

WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES



DATE: Thursday, October 3, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (Saskatchewan Time)
LOCATION: In Person at PCA Meeting Room in Waskesiu/Virtual via TEAMS

Attending in person from Council: Councillor Jim Kerby (Chair), Councillor Bentley Crozier and Councillor Jacqueline Archer.

Also attending virtually from Council: Councillor Rob Phillips (Vice Chair), Councillor Jennifer Wood (Sec./Treas.), Councillor Bob Cyr, and Councillor Linda Lavallee.

Attending in person from PCA: Field Unit Superintendent Jennifer Duquette and Acting Waskesiu Townsite Manager Scott Nesbitt.

1. **Call to Order** **9:03 a.m.**
2. **Motion to move the Council Meeting “In-Camera” (via ZOOM)**
Rob Phillips/Bentley Crozier *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**
Jacqueline Archer/Bentley Crozier *Carried*
6. **Superintendent Jennifer Duquette** - Appointment as Northern Prairies Field Unit Superintendent
Congratulations were extended by Council to Superintendent Duquette.
7. **Motion to Adopt the Public Meeting Minutes of June 7, 2024**
Jacqueline Archer/Bob Cyr *Carried*
8. **Outstanding Action Items/Related Status Updates** - a review of each of the 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).
9. **Townsite Report – Scott Nesbitt, Acting Townsite Manager** - (See the October 3, 2024 Townsite Report accompanying these Minutes.)
10. **Aquatic Invasive Species** - next steps, need for action plan / evidence of increased urgency
- Council Chair reported that the next meeting (to work on the AIS plan for PANP) is tomorrow (Friday, October 4th) at 1 p.m. The committee will need to set some meeting dates over the next 6 months.

- Councillor Wood reported that the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association has a committee set up to address AIS issues and communicate updates with their members. Currently there are 2 members on the committee: Ron Jones (as Chair) and Josh Opheim (as a committee member).
- Lengthy discussion ensued and it was agreed that addressing AIS with action “on the ground” in May of 2025 is critically important.

11. Waskesiu River Dam - status report regarding Waskesiu River riffle dam failure/leakage

- PCA reports that Hatch Consultants have been hired for this work. At this time, they do not have the design work completed but there will be a short-term plan and a long-term plan option. Superintendent Duquette advised that an 80% design for both options will be available soon.

12. Recent Emergency Search and Rescue Incident – Items of Concern

- (1) The Urgent & Emerging Issues Communication Protocol (the “**Communication Protocol**”) between PCA and Council was not utilized in relation to this event and no contact was made with Council - why?
 - The Acting External Relations person was unaware of the Protocol and was assigned to be with the family of the lost hiker. This was an oversight on the part of PCA, and PCA still supports the Protocol.
- (2) What operating budget is impacted by incidents like this? (i.e., PANP solely or an alternative budget)
 - PCA reported that the cost of incidents like these is primarily from the Park’s local operating budget. There are some exceptions in relation to high-level responses, and in those cases, funds would come from outside of the PANP budget.

13. Communication Protocol (Urgent & Emerging Issues Communication Protocol) – Updating of information in the Communication Protocol by PCA is required.

ACTION ITEM: PCA to update the “*Urgent & Emerging Issues Communication Protocol*” to ensure that all information regarding PCA contacts identified in the Communications Protocol (including the contact information for the new Superintendent) is up to date and accurate.

14. Tree Removal Policy/Vegetation Management Plan

- a. PCA response to Council’s comments and suggested changes (sent in June)
 - the comments and suggested changes were reviewed and well received. PCA will supply another revised version that is currently in the works.
- b. Next steps include:
 - i. vegetation management strategy document
 - Council Chair asked that the wording regarding “dangerous trees” and “hazardous trees” be carefully reviewed, and that the documents are redrafted to be consistent in the use of just one term (not two terms that essentially mean the same thing). In addition, the definition of “hazardous tree” is too narrowly defined, and should be discussed.
 - ii. a commitment to a meaningful timeline by PCA so that this package of documents is finalized and agreed upon before the next operating season.
 - iii. additional emphasis on Fire Smart considerations.

15. Council AGM Q&A session with PCA (August 2024)

- a. Parks Canada to supply Council with PCA’s Answers to Questions raised at the AGM (4th request)
 - **ACTION ITEM:** Parks Canada to supply Council with PCA’s Answers to Questions from Council’s 2024 AGM
- b. Issues caused by the PCA decision to change the format.
 - The order and the wording of questions was changed by PCA to improve the flow and ease for those answering the questions. However, the changes caused issues for Council, including our Administrator – and people who submit questions expect to hear them as posed – not as significantly amended.

16. PCA Discussions with First Nations and Metis Groups Regarding “Shared Governance” for PANP

- a. Status update requested
 - discussions are ongoing and Superintendent Duquette reported that there are a variety of reasons why there hasn’t been a great deal of feedback. PCA representatives have been meeting with some of the Chiefs from different First Nations and Metis groups. Thus far, “Shared Governance” is not a top priority for many, but PCA continues to work on building relations with these groups.
 - Superintendent Duquette also advised that PCA has established an Indigenous Relations Manager as part of the Government of Canada’s (and the Agency’s) commitments pursuant to UNDRIP (the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).
 - On a related point, Council Chair commented on the addition of two new flag poles at the PCA Administration Building (which will in time be used to fly the Treaty 6 flag and the Metis Nation flag).

- b. **Setting Council Meetings dates** – proposed meeting dates from November 2024 to June 2025 inclusive

2024

- Friday November 15
- Friday December 13

2025

- Friday February 7
- Monday March 24
- Monday May 12
- Friday June 13

All the above dates will work for Council and Parks Canada, except for Monday, March 24 (Superintendent Duquette cannot commit to that date at this time but indicated that someone can attend in her absence if required).

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to send out electronic invitations for the chosen future Council meeting dates to all Council members and to the PCA Superintendent and Townsite Manager.

17. Fire Hall / Fire Truck issues - Status Update (including contract renewal Discussions with WVFD Chief)

- The WVFD Chief has not renewed his contract.
- The WFD Volunteer Captains will maintain service until new options (and hopefully a new Fire Chief) are identified. It was noted that the Lakeland Fire Dept. has recently lost their Fire Chief as well.
- PCA to do outreach with Lakeland for a capable mutual aid contract and find out what options Lakeland can offer to assist Waskesiu in the interim.

- Superintendent Duquette indicated that the safety of the volunteer fire fighters is a priority, and that PCA will try to move quickly to find a new Fire Chief.

18. Fire Suppression Plan/Emergency Plans Related to Fire/Evacuation of Townsite

- a. Does a fire suppression plan exist for Waskesiu? (Third request)
 - There is a plan, but it is not named a “Suppression” plan (but could be included in wildland/wildfire plans)
ACTION ITEM: PCA to provide information on their fire “suppression” plan in relation to the townsite of Waskesiu
- b. Plans to Evacuate the Waskesiu Townsite / Tabletop Exercise
 - Superintendent Duquette reported that they are currently working on emergency management planning and that this is a type of exercise that she would, in time, like to see happen.

19. Election of Officers, Standing Committees, Designated Liaison, Bank Signing Officers

- **Re-Appointment of Officers**

Motion:

That the following Officers be reappointed to serve during the current three-year term of Council or until otherwise determined by Council:

- *Council Chair: Jim Kerby*
- *Council Vice-Chair: Rob Phillips*
- *Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Wood*

Rob Phillips/Bentley Crozier

Carried

- **Standing Committees of Council**

Motion:

That the following Committees be confirmed as the Standing Committees of Council until otherwise determined by Council:

- i. *Budget & Finance Committee*
- ii. *Business Relations Committee*
- iii. *Community Planning & Development Committee*
- iv. *Communications & Community Relations Committee*
- v. *Essential Services (Policing & Fire) Committee*

Rob Phillips/Bentley Crozier

Carried

- **Appointment of Committee Chairs & Committee Members**

Motion:

That the following Councillors be appointed to serve as the Chairs and as the Members of the following Standing Committees of Council until otherwise determined by Council:

- a. *Budget & Finance Committee: Co-Chairs - Jennifer Wood & Bob Cyr; Committee Member – Jim Kerby*
- b. *Business Relations Committee: Co-Chairs – Bentley Crozier & Linda Lavallee; Committee Members – Jacqueline Archer and Bob Cyr*
- c. *Community Planning & Development Committee: Chair – Rob Phillips; Committee Members – Jim Kerby & Jennifer Wood*
- d. *Communications & Community Relations Committee: Chair – Jacqueline Archer; Committee Members – Jim Kerby & Bentley Crozier*
- e. *Essential Services (Policing & Fire) Committee: Chair - Rob Phillips; Committee Members – Linda Lavallee and Bob Cyr*

Rob Phillips/Bentley Crozier

Carried

- **Confirming Council’s Designated Liaisons with Key Stakeholder Groups**

Motion:

That, until otherwise determined by Council, the following Councillors be appointed to serve as designated Liaisons on behalf of Council with each of the following key stakeholder groups:

- a. *Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce: Designated Liaisons for Council – the Members of the Business Relations Committee – (Jacqueline Archer*, Bob Cyr*, Linda Lavallee, Bentley Crozier) (*Note – Jacqueline and Bob are currently Directors on the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors)*
- b. *Waskesiu Foundation: Designated Liaison for Council – Jim Kerby* (*Note – Jim is currently a Director of the Waskesiu Foundation)*
- c. *Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association: Designated Liaisons for Council - Jennifer Wood* and Rob Phillips (*Note – Jennifer is currently the Chair of the WSRA)*
- d. *Friends of the Park, PANP: Designated Liaison for Council - Linda Lavallee (*Note, Linda is currently a Director on the FOP Board)*
- e. *Waskesiu Recreation Association: Designated Liaisons for Council – Jim Kerby* and Jacqueline Archer* (*Note – Jim and Jacqueline are currently Directors of the WRA)*
- f. *Waskesiu Heritage Museum: Designated Liaison for Council - Linda Lavallee*
- g. *Lobstick Golf Club Inc. (Waskesiu Golf Course): Designated Liaison for Council – Bob Cyr*

Rob Phillips/Bentley Crozier

Carried

- **Confirming Bank Signing Authorities**

Motion:

That the following Councillors continue to serve as Council's Bank Signing Authorities with the Conexus Credit Union (on behalf of the Waskesiu Community Association Inc.) until otherwise determined by Council, namely:

- *Jim Kerby (Chair)*
- *Jennifer Wood (Secretary/Treasurer)*
- *Noreen Matthews (Council Administrator)*

Rob Phillips/Bentley Crozier

Carried

22. Other Business

a. Annual Potable Water Reports

- PCA is seeing the level of THM's (chemical compounds that can form when water that has organic matter is disinfected with chlorine) are on the rise, trending upwards but in minuscule numbers. Health Canada data relating to THM's in drinking water indicate that there is no reason for concern at the low levels we are seeing in Waskesiu (but which do exceed the guidelines).

- PCA asked whether Council believes that a public notice should be provided at this stage. Following discussions, it was agreed that once further information is in the hands of PCA a final decision can be made but, at present, there seems to be no reason for concern, so no special public announcement is currently warranted.

ACTION ITEM: Once the next water report has been received, PCA will report to Council along with their recommendations on how to move forward.

b. Update on the Main Beach Breakwater

- PCA have received their consultant's report on the condition of the breakwater and will circulate it to Council at this time.

- Superintendent Duquette reported that the summary of the report is that the structure is not bad. The problems are essentially cosmetic (not structural). There are no high priority refurbishment or other recommendations, but there are some medium priority recommendations for the next 5 to 10 years (and some low priority recommendations as well).

-The Superintendent also mentioned that the cosmetic plans for the breakwater are open for discussion and suggested that PCA and Council could sit down and talk about what the future look of the breakwater would be and that there is an opportunity to do something bigger than just re-surface.

ACTION ITEM: PCA and Council to undertake further discussion regarding the breakwater's refurbishment and potential enhancement.

23. Adjournment

1:25 p.m.

Motion to adjourn - Jacqueline Archer

Carried

Action Items (From the October 3, 2024 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: Once the next water report has been received, PCA will report to Council including their recommendations on how to move forward (regarding the increase in THM's and/or other issues).

ACTION ITEM: PCA and Council to undertake further discussion regarding the breakwater's potential refurbishment and potential enhancement.

ACTION ITEM: Parks Canada to supply Council with PCA's Answers to Questions from Council's 2024 AGM.

ACTION ITEM: PCA to update the "*Urgent & Emerging Issues Communication Protocol*" to ensure that all information regarding PCA contacts identified in the Communications Protocol (including the contact information for the new Superintendent) is up to date and accurate.

ACTION ITEM: Council & PCA to schedule a Waskesiu Community Plan discussion to identify key issues and proposed changes.

ACTION PLAN: A Vision 2028 Update is to be completed in conjunction with PCA and other Stakeholders and provided by Council to Key Stakeholders (including PCA) before long weekend of May of 2025.

ACTION ITEM: Council to work with PCA and the WSRA to determine the date(s) and the format(s) of the 2025 WCC AGM and WSRA AGM.

ACTION ITEM: Council Administrator to send out electronic invitations for the chosen future Council meeting dates to all Council members and to the PCA Superintendent and Townsite Manager.

ACTION ITEM: PCA to provide information on their fire "suppression" plan in relation to the townsite of Waskesiu.

Action Items (From the June 7, 2024 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: The Waskesiu Chamber will take the lead on the matter relating to the Saskatchewan Health Authority and, via Councillor Archer, will keep Council updated. *Ongoing*

Action Items (From the September 1, 2023 Council Meeting)

ACTION ITEM: Council and PCA to further discuss the need for a policy/directive/communication and/or community education programs regarding bicycle use in the townsite, including dealing with proper etiquette and safety concerns. Designated trails (e.g., bike only or pedestrian only) to also be considered.

STANDING ACTION ITEMS

ACTION ITEM: Parks Canada to provide updates to Council on the Riffle Dam and planned repairs. *There is a need to stabilize the sides of the banks around the weir and will follow up with the studies being done on the dam.*

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
October 3, 2024
Prepared by: Gregg Rutten, Townsite Manager
Meeting Location: Virtual

*Please note – new information is highlighted in **bold**.

Cabin and Cottage Areas

1. Waskesiu Townsite Parking Strategy

Parking issues in Waskesiu can be divided into two separate areas – on street parking and cabin/cottage area parking. PCA has initiated a street parking strategy for the townsite to address some of the issues that arise from inappropriate parking. The main issues are congestion and public safety.

- Further work is required on a strategy for the cabin and cottage subdivisions in Waskesiu. Such a strategy will be developed with input from the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and the Waskesiu Community Council for implementation post 2017.
- PCA asset staff installed 4 signs (“30 minute parking”) around the fish shack on Lakeview Drive. Remaining signs to be installed in 2-3 vehicle stalls in front of Waskesiu Trading Company in spring.
- Townsite manager will meet with representatives of the WSRA to determine next steps regarding a parking strategy for the cabin and cottage subdivisions.
- PCA and WSRA Representatives will meet to discuss cabin/cottage area parking on February 8, 2019.
- PCA and WSRA representatives will be meeting in late April to discuss parking, potential amendments to the Cabin Development Guidelines, and National Energy Code requirements.
- PCA confirming a meeting date with the WSRA.
- Waskesiu Marina has been issued a building permit for development of additional dry boat/trailer storage that will be offered to seasonal residents at discounted rates.
- PCA has provided a draft proposal to the WSRA for review. WSRA and PCA will be meeting on March 20, 2020 to discuss the draft.
- Townsite Manager and WSRA President have resumed discussions regarding parking in the Parcel “x” cabin area.
- Discussion resulted in the idea of prohibiting the parking of boats on cabin area streets (Bluebird-Pelican) similar to the existing prohibition on Waskesiu Drive.
- Also discussed was a “rubber off of the asphalt” policy for all other vehicles.
- There was also discussion around enforcing the use of the two required parking stalls on cabin area lots. This would involve requiring lessees to remove items such as gazebos and patio furniture from their designated parking stalls.
- More discussion is required regarding other areas in the townsite.
- Enforcement may be an issue.
- PCA is preparing a draft issues/options analysis which will be shared with Council ahead of the May 6, 2022 meeting of Council.
- Report not available for May 6 meeting. PCA will provide a report ahead of the June meeting of Council.
- PCA will engage a consultant this fiscal year to analyze and provide recommendations towards a parking strategy for Waskesiu, with an emphasis on alleviating safety concerns related to parking within the townsite.

- Townsite Manager and Superintendent met with Rob Phillips on July 22, 2022 to walk through the cabin area (parcel X).
- Various topics were discussed including parking issues and options for improvement.
- Recommendation from WVFD Chief is to keep boats and other vehicles off of the asphalt surface when parked. This will allow room for the fire truck/emergency response vehicles to access cabin area streets.
- WCC and PCA will develop communication for Parcel X regarding the “rubber off the road” policy, for implementation in 2023.
- Further discussion and planning is required regarding parking policy in other areas of the Waskesiu townsite.
- Draft wording for the “Rubber off the Road” policy for the Waskesiu cabin area has been developed and shared with the WSRA for review.
- PCA communications team is working on final wording for “Rubber off the Road” policy for the Waskesiu cabin area and roll-out of communication plan for spring 2023 including newsletters, electronic bulletin board and social media posts.
- Compliance plan developed for PCA compliance and townsite staff to issue “friendly reminders” to vehicle owners in violation of the policy starting in spring 2023.
- “Rubber off the Road” messaging for the cabin area in Waskesiu has been developed in collaboration with the WSRA.
- The communication message has been sent to the WSRA for inclusion in their 2023 newsletter.
- Parks Canada will distribute flyers door to door in the cabin area with details about this policy.
- Messaging will also be posted on waskesiu.org.
- Initial compliance actions will involve “friendly reminders” placed on windshields by PCA staff.
- Patrols by PCA staff indicate most people are complying with this policy.
- A few people have been reminded of the policy as staff have been completing other work in the cabin area.
- PCA will continue highlighting the “rubber off the road” messaging for the 2024 season.
- **No Updates at he time of the report** – (but we are curious about how council feels the “Rubber of the Road” campaign went?)

2. Land Use Planning Regulations/Cottage Development Guidelines

- The National Planning and Permitting Process to modernize development regulations in National Parks is nearing the final stages of approval and completion.
- One of the regulations being modernized is the *National Parks Cottages Regulations*.
- The new regulations will allow for more local policy decisions regarding cottage development.
- Parks Canada intends to work with the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and the Waskesiu Community Council in the development and implementation of a “cottage Development Guideline” document, similar to the “Cabin Development Guidelines”.
- PCA National Office Realty will offer support for roll-out for the new regulations, once they are approved.
- A working group has been identified including representatives from PCA and the WSRA.

- The latest update on the new regulations indicates the earliest “coming into force” of the new regulations will be 2024.
- PCA to produce a draft version of the “Cottage Development Guidelines” for the working group to review by March 1, 2023.
- An initial meeting of the group is being scheduled for December 2022.
- Townsite Manager has started working on the draft “Cottage Development Guidelines”.
- The draft incorporates comments PCA has received from the working group.
- The draft will be available for review by the working group by February 15, 2023.
- A draft “cottage development guidelines” document has been circulated to the working group for review and comment.
- The next meeting of the working group to discuss the draft document is scheduled for May 1, 2023.
- Meeting between PCA and the working group on May 1, 2023 was productive.
- The working group returned a revised draft to PCA on May 18, 2023 for review and comment.
- PCA has reviewed and responded to questions/comments from the draft copy of the guidelines provided by the working group.
- A meeting of the working group is scheduled for September 8.
- There was a productive meeting of the working group on September 8, 2023. Items of mutual interest were discussed.
- The working group is working on a revised draft of the guidelines based on those discussions for further consideration by PCA.
- Public consultation on the new regulations and fees closed on October 30, 2023.
- Next steps for the regulations are:
 - o The release of a What We Heard Report outlining feedback from consultations.
 - o The regulations may be refined, and PCA will share details on these prior to advancing.
 - o PCA is continuing to refine the Interpretive Guidelines and developing tools and templates to support implementation.
- New regulations and fees will be submitted to Treasury Board late Spring 2024
- Land Use Planning Regulations - new targeted coming into force and effect date is October 2024
- Cottage Development Guidelines working group tentatively scheduled to meet in early July, 2024.
- **Still on track for coming into effect Late Oct. / Early Nov.**
- **Cottage Guidelines planning group to meet Oct. 17 for final discussion before formalizing new cottage guidelines.**
- **Update from the National Land Use Planning team on development application process is happening concurrently to this meeting.**

Commercial Development/Business Licencing

3. Kapasiwin

A development permit has been issued for the re-development of the Kapasiwin Bungalow Camp. The developers completed a detailed impact assessment (including public consultation) as part of their application for the development permit.

- A building permit has been issued for one of the staff accommodation buildings. Construction is expected over the fall/winter.

- The Leaseholders are exploring the installation of deep water and sewer to the Kapasiwin site.
- A building permit for installation of deep water and sewer infrastructure was issued on January 15, 2020.
- Plans for a second staff accommodation building have been received by Parks Canada, currently under review.
- Conceptual design for the second staff accommodation cabin not approved by PCA
- Installation of deep water and sewer is underway.
- PCA has received some feedback expressing concern over damage to the cycling/walking path surface (old road).
- Repairs to any damage as a result of this project are the responsibility of the leaseholder to repair. PCA has contacted the leaseholder to establish a timeline for the repairs.
- A building permit was issued for the construction of staff cabin A2.
- A building permit was been issued for the tree removal and site grading required for installation of the 520 ft² rental cabins associated with phase 3 of the development.
- PCA is currently reviewing plans for the phase 3 rental cabin units.
- PCA has issued a building permit for the Phase 3 rental cabin units.
- PCA has reviewed and approved construction plans for a laundry/towel exchange/shop building.
- A request was received from the developers to retain one of the old cabins as a “heritage cabin”, to be preserved on the Licence of Occupation designated for the property right-of-way. This request was supported by other individuals / organizations within the community.
- Parks Canada informed the developer that we were willing to make allowance for the retention of the heritage cabin on the Parcel K leasehold but not the right-of-way licence of occupation. If the developer chose not to include the cabin on the lease, PCA is willing to allow the cabin to be stored in the SX parcel for a period up to 1 year for interested parties to propose a new location / use for the cabin. Following the 1-year period the cabin is to be removed if no agreement is reached. No official response from the developer at the time of this report.
- Property owners have been issued a letter, as per Section 27 of the National Parks of Canada general regulations, ordering them to remove chairs and equipment from the public beach.
- Owners requested to have Kapasiwin added to wayfinding signs on highway #264. Request was denied but during the review, it was found that existing signage for Kapasiwin and Lost Creek Resort does not meet current PCA signage guidelines. PCA will work with the owners to have these signs updated.
- BIA (Environmental Assessment) for electrical upgrades to Kapasiwin has been completed and signed off. A building permit for the work has been issued by PCA. Work expected to commence imminently.
- Work on this development is substantially complete.
- PCA is awaiting final inspection reports and completion of landscaping and roadway paving at the site.
- **Building permits have been issued for remaining cabins within the scope of the development.**
- **Work expected to continue into 2025 with completion of cabins, landscaping, road resurfacing and repairs.**

4. Fire Prevention Inspections

- A notice of Fire Prevention inspection was issued to Waskesiu Business community on August 31.
- Inspections are scheduled to take place the week of Sept. 27
- During a visit by Parks Canada's Fire Protection Engineer to Waskesiu Lake (conducting a fire flow study of the hydrant system), several businesses and private dwellings were observed to be improperly using barbecues on balconies and decks as well as improperly storing significant quantities of propane cylinders. These issues are in contravention of the National Fire Code of Canada - 2015 Edition and CSA B149.2-15, "Propane storage and handling code".
- A memo was issued to the Field Unit by the PCA Chief Fire Engineer that this significant fire risk would need to be addressed as soon as possible.
- The notice to business owners included the requirement for proper use of propane appliances (BBQs) and storage of propane cylinders.
- Inspectors will issue orders of compliance to business owners who have not taken steps to bring their propane issues into compliance.
- These orders may require businesses to remove propane appliances if they cannot meet the safety standards.
- Fire Prevention inspections may reveal additional safety issues that might result in further compliance orders.
- Future communications will share the requirement for proper use of propane appliances (BBQs) and storage of propane cylinders with seasonal residents.
- Fire Prevention Inspections are anticipated to become annual in the future (similar to public health inspections).
- The results of these inspections will also be used to complete a Community Structural Fire Risk assessment. This assessment and the fire flow study will help in decisions with regards to the Waskesiu Fire Dept. and water utility infrastructure in Waskesiu.
- PCA awaits the final report from the Fire protection engineer.
- One business was ordered to close immediately during the inspection until the required corrections are completed and inspected.
- Two other businesses were required to alter their normal procedures and perform hourly "fire checks" until alarm system repairs are completed.
- PCA will make the passing of a fire inspection a requirement in order to obtain a business licence for PANP.
- Reports from the fire inspector have been provided to all businesses where deficiencies were noted.
- PCA locally is working with the notified businesses to determine timelines to bring the noted deficiencies into compliance.
- Official notice has been sent from to business owners that have not provided an action plan to correct deficiencies to PCA that their business licences will not be issued until they do so.
- All businesses noted above have submitted action plans to remedy deficiencies noted in the fire inspector's reports.
- 3 additional reports have been sent to businesses since March 1. These businesses need to submit action plans to the townsite office.
- Townsite manager has been following up with businesses to assess their progress on correcting deficiencies identified by the fire inspector.
- All but 2 businesses have submitted action plans. These 2 businesses have been notified verbally that plans are required and PCA will follow up with a letter notifying them that business licences may be suspended until these reports are received by PCA.
- All action plans have been received.

- Lessees continue to work on correcting deficiencies.
- Follow up inspections planned for late summer 2023.
- Follow up inspections have been delayed until spring 2024.
- **No update at time of report**

5. Public Health Inspections

- PANP has been contacted by the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), stating they have been directed by their ministry to undertake public health inspections in Prince Albert National Park.
- These inspections include private commercial restaurants, grocery stores, bakeries, ice cream shops, pools (including hot tubs) and any other type of food service.
- They plan to start conducting these inspections in 2024.
- Since 2015, PANP has contracted the services of a private health inspector to do this work.
- The private inspector performed these inspections to the same standard used by the Saskatchewan Health Authority.
- Townsite manager has met with the regional manager and local inspector to discuss details.
- The Saskatchewan Health Authority intends to reach out to the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce to inform them of this change.
- PCA is currently working on details of an MOU between PCA and SHA.
- The SHA has found that some of the commercially operated hot tubs in Waskesiu are of a “residential” type and require frequent cleaning and refilling in order to be licensed for public/commercial use.
- Some businesses have chosen to close hot tubs.
- **Food services and swimming pools (hot tubs) are subject to provincial health legislation, including a certificate from SaskHealth, are a condition of their business licence.**
- **SaskHealth inspectors are the proper authority to conduct inspections and issue recommendations and / or requirements to acquire a certificate.**

Infrastructure and Utilities

6. Waskesiu Townsite Dock and Breakwater

- Renewal of these structures is included in the vision 2020 document as part of the main beach renewal plan.
- Divers completed an assessment of the breakwater and paddle wheeler dock in 2017. Results indicated that the breakwater is in good condition and requires minimal recapitalization. The paddle wheeler dock is at the end of its useful life.
- A draft conceptual map of main beach area was discussed at the January WCC meeting.
- Parks Canada will provide an updated map based on that discussion at the April meeting of council.
- Revised maps have been provided to Council. Final updates to maps pending. PCA will provide updated maps to council at the June 22 meeting or prior to that if available.
- Updated maps included with June 18, 2018 townsite report
- Possible that dock will be removed before end of March 2019 pending internal PANP approval of funding. Work would take about 2-3 weeks. The project would completely remove both the dock and the subsurface components.
- Dock removal is complete.

- Communication about boat use in the area, mooring and future plans for upgrades to the breakwater have been posted on Waskesiu.org and will be included in the PCA update in the WSRA newsletter.
- PCA is discussing options for this. Any upgrades would be done as part of the breakwater re-capitalization scheduled for 2020.
- Timing of this work will be determined at the NPFU face to face management meeting in March 2020.
- This project was discussed as a priority for PANP. Dates for the work to be determined.
- Finger Docks were purchased in October, with the intent to have them installed by March 2021.
- The docks are the same design as those at the main marina and will remain in place year round.
- PCA continues to work with consultants on design specifications for the repair.
- Project will be put up for tender once design is finalized.
- Docks have been installed but will remain “out of service” until stabilizing piles and protective edging can be installed following ice-out.
- One of the new docks started breaking away from the breakwater due to failing concrete and has since been completely removed. Remaining doc is functional.
- No additional information regarding repair / replacement was available at the time of this report.
- Breakwater dock operated with only one dock for the 2021 season. Despite this, there was no “congestion or conflict” among users. Boaters used the dock as a loading and unloading space with little to no abuse (long term parking).
- The breakwater docks and resurfacing remain a park priority on the long term investment plan and the vision 2028 lakefront development plan.
- An inspection of the underwater structure of the breakwater is being planned for this year.
- This inspection is part of a 5 year inspection schedule.
- Contract for inspection services has gone to tender.
- PCA expects the inspection to be complete by the end of October 2023.
- Contract for inspections of main beach and main marina breakwater have been awarded.
- Inspections will occur in fall 2023.
- Inspections were completed in November 2023.
- PCA is awaiting the results of these inspections from the consultant.
- Draft reports have been received and are currently being reviewed by PCA.
- Parks Canada has recently received the draft report for the breakwaters and is reviewing them at this time.
- Once PCA has had a chance to review, we will share the results with Council.
- **Breakwater Engineering reports have determined the Breakwater is structurally sound and in fair condition. Surface deterioration is primarily cosmetic / does not impact the structure.**

7. Solid Waste Management/Recycling

- PCA has determined that the state of the construction waste roll off bin located at the recycling depot in Waskesiu was unacceptable.

- In consulting with PCA asset management section, the volume of metal and other items piled beside/behind/in front of the roll-off bin was representative of the volumes they have removed in the past 2 years.
- The volume was more obvious this year because PCA did not have the resources to remove this material with any regularity.
- PCA has formed an internal committee to discuss options for the roll off bin service as well as recycling and composting in Waskesiu and PANP.
- PCA welcomes suggestions or ideas from council on ways to improve waste management in Waskesiu.
- The findings of the PCA committee will be shared with council for review and comment prior to any policy changes affecting residents and visitors.
- Currently PCA is exploring options to relocate the roll-off bin and potentially fencing it and staffing it for specified hours.
- This is being done in the context of solid waste management and recycling in all of Waskesiu.
- PCA intends to relocate the construction waste roll off bin to the "SX" storage area located adjacent to the Park Operations Centre.
- The area will be fenced and will have specified operating hours (7 days/week, 7:30am-4:00pm)
- PCA intends to have staff present at the site to monitor items being disposed.
- PCA asset management staff are working with suppliers to provide a metal/appliance recycling bin at this location also.
- PCA is investigating options for the collection of household kitchen compost in Waskesiu.
- Roll-off bin being re-located to fenced location in SX parcel near compound. Construction is underway and expected to be complete May 14. specified operating hours, 7 days/week, 7:30am-4:00pm
- Space is large enough for two bins, however no "bulky waste"/ metal bin will be provided at this time. PCA anticipates managing this waste inside the fenced area.
- Barricades have been placed at the former roll off location and have been successful in deterring dumping in that location.
- Administrators of the Waskesiu Buy & Sell Facebook page have been supportive of the effort to stop dumping in the park and are encouraging on-line trade of unwanted items rather than the "Waskesiu Ikea" method.
- As per the coms. strategy, a waste management brochure is in the final draft stages. Intended to be distributed with summer bill out.
- Waste management brochure was included in summer W/S/G bill out.
- PCA is proposing that a comprehensive Waste Management Directive be developed in accordance to Section 8 of the National Parks of Canada Garbage Regulations - "No person shall discard or dispose of or deposit garbage anywhere in a park except in such places and at such times and under such conditions as the superintendent may authorize".
- The existing "Yard waste directive" would become a component of the larger Waste Management Directive.
- The process of creating this new directive would identify the "conditions" required for the disposal of waste in the park and identify gaps in the current waste management processes in PANP.
- Townsite Manager to resume development of this policy/directive.
- Development of this policy will occur over the fall/winter of 2022-23.
- Working group to be established with input from Townsite Manager and Asset Manager.
- Working group has been identified. First meeting scheduled for October 31, 2022.

- Drafting of policy document is underway.
- Draft of the policy document is currently under internal review by PCA.
- Surveillance cameras have been installed at the roll-off bin this season. At the time of this report one person has been spoked to by Park Wardens, and required to remove, inappropriate material dumped on site.
- Parks Canada has engaged with a company based in Prince Albert to supply and manage a compost bin for kitchen waste.
- The bin will be located at the recycling depot downtown in Waskesiu.
- The service will be available beginning July 1, 2023.
- The compost bin was not placed into service this summer due to unforeseen circumstances on the part of the contractor supplying the service.
- PCA is hopeful the service will be available for 2024.
- The compost contractor has contacted PCA, they are available again to collect compost from Waskesiu.
- PCA working with the contractor to obtain bear-proof bins for this service.
- Service will start immediately once bins have been procured.
- Compost service is scheduled to resume in spring of 2024 – June.
- **There are some usage issues with people putting non-compostable materials into the bin. Parks Canada is working with the contractor to improve signage at the compost bin.**

8. Waste Management Options Analysis

- In anticipation of the McPhee Lake landfill being decommissioned in the next 2 years, PCA is undertaking a waste management options analysis beginning this winter.
- This assessment will look at options for disposal of household waste from Prince Albert National Park including the townsite of Waskesiu.
- The analysis will look at options such as transfer stations, larger garbage trucks, staffing requirements, contracting if some services among other items.
- A statement of work is being developed to have a consultant look at options for:
 - Ways to reduce all waste and other material (including recycling, organic material, hazardous waste, etc.) generated by Waskesiu and PANP
 - Options for disposal of household waste once the Landfill at McFee lake is no longer available.
 - Contract is expected to be awarded on January 23, 2023.
 - Contract has been awarded to Associated Engineering.
 - **Assessment is ongoing / we are waiting for assessment report.**

9. Townsite Firewood

- Firewood cost for Parks Canada annually are approximately \$200K (supply and staff time)
- Approximately \$130K is recovered through firewood use permits in campgrounds
- In an effort to reduce costs resulting from firewood theft and overuse, the number of firewood piles in the townsite day use area is being reduced.
- The firewood piles closest to the community hall and ball diamond will be removed leaving one main pile close to the shower building.
- Camp kitchens in the townsite will have individual firewood bins placed directly beside them.
- Parks Canada is exploring further options to reduce cost associated with firewood use in the Park.
- PCA internal working group will be meeting throughout the winter to look at options for firewood and cost reductions for this service.
- The working group continues to meet and discuss options.

- Parks Canada continues to look at options for cost recovery of firewood in campgrounds and day use areas in PANP.
- **No update at the time of report.**

Vegetation Management

10. Tree Removal Permits

- PCA is revising the procedure for assessing and approving trees for removal in the townsite of Waskesiu.
- Factors being assessed include:
 - o removal of trees for development purposes
 - o hazard tree assessment
 - o replanting/landscaping requirements
 - o fire smart requirements
 - o Erosion control
 - o Migratory bird nesting period
- More information will be shared with Council as it becomes available.
- PCA welcomes any input and feedback from Council.
- First draft of policy has been distributed for internal PCA review.
- A rough draft of this policy will be provided to Council ahead of the March 25, 2022 meeting.
- Tree removal policy draft is not available at the time of report.
- The migratory bird nesting period is April 30 – August 31. Only trees that present a significant hazard to health or property will be considered for removal during this period.
- Townsite manager is working with PANP Impact Assessment specialist to finalize a draft of this policy.
- Draft to be reviewed and discussed with Council ahead of 2023 operating season at the May meeting of Council.
- A draft of this policy has been reviewed by PCA staff and managers.
- A copy of the draft has been provided to the WCC for review and comment.
- PCA has revised its internal processes for reviewing hazard tree removal permit applications.
- An internal PCA working group has been formed to finalize a tree removal policy for Waskesiu and areas outside of the townsite.
- A draft copy of the hazard tree removal protocol will be provided to council in early February for discussion at the February 26 meeting of council.
- A copy of this draft procedure has been provided alongside the last version of the Waskesiu vegetation management strategy with the intention of discussion with council.
- **WCC feed back review was delayed as many of the staff involved in the Veg Strategy were involved in the Jasper Wildfire response. Feedback from WCC will be reviewed and documents will be updated later this fall.**