

Waskesiu Community Association Inc.  
Annual General Meeting  
Community Hall, Waskesiu, SK  
Sunday, 31 July 2011 10:00 am

**MINUTES**

(subject to ratification)

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John Stevenson, Vice Chairperson Cottage Owner Representative	Janice MacKinnon Member at Large	Brent Hamel Year Round/Seasonal Residents' Representative
Brian Morgan Cabin Owner Representative	Tim Degelman Commercial Lessees' Representative	

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Present: Thirty four members; Anita Smith, RCMP; Terry Schneider, Parks Canada

Community Council Vice-Chairman 2010/11 and Chair of the meeting – **John Stevenson acting in Bryan Matheson's absence today**

1. Opening Remarks:

- Introduction of 2010/11 Council Members  
*John Stevenson, Janice MacKinnon, Brent Hamel, Brian Morgan, Tim Degelman, Terri Royea (administrator)*
- Adoption of 2011 Agenda  
*Moved by Rob Phillips and seconded by Mona Finlayson carried*
- Adoption of 2010 AGM minutes  
*Moved by Brian Morgan and seconded by Rob Phillips carried*

2. Waiver of Appointment of Auditor and Reviewer's Report for the 2010/11 Fiscal Year:

- Moved by Colleen Cooper and seconded by Mike Gelsingering carried  
*"That the Waskesiu Community Council dispense with the appointment of an auditor and reviewer's report for the 2010/11 fiscal year of the Corporation."*

3. Presentation and Adoption of 2010/11 Financial Information:

- Moved by Rob Phillips and seconded by Lynn Flavelle carried  
*"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."*

4. Presentation and Adoption of Amended Financial Information for 2007/08, 2008/09, 2009/10 fiscal years:

- Moved by Rob Phillips and seconded by Brent Hamel carried  
*"That the AMENDED Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the 2007/08, 2008/09 and 2009/10 fiscal years of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted."*

## 5. Law Enforcement – RCMP - Anita Smith, Clerk

RCMP Report for Waskesiu Community Council AGM  
Submitted by Cst. Troy D. Antal (NCO i/c delegate)  
STATISTICS - May 1st, 2011 - July 29th, 2011

### TRAFFIC - VEHICLE CHECK RELATED

Criminal Code Impaired Driving	0
Roadside Suspensions	1
Traffic Accidents	4
Traffic Tickets	14
Liquor Tickets	27
Drug Charges/Investigations	2

### CRIMINAL - PROPERTY RELATED

Theft from Vehicles	1
Other Thefts	1
Break & Enter (Cabin/Residence)	0
Disturbing the Peace	4
Mischief to Property	2
911/False Alarms	4

### CRIMINAL - PERSON RELATED

Common Assault	1
Assault on Police	0
Resist Arrest	0
Assist General Public/Other	10
Town site Prisoners lodge in cells	1
Total number of complaints/calls for service	38

#### Comments on Statistics:

The only town site prisoner was arrested and lodged in cells during the late night/early morning of May long weekend. Break & Enters and Mischief to Property complaints are down this year most likely due to the quiet winter months. The Assistance to General Public incidents mostly involve non-criminal or non-charge type of offences (i.e. found/lost property, animal calls). The majority of Liquor Tickets were issued during the 2 long weekends of May and July which include being intoxicated in a public place, having/giving/consuming alcohol in a vehicle, having alcohol in a public place, and minor possess/consume alcohol. Traffic tickets mostly comprise of exceeding the speed limit of 60 km/hr (#264 near compound zone) and failing to obey a stop sign. The low number of calls for service is most likely due to many police-related incidents not getting reported. Many issues/problems are being dealt with locally and/or are forgotten about and never reported.

#### Enforcement & Public Peace

The RCMP has continued to build on a partnership with the Park Warden(s) and Park Staff of Prince Albert National Park with the goal to provide a peaceful and safe experience for park visitors. RCMP and Park Staff have worked to share information and keep each other informed of any issues/problems in the park. Communication has been the key between the two organizations. The detachment's operational plan for this year has targeted the following areas:

- reduce domestic violence
- increase drug & alcohol related charges
- increase provincial traffic offences
- increase impaired driving charges
- increase street checks/patrols in communities

-school/community visits

#### Noise Complaints/Disturbances

The detachment will continue to enforce the National Parks Regulations as well as Disturbing the Peace type Criminal Code complaints. Detachment members will attend to all calls involving noise complaints/disturbances that are ongoing and will attempt to locate the owner/property of the resident. Generally, a warning is provided at first instance however if the problem persists a charge and/or eviction will follow usually the following day with assistance from the Park Warden(s).

#### Long Weekend Enforcement (May, July, August)

The majority of offences/issues/complaints seem to occur during the 3 a/n long weekends. The RCMP has made a strong effort to increase police presence and visibility during these weekends. Out of area police officers have been brought in to the detachment to help increase police presence during these weekends. An increase in the number of police vehicles patrolling and uniformed officers patrolling the beaches late at night has been a priority during these long weekends. (releasing to parents)

#### Traffic/Liquor Offences Enforcement

The detachment has made an effort to increase patrols along the 60 km/hr zone near the compound to decrease the amount of speeders coming into the town site and the number of wildlife accidents. Efforts have also been made to increase stationary posts at the 4-way stop in town. Members have made efforts to increase foot patrols during the late night/early morning hours in the town site and along the beaches to decrease drinking in public and littering.

Sergeant Gabriel transferred out Thursday; the new sergeant should arrive first part of October, due to operational obligations in his posting at Southend. Should be smooth transition as he is familiar with the Waskesiu/Montreal Lake detachment area.

Member question: whose responsibility is enforcing skateboarders on roads and sidewalks?

Response: Skateboarders must follow the rules of road, like bikes. This is more under Parks Canada's jurisdiction (national park regulations), but the RCMP is working with Parks. Most are under age 16 and don't know/understand rules of road. The approach is to educate them as to safety issues and make them aware of road hazards.

Member comment: with the new pavement, there is a concern at bottom of cabin area U-streets; vehicles and skateboards having close calls. Prospect Point hill same issue.

Member question: are skateboarders allowed on sidewalks in townsite?

Would have to check Parks regulations, but likely would be the same as bikes.

Member question: will the RCMP keep up and/or enhance the winter patrols?

Yes, RCMP will be doing same as last winter.

Brian Morgan is liaison with Parks and RCMP law enforcement; he has been really impressed with young constables here now; eager and enthusiastic; as well as the law enforcement wardens. They are working well together and there is a great relationship between both agencies.

Member question: who should people call for noise complaints?

Call the RCMP first, but it might be a warden who shows up. You can call 911 or 663-4400. Both agencies work cooperatively and share communications, so either may attend call.

## 6. Parks Canada – Terry Schneider

Member question: in light of the recent hail storm, are there any provisions to allow for building of carports? There is nothing in the current cottage regulations/cabin guidelines that addresses carports.

Gating of residential areas: this was a pilot project, was successful especially with heavy snowfall. Other resort areas were still hit even with heavy snow. Townsite administration is not adverse to looking at expanding it to other areas. There was some negative reaction (due to the inconvenience of having to go to the visitor centre to get the key), but the majority was accepting and saw it as reasonable protocol to prevent break and enter incidents.

As Anita stated, for any safety or law enforcement concerns, phone the RCMP. The more calls they receive, the more justification there is to keep the detachment fully staffed. Right now the complement is three constables and one corporal at Montreal Lake; one sergeant and two constables (soon to be three) in Waskesiu. The numbers of incidents and calls are higher in Montreal Lake, not townsite, so manpower gets addressed there.

There have been “pre-planning” meetings before and debriefing after long weekends between Parks and RCMP to plan for long weekends. Two extra law enforcement wardens are here for this long weekend.

Community Plan: the plan has reached the Minister’s office and is awaiting signature of current Minister of Environment, Mr. Kent. It was in Ottawa in 2010 and was signed, but then Minister Prentice resigned shortly after. Still on board for releasing properties as per community plan once signed.

Swale work in cabins: the project didn’t get completed last fall. Subcontractor D & S Landscaping will be at work to complete it. Working at assembly hall right now doing walkway and brick work. Will be going into cabin area next and complete swale work. Previous contractor did not have the proper equipment for the job. This is the last batch of work on the Economic Action Plan projects in the park.

Endorsed “community concept plan” to revitalize facilities in community. Parks is pleased with the Waskesiu Foundation’s contribution to flooring for community hall, also on board with other projects to modernize the community hall, camp kitchens.

Storm and aftermath: generally, townsite patience for clean-up has been good. I commend the community for allowing the Parks to work at the clean-up as they could. The community’s patience and understanding was much appreciated.

Member question: the community plan that has been sent forward to Ottawa, is it the old one? This is an amendment to the year 2000 plan. The proposed changes are to allow for the release of 16 lots in the community. There are other peripheral items, but the main one is the release of land. WSRA has asked about not releasing all lots as congestion is a concern.

Member question about paving project: there is one stretch that didn’t get done - the walkway between main beach and Waskesiu Drive ( by ball diamond). It is full of holes and uneven. Kids with little bikes falling over; this should be addressed.

Response: this and all the other small areas would cost \$250,000 to complete. The project is over budget already; can try to include it in sidewalk and street repairs.

Member question: while assembly hall was under renovation, organizations were pleased that the hall was still available for bingos, but someone fell on front step. Who is responsible for site safety - contractor or Parks Canada or lessee?

Response: in this case it would be the contractor, but the injured person should address legal matters. Graham Construction has their sign in park work areas.

Member question regarding the huge pile of dirt sitting on side of community hall building: this part of infrastructure program is now a ramp for bikers; health and safety issue. Triathlon event is happening soon; why hasn't this been addressed?

Response: Dymterko is the contractor for this project and they are responsible for addressing the site landscaping. Timing of resources and weather conditions has been challenging. Horseshoe pits are still expected to be done soon. The contractor is responsible for health and safety.

Member question regarding swales: Why are they only partly down the lanes? A lot of the streets higher up are soaking wet, have humps and tree roots that impede water flow. On Grebe/Heron lane there is a huge mound where tree was, even with swale water won't flow. The stump needs to be removed. Why was swale chosen only ¼ way up and not higher up? They cut roots to all the pines, what if they go deeper and it caves in, will the trees fall down/die. Who is responsible?

Response: swales are intended to remove as much water as possible out of area,. However, the past few weeks there has been 8-10 inches of water. Swales will benefit areas; have been marked as to how high up the lane they will go. Already over budget; not likely it will go beyond where it has already been projected.

If there are trees on leasehold property affected by swales project, Parks will approach leaseholder to remove tree, if desired, at parks expense.

Please advise townsite office if there are dangerous/hazardous trees that need to be addressed.

#### 7. Waskesiu Foundation John Stevenson

- A lot of work has been done on Terrace Gardens hall; the foundation gave funds to help upgrade washrooms and kitchen, running water and equipment.
- New flooring in Community Hall was installed last week - hardwood/composite.
- \$200,000 worth of projects this year. Looking at upgrading washrooms and kitchen in Community Hall.
- Foundation hopes to work with Parks to discuss potential joint projects. One such project is the foundation's commitment to upgrading 5 camp kitchens around beach area; also in talks with Parks about the possibility of people donating money towards upgrading a camp kitchen in park; rough costs are \$10,000 to upgrade one. Could be groups of families get together to fund upgrades. Parks' newsletter had photo of the Kingsmere camp kitchen; rustic upgrade. Hope to see it started by fall.
- Also agreed to match Parks contribution towards tree planting; \$10,000, with 15' or higher trees near and around camp kitchens that receive Foundation upgrades.
- Frisbee (disc) golf course to be developed in area near Community Hall.

#### 8. Fiscal Report – Janice MacKinnon

Budget - Council is encouraging Parks to present how money comes into townsite and how it is spent. The numbers you see on the townsite budget are always under-estimated. Administrative costs are not properly allocated. Parks needs to change their accounting methods.

The federal government has put huge amounts of money into townsite recently: Terrace Gardens upgrade, the lagoon upgrades, millions spent on road paving. Taxpayers have subsidized the Park since much more money has been spent by the government in the park than has been collected by fees. These have contributed to the deficit, which now has to be reduced. The economy has been revitalized, but now budget cuts begin. The 2010 budget was frozen for three years. Parks has union contracts that have salary increases that must be paid. The 2012 budget will be like 1995 budget in approach. A program review budget, government will be making \$4 billion in cuts. For Parks there is an appropriation budget that Parks usually gets to run the parks.

Does not mean that because money was given in the past, it won't be given in future. Federal priorities are health/education; Parks will be further down the list. When they look at budget, they look at the core mandate of parks: it's not the townsite, it's trails and ecological/back country preservation. Bottom line is that after 2012, assume there will be less money coming federally and more money will have to be paid (for new services) by people in the park. Parks nationally will say user fees for user services.

For example, the clean up/damage from the recent storm - cost is going to be huge. Terry Schneider indicated it was just \$250,000 on vehicle repairs alone. They will apply for relief funding, but not sure if they'll get it.

Member question: are you preparing us for a revival of seeking municipal status?

Response: No, just addressing questions for improvements and infrastructure repair – where is the money coming from? For example, lot releases – if done now, the ministry would take the money; there is no requirement for funds to be left in townsite. Comments are just to condition thinking that we're in for tough times over next four years.

The hazardous trees issue is huge: a lot of requests for tree removal. Because of the age and condition of trees, this will be another large expense. Trees in the public areas are Parks' responsibility. Leaseholders are responsible for removal of trees on their leasehold.

Member comment: why we did so well in infrastructure upgrades is because we had a lot of "shovel-ready" projects available. Other communities didn't fare as well. Kudos to Michael Caswell and Terry Schneider for their work with Council to be prepared to have these projects ready to be done. Council needs to look forward and work with Parks to fight for them.

Member comment: doesn't agree that Parks Canada subsidizes townsites; Parks has mandate for all national parks and everything in it. But I find it interesting that there's no money to maintain existing parks but endless announcements about new parks being created. Why? Because it's a good political thing to do. Also regarding the budget, we've seen land rents in the cabin area go up 5 to 6 times in last five years from \$300 to an average of \$1,750. Cottage area went up 2 or 3 times. Golf course lease went from 5% to 10% of their gross revenue. The money collected locally is spent here. The Parks offices in Calgary and Ottawa look at the local revenue and cut appropriations. Things that used to be funded nationally are now funded locally.

The point that has been made: our roll as community is to fight for the community. It is also important, however, to begin with understanding the basic fiscal facts.

#### 9. [www.waskesiu.org](http://www.waskesiu.org) – Brent Hamel

The [waskesiu.org](http://www.waskesiu.org) website has been newly redesigned. Many thanks to Bryan Robertson who developed the site over last 8 years. Much of the content has been migrated into new design. In working up the new design we looked at other municipal sites and the main concept was separation of content by groups/interests. The site is still evolving content and information. [Waskesiu.org](http://Waskesiu.org) continues to be the number one search result for "waskesiu". We generate approximately \$4,000 annually in fees from sponsors for their presence on the site.

The sections are Council, Community, Visitors and Business. We have our council minutes and documents on the site; there is visitor information but we learned on the previous site design that visitor information was difficult to keep updated in a timely manner. We have some visitor information, but we direct to source information sites such as Parks Canada and the new DMO site to come, which will promote the Lakeland area and Waskesiu townsite. The fourth section is for businesses and contains development information and contacts.

Comment from Parks Canada - we really appreciate Council/waskesiu.org posting items in a quick manner; documents and information doesn't need to be translated into French by Parks to be posted on waskesiu.org, so information can be shared expediently.

#### 10. Vegetation Management – Brian Morgan

Everyone is aware that in 2010 (and each year) in October Council receives a report from Parks on the health of the urban/peripheral urban forest. The report is posted on waskesiu.org. Council has endorsed the report. One item in the report that is a concern to all, is the age of the urban forest. Many of our trees have virtually reached the end of their life span. They are in danger of falling and Council has encouraged Parks to be extra vigilant in culling these trees and working with residents in culling the trees.

When this park opened in early 1930s, there were very few spruce trees in the townsite; aspen and birch were more prevalent. Now what we have come to prize the most are the spruce trees. We have a problem. Not just with spruce trees, but also willows now have a "willow leaf miner" infestation. This turns the leaves brown. The scientists are satisfied for now that the health of the willows is such that they can sustain some defoliation over the next couple of years without intervention.

Spruce health: The WSRA contracted BioForest Technologies to take look at growth of spruce budworm. Their report presented a different perspective, but was not all that dissimilar from the Parks report. Parks report said we would probably experience moderate-to-severe defoliation this year, as did the BioForest report. The health of trees at that time indicated they could sustain themselves, should it not continue. What we don't know is with the severe rainfall, hail storm – what impact does it have? The scientists can't do a study until end of September/early October. As such, Council has gone on record saying that we are supportive if necessary of a spray program. One concern is the funding. Should we determine based on the scientific studies that spraying is absolutely needed, we then have to determine funding. Council will be trying to convince Parks that they should fund it. Janice MacKinnon gave a report that looks potentially glum. Parks has to determine all priorities in the park as a whole, and within townsite. Council will have to work with Parks on that.

There is a lot more to vegetation management besides spruce budworm. Council recognizes it's a prevalent concern. We are also trying to work with Parks to put more money into tree planting, culling the older/hazardous trees, being more proactive in working with residents in doing so. Parks is receptive to different approaches. This is a huge issue because the forest is changing and will continue to change. We have to deal with problems in a collective way and make sure that the funds that are available to us are used in most effective way. That has been Council's position: we support the science and reacting to the science and not to the emotion of the issue. There is a lot of emotion.

Member question: have you obtained results of budworm studies done by SERM? We know they have made certain decisions to spray in the Candle Lake area. This is the first of two years they'll spray there. Also looking at Emma and Anglin Lake areas to see what the determination is there. Peripheral area to townsite - the infestation is nothing like it was last time. People are assuming the willow defoliation is spruce bud worm, but it is a completely different insect.

Member question: Was only the townsite area previously? Yes, including golf course. Spruce budworm has been here many years, has always been here. Member comment: look around and across the lake, there are trees that weren't sprayed and they have survived.

Member question: the recent storm knocked off new growth; would that take care of the budworm? We will have to wait for the annual study. John Stevenson contacted BioForest after storm and he said wouldn't know for sure about effect until September. The eggs may not have been laid on tips of trees.

Member comment: I hope council is aware and will consider the way the reforestation plan has been presented to community is that we have reforestation or we can spray, but not both. It was presented that way to the WSRA. Reforestation is not a strategy at all unless supported by spraying over time.

Member comment: the “shovel-ready” projects resulted in us getting money for infrastructure. Maybe spruce budworm is the same way. Look at the trees now; they are not as bad as in 2002. We were one year late then. It is a matter of seeing the science reports in fall, then if science says the spruce are in trouble, the government needs to react.

Council is encouraging Parks to do random planting of larger trees. Arbour Day event (September 4<sup>th</sup>) volunteers work with Parks in planting trees. It’s not just spruce, it’s primarily deciduous trees, putting up fencing to keep elk/deer out of new trees so they may grow and thrive. Parks is planting a lot of spruce seedlings at old compound site (now nursery). The key is to continue monitoring programs, but also to react appropriately to that. Wayne Simpson sprayed his own trees and unless there’s more spraying done on a safer basis, that sort of leaseholder intervention is not going to have an effect.

Member question/comment: Just found out there are two kinds of spruce trees in the park. The white spruce are the ones the budworm like, but black spruce are not affected. While the black is not as “pretty” a tree, why not plant them. Not as aesthetically pleasing, that’s why people prefer the white.

#### 11. Management Plan/Community Plan – John Stevenson

The 2000 Waskesiu Community Plan was developed for five years, to be updated every five years. Parks started the update in 2005, completed update in 2008 and has been in limbo for last three years between here, Calgary and Ottawa. The main amendments were to release lots in townsite that had been surveyed but never released, 14-16 lots all together, some in Prospect Point, the flower streets, and four in the cabin area. When Council approved the amendment we did it on condition that only if money received for leasing lots remained in Waskesiu. There was a letter added to amendment stating that fact. The amended plan is currently in Ottawa on the Minister’s desk, don’t know when it will get through parliament. Could be a period of time for them to be released. All the parks now have their community plans into minister’s office.

Terry Schneider advised that Parks policy on funds generated from release of lands goes towards development of new parks. Whether or not we can retain some of that funding remains to be seen.

#### 12. Question and Answer Session

Member question: regarding last year’s AGM minutes on land rent: last year Council organized a special meeting on land rent/lease system and brought people from Ottawa. Some leaseholders have met with Riding Mountain Park people with question about land rent system review. Schneider advised that Parks hasn’t started this review yet, will begin this fall at the earliest.

Member question regarding Regulations review process: will we get input into that? Schneider advises that Parks is working on getting a contact for the service centre in Calgary to address concerns.

Member comment regarding length of leases: A few years ago at the Saskatoon meeting when talking about the different types of leases, I approached the Parks representative to ask why does Waskesiu have seven months leases when we can’t live here seven months? More reasonably would be four months occupancy. Will this be on agenda for that discussion?

Meeting chair: Thank you all for coming out and showing interest in our community. Please stay engaged and bring your issues/concerns to us.

13. Adjournment

11:53 am