

WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Friday, May 10, 2019
TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Hawood Inn, Waskesiu – Boardroom

Attending: Jim Kerby, Nancy Wood Archer (left the meeting at 12 noon), Jennifer Wood*, Bryan Matheson, Darryl Fox, Bentley Crozier, Rob Phillips
(*attended by phone)

Also Attending: From PCA - Field Unit Superintendent David Britton, Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten

1. **Call to Order** **8:34 a.m.**
2. **Motion to move the Council Meeting “In-Camera”**
Darryl Fox/Nancy Wood Archer *Carried Unanimously*
3. **Motion to terminate “In-Camera” portion of the Council Meeting** **9:30 a.m.**
Bryan Matheson/Bentley Crozier *Carried Unanimously*
4. **Adoption of Agenda for the Public Meeting of Council**
Motion to adopt the Agenda for the Public Meeting
Darryl Fox/Bryan Matheson *Carried Unanimously*
5. **Review and Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2019**
Motion to adopt the Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2019 as circulated.
Nancy Wood Archer/Bryan Matheson *Carried Unanimously*
6. **Review of Outstanding Action Items/Related Updates** – a review of each of the Action Items and their status was undertaken by Council, and the Action Items were updated by the Administrator accordingly.
7. **Other Business Arising from the Minutes/Status Updates**
 - SaskTel Seasonal Disconnect Issue (Rob Phillips)
Councillor Phillips reported that SaskTel Marketing changed their allowed seasonal disconnect time from eight months to six months. So now the options are: (1) pay for the months that you require at your desired service rate and then downgrade your service for when you are no longer at Waskesiu for the remainder of the six-month required connect time and then seasonally disconnect or (2) disconnect your service when you are done with it after one, two or three months and return the modem to the Prince Albert SaskTel office as you leave for the season. Then call SaskTel in the spring for a free connection and SaskTel can dispatch a technician to put the modem back in place.
8. **Townsite Report – Gregg Rutten, Townsite Manager, Parks Canada Agency** (See Appendix I attached to these Minutes for a copy of the Townsite Report.) Additional commentary in relation to some of the items identified in the Townsite Report is set forth below:

Commercial Development/Business Licensing

3. Kapasiwin

Some of the new cabins will be arriving in June and arrangements have been made with PCA and the transportation contractor to get the units past the East gate.

6. Townsite Noise Complaints

Complainants are to be directed to the RCMP at their office number.

Infrastructure

3. 4-Way Stop Flooding

Funding issues have been dealt with and PCA is going out to tender the project in June.

5. Waskesiu Water and Wastewater

A Parks Canada engineer reviewed the working of the lagoon and saw the amount of effluent going into the lagoon was double what was expected likely due to infiltration of water into the aging sanitary sewer system. A condition assessment of the water mains, sanitary sewers and sewage lagoon will be conducted later this year by a contractor.

9. **Staff Housing**

- Updated draft from PCA
- Discussion (to be focused on Elk Street portion of the draft)
Discussion ensued to obtain Council's input on the updated draft.
The decision was made to set up a half day meeting and invite one of the PCA Realty staff to provide PCA's policy details.

10. **Correspondence (*only for information unless otherwise noted*)**

- Correspondence received from WSRA to Parks Canada Agency (expressing concern regarding the permanent removal of the wooden pier at the Waskesiu Lake townsite main beach)
- Correspondence received from WRA (regarding jointly sponsored event in Waskesiu to celebrate the Saskatchewan Volunteers Medal awarded to Myrna Nagy)
- Correspondence received from the Waskesiu Foundation (requesting sponsorship of the Foundation's 2019 "**Sipping Social**" event)
- Correspondence received from the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce (includes a letter from the President, renewal of WCC's annual membership, and Early Bird Rate Card for the Electronic Message Board)
- Correspondence received from the Waskesiu Foundation (recommending election of Randy Boyer of Saskatoon to fill a vacant position on the Waskesiu Foundation Board of Directors).

11. **Presentation by the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Chief Les Karpluk**

11:30 a.m.

The Fire Chief gave a report of the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department's March & April activities.

Discussion ensued and the Fire Chief stressed the importance of volunteers, not only in high season, but also during the low season and he would like to work with the Townsite Manager and Parks Canada staff to encourage off-season volunteers. It was suggested a message seeking volunteers could be sent out to all Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce members, all members of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association, on the waskesiu.org website, as well as posters on the community bulletin boards.

The Council Chair thanked the Fire Chief for his professionalism.

Council also discussed the delivery of their AGM invitations by the Fire Department volunteers on Tuesday, July 23, and a fundraising BBQ after the AGM as has been done in the past where Council subsidizes the cost

of the BBQ. **ACTION ITEM:** Council Administrator to contact the Fire Chief and confirm AGM details in relation to BBQ and distribution of information regarding the meeting in the townsite.

12. Presentation by the Norm Stolle, PCA – Aquatic Monitoring and Management

12:15 p.m.

Norm Stolle introduced Heather Mariash, Aquatic Ecologist, who then presented her PowerPoint presentation on how the aquatic monitoring and management is done in the Prince Albert National Park. Discussion ensued.

13. Waskesiu Foundation Matters

- Appointment of Randy Boyer to the Waskesiu Foundation Board
A motion was made that the Waskesiu Community Council approve the appointment of Randy Boyer to the Waskesiu Foundation Board, conditional upon completion of the vetting process and final approval of the Waskesiu Foundation Board.
Darryl Fox/Rob Phillips **Carried Unanimously**
- Potential financial support for the Waskesiu Foundation’s 2019 “Sipping Social” event (July 13, 2019)
A motion was made that the Waskesiu Community Council would provide sponsorship funds to the Waskesiu Foundation 2019 “Sipping Social” event for a total of \$1500.
Bryan Matheson/Rob Phillips **Carried Unanimously**

14. 2019 Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival

- Status update
- Potential financial and/or other support from Community Council
A motion was made to make a one-time sponsorship donation of \$1000 to support the 2019 Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival.
Rob Phillips/Darryl Fox **Carried Unanimously**
Councillor Phillips volunteered to prepare a first draft of a policy for Council’s approval regarding donations and sponsorships. The draft will be forwarded to Councilor’s Fox, Kerby and Wood for their review, and will then be presented at the next Council meeting.

15. Myrna Nagy Volunteer Award Celebration Event

- Status update
- Confirm up to \$200 support from Council
A motion was made to donate up to a maximum of \$200 in support of the Myrna Nagy Volunteer Award Celebration Event scheduled for July 10, 2019.
Bryan Matheson/Rob Phillips **Carried Unanimously**

16. WCC’s Chamber Membership:

- Confirmation of renewal of membership in the Chamber
The 2019 annual Chamber membership was renewed by the Council Administrator.
- Use of the Early Bird electronic message board (EMB) free ad time by Council.
It was agreed to use the Early Bird space on the EMB to promote the waskesiu.org website.
- Consider buying additional ad time on the EMB
A motion was made to purchase the Electronic Message Board (EMB) \$500 Early Bird Special for one year.
Bryan Matheson/Rob Phillips **Carried Unanimously**

17. Committee Reports

- **Budget & Finance Committee** – Darryl Fox, Chair
 - Confirm meeting date and time for Committee (with Brenda Georget of PCA)
A Budget & Finance Committee meeting will be set for the end of May with Brenda Georget to review the Townsite Budget figures. Brenda to have her final budget information to the Budget & Finance Committee by late May, so that the same can be distributed to Council by the Budget & Finance Committee by June 3rd and then formally approved by Council at the June 10th special meeting of Council (which is to be held via conference call).
 - Arrangements for Council’s June 10, 2019 Special Meeting/Conference Call (@ noon).
Council Administrator will send Council members the new toll-free number and passcodes for the conference call meeting.
- **Business Relations Committee** – Darryl Fox, Chair

Councillor Fox reported that the Waskesiu Chamber’s main issue that they are focusing on at the present time is staff housing.
- **Community Planning & Development Committee** – Jim Kerby, Chair
 - Update regarding Daniel Mercer “What we Heard” Report
Superintendent David Britton reported that, at their fall meeting, the Parks Canada Agency Superintendents will review the Mercer report, but probably not until mid-October due to federal Election being held this year. He also added that Parks Canada will bring updates to Council but not until into the new year.
 - Confirm date for “Waskesiu Vision 2028” meeting with key stakeholder groups
 - Potentially June 22 or 23, 2019 in Waskesiu
This meeting will be deferred to a date in August, possibly August 17 or August 24.
Council Chair will confirm when the date has been finalized.
- **Communications & Community Relations Committee** – Rob Phillips, Chair
 - Update regarding meeting date for Committee to advance Phase 2 of the Waskesiu Communications Plan
Councillor Phillips assured Council that a meeting of the Committee will be set up in the near future, and definitely prior to the next meeting of Council.
- **Essential Services - Policing & Fire Committee** – Nancy Wood Archer, Chair
 - Status update regarding recent meeting with Waskesiu RCMP
Sgt. Renee Giroux of the Waskesiu RCMP detachment joined the meeting for discussion during the Townsite Report. He discussed the outcome of the recent meeting held with the Townsite Manager, law enforcement supervisor, Councillor Wood Archer and himself. This meeting was to determine how noise complaints would be handled in the townsite. Full details were reported in the Townsite Report.
 - Volunteer Fire Department
All items for discussion were covered during the presentation by the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Chief Les Karpluk.

- **Vegetation Management/FireSmart Committee** – Bryan Matheson, Chair
 - Report on FireSmart workshop (Nancy and Jim)
Council Chair reported that this was an excellent workshop and well worth attending.
 - Report on Vegetation Management Working Group (Vegetation Management Strategy) – Bryan & Jim
 - Demonstration area update

18. Other Business

- Breakwater / dock removal – discussion
Councillor Phillips shared with Council that he recently wrote to Superintendent David Britton with his personal comments that he would like to see the downtown dock rebuilt. He reported that the correspondence he received back from David Britton was favorable.
David Britton mentioned that, based on the response from the community regarding the removal of the dock, something similar may be considered going forward.
- Confirm arrangements for Annual General Meetings of WSRA and the WCC with PCA representatives.
Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the full agenda would include WSRA to start their annual general meeting at 10:00 a.m. until 10:45 a.m. with PCA having their presentation to WSRA members and the Waskesiu Community Association members from 10:45 to 11:15 a.m. followed by WCC’s AGM from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon. As in tradition, the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department will hold a fundraising BBQ immediately following the WCC’s AGM.

19. Next Meeting Date(s)

- **June 10, 2019 – noon** – (Note: special meeting of Council to approve 2019/2020 townsite utilities budget)
- **June 21, 2019** – Council Meeting, Hawood Inn
- **AGM Date** – July 28 – Terrace Gardens

20. Adjournment

1:50 p.m.

Motion to terminate the meeting was made by Rob Phillips. Carried Unanimously

APPENDIX I
Waskesiu Community Council Meeting Report
May 10, 2019
Prepared by: Gregg Rutten, Townsite Manager
Meeting Location: Hawood Inn, Waskesiu

*Please note – new information is highlighted in **bold**.

Cabin and Cottage Areas

1. Waskesiu Townsite Parking Strategy

Parking issues in Waskesiu can be divided into two separate areas – one street parking and cabin/cottage area parking. PCA has initiated a street parking strategy for the townsite to address some of the issues that arise from inappropriate parking. The main issues are congestion and public safety.

- Further work is required on a strategy for the cabin and cottage subdivisions in Waskesiu. Such a strategy will be developed with input from the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and the Waskesiu Community Council for implementation post 2017.
- PCA asset staff installed 4 signs (“30-minute parking”) around the fish shack on Lakeview Drive. Remaining signs to be installed in 2-3 vehicle stalls in front of Waskesiu Trading Company in spring.
- Townsite manager will meet with representatives of the WSRA to determine next steps regarding a parking strategy for the cabin and cottage subdivisions.
- PCA and WSRA Representatives will meet to discuss cabin/cottage area parking on February 8, 2019.
- PCA and WSRA representatives will be meeting in late April to discuss parking, potential amendments to the Cabin Development Guidelines, and National Energy Code requirements.
- **PCA confirming a meeting date with the WSRA.**
- **Waskesiu Marina has submitted a permit application for development of additional dry boat/trailer storage that will be offered to seasonal residents at discounted rates.**

2. Cabin Area Water Valves

- **PCA utility staff have replaced 225 water valves in the cabin area that were visibly damaged due to freezing.**
- **Staff plan to charge the water lines the week of May 6, 2019 to test the system and monitor for any further breaks/leaks. These dates are weather dependant.**

Commercial Development/Business Licencing

2. Waskesiu Trading Company

- Construction is progressing.
- **Store is open and operational.**

3. Kapasiwin

A development permit has been issued for the re-development of the Kapasiwiin Bungalow Camp. The developers completed a detailed impact assessment (including public consultation) as part of their application for the development permit.

- A demolition permit was issued for six cabins at the Kapasiwin Bungalow Camp. 5 of the 6 cabins have been removed and relocated to Montreal Lake Cree Nation. Contractors / movers are waiting for provincial permits to move the final (largest) cabin.
- Developers working to complete submissions required prior to the issuance of a building permit for 6 new rental cabins at the Kapasiwin bungalow camp.
- Permit has been issued for the replacement of 6 new rental cabins at the Kapasiwin Bungalow Camp. Permit also includes the replacement of on-site sewer and water utility infrastructure.
- PCA working with developers to determine the best route/method of moving RTM cabins into PANP. The width of the RTM cabins is posing some challenges.
- **PCA met with developer and building mover. A strategy has been developed which will allow the RTM cabins to be moved through the Park East gate.**

4. Development Proposal from Lakeview Hotel

PCA has received a development permit application from the owners of the Lakeview Hotel to develop a commercial accommodation building on the currently vacant lot at 811 Lakeview Drive.

- The proposed development includes five commercial accommodation units, one staff accommodation unit and a main floor office/retail space fronting Lakeview Drive.
- Council has voiced a concern over the potential loss of availability of hotel type accommodation in Waskesiu.
- PCA continues to work with the leaseholder on details of current operations and requirements for subdivision of the property.
- **No update at time of Report.**

5. Staff Accommodation Strategy

- PCA will be seeking feedback on proposed strategy from the WCC and Chamber of Commerce.
- PCA awaiting results of Elk Street property appraisals for determining release fee in the case of lease issuance.
- PCA is working with the Lobstick golf course to explore the feasibility of relocating their trailer sites on the golf course leasehold, thereby freeing up six spaces.
- Appraisals of the Elk Street lots have been received from PWGSC. Elk Street lots have been appraised at \$65K. PCA will be reviewing this information and producing a new draft of the staff accommodation strategy for discussion with the WCC and Chamber of Commerce.
- **An updated strategy document has been provided to WCC for review/discussion.**

6. Townsite Noise Complaints

- **On April 30, 2019 a meeting was held with the PCA townsite manager, law enforcement supervisor, RCMP staff sergeant and the president of the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce.**
- **At this meeting it was confirmed that for noise complaints in the Waskesiu commercial area and the staff housing areas, complainants should contact the RCMP for response.**
- **The RCMP would appreciate support from the PCA law enforcement branch when responding, but it is not mandatory.**

- PCA townsite manager committed to meeting with commercial operators prior to the operating season to outline expectations and discuss past issues.
- PCA has confirmed that a business licence may be suspended in the case of repeat complaints.

7. **Cannabis Consumption – Restaurant Patios/Decks**

- PCA has received confirmation that as per Provincial laws Cannabis consumption is prohibited on commercial restaurant/bar patios and/or decks.
- This is the case even if the business allows the smoking of tobacco products on the patio/deck.

Events

8. **Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival**

Meant to be a “signature community event” that provides quality entertainment and activities to increase visitation and business for local operators at a time of year that sees visitation start to decline, the 4th annual Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival took place on August 24-26, 2018.

- **WRA has agreed to take on the organization of the music festival for 2019 and beyond. A committee has been formed for this purpose. Planning is going well. 6 bands have been confirmed.**
- **PCA has initiated a contribution agreement with the WRA to provide \$25K in funding to assist with festival costs for 2019 and the same contribution for up to 2 subsequent years.**
- **The festival dates are Friday- Sunday August 23-25, 2019. The main stage music is scheduled for Saturday August 24, 2019.**

Infrastructure

9. **Waskesiu Townsite Dock and Breakwater**

- a. Renewal of these structures is included in the vision 2020 document as part of the main beach renewal plan.
- b. Divers completed an assessment of the breakwater and paddle wheeler dock in 2017. Results indicated that the breakwater is in good condition and requires minimal recapitalization. The paddle wheeler dock is at the end of its useful life.
- c. A draft conceptual map of main beach area was discussed at the January WCC meeting.
- d. Parks Canada will provide an updated map based on that discussion at the April meeting of council.
- e. Revised maps have been provided to Council. Final updates to maps pending. PCA will provide updated maps to council at the June 22 meeting or prior to that if available.
- f. Updated maps included with June 18, 2018 townsite report
- g. Possible that dock will be removed before end of March 2019 pending internal PANP approval of funding. Work would take about 2-3 weeks. The project would completely remove both the dock and the subsurface components.
- h. **Dock removal is complete.**

- i. **Communication about boat use in the area, mooring and future plans for upgrades to the breakwater have been posted on Waskesiu.org and will be included in the PCA update in the WSRA newsletter.**

10. 4 Way Stop Flooding

Winter flooding at the intersection of Waskesiu and Lakeview Drives has been a problem for several years as the storm sewers freeze and cannot take runoff that occurs throughout the winter.

- Funding of \$650K has been obtained to address this problem.
- Engineers have recommended a force main system inside existing storm sewer with a heated catch basin and service building located at the 4 way intersection as well as improvements to the outfall at Waskesiu Lake.
- Detailed design underway, construction anticipated in the fall.
- Construction estimates received are significantly higher than the available funding. Additional funding is being sought internally.
- Timelines on approvals are uncertain and will result in the project being pushed to 2019.
- **No update at the time of the report**

11. Recreation Area Renewal (Lawn Bowling/Sport Court)

- The WRA board has a question regarding the remediation of contaminated material at lawn bowling green. The question is in the context of preparing the site for the installation of a sport court facility. PCA is working with the WRA to determine scope of work required and next steps. The environmental assessment specialist from PCA has been engaged in the project.
- Meeting with WRA to discuss options for remediation scheduled for Oct. 11.
- "Capping" of the contaminated lawn bowling site is considered a low risk and economical remediation solution.
- The contaminated area is a legacy issue caused by past park management practices. Therefore PCA will contribute the cost of remediation should funds be available in 2019 (following a Feb. Management Team review of all 2019 budget pressures).
- PCA is working closely with the WRA to determine the required amount and type of soil for the capping process (based on specifications for the sport court surface, and to determine the appropriate timing of the remediation work.
- **No update at time of report.**

12. Beach House Washroom and Shower Replacement

- Similar situation to 4 way stop project. Construction estimates received are significantly higher than the available funding. Additional funding is being sought internally.
- Big and Little beach house will remain in service for the 2019 summer season.
- Demolition and replacement of Big Beach House likely to begin in Sept. 2019.
- **No update at time of report.**

13. Waskesiu Water and Wastewater

- PANP is subject to PCA, Federal and Prov. Regulations with regards to drinking water.
- PANP Water Treatment Plant rated at Level 3 (as determined by population and systems)
- Plant operators are full time indeterminate staff members and include;

- i. 1 x Level 3 Cert. Treatment and Distribution (plant operator)
 - ii. 1 x Level 2 Cert Treatment and Distribution (support and testing)
 - iii. 1 x Operator in training (logging hours to achieve level 1 cert.)
- Regular testing for coliform and E coli
- Annual testing for Cryptosporidium, Giardia as well as a complete chemical analysis of over 50 parameters.
- 2017 PANP annual report attached.
- Updates to the Seasonal "Water Shutdown Directive" have been drafted and circulated for WCC and WSRA review.
- Communications for Cabin owners regarding fall shut down procedures and spring 2019 start-up have also been circulated.
- Cabin owners may experience delays in receiving water service during the 2019 start-up due to the "street by street" repair strategy required to address breaks caused by early freeze in 2018.
- The location of water service boxes will also be addressed in a future communication with Cabin owners. PCA will also recommend that cabin owners install a "lockable" service valve on their side of the water connection. This valve would provide additional protection to the property once the owner has shut down for the season.
- PCA to review Cabin guidelines and discuss including mandatory installation of sewage "backflow valves" on new construction in the cabin and cottage areas with the WSRA.
- Amendments to the Seasonal Water Shutdown Directive are complete and information regarding the restoration of water services will be sent to cabin owners in January (completed).
- New directive will be sent with the 2019 spring land rent billing.
- **No update at the time of this report.**

Emergency Services

14. Fire Chief Contract

- The contract for the current fire Chief will expire in January 2020
- PCA Townsite manager exploring options for a new contract or contract extension.
- **No update at time of report.**

Fire Department Report



To: Waskesiu Community Council
From: Les Karpluk (Fire Chief)
Date: May 6, 2019
Report: FIRE 2019-11 (Mar-Apr Activities)

Background

This report will provide a summary of information for the Waskesiu Fire Department (WFD) activities for March-April 2019.

Discussion

The training continues to be scheduled biweekly during the low visitor season as per Parks Canada contract, and in June we will change to weekly training. The training program continues to evolve with more Job Performance Requirements (JPRs) to ensure that firefighters are not only well trained but maintaining a level of competence. This year each firefighter will get their own book with their required training and it will be saved electronically as well as a hardcopy. This was implemented as a due diligence perspective in case a firefighter is injured, and training records are required by Workers Compensation.

As Fire Chief, I completed my first year in January and continue to work on some changes that I consider improvements for the fire department. For example;

- Five new sets of SCBA mounts were purchased for the Pumper truck (E171). There was a mix match of SCBA holders and the SCBA did not click into place. One of the older SCBA mounts has already been removed and replaced with the newer version and was well worth the time and effort to complete this. Hopefully, we can install the other 4 in the next month.
- Some equipment mounts were ordered to better utilize space and to ensure that the equipment was securely mounted. For example; we had 2 fire extinguishers that were held in place by bungy cord. Obviously, this is not safe and heavy-duty

fire extinguisher brackets were ordered and installed on E171. Now the fire extinguishers are securely mounted and quickly accessible for emergencies.

- Several compartments were reorganized on the truck to help firefighters be more efficient during an emergency. It took a year for me to identify exactly how we would approach a structure fire in Waskesiu, and I felt that removing and relocating some equipment would make better use of the limited space we have on E171. With only one Pumper truck for the community, this was a challenge to say the least.
- Replaced all helmet identification for the Personnel Accountability System (PAS). The PAS is required by legislation and already existed in the department; we just changed the numbering system to make it flow better. This change didn't have to happen, but I felt it would make things easier while tracking members during an emergency.

I was able to work with Parks Canada to prioritize equipment purchases from the remaining of the 2018 budget. We were able to inventory 4 new helmets, one P25 Radio, 4 pairs of structural FF boots and gloves, and a Hi-Vol gate for the outlet on the Passenger side of the Pumper as I was able to free up some line items in the budget. I was also able to work with a vendor to get five sets of leather boots at a price that would normally only get us two sets of rubber structural firefighter boots.

One of the observations from 2018 is that the department didn't have any form of driving qualifications. Implementing a new set of training drills and driver requirements in my first year could have been overwhelming for the department and I felt it was best to wait until 2019 to officially implement Driver/Operator qualifications. The new Driver/Operator Job Performance Requirements has been implemented and before officially implementing it, the Captains were able to provide feedback on the JPR's. There feedback was appreciated and we now have formal Driver/Operator qualifications that every driver must follow to be competent as a Driver/Operator.

In March we researched and had a demo Reveal FirePro Thermal Imager. This is a handheld individual thermal imaging camera that is very effective for situational awareness during an interior rescue. The intent of the evaluation was to determine if each Captain should be issued one. They are approximately \$1,100 each and would enhance

the rescue capabilities for the department. After we tested the FirePro, it was felt that purchasing one for now would serve our needs and we can purchase more later if needed. The FirePro thermal imaging camera was not part of my 2019 budget proposal, so it can only be purchased with fund raising or through donations.

Two new Scott facepieces with voice emitters were purchased. These have been assigned to the Captains and now every Captain in the department has a facepiece with a voice emitter. The voice emitters significantly improve communications while the Captain is on air.

Moving Forward

One of the approaches that I believe is essential for the WFD is to keep things simple. As mentioned already, we have streamlined the equipment on the Pumper (E171) by removing equipment that we believe would have a low probability of being utilized. With the WFD only having one Pumper, it is imperative that we utilize every compartment to its full capacity and still maintain a simplistic arrangement of equipment. This will continue to be evaluated in 2019 and the challenge now is to design and have an equipment holder custom built for the cab to secure the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), the Gas Monitor, and Thermal Imaging Camera. Currently this equipment is not secured and is concerning.

We have already started to look at some strategy and tactics to improve our initial attack capacity. With the limited amount of resources during the low season and the number of new recruits during the high season, I believe we need to develop and implement a set strategy for initial attack and defensive operations. As per the Parks Canada contract, the level of service is identified as defensive in nature, but we can look at tactics to help make a quick knock down during a structure fire. Currently, I am researching a nozzle that is used for defensive operations and transitional attacks for structure fires. The nozzle is approximately \$3,000 and would also need to be purchased via fund raising or donations. This was not part of my 2019 budget proposal.

Another reason to work on our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is due to the various locations of hydrants in the community. Unfortunately, many do not have

steamer ports (a 5 or 6" opening) which will limit the water supply to the Pumper truck. A standard operational procedure will help firefighters during an emergency.

Another observation from my term during 2018 is the wooden turnout storage lockers. These are old and air flow to help dry the gear is limited to one side. This means that wet gear can take several days to dry. The wooden lockers do not utilize our space effectively and with the limited amount of room in the fire hall, we need to utilize every inch of space as effectively as possible.

New steel lockers designed specifically for fire departments has been priced out at \$7914.14. The Ready Rack system has been implemented in fire departments across North America and is quickly becoming one of the more popular storage systems for turnout gear. It has a steel design that allows complete air movement/exposure on all four sides and the steel design means the locker will basically last forever. In my opinion the department needs to find a way to get the Ready Rack system purchased for the rest of department. Former Fire Chief See purchased a few Ready Rack lockers and it was a wise purchase from my perspective and we definitely need to continue to finish the job he started.

In my September 2018 report to Parks Canada, I identified the need for storage racks in the fire hall. Firefighting foam and fire hose are still stored on the floor and we need to have heavy duty storage racks purchased to get this equipment properly stored and off the floor. I have researched heavy duty racks and the best deal is at Costco and for approximately \$600.00 two sets heavy duty storage racks can be purchased. Again, we would have to rely upon fund raising or donations to help with this purchase.

Fund Raising

This is a challenge for any volunteer fire department. I work as a consultant with volunteer fire departments across Western Canada and fund-raising efforts are a challenge. A quick glance in this report will identify over \$12,000 in necessary equipment for the fire department. If we relied solely upon our fund raising efforts it would probably take about five years to purchase this equipment. Does this mean we shouldn't fund raise? No, but with the price of firefighting equipment we need to look at some type of partnership or other means to acquire this equipment.

One of the biggest challenges for a volunteer fire department is to get the necessary funding required to ensure that firefighters have personal protective equipment that passes the industry standard and equipment that helps them do their job in a safe and efficient manner. From a consultant's perspective, I can testify to the fact that many people are shocked at the expense of equipping a fire department. My recommendation for fire chiefs is to follow sound business practices by purchasing equipment in a planned fashion and educating key stakeholders on the fire department needs.

Conclusion

The WFD is following a set plan for training and equipment utilization and purchasing. It's imperative to be diligent and take the steps necessary to ensure our firefighters are trained for the job they are expected to do, and to ensure that we have the necessary equipment available for them to do their jobs.

I cannot say enough good things about Parks Canada staff that are on the fire department as they continue to come to the training sessions (practice nights) with a passion and zest to learn.

This report is a summary of training, administrative duties and planning in the Waskesiu Fire Department for the months of March and April 2019.

Respectfully submitted



Les Karpluk
Fire Chief

Cc: Gregg Rutten Townsite Manager