

## Meeting Minutes

Meeting called no order – at 10:03

### Recognized traditional territory.

**Safety Share (Rosa) Check-in system** – everyone should have one especially if living alone. Ex every morning sends text to say good morning to check in. Doesn't just apply to seniors, things can happen to anyone. Another example is opening and closing curtains and having a neighbour check-in. Recently someone in the community passed away and some time passed before anyone knew.

**Safety share #2 (Mariah)** – There was a public health advisory sent out regarding the presence of dust. Stay inside when it is dusty, especially those with existing respiratory conditions. This time of year is especially difficult for dust control.

**Creighton – info on the Teck/EVR separation.** On Feb 21 Teck announced plan to separate Teck Coal Business and Base Metals into two world class businesses – Teck metals and EVR. Both the Elk Valley operations and Neptune terminals will remain part of EVR. Robin Sherameta who has been the senior VP for Coal BU will become CEO and president. Some questions arise around commitments we've made, none of those change – we'll still be supporting local communities and this region and our sustainability practices (ex. net zero emissions and nature positive and elk valley water quality plan). EVR will also be establishing environmental stewardship trust. The next step is a shareholder vote on April 26 and provided that goes through, at the end of second quarter the transition will go ahead.

(Q) Will the office still be built?

(A) Yes

(Q) Why is the split happening?

(A) Investors in the past were more interested in diversified companies, hence why Teck held a very diverse resource portfolio. But that isn't necessarily the case anymore. Investors are more interested in choosing the diversity in their portfolios. As such, it will unlock shareholder value being two distinct and specialized companies.

**Creighton-Recruiting info.** 1166 people hired in 2022. That includes students (they come and go). 756 are hourly roles. 170 people hired in 2023 so far. 108 hourly. 25% are local hires year to date. There are a lot of vacancies.

**Simon – Housing.** Elkford senior housing is continuing with the build, but it is challenging. Presently CMHC is good, but BC housing is having issue with appraisal value to cost. Those two organizations need their interests to align. The presentation to the board has been delayed to next week to allow more time for this alignment. The appraised value of the new project is put at 4 million cost, however, it is closer to 13 million. The way they appraise is by using existing examples but the only examples are older buildings in Cranbrook. This doesn't capture the costs of building in the valley now.

(C) The delays have been costly. Each time the proposal is delayed, the price of building goes up. This process has been frustrating.

(C) It has been a similar story in Cranbrook with building a shelter. Similar frustrations.

There has been a lot of pro-active action from local government to expedite housing (ex. of Elkford with tiny housing). 1% federal tax coming in on non-occupied housing may have impact in the valley, although targeted to foreign ownership.

(C) Housing is a big challenge for students at the college. Some are paying for months before they arrive to secure housing. The Government is providing funding for student housing programs, but the challenge is finding people to take them when there are already challenges for locals securing housing.

(Q) how many units would you need for student housing?

(A) 18 people in MAST program. In the summer we could in theory support practicum students from other institutions (ex. nursing students stationed at the Fernie hospital). College may be seeking housing options.

**Kerri (interior health)**-Healthy communities program supports municipal governments in policy type things. The program has been supporting Fernie with housing working groups to tackle housing related policy challenges. They are working to make the development process more efficient so that new buildings can go up faster. Facilitated some strategic planning with City of Fernie Staff. The decriminalization of small amounts of some illicit drugs has been explored as a policy option to tackle the opioid crisis. The pilot looks at substance use as a health issue. More info about that on interior health website.

(Q) does the money saved from enforcement and legal system go to support addiction and healthcare services?

(A) unsure, it isn't clear. They are opening treatment centers but unclear where that funding is coming from. It will take time for the money savings to the criminal justice system to take effect. There is also costs for training.

(A) it will be interesting what the impacts of this will be in the long run. In policing usually 1/10 calls is for a criminal offense and the other 9 are social issues.

Another issue is the heat in the summer when that hits. It is a risk, people are dying. We are working on messaging to go to local governments. Seniors, people who live alone, people on certain medications, people in more confined accommodations (no cross breeze) are more at risk of heat related death.

### **Nancy Jo**

Elkford – challenging because of old building. There are good discussions going on about looking at options from brand new building but for now we have what we have. There has been frustration around ER being closed for 18 months. With staffing we are in good shape for medical clinic side starting in July (2 family physicians that will be starting). UPCC (Urgent primary care centers) are a new option – one open in Cranbrook. Should hear in the next 3-4 weeks about some options.

Sparwood – in good shape (7 doctors). Have maternity clinic as well. A chronic pain nurse as well to start in July.

(Q) Is there a relationship between medical staffing and housing?

(A) In Elkford there is housing available for 3 locum doctors. We have an apartment in Sparwood as well to offer accommodation. We are seeking more.

(C) It is nice to hire local because it helps with retention. Housing is challenging for community health workers and admin because pay does not match what they need to afford housing. Our hourly wage does not compete with Teck's. Nursing students are struggling too with housing.

(C) The ghost rider billets may be an option for the nursing students in the off season but might not align with the school year.

(C) (about vacation vs. rentals) Many figure they can make 40% more on short term rentals. Fernie has hired a company to clamp down on short term rentals. 153 licensed short-term rentals in Fernie and 18 unlicensed. Short-term is considered under 30 days. There is work to look into this. There are also "campers" everywhere in Fernie.

(Q) What is the Elkford rule?

(A) If you have an active building permit you can have two RVs on the lot. Construction workers or contractors can live there.

#### **Tom-Coleman to Canal flats – inter community ethically responsible ORV tourism**

Elkford ATV club is working on this project. An interconnected trail system linking Coleman – Elkford – Canal Flatts. Would be on designated routes to access repairs, food, fuel, etc. Trails are all on traditional Ktunaxa Lands. Most of trails already exist as Forest Service Roads. All trails would be multi-use.

Proposing reaching out to Ktunaxa to create kiosks and name trails with traditional names. Vision is for recognition and collaboration for kiosks. Elkford was in support of this. Kiosks would include conservation values, Ktunaxa history, language. We are looking for funding to improve some forest service roads to bring it up to standard where it is safe for all users.

Benefits - economic diversification, ethically responsible, side attractions, Indigenous recognition and awareness.

One example of this is the North Island 1000 near Campbell River.

So far, this project has a lot of support (Ex. Elk Valley RCMP, Kootenay East MLA, District of Elkford).

Key components: recognition of Ktunaxa traditional lands, access, conservation, and public safety.

Looking at Teck to support this project – hoping to set up meeting with decision makers to cross Teck private land from Coleman into Elkford.

(Q) Have you looked at environmental impact on wildlife.

(A) These roads are already open to public right now. Approvals go to BC government and their biologists assess that. We won't be adding any new trails so we don't see our project increase pressure on wildlife.

(C) It is a pristine area, the noise cause by a rise in motorized traffic will impact the wildlife.

(A) There will be an impact because more traffic but we need a balanced approach.

(C) would be good to see support from Sparwood and Fernie as well (districts, tourism Fernie)

(C) Elk River Alliance values conservation – even if using existing infrastructure, someone still must maintain it. If it's not maintained, it can cause significant detriment to local ecology. For example collapsed bridges in rivers. The impacts can grow if the river meanders for example. We can't just keep expanding/developing.

(C) On CEMF and they look at road rehabilitation as well – we look at places for high recreation values. ex Eagles Crest has been a resource road (no creek crossing) and there is a lookout.

(C) The challenge is if you build it they will come. So someone will need to manage use. We also need to think about our capacity. For example our sewage system and hospitals.

### **Evgeni (Elk River Alliance)**

Some environmental work going on includes the wildlife crossing, collaborating with the KNC on WCT study, doing cottonwood project, nature trust of BC is doing restoration of the Big Ranch, Teck doing more road rehab. Future ecological concerns including an increase in flooding as we see more temperature extremes especially in freshet and is important to be prepared and plan ahead.

(Q) Does clear cutting in the valley impact the water. For example Coal Creek.

(A) Has not been long term study on Coal Creek. There are limited resources to monitor everything in the valley.

### **Rosa (seniors)**

Lilac Terrace needs board members. Meetings are once a month. We are looking for two or three board members. Members don't have to physically be there.

New program in the valley – Elk Valley Better at Home (transportation, help with shopping, longer distance transportation) – there is a small fee.

**Social Programs** – Women's shelter is very busy and has had to turn people away. They are still doing outreach. Outreach numbers are substantial. We have 24-hour staffing now. A lot of programs have a waitlist. Elkford's day care is currently in upstairs of Elkford Rec Centre. The daycare will be moving into new space in end of April or beginning of May. Daycare is at capacity and 25-30 kid waitlist. Finding qualified staff is a challenge. If they can get staff it is difficult to find housing. Social programs in the valley seem to be maxed out. 30 spaces at full capacity (15 for under 3), 8 spaces for (2-5), and 10 are before and after school. Some talk about before and after care moving to school districts.

Next meeting – In June

- We can talk about GBA+ avoid last week of June.
- We should schedule to meet for 2.5 hours as we ran out of time.