

Minutes of Meeting		
Location: Causeway Bay, Sparwood Peter Flury Room	Date: June 24, 2019	Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Purpose: Steering Committee Meeting 2019 Q2	Version: Final	
Attendees: See attached	Issue date: Feb 6, 2020	

Meeting commenced at 1:02 p.m.

Welcome, Housekeeping, Safety Share

Chair, Anita Palmer welcomed everyone. Sharon noted where the exits and muster point were in the event of an emergency. For the safety share, Anita reminded people to be aware that highway traffic is getting heavy and motorcyclists are on the road. She added that with heavy rain pooling in ruts on highway hydroplaning is a possibility. If it happens, cut off the gas.

Since the meeting was Jason's first one, Anita asked everyone to introduce themselves and say which community and area of interest they were representing.

Review of Agenda

Item 3.8 Environment – Beaver Wetlands and Item 5.5 Claris website and monthly ad were added to the agenda.

Objectives Update

Childcare – Sharon attended a District of Sparwood Council meeting at which a local daycare operator was asking for a zoning amendment so she could open a second facility. Sharon spoke in support of the request. The request was approved by Council. Currently there are 80 children on the waitlist for Treehouse Daycare seats.

Youth and Local Employment – Neither Jared nor Noah were in attendance

Healthcare/Elkford Senior Housing – Kim noted that the Elkford Senior Housing Project was moving along with Parastone contracted to do the project management. An update was given to the committee in May outlining a more realistic plan that suggested a two phase development. Phase 1 would be 20-25 units for independent living senior apartments. Phase 2 would be 15-20 assisted living units. Joanne Drain commended the Elkford Housing Society for moving so quickly with the project. She added that the Crowsnest Pass (CNP) senior project has two project managers. Sharon requested the group be given a tour of the CNP facility prior to its opening. Kim said as things progress with the Elkford project BC Housing will assign a liaison to work with the project manager and the committee. She suggested Columbia Basin Trust may provide support.

Post-secondary Education – the College of the Rockies Fernie campus put a lot of work into a bid for support from the Industry Trade Authority for a Kitchen Assistants project. Unfortunately, only one project for all of BC was selected and it went to the BC Construction Association for their Skilled Trades Employment Program (STEP). Shelley asked Anita if Interior Health (IH) provided support for the

application. Anita confirmed a letter of support was provided by IH. She said the application wasn't lacking anything. It was just that a different project was selected.

Anita hasn't heard yet whether or not the Older Worker Program will be offered again. The last one was a huge success and there are people asking weekly if it will run again.

Housing – Simon was not in attendance. Sharon noted that the request for approval of a Temporary Worker Accommodation in Sparwood was denied by Council.

Kerri shared information she received as the Community Health Facilitator for Interior Health. Legislative requirements took effect in April whereby all municipal and regional districts in BC must complete a housing report by April 2022 and every five after that. Local and BC governments need to understand and be informed about housing needs in order to respond to them. Funding will be available through the Union of BC Municipalities for the next three years to support local governments in this undertaking. Kerri added that there is great information about healthy housing at:

<https://planh.ca/take-action/healthy-environments/built-environments/page/healthy-housing>

Community Safety – Scott said we are in what is often referred to as Monsoon June but he added that rain is good and it is needed to help prevent fires. He was pleased that there are around 20 Fernie community members active in its FireSmart Program. He noted that there is a lot homeowners can do to prevent embers from flaring up into fires. Gordon said Elkford has applied for authorization under the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development's section 57 to create a fire break but it will likely take up to a year to get clearance.

Scott said it has been quiet for Search and Rescue across the communities.

Ktunaxa Nation – Vickie was not in attendance, however, Sharon provided a summary of the Community Foundations of Canada Conference she attended in Victoria at the beginning of June where themes of reconciliation and decolonization were predominant.

Environment – Beth said the Elk River Alliance (ERA) is engaging with communities and advocating for a better plan to improve the health of wetlands. Better stewardship of area wetlands is encouraged. A final report on Accepting Beavers and Enhancing Wetlands is available on the ERA website:

https://d3n8a8pro7vhm.cloudfront.net/elkriverralliance/pages/240/attachments/original/1556044522/Accepting_Beavers_and_Enhancing_Wetlands_Final_Report_FINAL.pdf?1556044522

Beth asked Sharon how coal dust affects water quality. Sharon did not know but said the Grave Lake cabin owners asked the question at a meeting in May and Line Creek Operations is looking into sediment sampling. Sharon will get back to the group about this when she knows more. Beth said it would be good if there was a watershed-wide study.

Beth invited the committee members to go to the to the Ministry of Forest Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development website and participate in a Private Managed Forest Land Program review. It is open for participation until July 22.

Old Business

Action Items Review – A tour of the Teck water treatment facilities has not yet been arranged.

New Business

Teck Feedback Received – In Q2 the Social Responsibility department received the following concerns:

- Dust on property 26 including one from Elkford
- 24 requests for having property cleaned
- 1 Coal Leach Road closure
- 2 regarding visible dust above Elkview Operations
- 2 about dust on cabins at Grave Lake

Teck Announcements/News Releases – Sharon reviewed Teck news releases on:

- June 4, 2019 - Teck Named to 2019 Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada

Round Table

Terry – is the Chair of the Board for Community Futures (CF) Cranbrook. The Ground Floor Coworker Space is a new maker space in Cranbrook which was supported by CF and is fully subscribed. There is another makerspace which is a partnership project with the College of the Rockies, which is looking at ways to make some larger pieces of equipment accessible to members of Ground Floor.

Kim – nothing to add

Jason – appreciates the opportunity to be part of the committee. Of note from the District of Sparwood is the Elk Valley Trailer Park new owners seeking bylaw changes to allow for upgrades.

Joanne – welcomed Jason and share that she is the Chair for the CNP Senior Housing Authority. She is involved with the \$23 million senior housing project that will create 61 senior housing units and 24 dementia rooms. Expected completion is October 2020 followed by three months to commission the facility including the purchase and placement of furnishing. Hopefully, residents can begin to move to the new facility in January 2021. Gordon asked if there was a provision for ample parking. Joanne confirmed there will be and staff parking will be at the back of the facility.

Gordon – noticed that Teck has SNC Lavelin working for them. Are they doing water testing on and around the mine sites? Sharon believes so but will confirm. Gordon was pleased that the Elkford ATV Club has a commitment from Teck to support their efforts in the Grizzly Bear Study for 2019. The funds provided cover fuel and lunch for the volunteers.

Beth – added that the two sessions for the Elk River Watershed Discovery camp are almost fully subscribed. The program is a partnership between Elk River Alliance (ERA) and the College of the Rockies Fernie Campus. A development plan will be created to ensure the sustainability of the program. The rafting component is very expensive.

Scott – nothing additional to add.

Leala – has plans to meet with Teck health and safety representative, Luc Coultrey, to review emergency management plans for the Elk Valley. She also noted that Interior Health (IH) is focussing on harm reduction and IH has assigned a lead to work with Indigenous People in the region.

Kerri – announced that she will be running for the Kootenay- Columbia Green Party hoping to win the seat July 14th.

Shelley – said that there is an injured coyote in the area of Michel Creek Road and she hopes that area residents are aware of the danger. The Conservation Officer is aware of it. In an update regarding the lowering of the speed limit on Michel Creek Road from 60 to 50 km an hour, Shelley said it worked for a

while. There is still a lot of truck traffic. She understands that some trucks have speed monitoring systems that will trigger if speeding with loss of pay as a penalty.

Anita – appreciates the sharing of information and enjoys learning about what is going on in the region.

Sharon – is pleased that work to rehabilitate the Grave Lake road is now underway. Sharon asked the attendees to give some thought about utilizing the Fernie Fix monthly ad space to share information about the community of interest each represents.

Closing Remarks

Anita closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.

Next Meetings:

Steering Committee – September 2019
Partners – July 2019

Attendance

Name	Representing	Role	
Anonson, Terry	Metis Nation/Elkford		
Bauer, Kim	Social services/Elkford		
Christensen, Jason	Municipal Government/Sparwood		
Drain, Joanne	Seniors/Crowsnest Pass		
Galloway, Gordon	Motorized Recreation/Elkford		
Millions, Beth	ENGOS/Fernie		
Palmer, Anita	Education/RDEKA	Chair	
Robinson, Scott	Community Safety/Fernie		
Strom, Sharon	Teck Communities/Sparwood	Secretary	
Tomlinson, Leala	Healthcare/Sparwood		
Wall, Kerri	Healthcare/Fernie		
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood		

Unable to attend:

	Representing	Role	
Howse, Simon	Business/Housing/Fernie		
Schuh, Noah	Youth/Crowsnest Pass		
Thomas, Vickie	Ktunaxa Nation/St. Mary's	Vice Chair	
Whidden, Jared	Teck HR/Crowsnest Pass		

Action Items

Action Items	Who	Deadline
OLD		
Arrange for tour of EVWQP/treatment plant update for SC	SS	TBD
NEW		
How does coal dust affect water quality?	SS	As soon as known
Is SNC Lavelin doing water testing on and around mine sites?	SS	ASAP