| **Minutes of Meeting** | | |
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| **Location:**  Teck Communities Office  116 Centennial Street, Sparwood, BC | **Date:** March 11, 2015 | **Time:** 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. |
| **Purpose:** Steering Committee Meeting 2015 Q1 | | |
| **Attendees:** See attached | | |

Meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m.

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

Simon Howse welcomed the members to the meeting. Given there was a guest in attendance, Sharon Strom suggested everyone introduce themselves. Following introductions, Sharon noted where the exits and restrooms were located for the benefit of the guest, Denise Bertrand, Councilor District of Elkford and President of Elkford ATV Club.

Simon Howse provided a safety share based on a recent personal experience. He pointed out that having signage in place identifying hazards in the workplace may not be sufficient to prevent people from putting themselves at risk. At one of his construction sites, signage was in place to warn people of hazards due to equipment operation. It wasn’t enough to prevent a cyclist from riding under the boom of a truck in operation.

**Review of Agenda**

Simon asked everyone to review the agenda and advise if changes were required. There were none.

**Other Updates**

It was decided that Other Updates would be covered prior to Project Updates because they could be covered quickly, allowing for good discussion for the more detailed updates.

Sharon advised the members that Teck has formed a Senior Executive Diversity Committee to formulate and adopt a set of objectives aimed at attracting and retaining a diverse workforce.

It was noted by Sharon that Teck was named to the Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations List for the third consecutive year by media and investment research company Corporate Knights. She thanked the Committee for the part they continue to play in the receipt of the honor.

Line Creek and Coal Mountain Operations will be having their Towards Sustainable Mining self-assessments for 2014 externally verified. Sharon will be part of the process for the Aboriginal and Community Outreach protocol and its indicators. This will begin April 7, 2015.

An update was given on Daniel Baher, former Youth Rep on the Steering Committee. Daniel secured summer employment with Imperial Oil in the Strathcona refinery in Edmonton.

**Project Updates**

COI Advisory Initiative Website: The members were reminded that there was a second blog on the website and that a third one should be considered. It was suggested that Liam Arbuckle write one from a Youth perspective. Sharon noted that the site will become more populated as the work of the Elk Valley Child Care Advisory Initiative progresses. It was suggested that another blog could be created with respect to the Childcare Initiative.

Childcare Advisory Initiative: Kim, Sharon and Anita provided an update regarding the Elk Valley Child Care Advisory Initiative and its successful application for funding from Columbia Basin Trust to deliver a Childcare Barriers and Opportunities survey to the Elk Valley:

* January 20 – Terms of Reference for Request for Proposal (RFP) final draft
* February 5 – RFP ad placed
* February 27 – RFP closing date
* March 11 afternoon – interview of qualified candidate scheduled

Anita was pleased to share that of the 10 people to took the face-to-face ECED 113 course, several have gone on to take the next level of ECE program, some have applied for childcare assistants positions and one has received a job offer.

College Project: Simon acknowledged that not much has been done regarding the College project since the last quarterly meeting; however, good discussions were had with a university recently regarding the project. This was to ensure the project moves forward should the College of the Rockies not be interested or able to participate. Anita and Simon are trying to meet with Allan Knibbs, Facilities Manager Cranbrook COTR, so they can make a push to bring the aging building of the Fernie Campus higher up the list of important projects requiring funding.

**Other Updates cont’d**

Simon announced that at the Canadian Home Builders Association BC (CHBA BC) AGM, he was elected the 2015-2016 President of the Board of Directors. The role provides him with a seat on the National Board.

Simon shared information with the group regarding Development Cost Charges (DCCs). Development Cost Charges (DCCs) are monies that are collected from land developers by a municipality, to offset some of the infrastructure expenditures incurred, to service the needs of new development. The Ministry of Community Services must approve municipal DCC bylaws. About 20% of the costs builders recover from clients are because of DCCs. He noted that a bad job has been done communicating to the end user that they are paying this additional amount dictated by municipalities resulting in new home owners thinking the builders are overcharging. In Fernie, the DCC is on average $13,000/home. In Kelowna, it is about $28,000/home while, in Vancouver, DCCs are about $45,000/home. The CHBA BC feels that these costs, which are providing upfront infrastructure costs for the next 50 – 70 years should be a more current benefit to the municipalities by lowering the cost of building for the owner.

A recent news release from CHBA BC applauded the Minister of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing and Deputy Premier, Rich Coleman for his Ministry’s decision that mandatory education requirements will now be a prerequisite for builders applying for, and renewing licensing. Simon noted that the education is to come from builders and not colleges.

Simon added that the home-building industry is moving to EnerGuide efficiency rating which is tied to incentive programs by Power Smart, BC Hydro and others. BuiltGreen, Energy Star and R-2000 are programs aimed at building energy efficient homes. Simon predicts that, in 5 to 10 years, every house on Multiple Listing Service (MLS) will have an EnerGuide rating as it is like a nutrition label for a house.

Lastly, Simon was pleased to share that the CHBA just reached an agreement with the Government of Canada to renew its successful public information program, *Get it in Writing*, for the next three years. The program is geared at educating consumers seeking renovations to get everything in writing in the form of a contract to stop underground, illegal cash payment renovations. This will hold the contractors accountable and protect consumers by providing a recourse if things go wrong.

**Round Table**

For this meeting’s round table, Simon asked everyone to share something of special importance or interest to them.

Gordon – Gordon had attended the Open House for the Fording River Swift Project and noted that the ATV club, working with Greg Sword and Nic Milligan from Teck, were able to save one of the accesses for recreational users. The club is involved with a Grizzly Bear Study to collect fur samples for analysis. Trees are wrapped in barbed wire and sprayed with fish oil. The ATV club, in groups of three, gathers the fur that got snagged on the wire. One person takes the sample, another one documents the findings and the third person watches for bears. Gordon shared that after doing some research on costs of full care residential living, he was able to negotiate with Interior Health to lower the monthly payments for his wife’s care from $2700 to $1500 per month.

A general discussion about the importance of updating wills took place.

Denise – As a visitor at the table, Denise abstained from the round table sharing.

Kim - Kim was pleased to report that the childcare survey is getting off the ground. She noted that 60 children are attending the Elkford Preschool with a small wait list. The Elkford Women's Task Force Society has received funding from BC Housing for a new program. The new program will provide subsidy to women leaving abusive relationships that meet the income requirements. The subsidy will assist women leaving abusive relations with rent, utilities, damage deposit, etc allowing them to obtain safe and affordable housing. The Elk Valley Safe Homes provides shelter, transportation, information, support and referrals to women experiencing violence residing in the Elk Valley and South Country. These services are available 24 hours a day, every day of the year by calling 1.800.200.3003. The Kids Count Too program provides counselling and support for Elk Valley children aged 3-18 that have witnessed violence or that are experiencing a parental separation that is difficult. The Elkford Early Years Committee will be holding their annual Tee Off For Tots Charity Golf Tournament at Mountain Meadows in Elkford on June 5. All funds raised at this event go back into supporting free programs and activities for children and young families in Elkford.

Anita – Anita wanted to share concerns about mental health. She noted from a recent indirect experience of a family member that there doesn’t appear to be enough support. The guidelines for support seem unclear. For some, it appears that the only way to get help is to get arrested. She encouraged the group to consider advocating for mental health in a future campaign.

A general discussion about seniors’ assisted, supported and independent living scenarios in the Elk Valley and Crowsnest Pass took place.

Shelley – Shelley had attended Teck’s December Open House for Michel Creek Road (MCR) residents where excellent dialogue took place regarding Elkview’s Baldy Ridge Extension project. It was well-attended and good information was provided. One of the key questions asked by MCR residents regarded how long they could safely continue to live where they do. Shelley appreciated that where possible, feedback and recommendations from the community were taken into consideration and changes made accordingly. One was regarding Teck’s suggested location of the waste rock spoil and another concerned the settling pond. She is pleased that Teck is really listening to the community.

Liam – Liam was looking forward to the Finnish International exchange where students from Finland will be attending Crowsnest Consolidated High School in April. When asked what he especially liked about his community, Liam responded that it was the outdoor living.

Lois – Lois provided an update on Sparwood’s Lilac Terrace expansion project which is estimated to cost around four million dollars. MP David Wilks, MLA Bill Bennett and representatives from Columbia Basin Trust were present at the ribbon cutting for the ground breaking. The project will add 12 new rooms which will include respite and palliative care. Money and time are playing a role in the delay of the new Hwy #3 and #43 intersection projects. It appears that Tim Horton’s will be taking some action to build later this spring.

Sharon – Sharon spoke about her involvement with the Elk Valley Economic Initiative and how it aims to regionally collaborate to increase economic development in the Elk Valley. The CAOs and the Chamber of Commerce managers from Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie are members of the committee which also has representation from the Tobacco Plains Indian Band and industry. The committee is planning a big event to take place in Fernie in June that will bring in business-oriented keynote speaker, Chris Brogan, as well as Chief Clarence Louie whose leadership helped the Osoyoos Indian Band become economically viable. The intent of hosting the event is to showcase the Elk Valley to potential investors. She will provide more information on the event in the future. In the meantime, she directed people to the website address: [www.theelkvalley.ca](http://www.theelkvalley.ca) .

Joanne – Joanne reported that Blairmore’s Crowsnest Pass Senior Housing's York Creek Lodge will be receiving funding from the Governments of Canada and Alberta to renovate its existing building or to build new. The preference is to build new to make the facility bigger and more wheel chair friendly. With this, there will be an expansion of 24 units. These will include Supportive Living level 4 (SL4) and Supportive Living for Dementia patients (SLD). The Crowsnest Pass Senior Housing Board is hoping the municipality will donate land for a new building but there isn’t much land available.

Simon – Simon felt his discussion about the CHBA BC was sufficient for him

**Closing Remarks**

Simon thanked everyone for their attendance. Meeting ended at 11:30

**Next Steering Committee Meeting:**  Mid to late June 2015, TBD

**Next Community Partners Meeting:** Late June early July 2015, TBD

**Action Items**

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| Action Items | Who | Deadline |
| Arrange for Simon, Anita, Sharon to meet with Fernie Council | Sharon | ~~Early in 2015~~ Q2 2015 |
|  |  |  |

**Attendance**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Representing** | **Role** |  |
| 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 |  |
| Palmer, Anita | Education / RDEK A | Vice Chair |  |
| Strom, Sharon | Teck / Communities | Secretary |  |
| Wedderburn, Shelley | Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood |  |  |

**Unable to attend:**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Representing** | **Role** |  |
| Anonson, Terry | Metis Nation/Elkford |  |  |
| Talarico, Janice | Healthcare/Sparwood |  |  |
| Walker, Lee-Anne | ENGOs/RDEKA |  |  |