WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE:	Monday, July 27, 2026
TIME:	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Saskatchewan Time)
LOCATION:	Public Meeting – PCA Meeting Room (Visitor Centre) and Virtual Meeting (via Teams)

MEETING MINUTES

Attending in person from Council: Jim Kerby (Chair), Councillor Jacqueline Archer and Councillor Bob Cyr
Attending virtually from Council: Jennifer Wood (Secretary/Treasurer) and Councillor Bentley Crozier
Attending in person from PCA: Jennifer Duquette (Northern Prairies Field Unit Superintendent) and Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager
Regrets from Council: Councillor Rob Phillips (Vice Chair) and Councillor Linda Lavallee

1. **Call to Order** **9:15 a.m.**
2. **Motion to move the Council Meeting *"In-Camera"***

   Bob Cyr/Jennifer Wood ***Carried***
3. **Motion to terminate the "*In-Camera*" portion of the Council Meeting** **10:00 a.m.**

   Bob Cyr/Jacqueline Archer ***Carried***
4. **Land Acknowledgement**

   On behalf of the Waskesiu community, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Cree Peoples, signatories to Treaty 6, and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this special place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.
5. **Motion to Adopt the Agenda for the Public Meeting of Council as circulated**

   Bob Cyr/Jacqueline Archer ***Carried***
6. **Motion to Adopt the Council Public Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026 as circulated**

   Jacqueline Archer/Bob Cyr ***Carried***
7. **Review of Outstanding Action Items & Related Status Updates** - a review of each of the outstanding Action Items and their status was undertaken by Council and the Action Items were then updated by the Council Administrator accordingly. (*See attached list of updated Action Items*.)

8. **Townsite Report – Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager -** See the July 27, 2026 Townsite Report accompanying these Minutes.

9. **Motion to Approve the 2026 Waskesiu Townsite Utility Rates (Water, Sewer & Garbage)**

***WHEREAS**, based on the information provided to the Waskesiu Community Council ("**Community Council**") by Parks Canada Agency ("**PCA**"), and the subsequent meeting between the Community Council's Finance Committee and representatives of PCA on June 26, 2026, it is hereby resolved that the approved 2026 utility fees (for Water, Sewer & Garbage) for the Waskesiu townsite be as follows:*

2026 Water, Sewer, & Garbage Fees

Sewer	***Garbage***	***Water***
Large Hotel (based on 12 months)		
$10,740.28	*$10,150.39*	*$6207.41*
Retail Store		
$616.31	*$455.60*	*$1360.00*
Cottage/Cabin		
$214.90	*$213.05*	*$182.70*

Bob Cyr/ Jacqueline Archer ***Carried***

10. **Motions to Accept the Waskesiu Foundation Inc.'s March 31, 2025 Financial Statements and to Reappoint the Waskesiu Foundation's Auditor**

WASKESIU FOUNDATION FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

***WHEREAS** it is a requirement of The Non-Profit Corporations Act (Saskatchewan) that the directors of The Waskesiu Foundation Inc. (the "**Waskesiu Foundation**") place before its members the financial statements of the Waskesiu Foundation for the last completed fiscal year.*

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS**:*

***THAT** the Waskesiu Community Association Inc. (the "**Community Council**"), as the sole member of the Waskesiu Foundation, hereby confirms that the Waskesiu Foundation's directors placed before it the Waskesiu Foundation's financial statements for its fiscal year ending March 31, 2025 as prepared by Virtus Group LLP, and the Community Council hereby accepts such financial statements as presented.*

REAPPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

***WHEREAS** the Waskesiu Foundation requires the services of an auditor, and it is necessary for the appointment of an auditor to be approved by the Community Council in its capacity as the sole member of the Waskesiu Foundation.*

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS**:*

***THAT** the Community Council hereby reappoints Virtus Group LLP as the auditors of the Waskesiu Foundation with the remuneration of such auditors to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Waskesiu Foundation.*

Bob Cyr/ Jacqueline Archer ***Carried***

11. Motion Authorizing Council Chair to sign the 2026 Cottage Development Guidelines

***WHEREAS** the 2026 Cottage Development Guidelines (the "**Cottage Development Guidelines**") have been negotiated by and among the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association Inc., Parks Canada Agency, and the Waskesiu Community Council ("**Council**"), and the Chair of Council has requested Council's authorization to sign the Cottage Development Guidelines for and on behalf of Council*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

***THAT** the Chair of Council is hereby authorized to execute and deliver the Cottage Development Guidelines for and on behalf of Council in the same or substantially the same form as the draft Cottage Development Guidelines presented to the Council at the July 27, 2026 meeting of Council.*

Jacqueline Archer/Bob Cyr ***Carried***

12. Structural Fire Protection Services in Waskesiu – Fiscal 2026/2027 & Beyond

- PCA Discussions with the Lakeland Fire Department – Status update for Council

i. Superintendent Duquette reported that the Lakeland Fire Department is, unfortunately, not prepared at this time to enter into a long-term fire protection agreement with Waskesiu. They have offered to share information with PCA and the Waskesiu Community Council regarding how their fire department was set up (i.e., as a cooperative) and how it is governed and operated.

ii. Significant discussion ensued regarding next steps for PCA, Council and other key stakeholders given this new information.

1. Next steps:

a. Develop and finalize Terms of Reference for a new Structural Fire Protection Committee (Action Item for the Superintendent and Council Chair).

b. Work to involve other organizations (WSRA & Chamber, Elk Ridge) in the near future.

c. Start to consider how (if a new nonprofit or cooperative entity is needed and created in Waskesiu) voting control / governance of that organization will work.

iii. Determine the timing for completion of this Committee's work – e.g., is the deadline for action/results as early as April 1, 2027, or is there more time available.

iv. Other Related Matters for Discussion

1. Superintendent Duquette reported that an Interim Fire Chief has been hired for the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department (WVFD).
2. The new Fire Chief will have 20 hours per week dedicated to Waskesiu. His duties will include assessing the training needed for the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department volunteers.
3. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the WVFD and structural fire protection services for the townsite of Waskesiu in the near and longer term.

13. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – AIS in Saskatchewan & PCA Response; Phase 2 Update

a. AIS (in the form of Zebra mussels) has unfortunately been detected in a lake that straddles the Manitoba & Saskatchewan border (Lake of the Prairies). The Saskatchewan government has implemented an AIS action plan in response that includes the requirement for decontamination of any watercraft exposed to Lake of the Woods.

b. Council and PCA discussed next steps, community engagement, and communications, including the role (if any) for the AIS Working Group.

c. Status of the AIS Working Group was also discussed. Superintendent Duquette responded that the AIS Working Group is still intended to play a role, and should continue to meet to discuss Phase 3 of the AIS Prevention program in PANP.

14. Additional Items for Discussion & Information

a. Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival (Base Funding Renewal Request Denied)

i. The request for Parks Canada Agency funding renewal for the Lakeside Festival was submitted to the Field Unit Superintendent earlier this year (i.e., a request to continue Parks Canada's financial support of $15,000 per year over a three-year term geared towards Indigenous artists and suppliers).

ii. Parks Canada has advised that no financial (cash) support for the 2027 Festival is currently budgeted, and Council has advised that decision is putting the future of the Lakeside Festival at risk as that PCA funding represents over 15% of all the Festival's total grant and sponsorship revenues.

iii. Further discussion continued regarding that subject. In addition, Council Chair indicated that the continued provision of in-kind support (i.e., non-cash logistical, equipment, personnel, and other support) historically provided pursuant to the Partnering Agreement between PCA and the WRA) is also critical. Council Chair requested that Council receive a definitive answer from Superintendent Duquette by not later than the end of August 2026 regarding the provision by PCA of its historical in-kind support because planning for the 2027 event starts in September.

iv. Superintendent Duquette indicated that she anticipates that historical in-kind support will be made available by PCA for the 2027 Lakeside Festival.

v. Council Chair would also like to discuss accessing some level of financial support for the 2027 Lakeside Festival via PCA's Indigenous relations team for Indigenous artists and suppliers and

that he will request a meeting with members of the Indigenous Relations team (and/or the Superintendent) in August.

b. Issues regarding recent lack of support for Key Partner Organizations (including the Waskesiu Foundation and & the Waskesiu Recreation Association)

i. Superintendent Duquette reported that PCA is currently not in a position to be involved with sponsorship of community events.
ii. Council Chair encouraged PCA to find ways (including innovative ways) to partner with key organizations such as the Waskesiu Foundation and the Waskesiu Recreation Association to confirm they are valued partners of PCA in the community.
iii. The Superintendent assured Council that Parks Canada is interested in partnering with and supporting the Waskesiu Foundation, the WRA and other non-profit organizations in Waskesiu.

c. Growing Elk Population & Increasing Number of Dangerous Encounters

i. Council advised PCA that there seems to be an unusually large number of elk in the townsite this spring and summer, and numerous reports in the cottage & cabin areas of encounters with aggressive females.
ii. A brief discussion then ensued.

d. Potential for Mosquito Control in the Waskesiu Townsite

i. PCA was asked if they would consider using "ecofriendly" methods to treat mosquito larvae in and around the Waskesiu townsite, in an effort to control the mosquito population.
ii. The Acting Townsite Manager responded that, barring a public health risk for residents and visitors (like West Nile virus for example) relating to mosquitos, it was unlikely that PCA would consider taking steps to reduce the mosquito larvae/mosquito population in and around the Waskesiu townsite.

15. Next Meeting Dates for Council:

- Reminder that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for the Community Council is Sunday, August 2, 2026. The Council AGM starts with registration at 8:00 am (Terrace Gardens). Council Vice Chair Rob Phillips will Chairing the meeting in the absence of the Council Chair.
- The Council Administrator will canvass Councillors and PCA regarding a schedule of meetings of Council during the balance of the calendar year.

16. Other Business (if any)

Councillor Archer spoke about the townsite camp kitchens used by large groups and the complaints she was receiving regarding some groups not sharing the camp kitchen space with others.

Councillor Archer asked PCA if there could be some signage advising that camp kitchens are shared spaces. Discussion ensued that this situation should be monitored but no final decision regarding signage was made by PCA.

17. Adjournment **12:56 p.m.**

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Councillor Archer ***Carried***

Action Items (From the July 27, 2026 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM - The Council Administrator will canvass Councillors and PCA regarding a schedule of meetings of Council during the balance of the calendar year.

ACTION ITEM – A first draft of Terms of Reference (TOR) for a new committee (which will be tasked with addressing the future of Waskesiu's structural fire protection services) will be prepared by the Superintendent as soon as possible using a precedent/format that PCA is comfortable with. That draft will then be delivered to the Council Chair for his review and comments. When the Superintendent and the Council Chair have reached agreement regarding the draft TOR for the new Committee it will be shared with the balance of Council and the members of the new committee (representing PCA, the WSRA, Council, and the Chamber) for their review and comments.

ACTION ITEM: PCA to arrange a meeting of (and provide an update to) the AIS working group regarding the Phase 2 program status & implementation and next steps leading to the design of Phase 3 in 2027.

Action Items (From the April 13, 2026 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to include the "Waskesiu Community Plan" document in all future Council meeting packages until at least the fall of 2026. *All Councillors have been asked to read the Waskesiu Community Plan so they are equipped to identify any necessary changes, items that are out of date, or other concerns they would like to bring up. Ongoing.*

Action Items (From the October 30, 2025 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: The Acting Townsite Manager to provide Council with the final version of the Tree Removal Policy and Permitting Process & Application documents including the changes requested by Council. Following receipt by Council decisions will be made with PCA regarding circulation of the Tree Removal Policy information to the public via other stakeholder groups (including the WSRA & the Chamber), posting on Waskesiu.org, etc. *Ongoing - delivery by PCA to Council is expected in August.*

Action Items (From the September 22, 2025 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: Parks Canada to develop a Statement of Work for a conceptual redesign of the Waskesiu breakwater. *Ongoing*

ACTION ITEMS (Townsite Breakwater Related):
(1) Subject to certain specified conditions and restrictions, PCA has approved the potential use of the concrete coating material suggested by Councillor Phillips. PCA (via the Acting Townsite

Manager and his designated team) will follow up with Councillor Phillips on whether, how and/or when this particular product might potentially be tested and/or utilized on the breakwater. *Parks is considering coating a portion of the breakwater to help prevent further deterioration. Ongoing.*

(2) PCA and Council to set up a committee to visualize and develop a plan for potentially refurbishing/enhancing the breakwater. *This Action Item is on hold and will be revisited after the Statement of Work is completed and related potential design proposals have been received.*

STANDING ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: Parks Canada to update Council, via the Council Chair, regarding any upcoming meetings with Indigenous Partners where Council may be invited to participate.

ACTION ITEM: PCA to provide regular status updates on all major Commercial Developments in the Waskesiu townsite.

ACTION ITEM: PCA to send the Compliance Report on water quality annually to Council, typically in March each year. Upon receipt, it is then posted by the Council Administrator (under the "Our Community" section of the Waskesiu.org website).

ACTION ITEM: If there are any projects PCA is prepared to have the WCC add to the Community Action Plan, PCA to promptly provide to Council so that the Community Action Plan can be updated.

ACTION ITEM: Council to do an annual check of the "Waskesiu Vision 2028" document and the Community Action Plan and see what needs to be added or changed.

ACTION ITEM: PCA/Council/WSRA (as applicable) to continue to consider a plan to put real and/or fake security cameras at the entrance to the park, or in other locations (including the entrances to the cottage and cabin areas).

Waskesiu Community Council Meeting Report
July 27, 2026
Prepared by: Scott Nesbitt, A/Townsite Manager
Meeting Location: Visitor Centre Board Room & Virtual

Townsite Staffing

- Townsite Manager – Scott Nesbitt
- Realty and Compliance Advisor – Coralee Foster
- Realty and Development Officer – Michael Obe
- Administrative Services Officer – Sheldon Salzl

Cabin and Cottage Areas

- **No significant issues or concerns at this time.**

Regulations, Policy, Directives & Guidelines

Land Use Planning Regulations

- **No Update**

Cottage Development Guidelines

- PCA Realty & DOJ review of guidelines is incomplete.
    - **Will be sent to the working group this week.**

Commercial Development/Business Licencing

- Waskesiu Foundation / WRA Centennial Garden
    - **The Indigenous Relations team met with Council and Foundation representatives to share an update on their work. Parks Canada's focus has been working with Montreal Lake Cree Nation to build relationship. Together we have co-developed an Indigenous led Framework for Honouring 100 years since park establishment. Intent is to share with a broader representation of nations with connections to the park in the upcoming months for further collaboration.**
    - **Collaboration with the foundation and community council are welcomed to advance some of the projects proposed on the Framework for Honouring 100 years.**
    - **Project ideas shared by Indigenous Nations and the proposed Centennial Park Foundation Project have potential to align.**
    - **Parks Canada Indigenous Relations Manager will contact Indigenous nations to facilitate relationships with foundation and council.**
    - **Project timelines should embody flexibility to allow sufficient time and resourcing for Indigenous involvement.**

- SaskTel Fiberoptic Upgrades
    - Parks Canada Impact Assessment is on standby and waiting on final underground installation methodology from SaskPower/SaskTel. –
    - The impact assessment team is still waiting on some of the excavation details related to this project.
    - **SaskTel wants to start this project in Late July /Early August. We are still missing information related to the Cultural Resource Impact Assessment.**
    - **SaskTel will still mobilize and begin work adjacent to the park at McPhee Lake and Elk Ridge while we work to expedite outstanding gaps.**

- **There will likely be visitor and stakeholder disruptions if this work starts anytime before Lakeside Festival.**
- **We are working with SaskTel to arrange permitting and work schedules to mitigate visitor impacts as much as we can. This might delay work in some areas into September.**

- SaskPower Pole Replacement Maintenance
  - **A few poles are left to replace as part of this project. Completion has been delayed until fall. – No Update**

- Sask. Crown Corp Utility agreements
  - We are now engaged in discussion with both SaskPower and SaskTel
  - We have gotten as far as we can in the discussion with SaskPower and SaskTel until we can advance a discussion with SaskEnergy. **– No Update**

Infrastructure and PCA Utilities

Waskesiu Breakwater

- Parks Canada will move forward with conceptual design for discussions purposes only. This will be initiated in the new fiscal year. **– No Update, no project manager.**

Waste Management Options Analysis & WCC Sub-committee

- **Last meeting, June 5, 2206 – minutes attached.**
  - **July 10 meeting Postponed to July 17 due to Parks Canada Schedule changes – No Update**

- Second large garbage is expected to be purchased this fiscal, 2026/27.
  - Funds are in place, and we are finalizing contract **– No Update**

Townsite Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

- This winter, PCA will replace a defective pump in sewage Lift Station #3. Contract is awarded. Est. cost $105K. – Pump has been delivered. Installation by PCA staff to follow. – Waiting for installation – **No Update**
- Asset team is preparing a tender for additional sewer line maintenance (cast in place lining) for the Subdivision 3 in fall of 2026. Fall work will include CCTV imaging of beaver Glenn system. - Funded

Water Treatment Plant

- UV filter replacement - Design work is complete, and the new estimated cost of the UV filter replacement is $760K. **– No Update**

- Water characterization study in Fall 2026 - $100K engineering consultation
  - Includes analysis of raw water, chemical optimization and other recommendations to improve water quality and reduce THMs. **Ongoing – No Update**

- Road slump repair scheduled this week - $65k
  - Slump study to investigate the cause and scope stabilization requirements anticipated this season - $40K
  - **Complete**

Townsite Compliance

- Snow Fences and Flower Bed Mesh – **No Update**
- Storage of boats off leasehold property.
    - Compliance strategy in development. **– No Update**
- Commercial Kitchen Fats, oils and grease (F.O.G.)
    - F.O.G. updates delayed until a conversation can be had with the chamber of commerce. – **No Update**
- Wildlife Attractants within the Commercial Core
    - **Follow-up inspections completed on June 23**
    - **One business was non-compliant and was referred to Warden / Law Enforcement.**
    - **Townsite is now working with the lessee on development of mitigations.**
    - **Anecdotally, this campaign is working as there has been less bear activity within the commercial core this season.**

Park Management

Emergency Services

- EMS
    - KPS Medic is under contract to provide first responder service from June 27 to Sept. 7 and weekend coverage through the month of Sept.

- **Waskesiu Fire Dept.**
    - **About 45% of train firefighters did not return to PANP this season. We have taken on new recruits, but current officers are not certified training officers and can't sign off on basic training certifications.**
    - **Parks Canada is working to contract a Chief / training officer on a short-term basis to evaluate departmental training deficiencies and bring department into alignment with Provincial training standards.**
    - **This may require a temporary suspension of services. We will rely on the Aid Agreement with Lakeland if any downtime is required.**

- **Parks Canada continues to review the Draft TOR for the Emergency Management Subcommittee. This should be completed by this council meeting.**
    - **The next subcommittee meeting will be called once that review and recommendations for edits have been finalized.**
    - **Tom Perry has been identified As the Parks Canada Co-Chair to the subcommittee.**

Disposal of Overburden Material (Emerging issue)

- **Disposal of overburden materials is being determined on a case-by-case basis. Overburden volume estimates must be included in the development Impact Assessment description.**

Bicycle Safety

- **Parks Canada is again receiving complaints related to bicycle and e-scooter safety.**
    - **A few general written complaints but no incidents or injuries like last year, yet.**
    - **Multiple Complaints about Bikes in the Canada Day Parade. This includes complaints from the RCMP about bikers riding out ahead of the parade.**

- **Has there been any progress a bicycle safety strategy for the community?**

Blue Green Algae - **No update**

Vegetation Management

- Final Tree Removal Protocol
    - Most tree permits for 2025 season were processed in a timely manner. Residents can expect a similar level of service this year and apply for tree permits at waskesiuadmin@pc.gc.ca **– No Update**
- Resource Conservation Team is continuing Canada Thistle Monitoring and Control within the Waskesiu Community this season. Email pnpa-conservation-panp@pc.gc.ca for more information.
- Adopt-A-Patch volunteer program.
    - Visit https://parks.canada.ca/pn-np/sk/princealbert/activ/benevolat-volunteer or email pnpa-conservation-panp@pc.gc.ca for more information.

Lobstick Maintenance Compound Decontamination

- Parks Canada Environmental and Sustainable Service centre is seeking the additional funding to complete the location and decommissioning of the remaining well sites in fall of 2026. **– no update**

Refundable Recycling Request for Proposals

- **On going, no issues related to collection so far.**

Red Deer Electrical Upgrade Project

- **Construction planned for the fall 2026 (Post Labour Day)**