

Minutes of Meeting		
Location: Sparwood Chamber of Commerce Natal Room	Date: July 23, 2022	Time: 1:00pm
Purpose: Steering Committee Meeting	Version: 1	
Attendees: See attached	Issue Date: June 23, 2022	

1:00 Introduction

1.1 Welcome – Anita

Anita provided land acknowledgment and thanked everyone for coming.

1.2 Safety share – volunteer

Some deer being protective and defensive in the area – especially at the dog park in Sparwood.

1.3 Goodbye message from Sharon

Sharon will be leaving us. She'll really miss this and is thankful to have met many wonderful people in the 30 years she has been in the community. Mariah will be taking over Teck's role on this committee

1:05 Review of Agenda

2.1 Review of Agenda – Anita

No changes to be made.

1:10 Representatives Update

3.1 Community Safety – Scott

Scott: The river is very fast right now and will take some time to come down. Some locals say that once there is no snow on Mount Fernie then that is when the river crests. Coming into wildfire season. In Fernie they are into FireSmart.

Sharon: There has been a request to talk about FireSmart so there may be some meetings with fire department in Sparwood

Scott: There is a FireSmart 101 course online to do (1 hour) that goes through basics of it. Beware of heat, they are forecasting this weekend to be quite hot so watch out for neighbors especially elderly without air conditioning. Some changes over the years is that the Red Cross now manages ESS (emergency support services). RDEK has done some centralizing in Cranbrook as well.

3.2 Education – Anita

College has some extended seats program. In sept will have HCA programs (1 when you are working at the same time) but also take students who are not working at the same time. Early childhood education. Work BC office is offering an info session on Thursday July 7 at 12:30 in person and online. They are targeting home-schooling moms. There are thirty seats designated only for East Kootenay residents.

3.3 Employment – Creighton

Would like to avoid scheduling on Monday and Thursday afternoons for scheduling conflicts but sent information via email.

- We could potentially be bringing 1000 new people to the valley from now until the end of this year.
- We have already hired approximately 600 external people so far this year.



- 24% (professionals) 19% (Labourer/Skilled Labourer) of declines reference relocation issues.
- Haul Trucks & Heavy Duty Mechanics are our two most critical roles we are recruiting for.
- Current vacancies for the coal BU
 - Hourly
 - Trades: 52
 - Haul and Labour: 97
 - Staff: 153

Terry: Where are they going to live?

Sharon: One thing we can look forward to is the seniors housing in Elkford.

Mariah: In Elkford the district has started a housing committee that started just recently and is looking at different options for helping with the housing shortage.

Question asked about temporary worker housing. At a Sparwood council meeting it was noted by the mayor that Sparwood will never have this.

Mariah: In Elkford there is the Elk Valley Lodge that is on a temporary use permit and supports housing for Teck contractors. If people in this group are interested in learning more we can connect with the ECEAC (Elkford Community Effects Advisory Initiative).

Noted that this would be a good topic for the upcoming partners meeting.

Anita: There are also other pressured on housing like the pipeline construction.

3.4 Interior Health – Kerri/Lela

Kerri: Noted that Taylor Jenkins has done some research on extra workers coming into the valley for the Elk Valley Economic Initiative.

Something we often forget about is that when you have temporary worker accommodations – STIs do usually go up with that, and sex work as well.

Covid cases are going down, people still have to wear masks in hospitals but things seem to be okay in healthcare. Interior Health will be releasing an Aboriginal health and wellness strategy. In terms of healthy communities – The Ministry of social development and poverty reduction are hiring workers across province to do outreach with homeless populations and people at risk of homelessness. Community integration specialists will be in Cranbrook and Fernie. Hiring is happening right now. In terms of housing, it looks like it will be a bad season for encampments. Echoed Scott's comments about heat. Medications you might be taking can make us more vulnerable to heat so can take people by surprise.

3.5 Metis Nation – Terry

Terry: Elk Valley Metis have started promoting themselves. Have a lot on the go – expansions on coal mines, pipelines, meetings with Canadian energy regulator, TC energy, NWP Coal, North Coal, new phosphate mine south of Sparwood, and Fording River Extension. Generally a lot of consultation. They have some partnerships with local businesses who are looking for Indigenous partners. Have affordable housing project in the works (Kootenay Metis Housing Society). Had AGM for housing in Jaffray and then went to see their new Indigenous gathering place. Elk Valley Metis has an instagram account. Terry provided some other details about the Metis population in the Elk Valley including that there are around 500 self-identifying Metis in the area and about 150 card carrying.

Anita: Why the difference?

Terry: Some staffing problems with getting applications done. There are 3 criteria to get card: self identify, be accepted by local community, and provide proof that connects you to historic Metis homeland like Manitoba. You have to do a lot of that yourself.

Anita: Noted a project that brought together Metis Elders and Knowledge holders for technology training on Ipads to help them stay connected.

3.6 Michel Creek and GN Road Residents – Shelley

Delay in trail system beginnings – contractor challenges with the district.

Told there will be more RCMP presence in that area. That began this morning.

Elk seem to be settling in the area and are having their babies nearby now. Talking now about whether there will be more bears.

Sharon: Tree exchange for fruit trees is going on again.

3.7 Seniors – John

John will no longer be on the committee – so will need to find a senior rep from the CNP.

2:00 Old Business

4.1 Action Items Review

The fix – submitted up to July

Ideas for August: Terry will do one for Elk Valley Metis.

Ideas for Sept: Anita will do annual education issue.

Kerri willing to help with Fernie fix ideas!

2:10 New Business

5.1 Teck feedback received – Sharon

-cleaning program has started – Tammy Ogden will be taking that on.

-some samples taken of algae at Grave Lake

-Grave Lake cabins will be cleaned

5.2 Teck Projects – Sharon

5.2.1 Cleaning Program – has started

5.2.2 Cleaning Grave Lake Cabins – aiming to have cleaned in July

5.2.3 Pocket Park – Moving along but have had some woodpeckers that are delaying construction.

5.2.4 Building Demolition/Removal – a structure in the industrial area near Spardell will be demolished.

5.3 Partners meeting – topics/speakers, election, date

- Elk Valley Lodge or Housing committee in Elkford
- Elk Valley Economic Initiative
- FRX
- TC energy
- Teck general update
- Possible date: Tuesday July 19 10:00-1:00 at Senior's Drop-In centre in Sparwood to be confirmed.

5.4 Additional?

Everyone present is willing to remain on the committee.

3:00 Closing

Next Meetings: Partners – July 2022



Present

Name	Representing
Mariah Besplug	Teck
Sharon Strom	Teck
Anita Palmer	Education
Shelley Wedderburn	MCR and GN Road Residents
Scott Robinson	Community Safety
Kerri Wall	Healthcare
Terry Anonson	

Action Items

Old		
May Fix		Done
June Fix		Done
July Fix		Done
New		
Partner's Meeting Venue	Mariah	June 30
Invite Guest Presenters	Mariah	June 30
August Fix	Terry	July 7
September Fix	Anita	August 7