

Minutes of Meeting		
<b>Location:</b> Causeway Bay, Sparwood Red Cedar Room	<b>Date:</b> Nov 26, 2019	<b>Time:</b> 9:00 – 11:30 am
<b>Purpose:</b> Steering Committee Meeting 2019 Q4	<b>Version:</b> Draft	
<b>Attendees:</b> See attached	<b>Issue date:</b> Feb 24, 2020	

Meeting commenced at 9:05 am

### **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, Sharon reminded people to wear reflective clothing when out walking in the dark. With the recent time change, the evening gets dark early and it is more difficult for vehicles to see pedestrians walking alongside the road.

### **Review of Agenda**

The agenda was accepted as written.

### **Representatives Update**

Community Safety – Scott noted that it has been quiet on the rescue organization front, which is good news, but the groups continue to train hard to be ready if and when needed.

The temporary bridge at Lizard Creek is a safety concern. The camber of the road leads towards the ditch and the concrete barriers to not appear to start soon enough in either direction. Poor lighting and unfamiliar drivers going too fast may be a problem. AP added that the old yellow line is still visible and vehicles following it in poor lighting will be led right into a barrier. It was determined that the group would be diligent and bring the concern forward to Fernie’s Mayor Qualizza to see if she can advance the concerns with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

Winter safety includes ensuring vehicles have winter tires, keeping carbon monoxide and smoke detectors working properly and being cautious of ventilation with the former and keeping wood stove chimneys clean and clear of creosote build up. In addition, don’t overload power bars, keep live Christmas trees well-watered to prevent them from drying out and if recreating in the back country, be aware of weather and avalanche conditions, carry the appropriate equipment and let someone know where you are going and when you expect to be back.

Education – Anita was pleased that the College of the Rockies (COTR) Fernie Campus will be offering the Health Care Assistant Program in Fernie in September 2020. The program is on a four-year rotation of the COTR campuses. There are 16 seats available and three people have already qualified. There are a lot of jobs available in the field.

Employment – Jared absent

Environment – Beth said the Elk River Shoreline Cleanup saw 90 people from the communities of Sparwood, Elkford and Fernie to pick up a total of 40 bags of garbage along with numerous pieces of

scrap metal. The top offenders were cigarette butts and plastic bags. There is a current movement to ban plastic bags but there is a need for increased cigarette butt disposal education. There is a lack of proper receptacles in the communities. TerraCycle is a company that makes receptacles for cigarette butts and recycles the contents: <https://www.terracycle.com/en-CA/brigades/cigarette-waste-en-ca>

Around 370 native plants were planted at the Sparwood beaver wetland in an attempt to keep out the invasive plants that had been hand pulled.

Elk River Alliance (ERA) is hosting a Fish workshop and film screening on January 31, 2020 at the Fernie Arts Station. At 6:00 pm there will be a short presentation on the Community Based Water Monitoring Program and the Westslope Cutthroat Trout Research Initiative findings. Presentations will be followed by a free screening of Patagonia's movie 'Artifishal'.

ERA will be presenting at the Stoked Co. Zero Waste Monthly Meetup about the storm water initiative and what community members can do to help improve water quality in the Elk River watershed. The event will be hosted at the Fernie Brewing Co. on November 28<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 9:00 pm. There will be door prizes and the Stoked Co. pop-up will be open for people who want to purchase home and body products.

Someone came into the ERA office with a bag of rubber ducks that were casualties of the 3300 Club's Duck Race Fundraiser. There was concern that these were not collected and added to the pollution in the river. Simon, as a member, will look into this and provide contact information for ERA to follow up.

BM noted that someone, assumed to be with or working for Teck, left water sampling items laying around at the Alexander Creek monitoring station. Sharon will follow up.

Housing – Simon provided information and 2019 statistics on housing in Canada. The percentage of Canadians owning a home dropped one percent from the previous year. Housing is one of the biggest industries in Canada and new housing starts are key to economic growth. Currently, municipal building bylaws have had no input from builders. It is a struggle to build a house for \$550k now. There is a shift in people leaving rural communities for cities. New developments tend to be Transit Oriented Developments. Also, there is a movement towards smart buildings. SH was asked what the number of single detached homes was compared to multi-unit homes. SH followed up with an email noting that for the first 10 months of 2019, there were 7,708 single detached homes compared to 29,002 multi-unit homes registered in BC.

Interior Health – Kerri is supporting municipalities with various funding applications and projects from the province that are being directed through UBCM including: housing needs reports (Cranbrook, Golden and Fernie), poverty reduction planning (Cranbrook and possibly Invermere), age-friendly funding (Cranbrook, Golden). Kerri and Leala are part of an Interior Health (IH) working group looking at creating psychologically safer and more inclusive care facilities for vulnerable populations by doing things like incorporating Ktunaxa artwork, having all-gender bathrooms and having more welcoming signage.

Leala said the x-ray equipment in Sparwood is nearing the end of its life which creates a large looming expense.

Other IH news:

- Jen Driscoll is leading a Harm Reduction Program
- Two physician resignations, 1.5 time positions, are expected
- Actively recruiting for a .5 time physician for Elkford and FT physician for Sparwood
- Nursing positions have been filled

- Elkford emergency department visits have doubled in the past three years. Three new patients per week are added to list in Elkford. SW asked if it had something to do with the Temporary Worker Accommodations. LT said the increase has been steady over the years. There have been no major traumas.
- Still lots of pushback from AB health to receive patients from BC. IH is asking patients to talk with their local governments about this.
- There is a new community respiratory therapist in the Elk Valley providing a great service.

Ktunaxa Nation – Vickie confirmed that the Indigenous Culture Awareness Training session can be offered to the group and anyone else who wants to attend. SS asked if it should be offered to the attendees at the upcoming Partners meeting. All agreed. Leanna Gravelle leads the session. SS and VT will work on a date that works.

Culture 101 orientations are being continued with Teck employees.

Vickie is thrilled that the Kindergarten class in Sparwood is taking Ktunaxa language lessons.

Local Government – Jason absent

Metis Nation – Terry absent

Michel Creek and GN Roads residents – Shelley shared that the contractor hired by Teck to do danger tree removal from Michel Creek and GN Road properties was very accommodating and did an excellent job of clean up. Prior to the work being done, they informed the leaseholders of which trees they were removing.

There continue to be dirty Teck vehicles leaving Elkview at the end of shifts through the unmanned plant gate.

Traffic speed by Elkview employees, contractors and heavy haul vehicles.

Some drivers of work vehicles are forgetting to turn their strobe and buggy whip lights off when they leave Elkview property.

Motorized Recreation – Denise asked SS if she heard anything about an incident on the Fording River Road where a Teck work vehicle took out a side view mirror of a Teck employee's personal vehicle. SS had not. DB pointed out that the speed limit in Elkford has been reduced to 40 km/hour.

Gordon came to the meeting to share statistics on the Grizzly Bear study the Elkford ATV Club supported voluntarily in 2019. There were 25 checkpoints from which 172 samples were collected. Volunteers covered 3270 km by quad and committed 209 hours of time.

Seniors – Joanne absent

Social Programs – Kim absent

Teck – Feedback Received – In Q4 the Social Responsibility department received the following concerns:

- Visible dust – 2
- Dust on property – 5
- Delay in cleaning decision – 2
- Checking on status of cleaning/compensation – 5
- New requests for cleaning/compensation - 45

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

- October 24, 2019 – Teck Update on Cost Reduction Program
- November 22, 2019 – Teck Named One of Canada’s Top 100 Employers

SS noted that Teck is now in cost reduction mode due to the rapid fall in coal prices. This has resulted in further delay in a decision on exterior house cleaning/compensation related to dust from Elkview Operations.

Youth – Noah absent

**Old Business**

Action Items Review – Sharon has selected a number of dates for a tour of the water treatment facilities and will send out meeting invitation to determine the best day for all.

Dates for a Healthcare Task Force meeting were suggested including following the December 11 Partners meeting. SS will send out meeting invitations with the date choices.

SS provided BM a response to her question about how coal dust affects water: ‘It doesn’t - in Teck’s experience – it is organic and we’ve monitored Grave Lake over a period of time and there has been little to no change in water chemistry. In addition, Teck explicitly sampled the skim and has seen little change in chemistry’. This response was not satisfactory to BM. SS will try to find out more information.

**New Business**

Scott was reminded that he said he will prepare the January 2020 Fernie Fix ad.

For the December 11 Partners meeting, the agenda includes the usual updates from the Steering Committee and Teck as well as presentations from the Canadian Adaptive Network and on Life Kits as well as the Harm Reduction program. If someone from ATCO is available to speak to it, an update on the Elkford Temporary Worker Accommodations will be provided.

**Closing Remarks**

Anita closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.

**Next Meetings:**

Partners – December 11, 2019  
Steering Committee – March 2020

**Attendance**

Name	Representing	Role	
Bertrand, Denise	Motorized Recreation/Elkford		
Galloway, Gordon	Former Motorized Recreation/Elkford		
Howse, Simon	Business/Housing/Fernie		
Millions, Beth	ENGOS/Fernie		
Palmer, Anita	Education/RDEKA	Chair	
Robinson, Scott	Community Safety/Fernie		
Strom, Sharon	Teck Communities/Sparwood	Secretary	
Thomas, Vickie	KNC/Cranbrook	Vice-Chair	
Tomlinson, Leala	Healthcare/Sparwood		
Wall, Kerri	Healthcare/Fernie		
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood		
Wilfong, Marie	ERA/Fernie		

**Unable to attend:**

	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Role</b>	
Anonson, Terry	Metis Nation/Elkford		
Bauer, Kim	Social services/Elkford		
Christensen, Jason	Municipal Government/Sparwood		
Drain, Joanne	Seniors/Crowsnest Pass		
Schuh, Noah	Youth/Crowsnest Pass		
Whidden, Jared	Teck HR/Crowsnest Pass		

**Action Items**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>OLD</b>		
Arrange for tour of EVWQP/treatment plant update for SC	SS	Three suggested dates provided
Healthcare Task Force meeting (Mental Health focus)	SS	Date suggested
How does coal dust affect water quality? Sharon provided answer but wasn't accepted as satisfactory.	SS	ASAP
<b>NEW</b>		
Send SC link to Teck's Elk Valley Dust Management site	SS	Done
Email Mayor Qualizza requesting support reaching out to MOT regarding concerns around Lizard Creek bridge	SS	Done
Arrange a time for COIAI Partners to receive Culture 101 training from KNC representative	SS	TBD
Invite Canadian Mental Health Association rep to present at Dec. 11 Partners meeting (AP suggested Kerry Fraser)	SS	Done
Follow up on incident on the FRO road as described by Denise	SS	ASAP
Follow up on water sampling items left near the Alexander Creek monitoring station	SS	ASAP
January 2020 Fernie Fix ad	SR	When requested by Claris
February 2020 Fernie Fix ad (cigarette butt disposal)	BM	When requested by Claris
For July 2020 Partners meeting consider: Angel Flight and KNC activities update (eg Mining Week activities)	All	June 2020
Find out more information about coal dust and water quality	SS	ASAP