

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

June 24, 2026
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Steve Fairbairn	Mayor of Elkford
Sharon Strom	Behalf of Anita Elkford, Seniors Housing,
Chrisy Hill	Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy
Terry Anonson	Elk Valley Metis
Anne-Caroline Kroeger	NGOs, Elk River Alliance
Jill Salus	EVR
Creighton Glober	EVR Human Resources
Tim Schoahs	College of the Rockies
Shelley Wedderburn	Michel Creek Road
Rosa Rocca	Seniors
Kerri Wall	Interior Health
Nancy-Jo O'Neill	Interior Health
Kathleen Dolan	Elk Valley Family Society; Housing
Brandy Moriarity	EVR
Sashun Erickson	EVR
Mandy Daniels	EVR Recruiting
Lena Macdonald	EVR Recruiting
Jessica Chalmers	Fire Smart Rep
Sloane More	RDEK Emergency Response

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9:00 Presentations

Sharon Strom (Acting Chair and Elkford Seniors Housing)

- Opening statement
- Land acknowledgement
- Housekeeping – Exits, washrooms etc.
- Introduction

Sashun Erickson (Elk Valley Resources)

- Safety Share: Wildlife

Mandy Daniels (Elk Valley Resources)

- Youth recruitment presentation,
- Co-op program: 250 student goal per year so also need some from out of the valley, unique opportunities,
- Summer Student Program: local student focus,
- Q: How do the Elk Valley youth know about this? A: Word of mouth, family work at EVR, recruiting sites like LinkedIn and Indeed,
- Q: When are these posted? A: March

Lena Macdonald (Elk Valley Resources)

- Local High School Outreach Program,
- Launched again in 2025,
- Showing the careers out there, what the students would like to study, fireside chats,
- Community Engagement Impact: presented to Sparwood Elkford Fernie Jaffray in grades 9&10, 160 students reached, 10 EVR speakers focused on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math), expanding into trades and other things, trying a different presentation format – more interactive

Mandy Daniels (Elk Valley Resources) Human Resources Update

- 2026 to May 31, 2026 - 616 hires: 381 hourly, 77 salaried, Student 158,
- Q: Do you have status on where they live? A: Mine ops 40% are local,
- Q: What is the biggest issue in not being able to fill vacancies? A: Housing. Westwood Heights housing 32 units coming online,

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- Q: Autonomous haul truck impact on jobs? A: No plans outside Elkview for autonomous trucks, originally thought there would be less opportunities however increased workforce due to system and road maintenance,
- Q: Is EVR on the forefront or are we copying other sites? A: Yes and no, this technology has been around in other parts of the world, first and only mountain top operation and climate,
- Q: Biggest draw was the safety aspect A: We are confident it is a much safer system. Situations where a truck avoided something a personed truck might not have.

Sloane More (RDEK Emergency Program)

- People on staff are able to help on behalf, for example when Fernie needed help was able to liaise with the province,
- Adjusting for the audience for the room and area,
- Know the Hazards, Make your Plan, Gather your Supplies: Check your gear every year,
- BC Hazards: Wildfire, disease outbreak, landslide, drought, HazMat, power outages, severe weather, discussion of previous hazards in the area,
- Make your plan: Know how you will communicate, know where to find information, considerations around your home, emergency meeting places, planning for pets, build your emergency plan template on PreparedBC.ca,
- Gather your supplies: 3 days to 2 weeks, stages of evacuation, sign up for Voyant Alert app

Jessica Chalmers (FireSmart Representative)

- Survivability of the home,
- Domino effect of houses in a neighbourhood, each zone around your home; immediate, intermediate, and extended zones,
- RDEK FireSmart Initiatives,
- Community led initiatives

11:45 Art Tour of SWO (Alannah Davies, Elk Valley Resources)

12:30 Lunch provided

12:30 Closing Roundtable and Discussion

Sharon Strom (Senior Housing): Senior housing has some spots,

Been attending some world elder abuse events. Shared some elder and adult abuse resources,

Will be attending pride in a Seniors capacity to support seniors in coming out in their communities,

Tim Schoahs (College of the Rockies): Mast program 15 grads out of 18, (3 did not complete due to injury, etc. that prevented passing the class),



EVR ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ADVISORY INITIATIVE

PARTNER'S MEETING

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Now shifting into summer with 6 weeks of Elk River Alliance kids camps being offered, activities include rock climbing, lego robotics for kids and teens, video game design 4 teens,

College is working with EVR and looking into their capacity to offer training in safety, e.g., energy isolation, fall arrest, confined space, etc.,

Nancy-Jo O'Neill: Interior Health: It is a little over the 1 year mark of the ER in Elkford being converted to the Urgent and Primary Care Centre, which opened May 2025

Elkford will have 2 more Doctors coming, physio and social work available,

Sparwood Emerg Nurse to patient ratio is low right now, community programs: home support home health palliative assisted living desperately looking for community helpers,

Fernie we are still utilizing 2 Operating Rooms, very busy in Maternity. Always looking for staff,

Anne Caroline Kroeger: Elk River Alliance: Anne's last day with Elk River Alliance is July 10th. Caitlin Henniker stepping in for these meetings,

George Green the Chair of ERA is stepping down as well,

AGM Annual General Meeting being held July 7,

New budget stabilization at AGM, around \$1M per year,

Kerri Wall: Interior Health: Currently have a healthy communities program,

Official Community Plans are in the works and currently in Fernie, also helping with the Golden OCP,

Leading the anti-racism initiatives,

Reminder of heat dome warnings: keep an eye on vulnerable populations,

Reminder of the Oct 17 local gov't elections, promoted running for council in the communities to the group,

Shelley Wedderburn: Michel Creek Road Residents: Sparwood notified that review of traffic bylaw since that has been in place since 1987: Looking to restrict some of the heavy traffic on Michel Creek Rd. Residents would like a non-heavy truck route,

Rosa Rocca: Seniors: Coleman Seniors have lost some funding, struggling to get a center and get the groups together,

There are some new programs for Sparwood Seniors,

Fernie Seniors are doing well,

Would be great to have compiled information for all Seniors Support among many different groups,

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Jessica Chalmers: FireSmart: Would love to work more in the Elk Valley, specifically in the North end of the Valley,

Looking for community volunteers,

Brandy Moriarity: Elk Valley Resources: Reminder EVR community investment via the new Benevity Portal,

Chrisy Hill: Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy: Not too much to report as CBAL runs on school year with limited hours in summer,

Kathleen Dolan: Fernie Family Society and Housing: Chrysalis housing received funding to enhance program,

New housing in communities are about to open and waitlists opening soon,

Looking for a part-time Maintenance Technician,

Steve Fairbairn: Mayor of Elkford: Feeling a bit frustrated, many "unhoused" people who allege to be contractors for EVR, they don't add to community, housing, feels as though Elkford is taken for granted,

Elkford supports EVR however does not feel supported by EVR, "Elkford wants what Sparwood gets"

Lots of issues with hot bedding and traffic safety, (highway 43 how do we keep EVR employees and contractors from speeding and responsible use of the highway),

Would like to see more FRX project timelines, Cougar 8/9 timelines,

Terry Anonsen: Elk Valley Metis: This group was created as a requirement to engage with local communities: want to know what EVR is doing, this isn't happening anymore,

Would like to see the plans for the future, would like to see more in the feedback mechanism,

Explained that we do discuss a lot of the above in our quarterly Steering Committee meetings,

No updates: Sloane More, Jill Salus, Sashun Erickson, Creighton Globber.

1:36 Meeting Adjourned