

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Shelley, Nancy-Jo, Caitlin, Anita, Mariah, Chad

Welcome from Anita – likely will be a shorter meeting today because of fewer attendees.

Safety Share – Be careful using the river during the early season, it is difficult to see log jams. Some folks are less familiar with the risks

Education: Students moving on who have finished MAST program. Partner with Elk River Alliance for summer camps – there are 106 spots and only 14 seats available as of yesterday. The Elk River Alliance does a great job teaching the kids how to be out in nature and how to do it safely.

(C) There are great staff who have experience in environmental education. Have had good feedback from the parents.

(C) Everyone has a different baseline for understanding the environment. That is fantastic program.

BC government has come out with \$3,500 training subsidy for shorter programs. The government link for approved programs can be found at: <https://www.educationplannerbc.ca/plan/finance/future-skills-grant> This directs potential students to the program webpage with the exception of EMR that does not have a program page.

[Emergency Medical Responder](#)

[Haul Truck Operator Program](#)

[Special Events](#)

[Summit Leadership Program](#)

(C) Let's make that our Fernie fix ad for July (complete).

Environment

Freshet a full month early, climate change will be the biggest challenge over the next several decades. A lot of field programs – looking for volunteers in the fall to get trees planted to prevent erosion in the floodplain. For example there is one gentleman who lost two acres of land because it is just soil, grass and rocks. We are in fire season.

(C) The easy Kootenays seem to be due for a fire, it is dry.

(C) Snowpack has gone down about 25% over the last 50 years.

(C) Morrissey snow pillow website – can look at historical high and low and can see where we are now. It is staggering.

(C) it will have an impact on so many things we do here – fishing for example.

Health

Urgent primary care centre (UPCC) for Elkford approved – now looking at what kind of model. Has always been based on urban centre but Elkford is not urban. There is a UPCC in Cranbrook and even there they are having staffing problems for after hours and weekends. Rural model will likely be for walk-ins. Doctors contracted to start in July but it won't start right away, hoping to get rolling.

They call the group of patients under a physician a panel – they are cleaning up panels and a lot of out of province people using Sparwood and Elkford but still want to get care for people living temporarily in the area.

They are planning to build new building in Elkford but not sure when ground will be broken. In the meantime may be doing some work in Elkford.

Some doctor vacancies in Fernie.

Covid is still happening. Vaccination in valley is one of the highest.

Safe use supplies now in entrance (24 hour access) of all three facilities. People can just walk in and go, don't have to ask for them. Ramping up for fire season. Make sure you have a go bag – getting RVs ready if you can. When the dust was bad there was some respiratory (dust and smoke combo) challenges.

Michel Creek Road

Our trail is paved as of yesterday morning from 43 to industrial road #2 but now some construction has led to some of it being pulled up. Will be a cross-walk coming in from the District.

(Q) How is the traffic?

(A) not great, heavy traffic – some gravel roads going to hydro station. A lot of heavy truck traffic. And speed continues to be an issue.

Teck

Review of feedback

March - 27 pieces of feedback (includes questions, negative and positive). 4 were feedback about dust at EVO (was discussed last meeting). One was feedback about Teck's pest Management plan that we use for treatment of invasive species. There was an inquiry about the Harmer Dam removal project and two pieces of feedback about Teck vehicles not following parking bylaws.

April - 11 pieces of feedback including 2 requests for well testing, feedback about our car wash locations on site from a contractor, feedback from the elk valley bighorn sheep committee seeking a meeting to discuss concerns and future studies.

May we do not have final numbers but some feedback of note includes a dust incident from a train in Chilliwack, many house cleaning request, and a significant amount of feedback from the Baldy Ridge Extension Open House (119).

(Q) what is happening with the separation?

(A) Our plan going forward is to pursue a simpler and more direct separation.

(Q) What about Glencore?

It is a non-starter, best option is to separate and be EVR and Teck Metals.

(C) Have heard some bad things about Glencore

(Q) What about timeline of separation?

(A) Not sure at this point, Teck is working very hard behind the scenes on this. scenes.

(C) That might have some impacts on hiring and staff.

(C) There are no hiring freezes, business as usual until we get more news.

(Q) Is there a concern about people leaving to other companies – example the WHY project near Rossland?

(A) Many people are proud to work for Teck and are proud of Teck's reputation as an industry leader and a member of groups like ICMM. That helps keep people working for Teck.

(Q) What about Selenium levels? Sometimes people come into the clinics and wonder about selenium limits for themselves and for livestock.

(A) There are BC water Quality guidelines. Teck will provide more information specifically about livestock (action item).

Teck hosted the BRE open house on May 24, 2023. Great turnout and engagement.

(C) People felt more comfortable asking questions

GBA+

Caitlin from Fording River Extension Project spoke about Gender Based Analysis Plus (GBA+). It is focused on embedding equity, diversity and inclusion into the proposal of new projects. Gender is facet but not the only one – it is about intersecting identity pieces that influence how you see and experience the world. Trying to understand the unique effects that the FRX project might have on different people. It is easy to listen to people who are loudest.

Process – focused on equal participation, making people feel comfortable, having childcare.

Impacts – what are the impacts of the project on unique populations. Our goal is to increase positive and decrease negative impacts.

The COIAI committee is a great way of bringing together diverse individuals and we appreciate how successful and special that has been.

To add to the good work that is already happening through the COIAI Teck would like to propose the expansion of the COIAI steering committee in order to capture all unique identified populations found in the FRX GBA+ preliminary analysis.

(Question from Teck) Would the committee support that? We are thinking specifically BIPOC, 2SLGBTQI+, and Family populations.

(C) inclusion is always good (general agreement)

Mariah to circulate the matrix to the steering committee (action item)

(C) One group we are also missing is arts and culture.

(C) If there are people who might be interested. There is a sense that Elkford is not included.

(C) Can see if organizations in Fernie could connect us.

Mariah to circulate information about GBA+ to the rest of the committee as the attendees were limited (action item).

Presenters for Q3 Partner meeting – Tentatively August 16

- Andre Blumink – emergency services for disasters – Nancy to see if he is available. HEMBC and works for interior health. Floods and Fires.
- Maybe some of organizations we speak to about joining the committee
- Bears – conservation and tree removal programs, Wildsight was involved in that at the time.
- If there is anything more about housing maybe.

2023-2024 committee membership

Mariah to circulate email. Nancy-Jo, Shelley, Anita, Mariah, and Chad to remain on committee.

Fernie fix ads – next month to be about training subsidy (complete).



TECK COAL ELK VALLEY COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST ADVISORY INITIATIVE

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Q2 June 1, 2023
9:00am – 12:00pm
Sparwood Senior's Drop-in Centre



Action Item	Timeline	Responsible
Get training subsidy information in Fernie Fix	July	Mariah - complete
Circulate information about GBA+ and changes to matrix to steering committee	June	Mariah
Confirm commitment to be on committee for next year including matrix	August	Mariah to send email, all to respond
Follow up with Interior Health about Selenium limits and agriculture	July	Mariah
Inquire with HEMBC rep about participation in August 16 partner's meeting	August	Nancy-Jo