

Minutes of Meeting		
Location: Causeway Bay	Date: April 11, 2021	Time: 1:00 PM
Purpose: Steering Committee Meeting	Version: DRAFT	
Attendees: See below	Issue Date:	

Intro

Welcome Anita

- Meeting started at 1:07. This is the first in person meeting in two years.

Self-introduction of new members

Ktunaxa Acknowledgement

Safety Share

- More bears out in Elkford so be cautious when walking your pets. Also noted that there is a program where they will replace fruit bearing trees to not attract bears.

Review of Agenda – Anita, no changes

Representative Updates

Education – Anita

- Just finished fiscal year at college so a lot of activity in the past couple of weeks. Very busy with first aid, almost every day. HCA (health care assistant) program going on right now, (started in March). It is a government program where they provide money to interior health and Golden Life and pay current employees on the job and they do on the job training. Mostly online and at the job site. Moving forward would like to train people every year to fill the need but it is hard to find people who want those careers.

Employment – Creighton

- Struggling with vacancies ~250 vacancies, it's global, many companies struggling.
- Childcare and housing is part of it.

Environment – Chad

- The 'Elk River Access Improvement initiative' (partnership between ERA, tourism Fernie) is underway, it will be improving infrastructure to the river at several locations, plating boat launches, picnic tables, toilets, interpretive centers etc. over the next few years.
- The 'Elk River watershed Collaborative Monitoring Program' is well underway with the current focus on developing the monitoring pilot.
- The 'Elk River Discovery Camp' was booked out a few days after registration opened, with a significant number of kids on the waitlist. If nothing else this highlights a need for more child-focused summer activities in the valley. Camp Blue Lake is no longer running day camp in the valley citing difficulties in sourcing staff.



- We are reassessing our community-based water monitoring program, so if there are any areas of concern for the Elk Valley community and residents we'd like to hear from them.
- The new proposed Coal Mining Effluent Regulations are of some concern, ERA submitted comments during the feedback period (as did other organizations likely), and we are waiting to hear back on the outcomes.

Housing – Simon

- Elkford – very close on senior housing
- Challenging to build houses that are affordable – inflation and shortage in supply chain
- Had two-day meeting with CBT bringing together suppliers and other professionals to discuss how to design a model for communities in the basin that is affordable. Figured, smaller may be better (easier to integrate, especially in infill situations). Four-plexes seem like an important option.
- Question: What are next steps?
- Answer: compiling input, just happened in March, then will provide it to group for comment and then a recommendation will come from that.
- Housing shortages in Valley – doesn't appear to be a change in sight.

Interior Health – Kerri

- Healthy communities' program – working on active transportation plan in Radium, and working on grant applications in other places. But locally, an infographic about toxic drug overdoses in the valley. Local governments are asking more about it so sharing information about that. Kerri will send that to the COIAI. Also, for Galloway Lands, they are asking for information. Interior health's perspective is that it won't help with the declared housing needs, it is a sewage and water concern.
- Question: What does active transportation plan look like for Valley?
- Answer: It sounds like Elkford is considering this. Fernie was working on something as well. Active transportation are the things you can do with your body, ex. biking.

Metis Nation – Terry

- Elk Valley Metis has been more active lately with consulting businesses. EX CNP to Jaffray pipeline, have talked to Teck on occasion, making inroads with other coal companies.
- Formed low cost housing committee – were going to purchase property in Cranbrook but hasn't worked out yet so exploring some other opportunities.
- Bi-election for vice president of BC Metis association is upcoming.

MCR and GN road residents – Shelley

- Trail system will connect to highway 43, they will be getting going on that soon which means people will not have to walk on the road. There will be two lit crosswalks, so you'll be able to stop traffic. Still a lot of very fast traffic on that road so maybe this will help – speeding is an issue. There may also in the future be more of an RCMP presence on the road.



- BC hydro is re-doing substation – have cut down trees, it is a big upgrade and that is happening this summer. Unsure if there will be reclamation on that.

Motorized Recreation – Denise

- Quad season hasn't quite started yet. Working on one trail up to SMS but some roadblocks on that.
- Question: Is Grizzley bear study continuing?
- Answer: No

Seniors – John is our new rep for Seniors and CNP and knows a lot about the history of the area.

Social Programs – Kim

- Teck donated \$1 million to Elkford Senior Housing project on top of land that they donated. BC housing project manager was here last week with Parastone to tour the site and community. Despite rising costs, it looks like it will become a reality. Hoping to get foundation in this summer. The cost of the project almost doubled. Very close to being able to pull permits. It will be 26 units (1 bedroom). Have approved operating budget.
- Women's shelter for Elk Valley now has 24 hour staff, which is quite exciting. In March about 3000 calls, so they are very busy.
- Daycare in Elkford – tenders came back and was over budget but working through that. May end up opening in temporary location.

Youth – Cassandra/Quinn

- Reconnecting students with students and communities – now they have a student council, had a school dance recently, have a comms class that does advertising that is bringing in some funding, and also have a new track and field program.
- A lot of new classes this semester – environmental stewardship doing hydroponic project, outdoor pursuits, digital communications.
- Question: How could we connect CNP youth with youth from other communities. For example, if there are questions about how Teck hires.
- Answer: Perhaps a youth task force.

Old Business – Action Items Review

- Youth and senior rep's are filled
- Looking for a vice-chair position – Denise Bertrand will be the new vice-chair.

New Business

Teck Feedback – Sharon

- A couple concerns about dust on grave lake, the spray station is coming back to Sparwood in same spot so two people concerned about it, requests for house cleaning coming in.
- Question: How can people get on the list?

- Answer: It can go to feedback line or to Sharon – teckcoalfeedback at teck.com

Teck Announcements – Sharon

- Announcement – Copper and Health, Forbes list, water treatment facility is complete, expanded climate strategy.

Fernie Fix

- For May the theme is communities – Sharon and Kerri will discuss this.
- June theme is light – maybe can do something about allyship with LGBTQ+ community.
- July, in the mix
- August, give life back to music
- September, education
- Send ideas to Sharon

Teck Projects – Sharon

- Cleaning Program 2022
- Pocket Park
- Building Demolition/removal
- Sharon to email out mine tour information
- Fire smart – some people are talking about it and concerned, and Teck has been approached about it. It is meant to be a community supported initiative. Spoke with fire chief and he has found champions, so that may be a good speaker.

Partners meeting – topics/speakers, election, will be in July, send your ideas to Sharon

Ideas for speakers:

- Business retention survey results (Taylor)
- “civic engagement”
- Fire Smart (Allan Westhaver)
- Expert in palliative care, or what services are available (maybe interior health), or maybe even folks with personal experience.

Next Meetings: Steering Committee in June, Partners Meeting in July.

Present

Name	Representing
Terry Anonson	Metis Nation of BC, Elk Valley Metis, Elkford
Kim Bauer	Social Programs, Elkford
Denise Bertrand	Motorized Recreation, Elkford
Mariah Besplug	Teck, Sparwood
Quinn Douglas	Youth, CNP
Simon Howse	Housing, Fernie
Casandra Klapp	Youth, CNP



ELK VALLEY / CROWSNEST PASS
COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
ADVISORY INITIATIVE

A Key to Community Sustainability

Anita Palmer	Education/COTR/RDEKA/Chair
Sharon Strom	Teck, Sparwood
Kerri Wall	Interior Health, Fernie