

Minutes

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

- General welcome and housekeeping (emergency exits/restrooms)
- Land Acknowledgement – Rosa.
- Safety share – Aimee.

1:20 COIAI Housekeeping

- Follow-up on Q1 action items and membership updates
- Confirmed dates for upcoming Partner's Meeting and Q3
- Updates on partner's meeting coordination and logistics

Action Items – Matrix and Steering Committee Positions

- Aimee to follow up with Amy Cardozo due to continued absence.
- Len to contact Elkford Council youth member regarding youth position.
- Creighton and Aimee to reach out to Sparwood Youth Action Committee.
- Anita to reach out to school board members for youth representative.
- Creighton to check in with Kim Bauer about potential replacement.
- Nancy confirmed Rebecca Briton (Metis) is interested but unable to commit due to new role.
- Terry Anonsen (Metis) attended this meeting, re-establishing Metis representation.
- An EVR staff member and Fernie Pride member expressed interest in LGBTQIA+ representation. Aimee to follow up externally as the individual cannot join COIAI to avoid overrepresentation.
- BIPOC space remains vacant – Aimee to investigate further.
- Family positions remain vacant. Nancy to consult Elkford public health nurse.
- EVR will cover child-minding costs on a case-by-case basis; Aimee to pursue PO setup when applicable.

Action Items – Date Confirmation and Partner's Meeting Logistics.

- May 13 confirmed as Q2 meeting date.
- June 24th confirmed for Partner's Meeting at St. Eugene's.
- Nancy suggested inviting a Ktunaxa Elder for blessing – Aimee to follow up.
- Aimee to arrange transportation for community attendees.
- Theme of the Partner's Meeting: Land Use and Access.

- Tom Schoas to deliver keynote on WALRUS engagement.
- EVR reps: Sean Beswick and Rory to speak on mine-owned land access.
- Aimee and Tom coordinate content and structure.

2:00 Round Table Updates

Tom Kramer

- Ongoing work with Fernie Tourism on Master Trails Plan.
- Advocacy for multi-use trails amid motorized vs. non-motorized conflict.
- Working on access project with EVR and Ministry of Transportation to replace washed-out bridge near Round Prairie Parcel.

Nancy Jo

- Discussed American medical professionals relocating to Elk Valley due to political changes in the U.S.
- Sparwood has lost an international resident doctor who cannot complete supervised practice locally.

Shelly

- Shared feedback from new residents disappointed by coal dust; they were unaware prior to moving.
- Top speed of 105 km/h recorded in 50 km/h zone via Michelle Creek Road traffic monitor.
- Monitoring system does not enforce speeds – primarily observational.

Rosa

- Elk Valley House Washing Program experiencing issues with bookings, echoed by others in the community.
- Continued senior advocacy, including involvement in Columbia Basin Trust funding initiatives.
- Encouraged Crowsnest Pass seniors' center to reach out to Tammy for EVR support.

Creighton

- Despite CRP, hiring continues: 35 trades and 89 haul truck/laborer positions.
- 2024 hiring: 236 haul truck drivers, 39 trades, 36 staff.
- Employment remains fluid due to volatile coal prices.

Anita

- Noted Microsoft Teams continues to present technical challenges.

Kerri

- Attended Association of Kootenay Local Government meeting.
- Highlighted "Strong Towns" presentation on community health and resilience.

Anne (Elk River Alliance)

- Preparing funding applications through the Teck Penalty Fund.
- Ongoing cottonwood planting and hydro monitoring.
- Planning installation of a lower Elk River water monitoring site for safety and data accuracy.
- Promoted upcoming "Knowing Water Conference."

Katey Taylor

- Fernie Childcare Centre updates: delayed due to budget constraints; mid-summer start expected.
- Senior's housing in Sparwood and Fernie is nearing renovation completion.
- Chrysalis House (women's shelter) funding secured, but operational/staffing support still needed.

Terry Anonsen

- Elk Valley Metis no longer aligned with BC Metis Federation.
- Recently acquired land parcel and are engaging with mining industry for partnerships.
- Emphasized strong Metis presence in regional mining history.

Aimee (EVR Update)

- Addressed rumors regarding cost-reduction program and layoffs; expressed condolences to impacted families.
- No additional layoffs planned at this time.
- Dust from Elkview remains a concern; foam suppression trials underway with promising results.
- Emphasized continued community reporting of issues (e.g., dirty vehicles).
- As per suggestion from Shelly, Aimee to flag to EVO the second gate on State Highway 3 to limit coal-dust-covered trucks using Michelle Creek Road.
- Flagged EVR's Baldy Ridge Extension Open House – 29th May at the Senior's Drop-in Centre, Sparwood.



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

May 13th , 2025
1:00pm –3:00 pm



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Meeting Closed: 2:45 PM