



EVR ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ADVISORY INITIATIVE

PARTNER'S MEETING

Sparwood Senior Drop-In Centre
101 4 Ave, Sparwood, BC V0B 2G1

January 13, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Anita Palmer	COIAI Chair
Dan Myck	EVR Director FRX – Fording River Extension
Chris Hill	CBAL – Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Anne Kruger	Elk River Alliance
Kim Kennedy	CBAL – Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Jodie Parker	CBAL – Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Creighton Glober	HR EVO EVR
Tim Schoahs	College of the Rockies
Shelley Wedderburn	Michel Creek Road
Rosa Rocca	Seniors
Kerri Wall	Interior Health
Kat Dolan	Elk Valley Family Society
Courtney Baker	Fernie Pride Society
Brandy Moriarity	Social Responsibility EVR
Sashun Erickson	Social Responsibility EVR



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Anita Palmer (Chair COIAI)

- Opening statement
- Land acknowledgement
- Moment of silence for Andrew Osborne
- Housekeeping – exits, washrooms etc.
- Introductions

Sashun Erickson (Elk Valley Resources)

- Safety Share: Winter Driving

Dan Myck (Elk Valley Resources, FRX)

- FRX Update: Project overview, life of mine, EAO, Indigenous consultation
- Project Changes since 2021: Mine rock placement changes >70%, project staging, process planning
- Information share on upcoming FRX Open Houses
- Cougar 8/9 update: Push back of the current walls, amended project description, Indigenous consultation, decision around 2028/29
- Looking at different scenarios: with extension, without extension, and alternative development

Chryis Hill (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy)

- Land acknowledgement – Gitxaala Nation near Prince Rupert
- Overview of mission: Literacy and Economy, literacy rates in BC, 16 hubs operating in Columbia Basin
- Programs offered for Family, Children & Youth, Adults & Seniors, Settlement & Language
- Activities to understand literacy and newcomer environments

Kim Kennedy (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy)

- Expanding on Settlement & Literacy Programs: 1 on 1 support, social events, workshops, community connections, language training,

Jodie Parker (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy)

- New program: Settlement Worker in Schools
- Testimonials

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Brandy Moriarity (Elk Vally Resources)

- EVR Feedback Line summary
- Increase of responses from 2024 to 2025 with improved advertising
- Clean Vehicle in the Communities Initiative
- Community Investment Summary

Action Items

- **FRX Open House:** Brandy Moriarity to send the invite to the committee.
- **Add Chris Hill to COIAI Steering Committee, send welcome package:** Brandy Moriarity
- **Fernie Pride looking for help to pour a concrete pad for a rainbow bench in Elkford:** Brandy Moriarity to investigate.
- **CBAL Information to connect with new families at EVR:** Brandy Moriarity or Creighton Glober reach out to Recruiting how we do or can incorporate CBAL in welcome packages.

11:30 Closing Roundtable and Discussion

Tim Schoahs with College of the Rockies: 5 campuses, main campus in Cranbrook. Budget to run all is \$50M, only \$3.5M come from tuition. Workforce development and continuing education, rock climbing community, First Aid Avalanche training will continue. New side: launching 16-week retail operation program, 5-week environmental water monitoring program coming down the pipe, Tim will reach out to Brandy to get a contact for Water Monitoring at EVR.

COTR historically doesn't depend as heavily on international students as other schools. However, keep in mind that one international student pays three times the amount of tuition of a domestic student so even one less is a loss.

Shelley Wedderburn with Michel Creek Road: One issue will be brought on Jan 20th Council Meeting about rezoning issue, another issue about heavy truck traffic on Michel Creek Road. The District of Sparwood is working with Michel Creek Rd. folks.

Courtney Baker with Fernie Pride: Busy year, need someone to pour a 6' bench pad for rainbow bench, health initiative offers subsidized healthcare about \$25K spent last year and increased budget, Elkford underutilizes the program, Environmental Community Health Survey Data is available on their website, about 4 years old so might redo soon.

Anne Kruger with Elk River Alliance: I would like to suggest an art piece from a Montreal artis depicting some relevant topics, Indigenous and 2SLGBTQ+.

Rosa Rocca with Seniors: Not too much to report since the EVR acquisition, Seniors were reaching out to Tammy, things have stabilized now with the processes.



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Kerri Wall with Interior Health: Can't speak to specific programs or individual healthcare, support internal initiatives such as anti-racism training, newsletter etc. Currently consulting with Fernie and Sparwood on new things. Local election coming up, talk to people about running, women and people of color are underrepresented so consider running for council.

Anna Kruger with Elk River Alliance: Insights on community health? Should we be worried? Potential to share some info when we complete the EVR Human Health Survey. Potential to have EVO Air Lead present on air data from 2025.

Kat Dolan with Elk Valley Family Society: Elkford building for workforce, Childcare building in Fernie, non-profit housing provider lunch, chili dinner fundraiser recently hosted,

Chryis Hill with CBAL: Didn't have many expectations but was impressed by the different organizations coming together with COIAI.

Anna Kruger with Elk River Alliance: Most projects are long term, so there are no short-term updates now. Group purchased a truck and some seed funding, continuing projects as is, strategic planning efforts happening now. Questions about whether they will get involved in policy or positions like that will publish a report on historical and current water quality. Atmospheric river events, example; Fernie's untreated wastewater percentage may be lower than initially thought, maybe developing education programs with City of Fernie and how citizens can help.

Creighton Glober with EVO HR EVR: In 2025 we hired 725 Haul Truck Drivers and Laborers, 109 Trades and 101 Staff. In 2026 we expect similar numbers for Haul Truck, Labor and Trades, we already have 130 Staff openings for 2026. Applicant pools are growing as well.

Brandy Moriarity with Social Responsibility EVR: We will be moving into a new building and have a bunch of furniture, so any ideas on donation opportunities would be greatly appreciated.

Anita Palmer, Chair COIAI: Hosmer fire department, RDEK report. Advisory group feedback and work with RDEK staff. Options: renovate existing hall, tear down building and construct new fire hall; now community input is invited. Jaffery put in a new arena, Grasmere has the triangle center.

12:25 Meeting adjourned

12:30 Lunch provided