

Waskesiu Community Association Inc.
Annual General Meeting and
‘Waskesiu 2020 and Beyond’ Community Action Plan Presentation
Terrace Gardens, Waskesiu Lake, SK Sunday, July 26th, 2015 – 10:00 am

MEETING MINUTES

Brian Morgan, Chair
Cabin Owners Representative

Bryan Matheson, Vice Chair
Member at Large

Randy Kershaw
Member at Large

Nancy Wood Archer, Sec.-Treasurer
Commercial Lessees’ Representative

Jim Kerby
Cottage Owners Representative

Janice MacKinnon
Member at Large

Brent Hamel
Permanent Residents Representative

Bryan Matheson and Janice MacKinnon were unable to attend

Present: 74 members and, representing Parks Canada Agency, Superintendent Alan Fehr and Acting Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten.

Community Council Chairman 2014/2015 and Chair of the meeting – Brian Morgan

1. 9:45 am - Coffee and refreshments
2. 10:00 am – Welcome and Chairman’s Year End Report

“On behalf of the Waskesiu Community Council, welcome to the 2014-2015 Waskesiu Community Association Annual General Membership meeting.

It has been a busy and productive year for Council. Engaged in dealing with diverse issues relating to the town site, and immediate surrounding area, with Parks Canada and other stakeholders, we have concentrated most of our efforts to enhance and sustain the beauty, security, and economic and environmental viability of our Waskesiu community.

It has been a distinct pleasure to work with my fellow Councilors: Bryan Matheson, Janice MacKinnon, Nancy Wood-Archer, Brent Hamel, Randy Kershaw, and Jim Kerby, all ably assisted by our Administrator, Noreen Matthews.

As detailed at last year’s AGM and Community Open House, attended by over 120 members of our community, Council, had commenced firstly with the Parks Administration, then subsequently with Waskesiu stakeholder groups, a visioning process entitled “VISION 2020 and BEYOND”, the purpose of which was to collaborate on what we want to have the Waskesiu town site look like, feel like, and be like by the year 2020 and beyond.

As the most important undertaking we could possibly launch to plan future enhancements to our community, the Community Open House provided us with all kinds of valuable insights, information and feedback, to help shape the vision of Waskesiu. Following that meeting, and analysis of the information obtained, we determined a strategy to collaboratively design a Community Action Plan to implement the necessary steps to actualize the achievement of the vision.

There is much more to follow later in today's agenda.

Significant upgrades have taken place in Waskesiu over the past year. Extensive work was commenced on the revitalization of the Nature Center. Much more is to be done once this summer's season is past. You will also note that the shoreline behind the Nature Center has been stabilized and now provides a much more attractive setting while at the same time secures the shoreline slope.

This past winter saw the construction of an electrified multi-season camp kitchen, thanks to the good graces of the Waskesiu Foundation and the superb efforts, contribution and craftsmanship of Dave Archer.

Parks Canada has, thankfully, electrified all of the campground sites at Beaver Glen.

Welcome and extensive upgrades have been made to the Arena and the Recreation Hall thanks to the Chamber of Commerce and Parks Canada.

With the federal government's announcement of the dedication of a fund of an extra \$2.6 billion dollars to Parks Canada Agency nationally for deferred work for assets/infrastructure to enhance and improve to a similar level of service, Council is eagerly anticipating announcements geared specifically to what this means in funding distribution to Prince Albert National Park.

We were also pleased to learn a couple of weeks ago that the Waskesiu Community Plan, which was provided to government by PANP and the Council in 2010, has finally been approved by Parliament. Who says government can't move quickly?

One of the best things to happen in our town site was the realization of the construction of the wonderful Bears on the Beach playground. We can't give enough thanks to the Waskesiu Foundation and its many donors for their generosity in helping to fund this exceptional addition to our community. Additionally, the contribution of funds, equipment and labor by Parks Canada is deeply appreciated. The work and dedication of over sixty community volunteers in helping to erect the playground was absolutely fantastic and provides further evidence of the commitment people have to this community.

In being advised by Canada Post of its intention to close the local post office, Council worked very hard to change their minds. Regrettably, we were unsuccessful, but we now have outdoor community super mail boxes installed near the current building. We were able to secure certain commitments from Canada Post in terms of needing to satisfy the particular delivery needs of the business community.

To act as a voice with Parks Canada for the Waskesiu business community, whom we also represent, the WCC recently assigned our Business Relations Committee the task of determining the specific issues in Waskesiu impinging negatively on and with the business community, such that collaborative solutions can be developed.

This past year Council partnered with Parks Canada and the Chamber of Commerce to develop a new festival for Waskesiu for August 21-23. Called the Waskesiu Lakeside Festival, there will be a great deal of entertainment throughout the festival including five separate musical bands. It looks really exciting and as a family event, we encourage all of Waskesiu to come out, participate and ENJOY. Details can be found on posters throughout the community and on our website at www.waskesiu.org.

The Waskesiu Community Council is elected for three (3) year terms. I have had the privilege of serving on Council for six (6) years as representative of cabin owners; the past three years as Chair. I had decided, however that it was time to "pass the baton" and I had chosen not to seek another term.

I want to thank all of you for your friendship and support. It has been an honor to serve you.

I especially want to thank my fellow Councilors. It has been a pleasure working with you. And to Noreen Matthews, Council Administrator, as I have said many times, you are the glue that holds this organization together. To you my utmost thanks.

To Parks Canada, I have really appreciated our working relationship, and while at times there have been disagreements, the fact that we generally shared the same mutual goals allowed us to collectively and respectfully achieve a good deal.

Your new Council (by acclamation) and effective August 1, 2015 is:

- *Jim Kerby (representing cottage owners)
- **Randy Kershaw (representing cabin owners)
- *Nancy Wood-Archer (representing the business community)
- *Brent Hamel (representing permanent residents)
- *Janice MacKinnon (Member at large)
- *Bryan Matheson (Member at large)
- George Wilson (Member at large)

*incumbent

**incumbent but previously as Member at large

We thank you for being here and participating today, but more importantly we commend you for your tireless service to this community that we all love.

We continue to encourage you and all Waskesiu residents and business operators to share your views with respective members of Council on how to improve and enhance the Waskesiu experience. Your commitment to this community of ours is much appreciated.”

Councilor Jim Kerby presented Brian with a gift of appreciation for his years of service to the Waskesiu Community Council and Prince Albert National Park, 2009 to 2015.

- Adoption of 2015 AGM Agenda
Moved by Sheila Gagne and seconded by Bob Gibb *Carried Unanimously*
- Adoption of 2014 AGM minutes
Moved by Ione Langois and seconded by Diane Walsh *Carried Unanimously*
- Introduction of 2015/16 Council Members

3. Fiscal and Financial Report – Randy Kershaw in Janice MacKinnon’s absence.

- Waiver of Appointment of Auditor and Reviewer’s Report for the 2014/15 Fiscal Year:
“That the Waskesiu Community Council dispense with the appointment of an auditor and reviewer’s report for the 2014/15 fiscal year of the Corporation.”

Moved by Grit McCreath and seconded by Herve Langois. *Carried Unanimously*

- Presentation and Adoption of 2014/15 Financial Statements:

“That the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the last fiscal year of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”

Moved by Sheila Gagne and seconded by Brad Meier. *Carried Unanimously*

4. Parks Canada Update -

- Waskesiu Community Plan Amendment
 - a. Recently tabled and approved in Parliament,
 - b. Three key amendments: i. changes in zoning to reflect current use, ii. updates the commercial floor space limit to correct an administrative error, and iii. allow for the release of surveyed cabin and cottage lots.
- Asset Management and Capital Projects
 - a. This region (Prince Albert and Elk Island National Parks) spends about \$1 – 2 M/year on capital projects.
 - b. After the flooding of June 2013 we received about \$2 M for repairs to roads and slumps.
 - c. In November 2014, the Prime Minister announced \$2.6 B in Federal Infrastructure Investment (FII) funds for deferred work at Parks Canada sites and parks.
 - d. PANP will receive funding from the FII program for five projects this year and next. We will have opportunities to apply for other project funds as well in the near future.

2015-2017 Infrastructure Funding Projects (amounts were not provided at the meeting but were announced the next morning)

Highway #263 – Phase #1 Rehabilitation \$15.3 M
Rehabilitate sections of Highway 263 in PANP. The project includes paving, guardrail replacement and slope stabilization

Waskesiu Lake Marina - Road and Marine Assets Rehabilitation \$7.4 M
Rehabilitate roads, replace boat slips and docks at Prince Albert National Park’s main marina.

Grey Owl Site Rehabilitation \$3 M
Recapitalize road access, Kingsmere boat launch, parking, campgrounds and Grey Owl Trail. Grey Owl as an environmentalist is historically iconic to PANP, environmentalists and Parks Canada Agency. The Grey Owl Trail is a signature trail for the Park.

Townsite Wastewater Force Main Rehabilitation \$1.5 M
Rehabilitate force main that provides for the transport of sewage from the townsite to the treatment lagoons.

Waskesiu Trail Network Rehabilitation \$500 K
Repair 35 km of trails for the visitors of Waskesiu townsite.

- Tribute to Brian Morgan, outgoing Chair & 6 year member of the Waskesiu Community Council.

Questions and Answers

Member Comment: It was suggested Council should research what the dollar amount of annual revenue received by Council would trigger the need for a formal financial statement review in accordance with provincial requirements.

Member Comment: Member not upset that there is a delay in releasing lots in the cabin area given the recent approval of the Waskesiu Community Plan; he doesn’t want it to happen at all in the 30 foot lot cabin area.

Member Comment: Concerned regarding parking issues in the cabin and cottage area especially in the 30 foot lot cabin area. The release of lots in this area will increase the number of vehicles as well. Is additional parking in the works?

PCA Response: We are anticipating the increase of parking space for boats at the Marina will eliminate most of the parking of boats on the streets.

Member Question: Are the closed trails going to be re-opened?

PCA Answer: Many trails in the Park were roads converted to trails or designed like a road, for example, Kinowa. Ice Push Ridge Trail is very short (< 200 m) and received minimal use and required a lot of maintenance because of the water in the area. Parks is focusing on renewing the trail system by ensuring each trail has scenic, recreational or educational value.

Member Question: Will Trappers Lake Road be re-opened?

PCA Answer: It might never be reopened. Trappers Road was not built as a road. It is a bladed trail that functions like a ditch during wet periods, and consequently, is very difficult to maintain. Many other, higher priority roads have sections like this and are being repaired, for example, Namekus, North Shore and Cookson roads.

Member Comment: PCA should be commended on the upgrade of the Fisher Trail – fantastic work has been done.

PCA Comment: Our vision for the Waskesiu Trail Network, which includes Fisher, is to 1) enhance the quality of the trails themselves with more loops and options for users, and 2) improve the Fisher Trailhead by expanding the parking, improving the connector trail between the Rock and Fisher, enhancing the trail signage, and possibly building a warming shack. We hope to begin some of the work this fall. We are also looking at doing some trail design work in the area near the Overflow Campground.

Member Question: The old highway to Kapasawin is over grown and becoming a safety hazard, what is going to be done?

PCA Answer: The plan currently is to undertake a Phase II Trail Design and Renewal Project and the Lakeshore Trail will be part of that. Currently that part of the trail is safe and not in any need of immediate repair or maintenance. Update the entire lake front trail including Kapasawin trail.

5. Waskesiu '2020 and Beyond' Community Action Plan Status Update and Request for Community Endorsement

Council Chair thanked Jim Kerby and Brent Hamel, the Community Planning and Development Committee, for all their work and design of the Community Action Plan and Implementation Strategy documents.

A presentation by the Chair and by Jim Kerby was given outlining the Waskesiu Vision 2020 and Beyond Community Action Plan and its Implementation Strategy. A copy of the presentation has been placed on www.waskesiu.org.

6. Questions and Answers regarding the Community Action Plan and Implementation Strategy

Member Question: Pointed out an error in the Community Action Plan Document; in the Infrastructure category of the Plan to develop a main community gathering area and build a main community gathering area start dates were shown incorrectly.

Answer: Agreed. The error has been addressed.

Member question: The skateboard and bike parks sponsorship TBD all need funding, this tends to weaken the objective.

Answer: The community wanted these projects but nobody from the stakeholders groups stepped up to take the lead so these projects will need additional people/groups to take the lead and find funding.

Member question: Under Infrastructure – please provide more details regarding the aquatic area improvements.

Answer: This is in the planning stage – a swimming platform was suggested. This item refers to *out on the water* improvements (such as revitalizing the breakwater and dock/walking areas onto the water). PCA is the lead and WCC is a partner on this project. There are three major draws at Waskesiu: the golf course, the main beach and the marina and all three need to be healthy.

PCA comment: From the federal funds that are coming for the Waskesiu Marina, we will use any extra should there be such, to conduct assessments of the two breakwaters and the Main Beach dock. Regarding the bike park comment, an aspect of the bike park will be incorporated into the Fisher Trail with obstacles added.

Member comment: Boat and water safety lessons should be offered to the community.

Member comment: Thanked Council for taking this project on and their resolutions are very worthy of support. The structure of Waskesiu is like nowhere else, organizations all have fees to pay and any extra is earned through fundraising and we are reliant on federal funding. There is a concern for the health of the local businesses, losing the post office, changes to the gas station, fewer hotel rooms, etc.

Member Question: This document has been described as a *living document* which means it is subject to change. I want to create a bike lane on Waskesiu Drive – so how does the document get changed?

Answer: Every year we want to come to a meeting like this, show the community where we are, what we have accomplished and new ideas can be presented at that time. Council will give annual progress reports.

Member Comment: Appreciate the townsite signage improvements.

Member Comment: On their website the Lobstick Golf Course advertised the Parks early bird pass promotion which was a great way to advertise.

Member Question: How prepared and protected are we in case of a major wildfire?

PCA Answer: Quite confident that we are in good shape –we have been very proactive with fire containment lines. The fire break is updated and maintained annually. PCA has a major sprinkler system, crews on the ground and the fuel break has put us in good shape for the Waskesiu townsite to be well protected.

Member Comment: I would like to extend my appreciation to Waskesiu Community Council and all involved agencies for developing this superb plan for the future of Waskesiu.

A motion was made that: "The membership of the Waskesiu Community Association hereby: (1) ratifies, endorses and enthusiastically supports the Waskesiu 2020 Vision "Community Action Plan", including the Implementation Strategy contained therein; and (2) urges the Waskesiu Community Council, Parks Canada Agency and each of the other key stakeholders identified in the Community Action Plan, to immediately commence implementation of the Plan."

Moved by Tom Webb and seconded by Sheila Gagne *Carried Unanimously*

7. Adjournment of the Annual General Meeting

12:10 pm

Moved by Brad Meier and seconded by Rick Jakes that the meeting be adjourned