celebrate with the District.

Gordon – Gordon agreed that there was a lot of information exchange and he went on to add to Lee-Anne's ERA river clean up topic. He shared that 13 people from Elkford collected three truckloads of garbage from the Elk River south to Line Creek on June 13<sup>th</sup>. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, the group will clean north of Elkford.

Joanne – Joanne said that she always enjoys the meetings which are very interesting with lots of information being passed along. She added that in addition to low coal prices, the Crowsnest Pass (CNP) is being affected by the low price for oil. The recent change in the Provincial government will take some time to phase in. She is still working on the development of the Seniors' Lodge in CNP. Architects have been secured to evaluate whether they should build new (site available) or to renovate the current

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facility. This should be determined by the end of June. Joanne continues to be involved with KidSport in the Pass.

Liam – Liam enjoys the meetings and finds them interesting. He is currently focusing on school since he has his final exams next week. The Finnish exchange that took place in March was a lot of fun and the school is currently looking into possibilities of partnering with youth from other countries. Some being considered are China, Japan, Mexico, Germany and Vietnam. For his COI website blog, Liam will be interviewing youth in the Pass asking them how they feel about the change in the Provincial government for the first time in 44 years.

Lee-Anne – Lee-Anne felt there was a lot of great information shared and appreciated getting the update on a potential college course on watershed management, what is happening in the municipalities and with childcare. She believes this initiative provides opportunities for important synergies among groups. She is currently working on something with Simon.

Kim – Kim felt she had said enough but wanted to thank everyone for their contribution to their communities and Simon for being the Chair.

Sharon – Sharon thanked everyone for their attendance and engaged participation.

Simon – Simon ended by challenging each person to pick one topic from today's meeting and share it with at least three people over the next while.

### Closing Remarks

Simon thanked everyone for their attendance.

Meeting ended at 11:10

**Next Community Partners Meeting:**

July 23, 2015 – Sparwood Senior Drop In Centre

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**

Mid-September 2015

### Action Items

Action Items	Who	Deadline
COI website blog – CNP Youth and new Provincial government	LA/SS	July 23, 2015
Populate website – Childcare issues/survey/blog	KB/SS	July 15, 2015
Percentage of tax dollars funding the Municipality of CNP	JD	July 15, 2015
Book venue for Partners meeting on July 23rd	SS	Done
Send Partners meeting invitation	SS	Done
Confirm N. Milligan for Teck update	SS	Done
Find an interesting topic (like WSCT Study) for Partners meeting	SS	June 25, 2015
Send request for nominees for Partners meeting	SS	June 25, 2015
Contribute names/nominees for Steering Committee 2015/2016	All	July 15, 2015

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**Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Role</b>	
Anonson, Terry	MNBC / Elkford		
Arbuckle, Liam	Youth/ Crowsnest Pass		
Bauer, Kim	Social Services/Elkford		
Drain, Joanne	Seniors/Crowsnest Pass		
Galloway, Gordon	Motorized Recreation/Elkford		
Halko, Lois	Municipal Government/Sparwood		
Howse, Simon	Business & CHBA / Fernie	Chair	
Strom, Sharon	Teck / Communities	Secretary	
Walker, Lee-Anne	ENGOS/RDEKA		

**Unable to attend:**

	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Role</b>	
Palmer, Anita	Education / RDEK A	Vice Chair	
Talarico, Janice	Healthcare/Sparwood		
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood		