

**MINUTES OF THE 45th MEETING OF THE
KANANASKIS COUNTRY INTERDEPARTMENTAL
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue, Canmore, AB**

Present:

Co-Chairs:	Mark Storie	Tourism, Parks & Recreation
	Ross Spence	Environment & Sustainable Resource Development
Recorder:	Laurie Christiansen	Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Members/ Alternates	Michael Roycroft	Tourism, Parks & Recreation
	Shawn Polley	CAO, Kananaskis Improvement District
	Fred Lee	Transportation
	Kawser Ahmed	Infrastructure
	Loren Winnick	Tourism, Parks & Recreation (via telephone)
	Joey Young	Tourism, Parks & Recreation
Absent:	Dave Hanna	Tourism, Parks & Recreation
	Param Sekhon	Infrastructure
	Rob Simieritsch	Environment & Sustainable Resource Development
Guests:	Brad Andres	Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force
	Brad Geddes	Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force
	Chris Morley	Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force
	Mark Comerford	Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force
	Jay Litke	Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force

- 1) Review of the Agenda (All)
 - The Agenda was accepted as drafted

- 2) Review of Minutes (All)
 - The May 14, 2013, minutes are approved as written. One action item was identified for J. Young – request to send out the Recreational Corridor Planning Process documents to KCICC for review.

- 3) Southern Alberta Flood Recovery Task Force (Brad Andres)
 - The Task Force has been comprised of approximately 45 staff in Edmonton to address:
 - Field work, policy (behind the scenes), communications, stakeholder engagement, liaison with Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA), and the Disaster Recovery Program (led by AEMA).
 - The Task Force is cross-ministry
 - Communication is a key issue with all the stakeholders impacted – GoA staff, departments such as TPR, TRANS, INFR, the Kananaskis Village residents, full and part-time staff at the ski hill, hotels, retail, etc. etc.
 - The Task Force is dealing with municipal CAOs to disseminate information locally
 - The Task Force has been established to help ensure that gaps in services are addressed, information is flowing to those who need it, and there are no barriers to recovery.
 - The flooding is an unprecedented disaster. There have been quick decisions made and good coordination between ministries. AEMA has taken the lead for immediate needs and evacuations.
 - Flooding has impacted 28 communities over 55,000 square km, involving over 35 government agencies and impacting all aspects of government infrastructure: schools, health care, roads, bridges, parks, water and waste-water systems, etc.
 - Daily conference calls are taking place connecting eight ADMs of core ministries to identify issues and lead responses.
 - Alberta Treasury has approved an initial \$1B in flood relief funding.
 - Each ministry is identifying its immediate needs and forwarding those through the ADM to Minister. Issues are being tracked and followed.
 - S. Polley provided background to the formation of KCICC, from the development of Kananaskis Country, the issues in the area resulting in the Ministerial Order and Terms of Reference for KCICC overseeing Kananaskis Country and Kananaskis Improvement District (KID) through the Land Use Order, approval of fees, etc.
 - M. Storie added that KCICC is unique in the province as KID is the only improvement district incorporated on Parks land. KID has an elected council representing: large business, small business, non-commercial

residents and rate payers, Lower Kananaskis Lake Cottage Subdivision, and two appointed Alberta-at-Large members. New development proposals or change in use of existing developments are reviewed at KCICC for approval. If the concept is approved by KCICCC, then the proponent will be directed to submit a development permit application to the KID Subdivision and Development Authority (KID SDA), which has membership as established by the KID Land Use Order (KID LUO). As well, the KCICC/KID Working Group is a small group meeting with representatives from each group meeting every two months to keep each other aware of current issues.

- Associate Minister Fawcett met with S. Polley, KID CAO, M. Storie, Kananaskis Country Regional Director, and Dan DeSantis, KID Council Chair to discuss flood damage in KC/KID.
- The tourism values of Kananaskis Country are significant and worth stating: 200+ businesses/stakeholder groups, impacts to both park land and public land, 80 percent of Albertan's day use activities occur here.
- Each community will have local say and direction for going forward. Some communities need leadership from the Task Force, but with strong leadership in Kananaskis Country, another approach is not being forced.
- As KCICC is an existing cross-ministry leadership group, possibly it should simply meet more often and include members of the Task Force.
- Focus going forward are the four pillars, as in:
 - **People:** Ensure the right resources are in place to support the communities' needs and individuals' safety, health, physical, mental, and social wellbeing
 - **Reconstruction:** Rebuild the residential, commercial and public buildings and the associated utilities that were damaged or destroyed.
 - **Economy:** Support the economic recovery of the region to ensure that people, business and industry, infrastructure and government are well supported to return to normalcy.
 - **Environment:** Protect and re-establish a healthy environment for the benefit of nature and residents.
- **DECISION: B. Andres and B. Geddes will join a weekly KCICC/Task Force conference call.**

4) Kananaskis Region Flood Update(s) (All)

A. Infrastructure (Kawser Ahmed)

- The Evan Thomas water treatment and waste-water treatment plan did sustain some damage, but relatively minor. This was a \$60M project and damage estimates are \$.5M or less. This will be covered through the contractor's insurance.
- P. Sekhon has been identified as the coordinator with the Flood Recovery Task Force to work on housing issues.

B. Kananaskis Improvement District (Shawn Polley)

- 1,300 people were evacuated from KID/KC, with 400 by helicopter, and not one injury during this process.
- July 29, 2013, will be an after-action meeting to discuss all

C. Parks Division (Mark Storie)

- Looking at various designs for replacements, i.e. bridges, that may be less expensive, rather than the \$1M bridge, a \$200K bridge, for example
- M. Storie indicated that services are severely compromised and the first funding request submitted is for \$50M.
- J. Litke cautioned all to rethink the rebuild of some facilities
- M. Storie initiated the KR Flood Recovery Steering Committee – a cross-ministry group to help facilitate the reconstruction and potential issues ahead. At this point the priorities are: public safety, “low hanging fruit”, work will stop at reconstruction in order to prioritize reconstruction and work through various options.

D. Parks Infrastructure (Stan Vander Helm)

- S. VanderHelm indicated that 33 sites require major rethought. A brief summary of impacts: 50 – 70 percent of backcountry trails, 60 bridges, extensive water course work, remove gravel and debris, address future problems due to changes in water courses. Most buildings are okay other than Highwood House and Bow Valley Administration building. Water and wastewater treatment plants will require work. Highwood has not been assessed yet but has no power and is full of silt.

E. ESRD (SRD) (Ross Spence)

- SRD has also been assisting with evacuations
- Helicopter flights for evaluation have taken place
- Big issues due to restricted access are washed out roads and bridges.
- After assessments, there appears to be access to the PLUZ which means potential issues for users. July long weekend there will be an advisory on the website indicating “use at your own risk” for users/random campers.
- Reviewing development process for PLUZ trails – if possible it would be great to rebuild trails.
- Impacts on industrial permits/dispositions will be felt for years.
 - Current dispositions – lease-holders will rebuild.
 - North end – Panther – MLL significant impacts – loss of lands – focus is on salvaging buildings
 - Ghost – not much damage
 - Bragg Creek – Hwy 66 access issues

- The grazing community has access issues as well.
- Forestry impacts to Spray Lakes Sawmill forest management area – repairs are ongoing for access (roads, culverts). Harvested wood will remain in BC on site until it can be moved. SLS will shift harvest plans to the Ghost. Elbow fire base is fine regarding access. They may establish a temporary camp on Hwy 40 north and stage from Benchlands.
- Working with Environment to develop an expedited water process to deal with permit applications.

ESRD (Environment)

- Water structures are privately owned. Environment maintains the dam safety program: post flood inspections, possible audits, currently waiting for reports.
- There is no applicable provincial infrastructure in Kananaskis Country/Region
- Carseland has a huge amount of damage to the weir and debris build up with initial estimates at \$3M in repairs
- Sam Livingstone/Bow Hatchery – shut down
- Western Headworks has the river running around it
- Fish Creek Provincial Park – fly fishing is still accessible

F. Tourism (TPR) (Loren Winnick)

- Nothing to update

G. Transportation (Fred Lee)

- The immediate priority following flooding was to reopen Hwy 1, which was ready in a few days but the Towns of Canmore and Banff and Parks Canada were not able to accommodate additional traffic
- It was the same with Hwy 1A – tried to limit travel through Exshaw
- Hwy 40 to the Kananaskis Village/hotels was kept closed to relieve pressure on the infrastructure until water/sewer/power, etc. was ready. The Wednesday following the road could have opened but was opened on the Thursday with an updated Ministerial Order.
- Smith Dorrien – opened Friday following flooding
- Hwy 541 from Longview to Highwood House is open but issues from Highwood House to Peter Lougheed Provincial Park.
- Hwy 532 – currently working on the south end of the trunk road
- Hwy 66 – culvert wash out at Fischer Creek
- Road to Cataract Creek is not open to the public but service access is open to ministries for assessments.

- Powderface Trail – not open to the public. Shell has brought in temporary bridges for industrial purposes. TRANS may keep longer via rental agreement, but not intended for public access. Issues with hanging culverts impacting fish habitat (cutthroat trout).
- Damage estimates for restoration: Highways - \$25-30M; bridges - \$15-20M; Parks - \$5-10M. The Flood Recovery Program may not cover all of this.

5) ESRD – Approval Processes for In-stream Remediation Work (J. Litke)

- Recovery work is going to take several years. ENV has a mandate but does not want to slow recovery efforts.
- Water Act – doesn't address emergency situations; projects to address public safety issues don't need WA approvals.
- Regulations need to be met for approvals and projects must comply
- Working with Fisheries, Public Lands, and department lawyers to streamline processes for regulatory approvals. Working with DFO to streamline processes and assist with approvals at every level.
- When submitting applications, identify high and low risk for the remediation work being proposed. An example of high risk would be replacing culverts or training river; this would require a more detailed review. Low risk projects would require less scrutiny. Goal is to review applications within 5 – 7 days.
- Major focus is dealing with municipal applications. For other departments, training for staff is being considered, so applications can be reviewed quickly.
- AJ Evenson and Trevor Tarnowski will coordinate all applications and forward to Jan Simonson for a one-window approach.
- R. Spence added that people can bundle projects, i.e. stream crossings on trails, one application to be reviewed for both the Public Lands Act and Water Act, resulting in two approvals from one application.

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

No members of the public attended the meeting.

6) Roundtable (All)

- R. Spence
 - Martin Foy is the new Regional Director. Dave Ardell is the new Director Water Management Operations.
 - **ACTION: R. Spence will distribute the new organizational chart.**

- S. Polley
 - KID SDA item regarding McLean Creek powerline. Due to flooding the powerline needs replacing, as repair has been deemed too expensive due to changes to the landscape. This development permit application will need to be reviewed in short order to not limit work in the area.

- Disaster Recovery Program
 - Publicly available through <http://alberta.ca/recoveryinformation.cfm>
 - A review is underway of stakeholder issues and further details will be available on this site
 - Department of Culture is collecting “hero stories” for posting regarding evacuations and people helping others
 - KCICC will be the cross-ministry forum for project steering
 - Brad Andres will participate with the weekly conference calls, of KCICC and Flood Recovery Task Force to start next week.

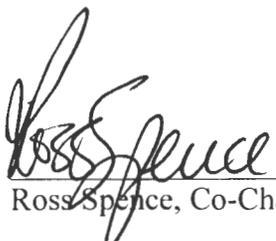
Meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.

- 7) Next Meeting: September 10, 9:30 start
Main Floor Boardroom
Canmore Provincial Building
800 Railway Avenue
Canmore, AB

Minutes approved by:



Mark Storie, Co-Chair, KCICC



Ross Spence, Co-Chair, KCICC