

# Columbia Valley

## Recreation Planning Initiative

### 2023-12-06 CVRPI Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

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**Present:** Adrian Pery, Tracy Flynn, TJ Neault, Roberta Schnider, Andrew Craddock, Brenda Hopkins, Al Miller, Trevor Hann, Ember Heidt, Dennis Paradine. **Contractors:** Jeff Zukiwsky, Ingrid Liepa.

#### Project updates

1. BC Natural Resource Ministry Re-Organization: Dennis Paradine provided an overview of the provincial re-organization of the Ministry of Forests (FOR) and the Ministry of Water, Lands, and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) that took effect on December 1. CVRPI will continue to work with the same government representatives as before, with exception of Dennis, who will be moving to a new position. Ministerial responsibilities for RSTBC and ALC remain unchanged. A new organizational chart should be available soon. There will be no changes in access to lands-related data as all of government works with the same data.
2. Re: Steamboat report, a review by provincial subject matter experts (SME) is underway. There will be a joint meeting with First Nations when it is ready to share, and the review will also go to Trevor followed by a meeting with SMEs.
3. It was reported that some local recreation stakeholders are concerned about how long the process is taking.

**Action:** Ember to review meeting minutes before they are uploaded to the website.

#### PC Feedback on Forster Public Engagement Plan

- Contractors walked through the proposed engagement schedule and key activities, e.g., CVRPI panel and open house event, focus groups with user groups, and public survey.
- Due to time constraints, there will not be a co-Chair video inviting people to participate in the engagement.
- PC feedback was to conduct focus groups with the five user proposed user groups (snowmobiles, ski touring, ORV/dirtbike, hiking/camping, and mechanized (bikes, e-bikes, heli-biking)).
- Contractors will work with all PC members to ensure clear messaging and communication about the community-led nature of the CVRPI.
- Contractors to get drafts of all public engagement materials for PC review and approval by early January.
- The Panel Presentation should include members of the AC, specifically those representing local user groups.
- **Action:** Contractors to draft e-mail requesting Provincial Government presence at the proposed Panel Presentation and Open House on Feb 1, 2024. Send draft email to co-Chairs for review and then send to Provincial Government representatives.
- **Action:** Contractors to provide updated draft of Forester Inventory & Issues Report by next week (Dec 11-15) to provide time for PC and Provincial Government review in advance of public engagement.

#### Feedback on Forster Recreation management options

- Contractors reviewed the four categories of recreation management options: base case (status quo), base case+, recreation facilities, and access.
- There was discussion on whether heli-drops require authorization, and whether to seek a legal opinion.

#### Next meeting

- Next PC meeting in early January (3,4,5,8,9,10,15,16,17) to finalize all materials for public engagement.