



Waskesiu Community Association Inc.

2025 Annual General Meeting

List of 2025 Councillors Waskesiu Community Council

Jim Kerby, Council Chair
Cottage Owners Representative

Rob Phillips, Vice Chair
Cabin Owners Representative

Bentley Crozier
Member at Large

Linda Lavallee
Business Owners Representative

Jacqueline Archer
Permanent Residents Representative

Bob Cyr
Member at Large

Jennifer Wood (Secretary/Treasurer)
Member at Large

1. **Call to Order & Welcome** - The time is now 10:02 a.m., and I would like to call the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Waskesiu Community Council to Order.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to be with us here today - your interest in Waskesiu's future is greatly appreciated. My name is Jim Kerby. It is my honour to serve as the Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council, and I will be the Chair for today's annual general meeting.

For about a week now all the materials for today's meeting have been (and still are) available on the Waskesiu.org website under "Community News". Several hard copies were also printed for the meeting and made available at the door.

I would request that if you are moving or seconding a Motion today, please stand, and clearly state your name, so that Noreen as the recording secretary for our meeting can enter it in the Minutes.

2. **Land Acknowledgement:**

On behalf of the Waskesiu community we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this special place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda for the 2025 AGM

Motion:

“That the Agenda for this 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Meeting, be approved and adopted.”

Moved by Rachel Vanneste
Seconded by Bernie St. Claire

Carried unanimously.

4. Introduction of 2025 Waskesiu Community Council Members & Administrator

Your Community Council is comprised of a total of 7 Councillors. They are:

- Rob Phillips, Council Vice Chair
 - *Cabin Owners Representative*
- Bentley Crozier
 - *Member at Large*
- Linda Lavallee
 - *Business Owners Representative*
- Jacqueline Archer
 - *Permanent Residents Representative*
- Jennifer Wood, Secretary/Treasurer
 - *Member at Large*
- Bob Cyr
 - *Member at Large*
- Jim Kerby - Council Chair
 - *Cottage Owners Representative*

Five of our Councillors are with us here today in person. All 7 members of Council were elected in 2024 and are now starting year 2 of a 3-year term.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all our Councillors. They are all committed to improving our wonderful community of Waskesiu.

Finally, I would truly be remiss if I didn't both commend, and sincerely thank, Noreen Matthews - our Council Administrator. Noreen is responsible for keeping Council on track and (despite our best efforts) she does a great job at doing so. In addition, Noreen was (yet again this year) instrumental in pulling everything together for this annual general meeting. Thank you, Noreen!

Procedural Matters

As always, we have a number of procedural matters to get through on our Agenda – all of which are either statutory requirements under the non-profit corporations’ legislation that governs the Council and its activities, or requirements under the Memorandum of Agreement between Council and Parks Canada Agency.

With your assistance we can hopefully move through those procedural items fairly quickly - after which there will be a brief report from the Chair, followed by a Q&A session with Council.

- After this meeting ends (hopefully around 10:50 a.m.), we will take a very quick break and from 11 am – noon Parks Canada Agency representatives will be here to speak with us.
- Parks Canada will provide a 15-20 minute presentation on some key topics and then answer the written questions that were submitted in advance from members of the community. Time permitting, they may be able to take some additional questions from the floor as well.
- Please note that the annual general meeting of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association will be held here – at Terrace Gardens - on Saturday, August 30th.
- Now for the procedural matters.

5. Adoption of the 2024 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion:

“That, subject to the spelling correction of Erin Gagne Harder’s name, the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”

Moved by Maxine Beck

Seconded by Todd Pederson

Carried unanimously.

6. Financial Reporting

Councillor Jennifer Wood - who also serves the Community Council as our Treasurer - will now present the financial statements on behalf of the Community Council.

• Presentation and Adoption of the 2024/2025 Financial Statements of the Corporation:

Motion:

“That the Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year of the Corporation, in the form prepared by Virtus Group LLP and presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”

Moved by Guy Patterson

Seconded by Bert Jackson

Carried unanimously.

• **Waiver of Appointment of Auditor / Appointment of Virtus Group LLP to prepare Review Engagement Financial Statements:**

Motion:

“That the Corporation dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the current fiscal year and appoint Virtus Group LLP to prepare the Corporation's financial statements for the current fiscal year on a review engagement basis, with Virtus Group LLP's remuneration to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.”

Moved by Herb Pinder
Seconded by Rob Oswald

Carried unanimously.

7. Chair's Year-End Report - Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby

As I always do, I want to start by sincerely thanking all of my Council colleagues and our Administrator for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Waskesiu community. They are a collaborative and talented team to work with and – most importantly - they truly care about Waskesiu. What more could you ask for?

The last 12 months have, once again, been very busy for the Waskesiu Community Council. Some of the issues we have dealt with since the last AGM have included the following:

- (1) we obtained a \$15,000 grant from Tourism Saskatchewan to market Waskesiu during the winter and spring as a year-round destination.
- (2) working in conjunction with representatives of the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Saskatchewan to try and reestablish a Destination Marketing Organization (often referred to as a “DMO”) tentatively called “Discover Waskesiu” - for the benefit of our community.
- (3) providing financial support to the Waskesiu Foundation as part of the successful Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Defence Fund initiative.
- (4) actively participating in the AIS Working Group alongside representatives of Parks Canada, the WSR, the Chamber, and the Marina as Phase 1 of the prevention program was designed and implemented - and as we now start to move to Phase 2 of the AIS prevention plan.
- (5) advancing the development of communications and messaging regarding wildfire and serious weather events affecting the community.
- (6) reviewed, considered, and approved the 2024 water, sewer, and garbage fees to be charged to businesses and seasonal residents.
- (7) considered other townsite issues that include drinking water quality, improved waste management, the future of the main beach breakwater, and the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department.
- (8) worked to address concerns regarding tree removal in the Waskesiu townsite – including working with and encouraging PCA to develop clear and consistent policies associated with tree removal.
- (9) worked diligently with the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and Parks Canada to complete the initial draft of the Cottage Development Guidelines for the Waskesiu townsite - which Guidelines are needed following the new (national) Land Use Planning Regulations coming into

effect on December 4, 2024. (I should mention that Waskesiu is far out in front of other townsites in that regard.)

In addition to those items, and as reported to the community last year, the latest iteration of the Community Action Plan is designed to culminate in a commemoration - in 2028 - marking the 100th anniversary of the official opening of Prince Albert National Park – which took place on August 10th, 1928. Our first meeting with representatives of key stakeholders from Waskesiu is scheduled for September 29th.

We have many questions to address during the upcoming Q&A session with Parks Canada – so I am going to wrap up this report fairly quickly. Before doing so, there are a few things that I want to emphasize.

- **Aquatic Invasive Species - AIS**

- Last year we were just starting to build on an awareness campaign here in Waskesiu - explaining that while learning new acronyms like “AIS” isn’t fun, that it was critical that everyone understood the term and, above all, the implications for Prince Albert National Park waterbodies. What has happened since?
- The good news first. Awareness has increased from very low to very high as among Waskesiu seasonal and permanent residents!
- In terms of PANP, people understand that Zebra and quagga mussels pose the most serious and imminent danger. They are prodigious filter feeders; they strip nutrients from the water leaving little or no food for native species. This affects the entire food web, impacting plant and animal life in the region, and altering water chemistry and clarity. Worse yet - infestations are permanent and usually irreversible.
- We need heightened public awareness combined with thoughtful, and above all effective action.
- Clear Lake Manitoba, in Riding Mountain National Park, has been shut down to motorized watercraft – think about what that would be like in Waskesiu.
- The common goal is to prevent the establishment of AIS in the Park.
- It is up to our community, working in partnership with Parks Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan, to:
 - (1) understand the enormity of this issue, and
 - (2) take steps to prevent catastrophic (and in some cases irreversible) damage to water bodies throughout the Park.

- If you love this lake, and the other lakes in this beautiful Park, please listen and learn today, and please commit yourself and your family to be part of the solution.
- As I said last year, in my time here in Waskesiu the two things that have worried me the most about the future of our community have been:
 - Zebra mussels and AIS
 - Fire – particularly wildfire - including the potential evacuation and destruction of our entire townsite.
 - In relation to wildfire – I can assure you that a significant amount of work has been done but there is also much more to do. Parks Canada will be providing an update in that regard during their presentation today.
- **On a much lighter “note”** (pardon the pun) I want to promote the Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival - August 22 to 24.
- The Lakeside Festival requires 1000’s of volunteer hours to plan, fundraise for, and implement - and it has become the townsite’s biggest annual event.
- Please volunteer if you can (I would love to hear from you) - and please plan to attend with your family and friends.
- The Lakeside Festival is, once again, **free** to attend. You can support the festival by donating to the Waskesiu Foundation, by buying festival branded merchandise, by purchasing 50/50 tickets and by attending the Original 16 beer gardens on Saturday. Details are available at lakesidefestival.ca.
- Last, but not least, let’s stop and pat ourselves on the back from time to time.
- How about Phase 3 of the Recreation Area Renewal project?
- We now have a new recreation office building, two dedicated pickle ball courts, and by this fall there will be improved vegetation on the recreation grounds.
- For a town our size, the Waskesiu recreation grounds were already very impressive – consider this latest project the icing on the cake – and an excellent example of what happens when we work together as a community.
- The really good news is that here ends my report!

8. Question and Answer Session (for Community Council)

This is your opportunity to ask your Community Council any questions you want, so we are going to open the floor for that purpose right now. If we can answer your question today, we will, and if not, we promise to get back to you.

Final Announcements and Adjournment

Please stay for a brief 15 minute presentation by, and then a Question and Answer session with, representatives of Parks Canada Agency - including our Field Unit Superintendent Jennifer Duquette,

Acting Townsite Manager Scott Nesbitt, PANP Assets Manager Christine Hamilton, and Pam Nelson, Visitor Services Team Lead.

9. Adjournment

10: 50 a.m.

Jake Burlette

Carried unanimously.