

| Minutes of Meeting         |                         |              |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Location: Zoom             | Date: December 15, 2021 | Time: 1:00pm |
| Purpose: Partner's Meeting | Version: DRAFT          |              |
| Attendees: See attached    | Issue Date:             |              |

Meeting started at 1:04, and it was noted that it will be recorded.

### 1:00 Opening Remarks – Anita Palmer, Steering Committee Chair

#### 1.1 General welcome and Acknowledgment - Anita

Meeting called to order. Acknowledged the traditional territory of the Ktunaxa Nation. We are grateful for this beautiful land that we work, live, and play on. Welcomed everyone and thanked them for joining.

#### 1.2 Safety share – Volunteer

Rory: Planning for Holiday Cheer. As we enter festive season be conscious and aware of the need to avoid drinking and driving. Tips: Make a plan to return home safely before you go out. Take turns being the designated driver. Show appreciation for designated drivers in your life. Make alcohol free alternatives available if hosting. Remember that sleep does not always equate to sobriety.

#### 1.3 Steering Committee, Executive and Admin introductions – Anita

Kim: Elkford, Social Services

Terri: Elkford, Indigenous Community

Shelley: Sparwood, MCR and GN road residents

Sharon: Sparwood, Teck

Scott: Community Safety

Anita: RDEK A, Education

Mariah: Teck, taking minutes

#### 1.4 Round table self-introductions

Brad: Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce

Carey: Cranbrook, works for caregivers network and the Alzheimer's society

David Wilks: Mayor of Sparwood

Doug: CRN (Community Response Network) mentor for Kootenays

Mandy: District of Elkford, Councillor

Evgeni: Elk River Alliance Education and Outreach Coordinator

Randal: Conservation Coordinator for Wildsight

Robyn: Community Futures – Community Economic Development Coordinator.

Lois: Retired resident of Sparwood, active with CRN for Sparwood.

Rory: Teck, Manager of Social Responsibility

Rachelle: KNC

### 1:15 Communities of Interest Advisory Initiative update – Anita Palmer, Chair

#### 2.1 Updates/action items

Anita will be chair but looking for vice chair. They have reviewed the terms and conditions for 2021 and have suggested some edits. Taking out support of Teck's closure task group and have added affordable to the housing objective. Supporting CEMF (cumulative effects management framework) could be revamped to still be meaningful for the environment as that program isn't at the forefront. Any suggestions for changes can go to Sharon.

Randal (Q) With respect to CEMF, is Teck going to sign on to CEMF?

Rory (A) Will have to follow up.

Randall (C) That would be great and Kevin would be the one to chat with. It has struggled since COVID and two people left. Some folks are frustrated that Teck has not signed on to that. Kevin was a driving force and Shawn Beswick.

Rory (C) Will follow up with Kevin and Shawn

Another update – still looking for student for steering committee and a senior's rep, hopefully from the Crowsnest Pass. Please pass on any connections you have.

Lois: May have some connections and will reach out to them.

#### Kim Bauer – Elkford Seniors Housing Update

In the last 6 weeks, BC housing approved operating budget. That was a key piece in securing the project and moving it forward. When COVID hit, the price of everything went up so last March when they looked at cost, it had increased from 8 million to over 13 million so were faced with large shortfall. Since then, they are in process of doing new cost because prices have come down now a bit. Also seeking additional partners like Teck. They have donated the land and Kim has a meeting with Kootenay Metis Association. They are interested in partnering. A lot of letters out for grants. It does look like it will be a go but timeline is uncertain. If we get funding in next few weeks then we can break ground in 2022, but don't have a firm start date yet. The facility was originally 6 two-bedroom units and 15 one-bedroom, but BC housing came back and said they can't fund two bedroom units so they changed to 26 one-bedroom units. All independent living. Will have underground parking. Elevator will be there. 30% are deep subsidy. 40% are rent geared to income and remaining will be market value rent. District of Elkford went through bylaw for taxes exemption so that happened when land transferred.

#### Elk River Alliance

Chad had emailed an update to Sharon as he was unable to make it. The recent flooding is a concern and focus needs to be on rebuilding in stable and environmentally friendly ways. ERA thinks this will continue to happen and infrastructure needs to be prepared for that.

#### Kim Bauer– Childcare Update

Pleased to share that District of Elkford applied for grant to renovate old municipal office and they got funding so will create 28 spaces. In final round of planning and it should go out for tender at end of January. Hoping to be open my September and already have people on list.

#### Anita – Education

Starting in March, 3 seats available for HCA to take course in Fernie or at home. 8 seats in Fernie, 8 seats in Cranbrook, and 10 seats in Creston. It will be done by October.

### **1:25 Teck in Review – Rory O'Connor, Manager Social Responsibility**

#### 3.1 Presentation and Q & A

One committee member forwarded a CBC news article talking about the future of steelmaking coal in the valley and asked if we could answer some questions about that. Presentation is from investment presentation but speaks to some of those issues.

Steel demand is forecast to remain strong through 2050. Demand for high quality seaborne hard coking coal used in blast furnace steelmaking is forecast to remain strong. Blast furnace is the technology used for making steel with coal. Global Steel industry emits 7-10% of total GHG emissions. Blast furnace CCUS (carbon capture and underground storage) is the only technology capable of decarbonizing steelmaking at the rate and scale required by 2050. Teck is shooting for 33% reduction in emissions by 2030 and carbon neutral by 2050. Steel is essential for economic growth in a low carbon world. Steel is the world's largest metal market, enables low-carbon energy systems, is suited for a circular economy (easily recyclable), and is essential to lifting global living standards as the population grows. Mature markets like North America will stay stable. India taking growing share of the demand, and that is expected for developing areas. Blast furnaces with CCUS are much newer in Asian countries and so they require steelmaking coal to operate, and those facilities can tack on carbon capture systems. Even if coal demand declines, what is produced in the valley will remain in demand because it is very potent and high quality so needs less processing.

Lois (Q) If it is a goal for Teck to reduce emissions by 33% by 2030 and then carbon neutrality by 2050, how will it be achieved?

Rory (A) Peter from Teck presented on electrification initiatives at the last meeting. For example the crew busses and other equipment. Reducing diesel would be an area that we are targeting. But looking across the board.

Additional Updates: Sparwood central office project. On December 7 that was presented to District of Sparwood Council. Capacity for 550 employees. To be located near Komatsu. Teck employees are currently spread across 8 buildings and still short on space so plan here is much larger than originally anticipated. We have also learned through Covid about ventilation systems and pedestrian traffic flow so are taking that into account for design concept. The plan is in place and working with architect. Will be working with district to find some temporary office space in the meantime.

In July Teck got extension on temporary use permit for Elk Valley Lodge and the semi-annual report was presented to the District of Elkford on Dec 13. A housing committee is under development. That lodge has been very helpful for getting water quality projects done and done safely in terms of Covid.

Executing on EVWQP – the active water treatment facility being commissioned and saturated rock fills are used to reduce selenium and nitrate. Tripling treatment capacity in 2021 – to get up to 90 million liters per day by 2025.

Shelley (Q) At the council meeting last Tuesday you mentioned that perhaps you'd look at site on MCR for temporary office space. Are we able to know where that site might be?

Rory (A) There are a couple in close proximity to the highway 43 intersection – close to Michel Creek office but looking on both sides of the highway there. Considerations for transportation and aesthetic and functional perspectives.

Robyn (Q) Elk Valley lodge housing committee – is that about the lodge or the rest of the community?

Rory (A) One commitment made when temporary use permit was renewed was to work with the district more generally on housing, not related specifically to the lodge. But just acknowledging that our employees take up and have housing needs and that intersects with other groups in the valley. So specifically striking a committee of council to work on solutions. We do own some land and some existing apartment buildings in the valley and that is a bit of a legacy, we would love to focus more on mining than

the management of those, so some options might be trying to find third party developers and supporting their work.

Robyn (Q) Any updates on FRX?

Rory (A) The application hasn't advanced quite as quickly so work is still going on. But if you have any specific questions you can contact Sharon and we can get in touch.

David Wilks (Q) Can you provide update on harmer expansion?

Rory (A) Still hoping it will move forward and looking to get permits in place for that work but some details still being sorted out.

Kim (Q) Any timeline for FRX?

Rory (A) It has been a moving target. Currently we are awaiting news that should come in March/April about whether the project can move to next steps which would be full application. We need to get feedback to get a green light to finalize that and that is still in the works. We can bring Norm back as we hit some milestones.

Randal (Q) With respect to FRX what impact do you see of request from Ktunaxa of having EA suspended? Will that impact timing?

Rory (A) KNC submitted letter in August requesting a pause on the submission of new environmental assessments on coal production. So, we are not entirely sure how or if that will impact submission timeline. We have paused certain parts due to our conversations with KNC but other parts we are working through with KNC and regulators. Still working through the details.

## **1:50 Teck Pocket Park Project – Mariah Besplug, Coop Student Social Responsibility /Sharon Strom**

### 4.1 Presentation and Q & A

Teck is building a community park at 350 Michel Creek Road.

What is a pocket park? A pocket park is a publicly accessible space that often-times is built on an irregular piece of land such as a vacant lot. Pocket parks are generally very small in scale and because of that they are meant to serve the immediate local area. Some of the elements that are typically found in pocket parks include benches, picnic tables, garden beds, walking paths, community notice boards, artwork, and bike racks.

Where will the pocket park be? 350 Michel Creek Road

Why is Teck building a pocket park? Teck owns non-mining land along Michel Creek Road in Sparwood. The land is leased to homeowners; however, the house previously located at 350 Michel Creek Road was purchased by Teck and due to safety concerns, it was taken down. One reason why a pocket park has been selected is that it aligns with the District of Sparwood's Age-Friendly Community Plan.

How will the pocket park be used? As an area for people to meet and relax with friends and family. There will be tables and grassy areas that can be used for picnics and other activities. We can also imagine this area being used for yoga or meditation practices. There is also an opportunity for community programming so anything from yoga classes to craft workshops. Storytelling events, gardening workshops, or other small community events.

What will the park look like? There are two options. Option A is more free form with a pathway meandering around the property. At the back where the land is sloped there would be tiered garden beds, and then around the exterior of the property there would be a perimeter of garden beds. We would add seating with benches and picnic tables, bike racks, a community notice board, and some additional trees. And that would leave us with quite a large space in the middle that would be a multifunctional grassy area. Option B is a bit more of a modern plan. The pathway in this one would be surrounded by garden beds and it would also include a notice board and bike racks. These designs were sent to residents living in the area so on Michel Creek Road and GN road with a lot of the info that is in this presentation, but

also providing them with a survey where they can vote on the design they would prefer and make suggestions in terms of what should be planted and what community events they could see making use of this area. And that survey closes tonight at midnight. From there we will be able to choose one of the options, adjusting based on the feedback that we have received. And finally, work on this project is scheduled to proceed in 2022.

Shelley (C) I don't have a preference for design but I think this is great as we are getting more walkers and bikers in the area.

Anita (C) Looking forward to visiting when it is completed.

## **2:10 Teck Feedback Report review – Sharon Strom, Coordinator Sustainability**

### 5.1 Feedback report Q3/Q4 2021

In q3/q4 we had a complaint in October about a blast at Elkview. In those cases we go to subject matter experts to ask. There was not excess noise or vibration, but some conditions make it more felt. We had a concern on a static pole – a light had been put up by Teck for safety but it was shining into homes and that was from Elkview and so they went out and changed that. One complaint about increased train noise, there was a concern about spray station about spray blowing back but that that was not the case and the spray station has been taken down for this year and plans will be different going forward. We had a recent complaint about a Teck vehicle parked in inappropriate spot. Dirty vehicle in Elkford. For second year we offered exterior house cleaning. 261 in Elkford. Very successful and great feedback.

## **2:20 Break**

## **2:25 Community Futures East Kootenay – Robyn Peel, Community Economic Development Coordinator**

### 6.1 Presentation and Q & A

Community Futures East Kootenay – Who are they? Have been around for 33 years and are around to foster strong resilient local economies. Funded federally. Work actively to champion sustainability and economic development in rural communities. They cover from Golden down to Fernie with a population of about 67,000. We have a board, representative of the region, 9 directors and Elk Valley has 3 board members.

Loans: Provide small business loans in a more flexible way. Focus on an individual business's specific needs. Working with entrepreneurs to provide affordable loans.

Ground Floor is a coworking space in Cranbrook. It is a separate non-profit but shares board of directors and they are aligned.

Community Economic Development (CED) - thriving communities are good places to live, amenities, nonprofit, and businesses. CED projects: data support for smaller communities, ECE training (challenge is having trained staff to work in childcare centers so supporting growth in training for those areas), workforce housing, work-integrated learning and applied research (doing co-op placements and things like that, working with COTR to do that as well), business recovery advisors, farmer's markets as business incubators (in conjunction with BCAFM). Also connecting and sharing learning through CED email updates. To get updates you can email Robyn. CED funding – have small amount of funding available to the community. [ced@cfek.ca](mailto:ced@cfek.ca).

## **2:40 BC Community Response Network – Doug Newberry, Mentor and Program Implementations Coordinator**

### 7.1 Presentation and Q & A

Senior Abuse in Canada - the numbers are significant.

What is BC CRN? Preventing adult abuse, want safe communities where adults are free from abuse and neglect. Coordination and collaboration. Have key relationships with service providers and government.



82 active CRNs across province. Offer supports like Gatekeeper and It's not right! Provide grants for local projects. Anyone can be part of a CRN. Meant for education and advocating, increasing connections and coordination. Do not address individual cases.

Ageism: Discrimination against older adults. Ex implementing stereotypes.

Abuse: Harm caused to older adults. It is a misuse of power. Can be physical, verbal, emotional, political, psychological, financial, sexual, spiritual, neglectful. Adults who are vulnerable include age, developmental or cognitive disability, physical disability, mental illness, chronic illness, addiction, and isolation. Why do adults and seniors resist help? Negative stigma, not sure about how, fearful of losing control over their lives, fear of being placed in a care facility.

Gatekeeper program: A free course on how to recognize abuse, how to have supportive conversation.

It's not right! Program: Understand how we can change norms in the society. We want to change from being bystanders to being involved. Talks about the SCNit method – see it, name it, check it. Our email is info@bccrns.ca, programs can be contacted at programs@bccrns.ca. Our website is www.bccrns.ca.

Lois (C) Sparwood CRN visited residents who we know are isolated and brought them a package of frozen lasagna, swag, a cupcake, and information pamphlet. This year our grant for special projects has been raised from 3,000 to 5,000. Last year was sponsorship of high school graduate scholarship. The requirement is to submit an essay on elder abuse. One main project was that we got 10,000 dollars and surveyed committee members to get an idea for a project and we selected was the bench project. We were able to purchase 5 park benches and had them placed in Sparwood between two seniors facilities. If they had an opportunity to rest on their walk they might get out. Also, an opportunity to prevent some social isolation by encouraging them to get out and walk and visit with passersby. They have also been working with SOAPS. With our recent deliveries we did get a referral. Someone read it and read facts about what is abuse and we were able to refer that on. We don't do case management we just provide info and steer them to where they can get support. Often IHA 1800 number and at Sparwood health center there are designated responders.

### **3:00 Alzheimer Society of BC and Caregivers Network of East Kootenay Seniors– Carey Henry, Minds in Motion Coordinator**

#### **8.1 Presentation and Q & A**

Over 500,000 people living in Canada with dementia and that is expected to rise. Dementia is an umbrella term and Alzheimer's is a specific type that 70% of people with dementia have. Myths – it's old-timers disease. No, it is not a natural part of aging, not everyone will get it. It is not just about memory. You can live well with dementia. You can live well and you can be empowered to live well. It is more than a diagnosis. Programs and services – we are there supporting people. Virtual support groups online has been great to serve people in Elkford and places across the area. Helping people process their diagnosis. Caregivers – those that are providing care to those people such as a spouse, family member, or neighbor. Minds in Motion program is for those living with dementia and also their caregivers. Includes physiotherapist doing exercise together. Then do a social time (ex. reminiscing and trivia). Trying to invoke memories and connection for people. The dementia journey can be isolating so this community helps.

There are over 1 million caregivers in BC. A caregiver is someone who is not paid for their service. Often spouses, 95% are caring for someone with dementia. There is a virtual caregiver group as well. Carey can be reached at:

Carey Henry

Minds in Motion Coordinator, Cranbrook

Alzheimer Society of B.C.

Phone: 778-761-2011

Toll Free: 1-833-426-0534





Cell: 250-489-9401

Dementia Helpline: 1-800-936-6033

Email: chenry@alzheimerbc.org

Anita (Q) How do people get connected?

Carey (A) The person has to identify that for themselves and then can connect.

Anita (C) Alzheimer's has been a part of my family and so she has personal experience with that. Caregivers do so much.

Lois (C) The caregiver program in Fernie, is it still Grace doing that?

Carey (A) It is now Mary-Ann.

Lois (C) Will have to get that updated for the CRN. Lois will reach out to Carey to get that updated.

Sharon (C) Thank you and thanks for being so passionate about this.

### 3:20 Closing

#### 9.1 Roundtable and thank you

Many people thanked the presenters for the information that was shared. Folks were thankful to get to hear about the community initiatives.

Randal (C) Appreciates the diversity, these things are all connected, they are about community and our interconnectedness.

Doug (C) Awareness and prevention work is important.

Rory (C) a quick note on the CEMF is that Teck sent out a note on that and will connect with Randal. Very thankful to be part of this.

Sharon (C) Another amazing meeting and great number of people were able to come. It has almost been ten years now. It is a great gathering with a lot of ways for us to network and get connected.

Anita (C) Thank you to the presenters. Please share the info with others in the community.

### Next Meetings: Steering Committee – March 2022 / Partners – July 2022

#### Present

| Name               | Representing  |
|--------------------|---|
| Scott Robinson     | Community Safety  |
| Doug Newberry      | BC CRNs   |
| Randal Macnair     | Conservation Coordinator for Wildsight                      |
| Anita Palmer       | Education, COTR,  |
| Shelley Wedderburn | MCR Residents, Sparwood                                     |
| Rory O'Connor      | Teck, Manager of Social Responsibility                      |
| Lois Halko         | Retired resident of Sparwood, active with CRN for Sparwood. |
| Terry Anonson      | Elkford, Indigenous Community                               |
| David Wilks        | Mayor of Sparwood   |
| Kim Bauer          | Elkford, Social Services                                    |
| Carey Henry        | Minds in Motion Coordinator                                 |
| Robyn Peel         | Community Economic Development Coordinator                  |
| Brad Parsell       | Fernie Chamber  |
| Evgeni Matveev     | Elk River Alliance Education and Outreach Coordinator       |
| Mandy McGregor     | District of Elkford, Councillor                             |
| Rachelle Sebastian | KNC   |
| Donny              |   |



ELK VALLEY / CROWSNEST PASS

**COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST  
ADVISORY INITIATIVE**

*A Key to Community Sustainability*