WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

DATE:	Friday, September 18, 2026
TIME:	9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Saskatchewan Time)
LOCATION:	In Person Meeting at the Park Visitor Centre Meeting Room and Virtual Meeting (Via Teams)

MEETING MINUTES

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

1. **Call to Order** **9:02 a.m.**
2. **Motion to move the Council Meeting *"In-Camera"***
   Jacqueline Archer/Jennifer Wood ***Carried***
3. **Motion to terminate the "*In-Camera*" portion of the Council Meeting** **10:00 a.m.**
   Jacqueline Archer/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/Bob Cyr ***Carried***
6. **Motion to Adopt the Council Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2026 as Circulated**
   Bob Cyr/ 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 then updated by the Council Administrator accordingly. (*See attached list of updated Action Items*.)

8. **Townsite Report – Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager -** See the September 18, 2026 Townsite Report accompanying these Minutes.

9. **Brief Update / Discussion with Council – Jennifer Costa, Indigenous Relations Officer**

   a. Update regarding the September 15/16 PANP "Stewardship Gathering Meeting" with Indigenous Partners hosted by Parks Canada
   - Jennifer Costa gave a very detailed update of the highlights of the Stewardship Gathering held in Waskesiu earlier this week. Attending were Chief and Council members, Lands staff, Elders, and other representatives from several First Nations across Saskatchewan Treaty 6, as well as a number of Métis Nation representatives. Also attending by invitation were Council Chair Jim Kerby, Councillor Bob Cyr, and Councillor Bentley Crozier.

   b. Next Steps
   - A meeting date has been set in November to develop some Indigenous working Committees.
   - Another meeting will be set for February as a follow up to the November meeting.

10. **Structural Fire Protection Services in Waskesiu** – 2026 Status Update/Plans for 2027 & Beyond
- Acting Townsite Manager Scott Nesbitt reported that PCA has determined that it is no longer able to solely manage, operate, resource, and fund the operational costs of, structural fire protection services in Waskesiu. He strongly urged Council (and Elk Ridge representatives if possible) to meet with PCA as soon as possible to discuss, as a group, how to address this challenge - including what a new entity would look like and be governed, assessing the costs, how to handle the funding, and "how to make it all work".
- A lengthy discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEM: PCA (via the Townsite Manager) to supply at least two available dates to Council as soon as possible to begin discussion on the future of structural fire protection services in Waskesiu.

11. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

   a. Additional Reports of AIS in Saskatchewan (Blackstrap Lake)

   b. PANP "Phase 3" Discussions / Update Regarding 2027 Summer Season plans

   c. Formal request for an AIS Working Group Meeting this Fall

   d. Joint Check Stop / Media Event with the Province of Saskatchewan (August 28 at LTs)

   - Discussion ensued regarding each of these topics. The Acting Superintendent reiterated that Parks Canada understands the urgency and that AIS remains a priority issue. The Acting Superintendent also confirmed that a meeting of the AIS Working Group will be scheduled by PCA by not later than the end of October.

12. **Proposed System to update the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce (& Other Key Stakeholders) regarding Council Agenda items**

    - In an effort to help keep the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce, the WSRA, and possibly other key stakeholder organizations in Waskesiu, up to date regarding Council and PCA issues, Council Chair suggested that the Council Administrator could email the Council's Public Meeting Agenda and the PCA Townsite Report, within one business day following each Council meeting, to the President of the Chamber and the Chair/President of the WSRA, for distribution to their respective Board members. The distribution by Council to the leadership of the Chamber and the WSRA would be undertaken on the understanding that the Board members who are receiving the information will not distribute the documents to their membership base until it has been publicly posted on **waskesiu.org**.

13. **Waskesiu Foundation Project - Paving a Portion of the Red Deer Trail** (from the Flower Streets to the Highway near Kapasiwin Bungalows Resort)

    a. Vision 2028 Community Action Plan Item to be completed

    b. Congratulations on quick turnaround / approval from the Executive Director

    c. Request for PCA assistance to install the new signage (**signage is being paid for by the Foundation*)

    - Discussion ensued regarding all these items. The Chair confirmed that the trail repaving work should be completed by month end. The Acting Superintendent strongly believes that PCA will agree to cover the cost of installing the signs for the trail that the Waskesiu Foundation is acquiring (at its cost) in accordance with the PCA approval.

14. **100th Anniversary Meeting** – September 28th (9 – 11 a.m.) – Virtual Meeting/Visitor Centre

    - A new ad hoc Committee of Council is being established, and will include members of Council along with a designated member of each of the Waskesiu stakeholders groups interested in participating. The committee will be a 100th Anniversary Planning Meeting committee. Councillor Cyr has graciously agreed to act as one of the Committee Chairs.

    - Council Chair has invited the Acting Townsite Manager and other representatives of PCA (Jenny Costa and the Superintendent) to attend.

15. **Municipal Approval Letter from PCA Required for 2027 Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival** – In Kind Services (Heritage Canada Funding Application due October 15th)

    - Council Chair reminded the Acting Townsite Manager that a request for a Municipal Approval Letter (for

the 2027 Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival) will be coming to him soon and that there is a very tight timeline (October 15 hard deadline) for delivery.

16. **Potential WCC Purchase of a Projector for use at WCC AGM –** shared cost with other non-profits and PCA

    - Council Chair discussed that he would like approval to purchase a projector to be used at local events such as the WCC/WSRA AGM and other non-profit organization events. The current Council projector is no longer adequate for presentations. The cost could hopefully be shared by the non-profits, including PCA, if there was a need.

    - A quote of the cost for a new projector for similar to the one rented from Inland Audio in Saskatoon was in the meeting package.

    - Councillor Phillips volunteered to get another price quote as well.

    - Councillor Cyr suggested Council or the Chamber also consider purchasing a drop down screen that could be mounted in Terrace Gardens Hall as the current screen is in very rough shape.

17. **Next Meeting Dates for Council:**

    - Friday, October 30, 2026

    - Monday, December 7, 2026

18. **Other Business (if any)**

    - There was no other business.

19. **Adjournment** **12:29 p.m.**

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

Action Items (From the September 18, 2026 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM - Council Administrator will canvass all Councillors and the key representatives of PCA to create a schedule of meetings of Council commencing in the new year and up to the date of the AGM in August, 2027.

ACTION ITEM: PCA (via the Townsite Manager) to supply at least two (2) available dates to Council as soon as possible in order to begin discussion on the future of structural fire protection services in Waskesiu.

ACTION ITEM: PCA is to send the Compliance Report on water quality to Council each year. Upon receipt, it is posted by the Council Administrator (under the "Our Community" section of the Waskesiu.org website). The Townsite Manager follow up again with the Asset Team.

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 Acting 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 Acting 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 with the members of the new committee (representing PCA, the WSRA, Council, and the Chamber) for their review and comments.

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

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. *This meeting is to be arranged by PCA by the end of October.*

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 by PCA's fiscal year end.*

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. *On hold pending work force adjustment decisions within PCA.*

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. Townsite Manager will provide the breakwater measurements and a asset assessment regarding the main beach breakwater to Councillor Phillips.*
(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). *Ongoing*

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
September 18, 2026
Prepared by: Scott Nesbitt, A/Townsite Manager
Meeting Location: Visitor Centre Board Room & Virtual

Townsite Staffing

- Townsite Manager – Scott Nesbitt - **Currently Acting Field Unit Superintendent**
- 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**

Cabin Development Guidelines

- **Townsite intends to begin the review of the Cabin Guidelines this fall / early winter**
    - **First step is to draft updated guidelines based on notes from Paulette and Gregg (years of interpretation and precedent)**
    - **The draft update will include some additional FireSmart / Resiliency requirements based on lessons learned from Jasper Wildfire.**
    - **Once complete it will be shared with WCC and WSRA for review, comment, addition, edit, etc.**

Cottage Development Guidelines

- **Complete, Kurt W. will be in Waskesiu and sign this weekend** (missed him at AGM in August).

Commercial Development/Business Licencing

- Waskesiu Foundation / WRA Centennial Garden
    - **NPFU Indigenous Relations Team has shared the Waskesiu Foundations desire to collaborate on the project with Montreal Lake and Lac La Ronge Indian Band.**
    - **Parks Canada invited WCC to Indigenous Forum this week.**
        - **The intention for having WCC present was to keep the council informed of the interest of Indigenous Partners and how Parks Canada is advancing shared governance.**
        - **Another intention was to create opportunity for WCC to network and begin establishing relationships with Indigenous Partners.**

- SaskTel Fiberoptic Upgrades
    - **Impact Assessment is complete and Restricted Activity Permits Have been approved. It includes a significant amount of archeological sampling and on-site observation. SaskTel didn't hesitate to accept these Cultural Resource impact mitigation requirements.**
    - **SaskTel contractors are still working at Elk Ridge and a Waskesiu start date is TBD.**

- 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

Red Deer Trail – Blue Loop

- **Parks Canada has accepted the donation of paving on the "old highway" section of the red deer trail – blue loop**
    - **This approval was conditional to the Waskesiu Foundation also providing signage to mitigate wheeled vehicle speed and pedestrian conflict.**
    - **All permits and authorizations for construction are complete.**
    - **Start date TBD based on contractor availability.**

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.**
    - **Waste Management committee remains on hold but will assemble at some point this fall / early winter (once structural fire committee has been established)**

- 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. – **No Update**

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**

Townsite Compliance

- Snow Fences and Flower Bed Mesh
    - **A reminder communication about the approval requirements for temporary fencing will likely be shared with WCC & WSRA in the next week or so. We kindly ask that it is distributed to your membership.**

- 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
    - **Zero bears destroyed by Parks Canada this season.**
    - **There was very little bear activity within the commercial core area.**
    - **Additional focus on wildlife attractants in the campgrounds was also successful. Pinky (The pink tagged bear) that was causing some issues in the campgrounds and cabin area left the Waskesiu area and the park. Unfortunately, she found her way to Anglin Lake and was destroyed by Provincial authorities.**

Park Management

Emergency Services

- **EMS**
    - **KPS Medic contract has concluded for the season. Parks Canada duty officers will respond but training is limited to first aid.**
    - **911 is the best resource for any medical emergency.**

- **Waskesiu Fire Dept.**
    - **Parks Canada has contracted a temporary Fire Chief / Training Officer.**
        - **Primary duties, volunteer training, equipment management and fill the role of local assistant to the Saskatchewan Fire Commissioner.**
        - **This contract is a 3-month service contract with 2 additional "1 month" options. Contract End Date, Oct. 31, 2026 (with potential to extend to Dec. 31, 2026)**
    - **Parks Canada is unlikely to contract another chief and will return to an officer run department for the winter months.**
    - **There is no current plan for spring 2027.**

- **Parks Canada response to the Draft TOR for the Emergency Management Subcommittee.**
    - **The primary focus for emergency management at this time should be the stabilization of structural fire protection.**
        - **This may also include provision of EMS responder services.**
        - **Once there is a clear solution to Structural Fire services we can return to "all hazards" emergency planning focus.**
    - **In the meantime, Parks Canada will begin training local staff to meet Parks Canda's national emergency management policy, standards and guidelines. (Nov. 2026)**

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.
- **To date, we have been able to accommodate the disposal of overburden. But in the future large volumes may need to be diverted.**

Bicycle Safety

- Has there been any progress a bicycle safety strategy for the community? **– No Update**

Blue Green Algae

- Blue Green Algae protocol complete and circulated.
    - **Primary component is that safety messaging and signage will be put in place upon report & visual confirmation of "suspected" BG Algae. (We will not wait for testing results)**

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**
- 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**

Red Deer Electrical Upgrade Project

- **Cultural Resource Impact Assessment (CRIA) results could not be finalized until final plans for the project we submitted. These did not arrive until min-July.**
- **Initial CRIA mitigations involved extensive pre-project site sampling that would have resulted in significant delays to the project.**
- **Through continued discussion and working with Parks Canada's terrestrial archeology team, we have found alternative mitigations that work on a "test as we go" and "excavation monitoring" model.**
- **However, securing the archeological services for this has set the project start date behind by one week.**
    - **Contractors mobilized to Red Deer this week and are currently on site.**
    - **"Shovels in the ground" / hydro-vacing begins Monday Sept. 21**
- **Most of the work is directional boring without removing existing infrastructure. This should make the project progress quickly and the outlook for completion is good, despite the minor setback last week.**