



WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Friday, November 21, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Saskatchewan Time)

LOCATION: Virtual Meeting

Attending virtually from Council: Councillor Jim Kerby (Chair), Councillor Rob Phillips (Vice Chair), Councillor Jennifer Wood (Secretary/Treasurer), Councillor Jacqueline Archer, Councillor Bentley Crozier and Councillor Bob Cyr.

Attending virtually from PCA: Jennifer Duquette (Field Unit Superintendent) who joined the meeting at 10:50 a.m. due to a scheduling conflict and Scott Nesbitt (Townsite Manager).

Regrets from Council: Councillor Linda Lavallee.

1. Call to Order 9:02 a.m.
2. Motion to move the Council Meeting “*In-Camera*” (meeting held via ZOOM)
Jacqueline Archer/Bob Cyr *Carried*
3. Motion to terminate the “*In-Camera*” portion of the Council Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Bob Cyr/Bentley Crozier *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
Jacqueline Archer/Rob Phillips *Carried*
6. Motion to Adopt the Council Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2025 as Circulated
Jacqueline Archer/Bentley Crozier *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 updated by the Administrator accordingly. (See attached list of updated Action Items.)
- 8. Townsite Report – Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager** (See the November 21, 2025 Townsite Report accompanying these Minutes.)
- 9. PCA/Council Waste Management Sub-committee - Committee Membership and next steps**
 - The Committee will meet in early December to review and revise the Committee's Terms of Reference and will then present the proposed Terms of Reference to Council for approval.
 - Discussion ensued.
- 10. Waskesiu & Area Major Capital Projects - Status Updates from PCA**
 - a. Sasktel Fibre Upgrade**
 - Update reported in the Townsite Report
 - b. Waskesiu River Riffle Dam Repair**
 - Update reported in the Townsite Report - project has been completed.
 - c. Red Deer Trailer Park Electrical Upgrade Project & Proposed Timing -**
 - Superintendent Duquette reported that the Tender is still open for bids/proposals and PCA is now waiting for the submission deadline date in order to move forward.
- 11. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Phase 2 - December meeting and plans for workshop**
 - Superintendent Duquette reported that the meeting is set for December 10th and will be virtual. She also reported that a workshop will happen in the new year, probably in February or March, closer to the summer season.
- 12. Discover Waskesiu Destination Marketing Organization (DMO) - update for PCA**
 - Council Chair reported that work continues on the DMO planning, and the Working Group is working with a professional consultant (Todd Brandt of Destinate) whose services are being paid for by Tourism Saskatchewan. An email will be going out to wider scope of businesses to get feedback from stakeholders regarding the initial presentation regarding the DMO.
- 13. 2025 PANP Cottage Development Guidelines - status of DOJ review and next steps**
 - The Townsite Manager reported that he is still waiting for the review by the Department of Justice to be completed but expects to hear from them soon.



-Discussion ensued regarding potential tweaks (minor changes) to clarify wording as the result of using the draft guidelines during the last number of months.

14. Updated List of Waskesiu Stakeholders

- An updated list of key stakeholder groups and their respective Boards was circulated as part of the meeting package.

15. Next Meeting Dates for Council:

- a. Friday, January 9, 2026
- b. Monday, February 9, 2026
- c. Friday, March 13, 2026
- d. Monday, April 13, 2026
- e. Monday, May 11, 2026
- f. Monday, June 15, 2026
- g. Monday, July 13, 2026

16. Other Business (if any)

- There was no other business.

17. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jacqueline Archer.

11:30 a.m.

Carried

Action Items (From the November 21, 2025 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: All Councillors are to review the Waskesiu Community Plan prior to the January meeting of Council and be ready to identify any requested changes, items that are out of date, or other concerns they would like to bring up.

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

ACTION ITEM: PCA to arrange and host an Emergency Management Update and “What We Learned” presentation by PCA to Council, to be held sometime during the first four months of 2026. *Ongoing - likely February or March 2026.*

ACTION ITEM: Townsite Manager to provide Council with the final version of the Tree Removal Policy and Permitting Process & Application documents including changes requested by Council. Following receipt by Council decisions will be made with PCA regarding circulation to other stakeholder groups, posting on Waskesiu.org, etc. *Ongoing.*

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

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to research the subscription cost of the Microsoft virtual meeting software program “TEAMS” and to canvas other Waskesiu groups to see if there is a desire to share the costs of the program and/or the cost to purchase virtual meeting hardware similar to that owned by PCA. One important aspect to consider is finding a location that could be home for the meeting equipment and that has sufficient room to host combined virtual and in-person meetings. *Ongoing. Council Chair and Administrator will reach out to Councillor Phillips in the near future to get his thoughts and suggestions.*

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

ACTION ITEM: The Townsite Manager will liaise with PCA Assets Department to develop a one-page communication piece on seasonal start-up to water services, similar to the shut-down of water services, to share with Waskesiu residents. The draft will be presented and reviewed in partnership with the Waskesiu Community Council. *Ongoing.*

ACTION ITEM: Subject to certain specified conditions and restrictions, PCA has approved the potential use of the concrete coating material suggested by Councillor Phillips. PCA (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. *Ongoing.*

Action Items (From the May 12, 2025 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: PCA and Council to set up a committee to visualize and develop a plan for

potentially refurbishing/enhancing the breakwater as a 100th Anniversary celebration project.
To be revisited after the Statement of Work is completed and related design proposals have been received. Ongoing.

STANDING ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: Parks Canada to provide updates to Council on the Riffle Dam and planned repairs. *Work to repair the Riffle Dam was successfully completed in November 2025.*

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
Nov 21, 2025
Prepared by: Scott Nesbitt, A/Townsite Manager
Meeting Location: PANP Visitor Centre

Townsite Staffing

- Townsite Manager – Scott Nesbitt
- Realty and Compliance Advisor – Coralee Foster
- Realty and Development Officer – Michael Obe
- Townsite Clerk - Vacant

Cabin and Cottage Areas

- There are 5 cabins scheduled to be removed from the Cabin area in Dec.
- There are 5 cottage replacements started or starting within Sub-3 this winter

Regulations, Policy, Directives & Guidelines

Land Use Planning Regulations

- We have received two additional templates to support the Land Use Planning Development Process
 - i. Certificate of Completion
 - ii. Letter of Forbearance for occupancy prior to completion
 - 1. Note: there is a new \$125 fee for this letter.
- We will “localize” these national templates with PANP branding for use. – **No Update (Michael has been busy this fall)**

Cottage Development Guidelines

- PCA Realty & DoJ review of guidelines is incomplete.
 - PCA Realty suggested there maybe a requirement for broader public and/or section 35 consultations. DoJ will make determination. – **No Update**

Commercial Development/Business Licencing

- SaskTel Fiberoptic Upgrades
 - Parks Canada Impact Assessment is still waiting on additional information from SaskTel regarding excavation locations and specifications. This information will be used to determine the need and/or scope of a potential Cultural Impact / Archeological Assessment.
- Note: Public Utilities and the Land Use Planning Regulations Prohibitions
Works, activities and land uses
3 (1) It is prohibited to do any of the following, other than in accordance with an authorization or permit issued by the superintendent:
Exceptions
4 (1) Subsection 3(1) does not apply in respect of any of the following:
(d) a work or activity that is carried out solely for the purpose of constructing, installing, maintaining or repairing a public roadway or utility;
- This Exception makes the Sask. Utility Providers exempt from requiring permits under LUPRs. However, it does not exempt them from permitting requirements of other National Park Regulations. Such as General Regulation 10 Preservation of Property

10 No person shall remove, deface, damage or destroy any flora or natural objects in a Park, other than in accordance with a permit issued under subsection 11(1) or 12(1) or an authorization or permit issued under the National Parks of Canada Land Use Planning Regulations.

11 (1) The superintendent is authorized, on application, to issue a permit authorizing the permit holder to take flora or natural objects for scientific purposes from a park, or for the removal and use of natural objects for construction purposes within a park, if the applicant demonstrates in writing that the performance of those activities will not

(a) have a significant adverse environmental impact on the park and its natural resources;

(b) jeopardize any cultural, historical and archaeological resources; and

(c) pose a danger to public health or public safety.

- To determine the impacts of a utility project we use the same criteria for development and impact assessment to obtain the required Restricted Activity Permits.
 - However, with the repeal of the previous building regulations we are now unable to collect fees for Utility infrastructure transmission development.

Infrastructure and Utilities

Waskesiu River Riffle Dam Repairs

- Complete.

Waskesiu Breakwater – No Update

Waste Management Options Analysis & WCC Sub-committee

- An email has been sent to committee members requesting an initial meeting of the sub-committee the week of Dec. 1 – 5, 2025.
 - Email included a copy of the Garbage regulations and a very rough draft terms of reference for the committee (attached).
- As reported in May 2025, PANP is on track to purchase a larger garbage truck. This truck is needed to reduce the frequency of hauling garbage to the PA landfill now that the McPhee Lake Landfill is officially closed. Expected Delivery, Jan. 2026
 - A second large unit is expected to be purchased in 2026/27.
 - The closure of the McPhee Lake landfill requires Parks Canada to make adjustments to waste management routing and scheduling to compensate for the longer drive time to the PA landfill.

Townsite Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

- This winter, PCA will replace a defective pump in sewage Lift Station #3. Contract is awarded and install is pending contractor schedule (winter 2025/26). Est. cost \$105K. – **No update**

Water Treatment Plant

- UV filter replacement - Working with the design contractor to complete design based on demand and quality. Project cost including filter replacement, \$200K
- Raw water pump replacement contract awarded (lakeside pump house). Work anticipated to be complete over the winter. Est. cost \$100K – **no update**

Elk Street Fire Hydrants

- Beginning Nov. 25, Parks Canada is replacing the 70+ year old fire hydrants on Elk Street. Total Est. Cost \$157K
 - This requires a 3 to 5 day shut down of water services to all residents on Elk Street, followed by up to 7 days of precautionary boil water advisory.
 - The Spruce Ridge Trailer Park Washrooms have been opened for shower and toilet facilities.
 - Residents advised to turn off water main valve inside the property to reduce potential contamination and turn off/down water heaters to avoid burnout.
 - Only Elk Street is affected by this water service disruption.

Townsite Compliance

- Snow Fences and Flower Bed Mesh – There have been multiple elk entanglements in snow fencing and plastic mesh used to protect flower beds.
 - Land Use Planning Regs. prohibit the placement of all fencing (temporary or permanent) without a permit. To date, there have been no permits applied for or issued for temporary fencing.
 - Plastic mesh over flower beds is a risk to the safety of wildlife and a potential violation of the NP general regulations
 - Parks Canada will be sending a letter to cabin and cottage owners asking for these items to be removed by Dec. 15. Failing to do so, Parks Canada will remove these items and secure them onsite. There will be no charge back to the lessees this year.
 - Parks Canada is considering a total prohibition on these types of fences and materials.
- Storage of boats off leasehold property.
 - For the second year in a row, boats stored off leasehold property have interfered with utility projects in Waskesiu.
 - Storing watercraft off Lease, lease adjacent or straddling property lines is more common than previously thought and an emerging compliance issue that we will need to address in the future.

Park Management

Emergency Management Planning

- PCA will arrange a Buhl Fire “What we’ve learned” presentation to council at a meeting early in the new year (Jan. or Feb.). – **No Update**

Bicycle Safety – No Update

Blue Green Algae

- Parks Canada continues to work on finalizing messaging and communications protocol advisory to be used for Blue-Green Algae reports in the future. – **No Update**

Vegetation Management

- Tree Removal Protocol – **No Update**

Canada Strong Pass

- Federal Budget has passed but Parks Canada is still waiting for updates on the implementation of the 2026 Canada Strong Pass and how this might further affect visitors who purchased an annual pass in 2025.