

<b>Minutes of Meeting</b>		
<b>Location:</b> Zoom	<b>Date:</b> June 26, 2020	<b>Time:</b> 9:30 – 11:30 am
<b>Purpose:</b> Steering Committee Meeting 2020 Q2	<b>Version:</b> Final	
<b>Attendees:</b> See attached	<b>Issue date:</b> February 16, 2021	

Meeting commenced at 9:30 am

### **Welcome, Safety Share**

Anita welcomed the Steering Committee to its first virtual meeting and the first meeting since the onset of COVID-19.

Sharon's safety share was that she had a wildlife encounter while walking her dogs on-leash on a trail a couple of weeks earlier. She and the dogs, unknowingly, were between a doe and her newborn and the doe aggressively pushed them until they passed the place the fawn was hiding. At one point the doe jumped on the large dog. There were no injuries. The by-law officer was contacted and he puts signs at each end of the trail warning of the aggressive deer and recommending people stay off the trail until the fawn(s) become more independent.

### **Review of Agenda**

There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

### **Representative Updates**

Community Safety – Scott Robinson absent

Education – Anita Palmer noted that due to COVID-19, the Fernie Campus of the College of the Rockies is physically closed. Facility checks are done twice/wk. One upcoming program is Intro to Construction, currently with 5 participants of the required 6. Courses will be taught live via MS Teams and online. OFA courses postponed until a safety plan can be developed to teach on campus. Health Care Assistant will be offered virtually in September but an 8-day practicum is required to take place in the College. Currently 10 of 16 required are registered. The Mountain Adventure Skills Training program will offer the theory pieces virtually. The plan is to have all programs back up and running in the fall.

Employment – Jared Whidden absent

Environment – Beth Millions absent. Marie Wilfong noted the Elk River Alliance's annual summer camp is cancelled for 2020. Marie misses connections with people due to social distancing required to prevent COVID-19 but she has learned how costs can be cut by working from home.

Housing – Simon Howse said that construction sites have not been shut down because COVID-19 protocols can be followed and most of the work is outside. Regarding housing, there is a shift across British Columbia and all of North America of people moving from larger centres to smaller ones as people realize they can work from home.

Interior Health – Leala Tomlinson was pleased to share that she is no longer working 7-days a week like she was when the COVID pandemic started. The first while was very hectic. Amazing relationships have

developed with Teck, its doctor and occupational health. They met frequently to ensure proper protocols were in place for employees and contractors and the temporary housing facility in Elkford. Because it is an important relationship, they continue to meet every two weeks.

A pandemic plan was initiated in mid-March, not COVID-19 specific but it is being worked on it for COVID-19 protocols.

Elkford Emergency was closed April 1 and is still closed pending each department's submission of a safe work plan. It should re-open in the next month or two with increased number of nurses.

Sparwood Emergency has created two emergency spaces to include one for patients who screened positive for COVID. It was fascinating to see the formation of an emergency department in one week with air exchange facilities, quicker negative pressure area, filtration system and vacuum hepa filters. Fernie Emergency did something similar.

Virtual and in-person care will be combined. There is anticipation there will be a surge as we go into flu season. Teck has lent Interior Health a tent that is set up outside the health care centre to do COVID swab tests six days/week.

Leala's finished with a warning that people who are feeling symptomatic should not delay visiting a doctor as the results of delaying are not good. Seek help when needed.

Kerri Wall noted that her job changed at the end of March in light of the pandemic. The entire Healthy Communities team was redeployed with a focus on health emergency management. She was working with and was in communication with local governments. Kerri has now been back to her regular job for about a month.

Ktunaxa Nation – Vickie Thomas said the Nation Council Building closed March 23 and remains closed. The KNC decided right at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic to utilize a unified approach in addressing it. A phased reopen plan has been started. The first phase includes limiting the number of people in the building, ensuring good air exchange, installation of shields and hand sanitizing units in place. The second phase will increase the number of people allowed in the building.

One concern was how to keep communities connected during this time. Members are reaching out to elders and others. Citizen engagement through virtual means (Zoom for example) has begun with such things as fun bingo, online language lessons, Tobacco Plain Indian Band virtual Indigenous Day.

Kerri asked Vickie what the plan was for celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the closure of the St. Eugene Mission residential school since it has been postponed due to COVID-19. Vickie said the hope is to have a celebration in June 2021.

Local Government – Councillor Jason Christensen said the District of Sparwood (DoS) is proud of the steps taken to deal with the pandemic. So far there are no positive cases in Sparwood. On June 11, the emergency response system was reactivated. The Recreation Centre plans to open the second week of July. Local gyms have been open for about two weeks. The next Socio-Community Economic Effects Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Metis Nation – Terry Anonson noted that Metis offices across the Province have shut down since the onset of COVID-19. Care packages are being distributed to those in needs including such things as gift certificates for fuel and cleaning products. The election for the Board of Directors for the Metis Nation of BC is expected to take place in August or September. Terry was not sure how the election will be done. He intends to run for the Regional Director of the Kootenays seat.

On a personal note, Terry shared that when he was in Calgary at the end of May, his truck was totalled and he ended up with a broken rib because of someone running a red light. On the positive side, he tested negative for COVID while at the hospital.

Michel Creek and GN Road Residents – Shelley Wedderburn was pleased to share that there appear to be a lot fewer dirty vehicles travelling Michel Creek Road (MCR). Once in a while a dirty one comes from Elkview's plant road. Vehicles speeding on MCR is still a problem. The District is looking at extending the trail system to provide walkers a safe path away from traffic.

Motorized Recreation – Denise Bertrand absent

Seniors – Joanne Drain absent

Social Programs – Kim Bauer absent. Simon Howse provided an update on the Elkford Housing Society senior housing project as the contractor for the project. The cost for the 22 unit facility will be just under \$5 million. Funding request applications are ready to submit to CMHC and BC Housing.

Teck – Sharon Strom reminded the attendees that Nic Milligan is retiring with his last day being July 2. A small COVID protocol friendly party will be held for him.

Youth - Noah Schuh absent – graduating high school. Congratulations to Noah from the Steering Committee!

## **Old Business**

Action Items Review – postponed the three old action items due to COVID-19

## **New Business**

Teck Feedback Received – In Q1 and Q2 the Social Responsibility department received the following concerns: 3 blasts noise/vibration, 1 dirty vehicle, 1 vehicle safety, 22 dust on property and/or requests for cleaning.

Teck Announcements – Sharon noted the following Q1 and Q2 Teck external announcements:

- Teck extended its agreement with Ridley Terminals to December 2027 with increased capacity
- Teck purchased SunMine solar energy facility in Kimberley
- Teck named to 2020 to Global 100 Most Sustainable Corporations list
- Teck named to 2020 Bloomberg Gender-Equality list
- Teck announced goal of carbon neutrality by 2050
- Teck withdrew the regulatory application for Frontier Project
- Teck implements extensive COVID-19 response measures
- Teck announced \$20 million COVID-19 response fund
- Teck and Line Creek ratified collective agreement
- Teck named to 2020 Best 50 Corporate Citizens in Canada list

Pilot Program - Sharon was pleased to share that one of two cleaning contractors being considered for the Sparwood Exterior House Cleaning program came to Sparwood to trial wash two houses using a soft wash process. The results were good. The second contractor will arrive on the 29<sup>th</sup> to trial wash two houses. If all goes well, the pilot cleaning provide should be launched in July.

Fernie Fix ads – Sharon reminded the committee to give thought to upcoming Fernie Fix ads and to let her know of any ideas they have. Some suggestions were to feature the College's Health Care Assistant program or to highlight tourism and the local website.

**Partners Meeting** – Sharon asked the committee if they should try to host a virtual Partners meeting in July. Everyone agreed that it should be done. Sharon will arrange to use Teck’s Zoom account. In addition to the Teck update, it was suggested that Brad Parsell, the Executive Director of the Fernie Chamber to present on the newly launched ‘Work in Fernie’ website. Anita asked Vickie if a virtual cultural awareness presentation is doable since the session planned to be held at St. Eugene Mission was cancelled due to COVID-19. Vickie said that it was possible, it would just be a shortened version.

**Closing Remarks**

Anita closed the meeting by thanking everyone for coming.

**Next Meetings:**

Steering Committee – September 2020  
Partners – July 15, 2020

**Attendance**

Name	Representing	Role	
Anonson, Terry	Metis Nation/Elkford		
Christensen, Jason	Municipal Government/Sparwood		
Howse, Simon	Business/Housing/Fernie		
Palmer, Anita	Education/RDEKA	Chair	
Strom, Sharon	Teck Communities/Sparwood	Secretary	
Thomas, Vickie	Ktunaxa Nation/St. Mary’s	Vice Chair	
Tomlinson, Leala	Healthcare/Sparwood		
Wall, Kerri	Healthcare/Fernie		
Wedderburn, Shelley	Michel Crk Rd Residents/Sparwood		
Wilfong, Maria	ENGOS/Fernie		

**Unable to attend:**

Name	Representing	Role	
Bauer, Kim	Social Services/Elkford		
Bertrand, Denise	Recreation Users/Elkford		
Drain, Joanne	Seniors/CNP		
Millions, Beth	ENGOS/Fernie		
Robinson, Scott	Community Safety/Fernie		
Schuh, Noah	Youth/CNP		
Whidden, Jared	Teck HR/CNP		

**Action Items**

<b>Action Items</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
<b>OLD</b>		
Arrange a time for COIAI Partners to receive Culture 101 training from KNC representative	SS	Done then cancelled due to COVID
Arrange for tour of EVWQP/treatment plant update for SC	SS	Postponed until safe to do so
Healthcare Task Force meeting (Mental Health focus)	SS	Was set for December but postponed for now
<b>NEW</b>		
Select date for virtual Partners meeting	SS	Done
Determine guest speakers	All	Done
Invite guest speakers	SS	Done
Secure Zoom with VHO	SS	Done