

Agenda

1:00 Opening Remarks – Anita Palmer, Steering Committee Chair

- General welcome and housekeeping (emergency exits/restrooms)
- Land Acknowledgement
- Safety share

1:20 COIAI House Keeping

- 2025 Matrix & Steering Committee Position
- Confirm 2025 Dates
- Website Updates and Overview
- Terms of Reference Update

Action Items – Matrix and Steering Committee positions

- Reach out to Amy Cardozo regarding her involvement going forward with COIAI - Aimee
- Reach out to Elkford Council youth members for youth position - Len
- Reach out to Sparwood youth action committee to gauge interest in joining COIAI- Crieghton/Aimee
- Reach out to members of school boards as youth representative – Anita?
- Check in with Kim Bauer to see if a replacement is needed in the role - Crieghton
- Check in with Rebecca Briton (Metis) for indigenous representative - Nancy/Kerri
- BIPOC and LGBTQ spaces still available, no response from Fernie Pride – Position advertised on Website and Fernie Fix, change BIPOC to 'People of Color' on matrix - Aimee
- Families still vacant but good coverage remains –enquire with Shellaine Taylor, public health nurse working in the Elk Valley based in Elkford - Nancy
- Advertise to parent-tot-fun time attendants about serving as a voice to represent people with young families and determine if EVR will cover costs of Childcare for attendant of COIAI - Aimee.

Action Items – Confirm 2025 Dates

Unanimous support from COIAI board to continue quarterly meetings on Tuesday Afternoons.

- 13th May 1-3pm Q2
- 24th June (TBC*) 9-1pm 1st Partner's Meeting, St Eugenes, Cranbrook.
- 9th September 1-3pm Q3
- 18th November 1-3pm Q2
- 9th December 9-1pm 2nd Partner's Meeting

Sparwood Senior's Drop-In Centre
101 4 Ave, Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0

February 25th, 2025
1:00pm –3:00 pm

** With the meeting focused on recreation and access issues, Tom's attendance is essential. As such, the meeting date will be scheduled based on his availability, which needs to be confirmed around his other commitments.*

Action Items – Website Update (Actions for Aimee/ Annika)

- Aimee presented a suggested update for the COIAI website aimed at improving accessibility and providing a better understanding of the role and mission of the COIAI. Aimee added that having a website on a modern platform (wix) meant it could be updated easily by COIAI members, rather than going through an external consultant.
- Kerri suggested shorter blurbs for the introduction, advisory initiative and to clarify the role of the COIAI, which is to foster ideas and work as a catalyst to create action rather than performing actions itself. Suggestion to add testimonials on front page to improve authenticity.
- Nancy-Jo added that she likes photos and visual presentation.
- Anita asked for the vision and mission statements (which were incorrectly located under the Elkford task group) to be added to the front page as these represent the COIAI.
- Aimee asked for members of COIAI to provide updated photos and blurbs if desired.
- Len suggested the Elkford Task group may not be currently active, something to follow up on and clarify in the updated website.

Aimee and Annika agreed to have a draft website prepared for COIAI review by the Partner's Meeting in June.

2:00 – Terms of Reference Update (Actions for Aimee/ Nich)

- Under foundation Statements add a specific goal for youth
- Under Strategic Direction add an objective that is explicit to environmental commitments and define the 'sustainability' objective to clearly outline socio-economic, environmental and economic. Include recreation/ access in the objectives.
 - Original Statement: Continue to enhance awareness of and hold EVR accountable for sustainability goals and commitments throughout the communities of interest
- Add a youth specific objective under strategic direction
- Under strategies, expand and clarify so that it defines advocacy and support for local youth. COI youth employment within EVR
 - Original statement: Consult with EVR Human Resources, Livingstone Range SD, SD#5 and College of the Rockies personnel to determine what steps local youth can take to better prepare themselves for employment with EVR and other community businesses
- Remove the strategy and instead, separate housing from Health Care and establish a housing task force

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- Remove: Commit to holding Health Care Task Force meetings with a current focus on poverty reduction, housing affordability and mental wellness
- Add a strategy to support the enhancement of post-secondary education in the Elk Valley

Please see the updated ToR for 2025 and review updated statements.

2:45 Steering Committee Updates

Due to the addition of two new members, Aimee and Annika the introduction was longer than expected and the updates were condensed in a bid to keep the meeting in time.

- Anita Palmer
 - Non-update on the Hosmer Fire Hall despite previous communication suggesting an update would be provided in the January meeting.
- Shelley Wedderburn
 - Noted that vehicles are being stopped on Michelle Creek Road and tickets/ warnings are being passed to drivers with strobe lights on.
 - Raised concern over the dust in Sparwood from Lagoon D. Stated that the levels of dust were unacceptable and the lack of EVR's communication around such events was disappointing. Said local communities should be informed about decisions that directly affect them, and better communication around significant movements/ implementation in the mine, such as the raising of ponds is required. Stated that last summer, an enquiry to the feedback line generated little response.
- Rosa Maria Rocca
 - Brought attention to seniors and how important they are in communities, often volunteering time to assist necessary services. Noted the work of Eddie Holland who ran the local foodbank and is moving away. In her name, there is now an award for a one-time bursary with hopes transform into an annual award with associated funds. April 1st the Sparwood Foodbank is hosting a celebration of their one-year anniversary.
- Tom Kraemer
 - Represented many communities at a CAMP meeting, where biologists presented positive findings on fish populations in the area, especially those in Michelle Creek. He noted there was no cap on Michele Creek and Wigwam, due to high population whilst the cap on the Elk River remains in place.
- Kerri Wall
 - Expressed concern over lack of time between Q2 and Partner's Meeting.
- Nancy-Jo O'Neill
 - Had to leave for another meeting at 3pm
- Len Gostick

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- In sympathy with Shelly's concern around dust levels in Sparwood, discussed Elkford's efforts to put in a boundary to the burning of all logging waste/slash piling in the province. Expressed frustration that the venting quality for the valley is taken in Cranbrook, which is non-representative of Elkford.
- Creighton Globber
 - No Update
- Nich Godri/ Aimee Pitcher
 - Aimee introduced efforts of EVR to better understand issues with Childcare in the Elk Valley as a follow up from the survey 10 years ago.
 - Nich stated that he and Aimee would organize speakers for the next land use topic.
 - Nich asked Tom to investigate topics for the land-use focused partner's meeting
 - Nich/ Aimee tasked to contact Evgeni about water monitoring projects of Elk River Alliance.
 - Nich stated appreciation for communities pushing and raising concerns (in reference to Shelly's statements on dust) as EVR does not have the leverage to raise concerns without support of a data set/trend from the community.

Meeting closed 3:30pm