



EVR ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ADVISORY INITIATIVE
Q1 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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

February 18, 2026
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Anita Palmer	COIAI Chair RDEK area A
Shelley Wittenborn	Michel Creek Road
Rosa Rocca	Seniors
Creighton Glober	HR EVO EVR
Brandy Moriarity	Social Responsibility EVR
Sashun Erickson	Social Responsibility EVR
Sharon Strom	Elkford Housing/Business/Seniors
Courtney Baker	Fernie Pride Society
Tom Craimer	Recreation in the Elk Valley
Nancy Jo O'Neill	Interior Health
Anne Caroline Kruger	ENGO's - Elk River Alliance

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1:00 Opening Remarks – Anita Palmer (Chair COIAI)

- General welcome and housekeeping (emergency exits/restrooms)
- Land Acknowledgement and Tumbler Ridge condolences

1:05 Safety Share – Brandy Moriarity (EVR)

- Be patient and cautious while driving, especially with Winters return

1:20 COIAI House Keeping - Anita Pamer (Chari COIAI)

Reviewed action items from Partners and Q3 2025

Action Items

Actions: Reach out to the Youth Members to see if they would like to continue with their COIAI membership as they have not been in attendance in the last 3 events (Brandy Moriarity)

Action: Reach out to Terry Anonson and Jean Sultzer about BIPOC role in COIAI (Anita Palmer)

Action: Also looking into a BIPOC role (Tim Schoahs)

Action: Reach out to Recruiting on the Partners and their presentations to the Youth in the Valley in 2025/2026 (Brandy Moriarity)

Action: Courtney flagged it is Black History month; EVR should have some initiative around awareness for Black History Month (Brandy Moriarity)

Action: Update the membership matrix (Brandy Moriarity)

- Updates on Steering Committee Composition/Photo and Write up of Members for COIAI Website, website will be updated prior to next meeting

- Photos taken and bio papers handed out

Action: Check with Michelle Krembrink in Elkford, see if she is interested in COIAI membership as a representative for Arts and Culture (Sharon Strom)

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Community Updates and Member Roundtable

SHARON STROM - Elkford Housing/Businesses

- Sharon discussed some of the challenges in getting folks into the Seniors Affordable Housing in Elkford, some around accessibility and some around affordability restraints and guidelines
- If anyone looking for housing 55+ but will also accept folks with disabilities, email ehsociety01@gmail.ca
- Senior Housing in Elkford sponsored by EVR (formerly Teck) 25 units 19 occupied
- Purchased a floor scrubber
- Purchased BBQ and patio set for tenants to use
- Snowmelt system is being commissioned, saves in snow removal, salting, and dirty from the parkade.
- Landscaping planned
- East Kootenay Community Response Network: Hope to create a CRN in Fernie; reduce harm to self

COURTENAY BAKER – 2SLGBTQ+ - Fernie Pride

- Additional money always needed for Queer Health initiative, combatting mis and disinformation (especially at this time with the tragedy in Tumbler Ridge)
- Excited for a new year with new programs and employees

NANCY-JO O'NEILL - Interior Health

- Large portfolio of supports being re-allocated for the Elk Valley following colleague's retirement
- Openings in healthcare, Doctors, RN's, LPN's numbers are always shifting
- Elkford now has a doctor who had previously left and is now back and an IMG from Baghdad
- Elkford Urgent and Primary Care Clinic, Maternity clinic both very successful
- Social worker is available and underutilized for Elkford area

ROSA MARIA ROCCA – Sparwood Seniors:

- Working with Sharon to help guide
- Things at the moment are fine
- BCRN learning opportunities coming

SHELLEY WEDDERBURN – Michel Creek/GN Rd. Residents

- Shared with the group that Livestock was not permitted on Michel Creek Rd., even though historically they were granted incorrect access based on the permit and this road being considered Residential Area.
- Chelsea Hollister from the Lands team wrote an amendment to this permit for horses to be permitted which was passed unanimously

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- Still needs one more approval required from Ministry of Transportation, but nothing negative expected.
- Really positive messaging for the Lands Group, they helped to get the animals back on their properties on Michel Creek Rd. Very thankful residents.

TOM KRAMER – Recreational Users

- Trails inventory North and East of Elkford, EVR
- Decommissioning unused trails
- WALRUS and FLNROD and the 13 Mountains Pass Project on hold
- NCC touchpoint for rec access, outdoor recreation council of BC for access strategy, Fernie Tourism Trails inventory, BC budget overview
- Fernie Snow Mobile Club had Snowmobiles going through the creeks with such little snow, this should no longer be an issue with the cold temperatures and snow fall.

CREIGHTON GLOBER – EVR EVO Human Resources

- EVR 2026 hired 88 employees (8 Trades, 64 Haul Truck/Labor, 16 Staff) and 68 students;
- 128 vacancies for Trades and 100 vacancies in Staff
- New housing built
- South African heavy duty mechanics recruitment late this year or early next primarily for FRO and some GHO.
- The Sparwood Heights development some units are finished
- Temporary housing for new workers is somewhere around 2 years but not a defined term

ANNE CAROLINE KRUGER – ENGO's Elk River Alliance

- Planting season upcoming, securing funding
- Submitted comments for FRX
- Annual report in April
- Fernie Fix article on the snowpack coming soon

ANITA PALMER – RDEK Area A Rep and COIAI Chari

- RDEK A approved decision to move forward for Hosmer hire hall, will be built on Dicken Rd.

BRANDY MORIARITY – EVR Social Performance Team

- EVR feedback line influx of dirty vehicle complaints, one report of windshield damage, bylaw parking issues for snow removal
- Follow-ups from previous concerns

Other Business

- No new or emerging concerns



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2:35 Closing Remarks and Next Steps

Next meeting May 26, 2026