

Minutes of Meeting		
Location: Causeway Bay, Sparwood Red Cedar Room	Date: September 26, 2019	Time: 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Purpose: Steering Committee Meeting 2019 Q3	Version: Final	
Attendees: See attached	Issue date: February 21 , 2020	

Meeting commenced at 9:05 a.m.

Welcome, Housekeeping, Safety Share

Anita welcomed everyone and recognized the meeting was taking place on the Traditional Territory of the Ktunaxa Nation. Anita's current title is, Acting Director Continuing Education Contract Training and Regional Campus Operations. Ayla introduced her guest, Marie Wilfong, who is on the Elk River Alliance Board of Directors. Marie would like to be more closely involved with the Communities of Interest Advisory Initiative.

Sharon noted where the restrooms and exits were and where to muster in the event of an emergency.

As a safety share, Sharon told people not to walk around with inappropriate eyewear on. She took a few steps with her reading glasses on and walked into the glass sliding door.

Review of Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

Representatives Update

Community Safety – Scott Robinson – Be sure to have Mud and Snow tires with a good tread installed by October 1. Keep extra clothing in vehicle and the gas tank at least half full.

City of Fernie and RDEK general and South Country looking into funding for FireSmart program. Grant applications will be submitted to Columbia Basin Trust and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM). Kim noted that Elkford received an award for their Fire Safety work (FireSmart). Scott encourages all communities to have a FireSmart champion to move the program along.

There will be an emergency planning meeting next week.

It has been quiet on the Search and Rescue front.

Education – Anita – The College of the Rockies (COTR) Fernie Campus received funding for additional seats to offer Early Childhood Education. She will provide more information when she has it.

Employment – Jared – The workforce for Teck Coal has increased from 4000 to around 5000 in the last couple of years. A lot of the increase is in resourcing for Environment department for such things as water monitoring and the Saturated Rock Fill project.

US/China trade war is wreaking havoc on the coal and other commodities (zinc and copper) markets. The coal prices are better than the downturn in 2014 but the costs are higher. Teck will be scrutinizing any new postings/positions and hiring only where necessary. Some capital projects may be put on hold.

Q – Ayla – How many people are in the camp in Elkford?

A – Kim – Kim sits on the Elkford Community Effects Advisory Committee and as of last week, there were 420 people in the camp.

Q – Jared – Has there been any feedback on the Temporary Worker Accommodations?

A – Kim – The feedback has been mostly positive. The golf course, restaurants and bars are benefitting.

Q – Ayla – Is there a long-term plan for the camp?

A – Jared – It is intended to be temporary and was set up for a couple of projects. There is a 3-year permit with a possibility of a 3-year extension. The camp can hold 480. It operates much like a hotel for water treatment facility and other major project contractors. Busses are provided to cut down on excess highway traffic. Parking is an issue.

Jared added that all of Teck's light vehicles are being equipped with in-vehicle monitoring for such things as speed, hard braking, seatbelt use. The monitor will provide in-vehicle coaching. Contractors are not mandated to follow this process at this time.

The first autonomous vehicles are to be on site at Elkview Operations in January.

Environment – Ayla/Beth – The Elk River Alliance (ERA) Shoreline Cleanup is scheduled for upcoming Sunday. There are meeting points for volunteers in Elkford, Sparwood and Fernie. Organization are being encouraged to help by ERA providing \$100 to each group of 5 or more. ERA had been successful in getting a larger grant. Snacks are donated by Save-On and gloves and garbage bags are donated by Canadian Tire and Home Hardware.

There is a two-day Streamkeepers course coming up. Participants will learn water monitoring standards and will come out with a certificate. The course is valued at \$250 but ERA members can take it for \$25.

Housing – Simon – absent.

Interior Health – Kerri/Leala – The UBCM meeting is this week in Vancouver where there is expected to be a big announcement to help with the opioid crisis. Communities can apply for support. The Elk Valley numbers are low in comparison to many so it is not targeted.

The District of Sparwood has a new master recreation and parks plan to help promote community well-being going forward.

Anita noted that mental health and the number of people committing suicide in the area in the recent past are very concerning. Kerri said the language around suicide is changing. Since it is not a criminal issue, instead of saying 'committed suicide' is it 'died by suicide'.

Ktunaxa Nation – Vickie – absent. Sharon said Vickie's mother is not well so she is willing to step back from the Vice-chair role if anyone else is interested in taking it on.

Local Government – Jason – attending UBCM.

Metis Nation – Terry – The Metis Nation of BC held its AGM in Prince George September 13 – 15. There were representatives from across the Province. They are at the second stage of governance to ratify the changes to the Constitution proposed in the spring. The Elk Valley Metis Association had their meeting last evening. They meet about five times a year. It was brought up that North Coal contacted

the group to see if they had any needs. Surprisingly, the Association did not have anything. Jean Sulzer, from Fernie, is the current President.

Michel Creek and GN Road Residents – Shelley – Some of the same issues exist on Michel Creek Road. There will be speed monitoring set up which will hopefully help. Teck's Clean Vehicle Policy clearly is not working. Dirty trucks have been seen driving right past car washes. KB mentioned her son-in-law's supervisor would not provide him with a pass to the carwash in Elkford. SS noted that the person previously responsible for the Policy is not with Teck any longer. Hopefully someone else will take it on. JW reminded everyone that it is important for dirty vehicles to be reported to Teck, through SS. Supply the unit number and/or license plate and, if it is a contractor vehicle, the name of the company. JW said Teck knows it needs to build more carwashes at site exits but it is a capital project that hasn't been started yet.

Shelley said she is getting questions from the Michel Creek and area residents about what Teck is doing regarding the cleaning of homes. SS said a decision hasn't yet been made by senior management.

Motorized Recreation – Denise – The Elkford ATV club finished the grizzly bear count project for the year. The club was very busy with it. AB asked what the grizzly count was. Denise did not know. SS suggested she check with Clayton Lamb because Gordon Galloway always presented the stats.

The club will be participating in the Shoreline Cleanup on Sunday. Denise was pleased to share that Gordon Galloway had his heart surgery in Vancouver in August and he is doing extremely well.

Denise added that a new volunteer board of 12 people formed in Elkford for seniors to help seniors with such things as meals on wheels, laundry services, visitations, housekeeping and transportation within Elkford. The members will all be looking to get their FoodSafe Certificates. SS suggested that the group can approach Teck to see if they can cover the course fees. AP added that sometimes the elderly get too much food and they feel they are being wasteful if they can't eat it all. JD said, some seniors will split their meal with another senior.

Seniors – Joanne – The initiative in Elkford that DB referred to is wonderful. The Crowsnest Pass (CNP) senior housing project is having some issues making the progress slow but it will get done. The process of considering furnishings is overwhelming. A company has been hired to make the facility cozy and warm feeling. The groundbreaking for the building.

JD said the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation arranges two two-day workshops per year using funds raised by Darcy's Nature Walk. One is a Mental Health First Aid course and the other is the Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST).

<http://www.darcynaturewalk.com/>

<http://www.cnphealth.ca/Events/Darcys-Nature-Walk-for-Mental-Wellness>

Social Programs - Kim – Social programs have been very busy with referrals for service having gone way up from previous year. From April 1 – June 30, 2018 there were 250 referrals. In the same period this year, there were 800 referrals. The jump is likely due to increased awareness of program availability as well as staffing changes. The agency won a bid for a Child and Youth Mental Health outreach worker. It is a .8 time position with three days being allocated to Fernie and the other day split between Elkford and Sparwood. The worker addresses youth with mild to moderate mental health issues before they become severe. Some of the \$150,000 donated to Elk Valley Safe Homes by Bearspaw Community First Society will go towards offering the Peace (Prevention, Education, Advocacy, Counseling and Empowering children and youth) program in the Elk Valley to support children and youth who have

witnessed domestic violence and/or are experiencing a difficult parental separation. A retreat was held last weekend and it was very successful.

Regarding the senior housing project for Elkford, proposals should be going in soon for seed funding. Elkford Council will approach BC Housing for ask about Provincial funding while they are at UBCM. SS added that Teck has confirmed donation of the land for the project but the process on how to handle the transfer is being looked into.

Teck – Sharon – SS suggested that with the new agenda format, it would be helpful in drafting the minutes of future meetings if each speaker came prepared with notes or followed up with notes. The group accepted the suggested but asked that a reminder note be included with future meeting invitations.

The dust issue for residents of Sparwood and area continues. In May, it was announced that Teck would be looking at an exterior house cleaning program. A Request for Proposal went out to contractors to bid on the project and two proposals came back. With the large number of houses to be cleaned, both companies would be required. It is now getting too close to freezing to get started. The hope is that a solid cleaning program will be set up to run smoothly next spring. SS apologized for the delay and said something will be done for residents and she continues to add people to her list and in anticipation of a possible compensation, Electronic Funds Transfer forms are available in her office. Once something is in place, SS will contact people directly.

The Grave Lake Access road rehabilitation project is complete and a lot of positive feedback has been received on the work that was done. The cost came in lower than expected. Going forward and amount will be budgeted for each year to touch up the road in the spring and in the fall.

SS advised SW that the Danger Tree Removal project for Michel Creek and GN Road residents is still in the works and will be starting soon. The trees assessment has already been done. Now Teck has to ensure the tagged trees aren't nesting ones. A trained consultant will be hired to check them.

SS is a member of the Sparwood Community Response Network (CRN) which is part of the provincial initiative to spread awareness and offer resources around older and vulnerable adult abuse. Two Gatekeeper sessions were provided to the District of Sparwood staff. On October 9 there will be an *It's Not Right* session offered in Sparwood <https://bccrns.ca/programs/>. SS will be going the BC CRN Conference in Vancouver at the beginning of October.

Feedback received in Q3 included:

- 16 complaints of dust on property, dirty vehicles, visible – two from Elkford residents, two about dust on Grave Lake
- 24 new requests to have home exterior cleaned
- 12 requests for updates on Teck's proposed cleaning program

Line Creek Operations is taking steps to reduce fugitive dust: re-routing of haul road, future relocation of refuse pile, additional dust monitors, wind monitoring, wind fencing, use of drones to view lake.

The annual Corbin residents meeting was held in August with the meeting invitation extended to members of the Closure Task Group. The day included a tour of CMO with stops at lookouts, lots of information about reclamation provided, a picnic lunch at the Corbin town site and a hike to the Corbin cemetery.

There has been a lot of change of General Managers in the Elk Valley. Elaina Ware, former GM of GHO went to the RACE 21 project. Richard Whittington replaced her at GHO. Ian Anderson was the GM at

FRO but was moved to GM, Coal Logistics. Richard Whittington replaced him at FRO. Craig Bishop replaced Richard at GH0. Ed Morash is still GM of LCO, Don Sander is still at EVO, and Jeff Butcher is at CMO.

Youth – Noah – Youth involvement in election forums is being encouraged.

AP asked if students at Crowsnest Pass schools were holding a climate strike. NS said nothing has been planned at his school.

KW asked if youth at his school talk about working at Teck. He said they do talk about it but there is some panic about autonomous haul trucks. Youth feel there won't be entry level jobs available for them. JW clarified that Teck anticipates there to be the same number of opportunities but for different types of jobs – trades, robotics and electronics. SS asked if NS felt Teck it would be good for Teck to come into the school and talk about autonomous haul trucks. NS thought it would be well-received. He has seen Teck at any of the job fairs. JW said Teck needs to work better at informing youth of what courses/programs they may need to take to get work at the mines. AB said if Teck goes into the schools they need to be more innovative to engage students. AP said the COTR and Teck are partnering to offer a two-year diploma Technology program that will include working on sensors. SR added that parents of youth need to be educated on changes as well so they can help their children with career choices.

Old Business

Action Items Review – SS asked the group if they preferred two half days tours of the water treatment facilities or one full day. The consensus was for one day.

SS asked who can provide the Fernie Fix ad for November and December. AB suggested ERA can do the November with a follow up on the shoreline clean up. December can potentially be information on the Grizzly Bear Study.

The restructuring of the agenda has been done.

SS will send out possible dates for the HCTF to meet with the focus on Mental Health.

New Business

The steering committee members elected to have Anita remain as chair and after group discussion it was determined that Vickie was still a great choice for the role and the committee would work around Vickie's needs to care for her mother. Sharon will continue to manage logistics with support from Taralynn.

After reviewing the Terms of Reference a few changes were suggested and accepted:

- The Vision statement was changed to read: Our communities of interest are informed of and benefit from Teck's operations in the Elk Valley.
- The word 'to' was added to the Mission between 'operations' and 'achieve'.
- To update the Strategic Direction for 2019/2020, under the fifth bullet under Objectives 'and community wellness' was added after healthcare.
- The fourth bullet under Strategies 'SD #68' (Livingstone Range) was added after SD#5.
- The fifth bullet was modified include 'and mental wellness' at the end.

Some ideas for the December Partners meeting presentations were more on Autonomous haul trucks and someone to speak about Mental Health.

Anita really likes the new agenda format and the great participation. She feels the Committee is making a difference.

The meeting ended shortly before 11:30 am.

Next Meetings:

Partners – December 2019
Steering Committee – November 2019

Action Items

Action Items	Who	Deadline
OLD		
Water treatment facilities tour	SS	ASAP
Photos/bios for members missing from website	SS	September 26
Health Care Task Force (HCTF) meeting and focus (Kerri, Shelley, Leala, Anita, Kim, Sharon)	All	By Q4 meeting – to be during the day
All to consider ideas for future Fernie Fix issues	All	Done
NEW		
Email Streamkeepers poster to SS for distribution	AB	Done – Sept 26
Send link for information on Darcy's Walk	SS	Done - Links attached to minutes
Email invitation to It's Not Right	SS	Not done (?)

Attendance

Name	Representing	Role	
Anonson, Terry			
Bauer, Kim			
Bennett, Ayla			
Bertrand, Denise			
Drain, Joanne			
Palmer, Anita			
Reynolds, Taralynn			
Robinson, Scott			
Schuh, Noah			
Strom, Sharon			
Wall, Kerri			
Wedderburn, Shelley			
Whidden, Jared			
Wilfong, Marie			

Unable to attend:

	Representing	Role	
Christensen, Jason			
Howse, Simon			
Millions, Beth			
Thomas, Vickie			
Tomlinson, Leala			