



WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE:	Monday, May 11, 2026
TIME:	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Saskatchewan Time)
LOCATION:	Virtual Meeting (Via Zoom & Teams)

MEETING MINUTES

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

Attending virtually from PCA: Cassandra Paccanaro (Project Coordinator/Advisor - Northern Prairies Field Unit) representing Superintendent Duquette in her absence, and Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager.

Regrets from Council: Councillor Jacqueline Archer.

Regrets from PCA: Jennifer Duquette (Northern Prairies Field Unit Superintendent).

- 1. Call to Order** **9:01 a.m.**
- 2. Motion to move the Council Meeting “In-Camera” (Via ZOOM)**
Rob Phillips/Bob Cyr *Carried*
- 3. Motion to terminate the “In-Camera” portion of the Council Meeting** **10:00 a.m.**
Rob Phillips/Jennifer Wood *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**
Bentley Crozier/Rob Phillips *Carried*
- 6. Motion to adopt the Council Meeting Minutes of April 13, 2026**
Bentley Crozier/Rob Phillips *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 Council Administrator accordingly. (See attached list of updated Action Items.)
- 8. Townsite Report – Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager** - See the May 11, 2026 Townsite Report accompanying these Minutes.



9. Waskesiu Seasonal Water Service Directive / Seasonal Guide to Water Services

- a. Final opportunity for discussion & comments from Council regarding the Seasonal Water Service Directive:
 - Council Chair reported that Council has discussed this matter during the in-camera session and Councillors have no additional changes to propose in relation to the most recent version of the document.
 - The Acting Townsite Manager explained that the Seasonal Water Service Directive (the “Directive”) is the underlying policy document, and the other document (the Seasonal Guide to Water Services) is an abbreviated version of the Directive to be circulated to the public.
- b. The following Motions were moved and seconded:
 - i. *“That the Waskesiu Community Council (“**Community Council**”) confirms receipt and acceptance of the Waskesiu Seasonal Water Service Directive dated May 11, 2026 (the “**Seasonal Water Services Directive**”) in the form presented to Community Council by Parks Canada Agency; and*
 - ii. *That the Community Council’s Chair is hereby authorized to sign and deliver the Seasonal Water Services Directive for and on behalf of Council.”*

Rob Phillips/Jennifer Wood Carried
- c. PCA will advise Council about how Council and other stakeholders, such as the WSRA & the Chamber of Commerce, can assist with dissemination of information relating to the new Directive (including any related public communication plans).

10. Spring Snow Plowing Concerns (Bird Streets & Spruce Ridge Trailer Park)

- Council Chair, on behalf of Councilor Archer who was unable to attend today’s meeting, advised Parks Canada that concerns were expressed to Councilor Archer by some of the seasonal staff that their sites in the Spruce Ridge Campground had not been cleared of snow forcing them to park their trailers on the street or elsewhere. As well, there was concern that the Bird streets were not ploughed after the last big snow fall in April, which made it difficult for cabin owners to get to their cabins.
- The Townsite Manager commented that the reason Spruce Ridge Trailer Park sites could not be cleared was because all the water spigots there are above ground and they are not in uniform positions (i.e., the location varies from site to site). Because there was over 50 cm of snow in the area, the grader operator could not go in to do any clearing in specific sites without risking damage to the spigots (which, if that occurred, would only delay access even longer).
- The Townsite Manager also commented that the Bird streets were ploughed after the last big snowfall in April, but that work did not take place until after the essential roadways into and out of the park, the police station access, the parking lot, and the fire hall access, were cleared of snow first.



11. Waskesiu Foundation – Sponsorship Request for “Happy Hour Bingo Bash” Event

- a. A request was received by Council for sponsorship of the Waskesiu Foundation’s “Happy Hour Bingo Bash” fundraising event.
- b. The following motion was made:
“That the Community Council provide a \$1500 sponsorship in support of the Waskesiu Foundation’s “Happy Hour Bingo Bash” fundraising event to be held on Saturday, July 11, 2026 at the Waskesiu Community Hall and that the four (4) complimentary tickets that accompany the sponsorship be donated back to the Waskesiu Foundation for its use.”

Bob Cyr/Jennifer Wood

Carried

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to contact the Waskesiu Foundation to confirm Council’s approval of a \$1500 sponsorship for the Foundation’s “Happy Hour Bingo Bash” fundraising event to be held on Saturday, July 11th, 2026, and that the four (4) complimentary tickets that accompany the sponsorship be donated back to the Waskesiu Foundation for its use.

12. Waskesiu Recreation Association Inc. (WRA) – Acceptance of 2025 Financial Statements and Waiver of Auditor Appointment for 2026

- a. Request submitted to Council, in Council’s capacity as the sole member of the WRA, regarding:
 - i. the acceptance by Council of the WRA’s 2025 review engagement Financial Statements as prepared by Virtus Group LLP; and
 - ii. waiver of the appointment of an auditor for the WRA for its current fiscal year.
- b. The following motions were made:

DISPENSING WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AUDITOR

WHEREAS the Waskesiu Community Association Inc. (the “**Community Council**”) is the sole member of the Waskesiu Recreation Association Inc. (the “**WRA**”).

AND WHEREAS the WRA does not require the services of an auditor, and it is necessary for the appointment of an auditor to be dispensed with for the current fiscal year of the WRA.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the WRA dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the 2026 fiscal year of the corporation.

ACCEPTANCE OF 2025 WRA FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Community Council, as the sole member of the WRA, hereby confirms that the WRA directors placed before it the financial statements of the WRA for its last fiscal year as prepared by Virtus Group LLP, and the Community Council hereby accepts such financial statements as presented.



Bentley Crozier/Bob Cyr

Carried

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to contact the WRA to confirm that the motions: (1) to accept the WRA 2025 Financial Statements as presented, and (2) to approve the Waiver of Auditor Appointment for 2026, have been approved by Council.

13. FireSmart Waskesiu – Discuss formally approaching the WSRA to determine their willingness to take the Lead on a plan geared towards actively Fire Smarting the Waskesiu townsite (hopefully with support from the Chamber & Council as Partners)

- A lengthy discussion ensued. This item will be moved to the June 15th meeting of Council for more discussion.

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

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

- The Acting Townsite Manager reported that, as of today, the Board of the Lakeland Fire Department is meeting and will decide whether they will work with Waskesiu for the 2026/2027 fiscal year. In response to a question from Council, the Acting Townsite Manager added that there may be a possibility that either the Waskesiu Fire Department or the Lakeland Fire Department will host the Annual Fundraising BBQ on August 2nd that takes place after the conclusion of the WCC and WSRA AGMs.

b. Next steps:

i. Create Terms of Reference for the new Committee (Action Item) – the Acting Townsite Manager will be involved with working on the terms of reference.

- The Acting Townsite Manager reported that he will not be the Co-Chair of the new Fire Protection Services committee but will be an advisor to the new committee. He is currently looking for another PCA staff member to act as the potential Co-Chair.

ii. Once established, request involvement of other organizations (initially WSRA & Chamber, potentially add Elk Ridge thereafter if there's interest on both sides).

ACTION ITEM: The Acting Townsite Manager will be involved with working on the terms of reference for the new Fire Protection Services Committee and will advise Council about the potential PCA Co-Chair to serve on the Committee.

15. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - Phase 2 Update and Discussion

a. Next steps / community engagement / communications

- Council Chair asked PCA to advise what we can expect regarding AIS Phase 2 communications in the community this year, if anything different is being done by PCA to address AIS, and if there are any plans to have an AIS working group meeting in the new season.

16. Status of Parks Canada's "Shared Governance" discussions with Indigenous groups - Update for Council

- The Acting Townsite Manager reported that they are planning another meeting with Montreal Lake First Nation next week and at that meeting they can then make more of a plan as to who they will be meeting with in the future, to discuss shared governance concepts.



17. Access to PCA National Funding for PANP Centennial (Events, Activities, and/or Capital Projects)

- Council Chair asked if Parks Canada Agency (via its National Office) has funds set aside for special events such as Centennial celebrations, and if such funding does exist, when would PANP plan to reach out to access those funds?

ACTION ITEM - Cassandra Paccanaro agreed to report back her findings at the June 15th meeting of Council as to whether PCA has national funding (B-Base Budget funds) for National Park/National Historic Site centennials (such as the upcoming PANP Centennial) and, if so, are those funds available for Events, Activities, and/or Capital Projects.

18. Additional Items for Information

- a. **Community Impact Statement** (Jason Halkett- Arson Charge – DITCH-02 Fire) – a Community Impact Statement was submitted by the Chair on behalf of Council to the Crown Prosecutor.
- b. **Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival (Base Funding Renewal Request)** – Request for Parks Canada Agency funding renewal has been submitted to the Field Unit Superintendent (i.e., request to continue Parks Canada’s support of \$15,000 per year over a three-year term primarily geared towards Indigenous artists and suppliers).
- c. **PANP & Great Blue Heron Provincial Park “Nearest Neighbours” Event** - meeting held on May 1st in Christopher Lake.
- d. **Waskesiu.org** – spring updates to the Waskesiu.org website have been completed (Council Chair asked that PCA and Councillors please have a look to ensure accuracy of the site).

19. Next Meeting Dates for Council:

- a. Monday, June 15, 2026 (Note: a meeting of the Finance Committee is required to discuss Water, Sewer, Garbage fees prior to the June Council meeting).
- b. Monday, July 13, 2026
- c. Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Sunday, August 2, 2026 at 8:30 am (Terrace Gardens)

20. Other Business (if any)

- There was no other business.

21. Adjournment

11:53 a.m.

A Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councillor Cyr **Carried**

Action Items (From the May 11, 2026 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM - Cassandra Paccanaro agreed to report back her findings at the June 15th meeting of Council as to whether PCA has national funding (B-Base Budget funds) for National Park/National Historic Site centennials (such as the upcoming PANP Centennial) and, if so, are those funds available for Events, Activities, and/or Capital Projects.

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to contact the Waskesiu Foundation to confirm Council's approval of a \$1500 sponsorship for the Foundation's "Happy Hour Bingo Bash" fundraising event to be held on Saturday, July 11th, 2026, and that the four (4) complimentary tickets that accompany the sponsorship be donated back to the Waskesiu Foundation for its use.

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to contact the WRA to confirm that the motions: (1) to accept the WRA 2025 Financial Statements as presented, and (2) to approve the Waiver of Auditor Appointment for 2026, have been approved by Council.

ACTION ITEM: The Acting Townsite Manager will be involved with working on the terms of reference for the new Fire Protection Services Committee and will advise Council about the potential PCA Co-Chair to serve on the Committee.

ACTION ITEM: The Fire Protection Services Committee Co-Chairs are to create draft Terms of Reference for the new Committee for the June meeting of Council.

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. The focus should be to familiarize Councillors with the Waskesiu Community Plan's content 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 ITEM: Townsite Manager to provide Council with the list of Indigenous groups that Parks Canada has identified to date as having an historical interest in the lands comprising Prince Albert National Park. *Ongoing.*

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to contact the Acting Townsite Manager and to see if the Waskesiu Volunteer Department would be interested in once again holding the traditional fundraising BBQ after the August 2nd AGM. *Ongoing.*

ACTION ITEM: Questions from the public for PCA (to be answered at the AGM) will be solicited and received through Council, the Chamber, and Waskesiu seasonal residents (via the WSRA). They are to be collated by the WSRA and then submitted to PCA at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM. *Ongoing*

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

ACTION ITEM: PCA to plan and host an “Emergency Management” tabletop exercise in 2026. *Ongoing.* (2) PCA to plan and host a “What We Learned” presentation to Council. Alex Kolesch, PCA’s Interim Head, Emergency Management Coordination Program, will be invited to make the presentation. *Ongoing.*

Action Items (From the January 9, 2026 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: (1) Status of PANP “shared governance” discussions with Indigenous groups to be included at a future Council meeting when the Superintendent and Indigenous Relations Manager are both available to attend (potentially May of 2026). (2) Parks Canada to update the Council Chair regarding any upcoming meetings with Indigenous Partners where Council may be invited to participate. *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 to other stakeholder groups, posting on Waskesiu.org, etc. *Ongoing - delivery by PCA is expected prior to the May meeting of Council.*

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 - expected during Q1 of fiscal 2026/2027. Parks Canada should have the conceptual redesign for June meeting of Council.*

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 (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. *Ongoing. Parks is considering coating a portion of the breakwater.*

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 commemoration project. *To be revisited after the Statement of Work is completed and related potential design proposals have been received.*

STANDING ACTION ITEMS

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
May 11, 2026
Prepared by: Scott Nesbitt, A/Townsite Manager
Meeting Location: Virtual - Teams

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

- Seasonal Activation of water utility services has been impacted by the late spring snow accumulation and continued overnight lows below zero degrees.
- Currently Sub 1, 2 and Prospect Point have water.
- Sub 3, Cabin area and Larch street are still without water.

Regulations, Policy, Directives & Guidelines

Land Use Planning Regulations

- **No Update**

Cottage Development Guidelines

- PCA Realty & DoJ review of guidelines is incomplete.
 - Still seeking clarification on response before preparing an information package and circulating with a meeting invitation to the working group to finalize the guidelines.
 - We remain very close. – **No Update**

Commercial Development/Business Licencing

- Waskesiu Foundation / WRA Memorial Garden
 - Parks Canada has provided the Waskesiu Foundation with an “in principle” endorsement of the Memorial Garden Project to be used for funding applications.
 - This endorsement is conditional to including Indigenous Partners in the project and undertaking an Indigenous Consultation.
- SaskTel Fiberoptic Upgrades
 - Parks Canada Impact Assessment is on standby and waiting on final underground installation methodology from SaskPower/SaskTel. – **No update**
- **SaskPower Pole Replacement Maintenance**
 - **SaskPower conducted pole replacement work within Waskesiu over the winter.**
 - **Parks Canada has noted some damage to Park assets and infrastructure caused by SaskPower Contractors (damage Haul All bin and broken water line).**
 - **Based on this, we suspect that contractors have potentially caused damage to property on private leases.**
 - **Any claim for damages to private property caused by this work will need to be filed directly with SaskPower but we ask that claimants copy the townsite office (waskesiuadmin@pc.gc.ca) on claim correspondence so**

that we might bring them to the SaskPower project authority collectively to support Parks Canada and individual property owners claims.

- Sask. Crown Corp Utility agreements
 - We are now engaged in discussion with both SaskPower and SaskTel – **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**

Waste Management Options Analysis & WCC Sub-committee

- Sub committee has not met since Mar. 27 meeting
- Parks Canada will place an additional recycling bin behind the shack to accommodate the volume of material generated by all businesses in that area.
- **Second large garbage is expected to be purchased this fiscal, 2026/27.**

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.
- Asset team is preparing a tender for additional sewer line maintenance (cast in place lining) for the Lakefront Subdivisions in fall of 2026. – **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
 - Tender package for replacement is in final review before posting.
- Raw water pump replacement contract awarded (lakeside pump house). Est. cost \$100K – delivery scheduled for Apr. 30, installation by PCA staff to follow. – **No Update**

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.)
 - **Business Operators are likely going to receive information and instruction on new requirements for “the maintenance of grease interceptors” before the end of the month.**
- Wildlife Attractants within the Commercial Core
 - **Business operators are likely to see inspection notification letters sometime this month.**

Park Management

Spring Start-up - Water Services and Camping

Follow <https://www.facebook.com/PrinceAlbertNationalPark> for updates

Water services in Waskesiu.

- **A Precautionary Boil Water Advisory is in place for all seasonal residential properties.**
- Deep water lines in the commercial area are pressurized, and business operators can contact panpassets@pc.gc.ca to schedule an appointment to turn on the water service.
- Water lines on Prospect Point are pressurized, and residents with deep water connections can contact panpassets@pc.gc.ca to schedule an appointment to turn on the water service.
- Appointments may take longer than usual while the park Assets team carries out spring start-up work throughout the park. Thank you for your patience and understanding.
- **Water in subdivisions 1 & 2 has been pressurized although there may be frozen lines to individual properties.**
- Water in subdivisions 3, Larch Street and Parcel X (cabin area) is currently not available. Parks Canada is working to restore water services in these areas as soon as possible.

Campgrounds, lakes and roads throughout the park.

- **Beaver Glen remains without water and is currently not operational. Parks Crews are removing snow from campsites and doing what can be done to restore water, but overnight freezing temperatures continue to be a factor.**
- The Red Deer Campground is scheduled for opening later this spring.
- The Narrows Campground is open; water may not be available for the May long weekend; pit toilets are available.
- Namekus Lake Campground is open; snowy or muddy conditions may exist; the fish shack will not be open for the May long weekend.
- Sandy Lake Campground will not be open for the May long weekend.
- The North Shore Road to Kingsmere Lake is open.
- Back country camping on Kingsmere and Crean Lakes is available, but some sites may not be accessible as thin ice remains on lakes in Prince Albert National Park.
- Some day use areas throughout the park are closed and will be opened as soon as possible. However, the priority remains Camping and water services in Waskesiu
- Ice remains on most bodies of water within the park. Visitors should not walk on the ice as it is thin, unstable and dangerous.

Bicycle Safety – No Update

Blue Green Algae

- Final Draft of protocol expected on FUS desk for review before the end of the month.
- **An update will be provided by the May meeting.**

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. 2026 Control Strategy included with report. Email pnpa-conservation-panp@pc.gc.ca for more information.**

- **The Vegetation team is also advancing an Adopt-A-Patch volunteer program.**
 - **Adopt-a-Patch volunteers are trained to identify and control invasive non-native plants (weeds) to help protect ecosystem integrity and wildlife habitat within Prince Albert National Park.**
 - **Following a staff-led training day at the start of the season, volunteers are assigned a specific patch or route and work independently or in self-organized groups over the course of the summer, without direct supervision from PANP staff.**
 - **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

- **Decommissioning report was submitted to my in-box while I was away on leave. The report indicates that 8 of the 32 monitoring wells at the site could not be located.**
- **Parks Canada's Environment and Sustainable Service centre (responsible for contaminated site tracking within Parks Canada) recommends that we do not officially close the contaminated site as it would restrict future Federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan funding for further remediation / decommissioning.**
- **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.**

Refundable Recycling Request for Proposals

- **Only two proposals were received. Jonathan Foster was the successful bidder in the Refundable Recycling Collection Request for Proposals.**
- **This collection program will be reevaluated after the 2026 operational season to determine if the level of service provided meets operational needs and/or if we need to change the scope of work and request new proposals.**

Red Deer Electrical Upgrade Project

- **The Red Deer Electrical Upgrade contract has been awarded to Flyer Electric, based in Birch Hills. We are excited to move forward with this major infrastructure enhancement, which will significantly improve the visitor experience in Prince Albert National Park.**
- **Flyer Electric is currently collaborating with its project design engineers. Once the design phase is complete, they will provide Parks Canada with a detailed construction schedule.**
- **Campground opening May 29 – reservations went well. July/August are pretty much full.**
- **Flyer electric will be on site once the snow melts (before May 29) for site assessments**
- **Construction planned for the fall 2026**