

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-chair: Steve Donelon Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Secretary: Laurie Christiansen Tourism, Parks & Recreation

Members/
Alternates AJ Evenson Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Ross Spence Sustainable Resource Development
Dave Hanna Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Trevor Richelhof Transportation (Alternate for Fred Lee)
Param Sekhon Infrastructure
Joey Young Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Tammy Pretty Acting CAO, Kananaskis Improvement District

Absent: Loren Winnick Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Louella Cronkhite Environment

Guests: Melanie Percy Tourism, Parks & Recreation – Item #3
Scott Jones Tourism, Parks & Recreation – Item #4
Trevor Tarnowski Tourism, Parks & Recreation – Item #4
Mike Kelly Bow River Project – Item #5
Dan DeSantis Delta Lodge at Kananaskis – Item #6
Eric Toker Toker & Associates – Item #6

- 1) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - Agenda was approved as written.
 - Updates on items from the September 9/09 meeting were requested.

- 2) Review of Minutes (All)
 - Minutes of the November 10, 2009, meeting were approved with changes. Final minutes will be distributed with the November 9/10, draft minutes.

Updates from September 14, 2009

Evan Thomas Water & Waste Water Facility Upgrades (P. Sekhon)

- Design work is complete.
- This project is being looked at for P3 possibilities
- No public advertising of this project will happen until April or May 2011
- The recommended public open house is on hold pending future funding for this project.

Boundary Ranch Proposal (R. Spence)

- One follow up meeting has taken place between SRD reps and Rick Guinn since the September 2010, KCICC meeting. R. Guinn is currently away and further discussions will take place mid-December
- **Decision: Item received for information.**

Fortress Mountain (R. Spence)

- As of July 30, 2010, leases have been reinstated to Joey O'Brien and group
- No formal plans are in place at this time for the refurbishment
- Ross Spence met with the leaseholders on September 22, 2010
- Bart McAnally will be the SRD liaison regarding the Fortress lease
- D. Hanna requested representation from Parks on the inter-agency group
- R. Spence has also met with Leah Schmidek and Shawn Polley
- **Decision: Tracey Cove will be the SRD contact. R. Spence will ensure that T. Cove contacts D. Hanna regarding future meetings.**

3) Voluntary Helicopter Guidelines (Melanie Percy)

- The original guidelines were drafted in 1999 and since then there have been park boundary changes, the new Public Lands Act, the addition of the Don Getty Wildland Park, etc., all of which are prompting the need for an update to this document
- An updated map has been produced to incorporate some of these changes
- SRD Wildlife Biologist, Jon Jorgenson, has also identified new wildlife sensitive areas which should not be flown over

- A stakeholders meeting is planned for late November or early December and will be open to anyone who is impacted by these guidelines
- The goal of the first meeting is to determine if the operators are adhering to the guidelines, if not, why not, and look at revisions to address these issues. A possible option is to plot flight paths in the updated guidelines
- The goal is to have this revised document ready for Spring 2011
- Recommended to post the revised document on the web with a 60-day opportunity for public comment
- A helicopter pad has been approved at Boundary Ranch and another may be pursued by Fortress
- Due to LUF, new Parks legislation, zoning changes, etc., future map updates will be required
- **Decision: Item presented for information.**

4) Lower Kananaskis River Capital Redevelopment Project (Scott Jones/Trevor Tarnowski)

- S. Donelon provided history on this item:
 - The Lower Kananaskis River (LKR) between Barrier Lake and the Kananaskis Country boundary to the north included the race course on the river, Barrier Visitor Information Centre (VIC), Canoe Meadows, Widow Maker, and the Barrier Dam Day Use Area
 - This is a contiguous zone with a high recreation component within Bow Valley Provincial Park
 - The Alberta Whitewater Association (AWA) uses the LKR for training and competition and the river provides high performance sport opportunities (PanAm Championship, Canadian Championship, White Water Rodeo, etc.)
 - There have been issues with the AWA and the operation of the Canoe Meadows group camp site:
 - It becomes cost prohibitive for the AWA to book the group site for an event
 - Non-river groups who book the group camp feel encroached upon by the river users
 - The AWA approached Tourism, Parks and Recreation with a proposal for managing the Canoe Meadows site. Minister Ady committed to working with the AWA to find a solution and possibly an opportunity for the AWA to further develop the site
 - Future plans need to look at all the stakeholders of this site – AWA, Facility Operator, and the public
 - The issues in this area were put forward to the Planning Team to review and provide a concept for review and discussion at KCICC

- S. Jones added that the issues in this area are regional but are echoed province-wide: increasing recreational use capacity, modernizing facilities, reduce congestion, increase access, and increase camping. All these goals tie back to the Plan for Parks.
- Specific to Canoe Meadows are the components of training, international championships, river user groups and the facilities such as Barrier Lake VIC, Widow Maker, and Barrier Lake Day Use area with beach access, picnicking, and access to hiking and biking trails.
- T. Turnowski addressed the deficiencies of the four sites, plus the possible remediation for each area.

SITE	DEFICIENCIES	PROPOSAL
Canoe Meadows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mixed use and conflict b/n users • Paddlers walk through the group camp to access the river • Costs prohibitive to paddling groups for exclusive use for events • Group camp doesn't accommodate single site campers or small groups, who must go to BVPP or PLPP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand parking area: accommodate large units with trailers or buses • Develop change rooms • Green area remains intact • Add multi-purpose camp sites: 3 group use areas (7 sites ea) that can be booked for single users or small groups • Upgrade the picnic shelter • Develop a lower parking lot • Develop a secondary lower river access point, below the race course, with a boardwalk • Allow an AWA building and admin area
Barrier VIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area is primarily accessed for VIC • Some picnic site • Under utilized 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the site with 79 camping sites along the river • Increase day use capacity along the river with dispersed access • Expand sewage dump station to 4 bays • Separate parking – VIC 32 stalls and day use 95 + 11 (RV, large unit) stalls
Widow Maker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily a parking area • Increased use is leading to congestion • Heavily treed – river access is difficult for commercial users with rafts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create separate access to the river for commercial rafting: 300 m up river, 10 parking stalls and drop-off area, river access via a side channel for staging and slow access to the river

SITE	DEFICIENCIES	PROPOSAL
Widow Maker cont.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand day use area to address public use and current congestion • Addition of camping in a lower and upper area: 108 single sites (86 reg, 22 pull through); 3 group use areas (total 25 units) • Admin/service building with showers • Emergency exit road along river to Hwy 40
Barrier Lake DU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited picnic area • Parking lot too small – staging area for hiking and mountain biking • Demand in the area is increasing and is beyond capacity • Parking spills onto Hwy 40 • River users practice on Barrier Lake before venturing onto the LKR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional parking developed to 100 stalls plus commercial/bus parking • Upgrades to Hwy 40 – acceleration/deceleration lanes • Access road – two lane – no parking on roadway • Formal boat launch with floating dock • Existing parking area will be converted to picnic sites – gain 8-10 • Develop a shelter building with information kiosk

Comments/Questions:

- A feasibility study will be required for water, waste water systems, power, and other utilities
- The conceptual plan is compartmentalized and development can be staged
- Some historical and environmental reviews have already taken place and the concept is on the right track
- There will be a stakeholder consultation, possibly an open house, and a 60-day public consultation period to obtain feedback regarding the proposal
- Is a P3 agreement being considered? This is being considered an ideal situation for P3 partnership
- Do these developments factor in future demand or do they address current demand only? The proposal will be the maximum development that is reasonable for this area. Even with the expansion of new camp sites and day use areas, the demand will be greater than the capacity for the area. Part of a regional parks plan will address these areas and work to direct users to other, less utilized areas in the province
- The expanded camping will address a need in this area, as most camping opportunities are further south

- Is this proposal trying to attract extreme sport enthusiasts? A communications plan will be developed to promote the opportunities available in the area, which will attract specific users. Other areas could be promoted for more general outdoor experiences
- KID/KES will see additional demand for services if this proposal were to go ahead. Demand on fire/EMS and infrastructure will need to be factored in to the feasibility study, as they are essential services
- **Decision: Update provided for information.**

PUBLIC SESSION: Start at 10:30 a.m.

5) Bow River Project (Mike Kelly)

- M. Kelly provided some background on this project, starting with his work with TransAlta and that while TA is not part of this project, they will be part of negotiations to facilitate this project
- Goal is re-managing the flows and reservoir storage of the Bow River to better serve all water users
- 80 percent of the flow of the Bow River comes from snowmelt
- Bow River is closed to new water allocations
- There are seasonal fluctuations that create the risk of drought or flood. These fluctuations are controllable
- M. Kelly provided the scope of this project:
 - What: Collaborative approach involving 95 percent of water users
 - Tool: Interactive hydrologic simulation model
 - Task: Model the Bow and tributaries for environmental maintenance and improvement to enhance social, economic, and development opportunities throughout the Bow River Basin
 - Data: Performance measures created by participants
 - Process: Interactive modeling to develop optimal scenarios
 - Outcome is two-fold: – 1) Report and recommendations;
2) Fully loaded model but recognizing the need for on-going monitoring and adjustment
- Stakeholders are vast, including: City of Calgary; Bow River Basin Council; Calgary Regional Partnership; Western, Eastern, and Bow Irrigation Districts; Trout Unlimited and Ducks Unlimited; Counties of Rocky View and Newell; Alberta Water Research Institute; Water Environmental Hub; GOA, including Environment, SRD, Agriculture & Rural Development, and TPR; WaterSmart; Hydrologics, and more
- Benefit to Kananaskis Country: commitment to minimum flow rates; stabilize Lower Kananaskis Lake; level LKR flow; improve aquatics; increase kayaking/rafting opportunities; long-term water storage; retain storage for “people-use” for times of drought; the ability to plan

- Water levels in both the Spray and Ghost reservoirs can rise another three metres for storage and emergency needs
- TAU has to rebuild/replace turbines in the coming year(s) and it would be useful to know the best equipment to purchase. Current turbines can run at very high or very low output but are not great at mid-range. If this project were to proceed, mid-range turbines would be the best option, so it would be ideal to know if GOA is supportive of this project
- An initial report on this project is due before Christmas 2010
- Next steps will included: public involvement; monitoring; apportionment; water transfers; and on-going modeling and research
- Approximately 2 percent of hydro electric power for Alberta is generated from the Bow River systems. Spray is an important ancillary system and maintains 100+ mw on reserve; Bassano is also back-up ensuring stability for the larger system
- **Decision: Update provided for information.**

6) Delta Lodge AT Kananaskis – Kananaskis Village +15 (Dan DeSantis/Eric Toker of Toker & Associates Architecture Industrial Design Ltd.)

- D. DeSantis provided the background for this item. As GM of the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, he approached KCICC at its July 7, 2009, meeting to introduce this topic and seek approval for the concept of a “+15” linking buildings at the Kananaskis Village. The concept was approved with a request to return at a later date with preliminary designs.
- Toker and Associates is the architectural firm selected by tender to provide conceptual design for the refurbishment of the Kananaskis Village Centre (KVC). To maintain consistency for this project, the Delta sought out Toker and Associates to work on the “+15” project as well.
- The walkways will encourage great use of the Village Centre and hopefully boost retail success in the building
- Structures will be a standard size, allow for fire/emergency vehicle access underneath, and will have minimal environmental impact
- Completion of this project will connect all four buildings in the Kananaskis Village, as there is already an underground tunnel to the Signature Club
- Business offices for the Delta are in the KVC so this will enhance staff movement as well as guest movement
- The Delta will lose two guest rooms to this development, but in Manor 88 access to the building will be at the end of a hallway
- The guest room key card will allow access onto guest floors via the +15; non-guests will be able to walk into the walkway for views or to take pictures but will not have access to the guest floors
- Scenic mountain views will not be impeded from the courtyard by the walkways
- Structures will be wood framed and natural-coloured wood (design indicates fir)

- AJ Evenson was asked to describe the refurbishment of the KVC and how this ties into that project:
 - KVC was built in the mid-80s along with the hotels
 - The current KVC layout does not provide well designed retail space for the vendors, it is expensive to operate, and is not fulfilling its objective of a gathering place
 - Goal is to move essential (but non-public) spaces to the basement – mechanical, infrastructure, storage, etc., to allow maximum use of the main and second floors
 - Renovation will increase natural light, enhance the flow of people within the building, and create more of a gathering space for residents and guests
 - Redevelopment of KVC is a partnership between GOA and the Delta, with the Delta taking on the +15 walkways
 - Renovation of the KVC has been approved for capital funding for the 2011/12 FY and will go ahead
- **Decision: KCICC approves of the +15 walkway design as presented.**

7) KID 2011 Development Permit Schedule of Rates: KCICC Endorsement (Tammi Pretty)

- KID Council Motion #918/10 regarding 2011 Development Permit Schedule of Rates – Recommendation to KCICC, states:

“Move that the 2011 Development Permits – Schedule of Rates remain unchanged from the previously approved 2010 Development Permit – Schedule of Rates and that Administration take forward to KCICC on November 9, 2010 for final endorsement from the Committee.”

- **Decision: KCICC membership endorses the KID Development Permit Fees for 2011, as per KID Council Motion #918/10.**
- **Action: T. Pretty to research permit fees charged by other jurisdictions.**

8) Roundtable

- o Dave Hanna
 - In follow up to the September 14, 2010, KCICC minute item on Fortress Mountain, requested representation on the resurrected Inter-Agency group overseeing redevelopment of Fortress
 - R. Spence will ensure that D. Hanna is contacted prior to the next meeting

- Ross Spence
 - MPB Update with information provided by Brad Jones:
 - Kananaskis Country and Crowsnest areas the MPB numbers are significantly reduced from approximately 9,000 last year to 300 currently identified during aerial surveys
 - Ground surveys are finding similar results with 40 sites (approximately 300 trees) this year, and down from 5,300 last year
 - SDR will continue MPB control with own staff this year, expecting to be complete by Christmas
 - Numbers are significantly down due to prolonged cold weather over the past two winters

- Param Sekhon
 - Evan Thomas Water & Waste Water Facility Upgrades – see update in follow up to September 14/10 meeting, page 2 of minutes

- Steve Donelon
 - May be required to reschedule the January 11, 2011, KCICC meeting, but will follow up mid-December.

9) Next Meeting:

Next Meeting
Tuesday, January 25, 2011, at 9:30 a.m. *
***Note: Date change from routinely scheduled 2nd Tuesday**
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, Alberta

Minutes approved by:

Steve Donelon, Co-Chair, KCICC

Ross Spence, Co-Chair, KCICC