



Waskesiu Community Association Inc. Annual General Meeting

List of 2024 Councillors Waskesiu Community Council

Jim Kerby, Council Chair
Cottage Owners Representative

Rob Phillips, Vice Chair
Cabin Owners Representative

Bentley Crozier
Member at Large

Linda Lavallee
Business Owners Representative

Jacqueline Archer
Permanent Residents Representative

Bob Cyr
Member at Large

Jennifer Wood (Secretary/Treasurer)
Member at Large

Attendees: There were more than 100 members of the Waskesiu Community Association Inc. in attendance at the meeting.

- 1. Call to Order & Welcome** - I am pleased to call the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Waskesiu Community Council to Order. My name is Jim Kerby, and I am honored to be the Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council, and I will be acting as the Chair of today's meeting.

All the meeting materials for today's meeting have been for a few weeks now - and still are - available on the Waskesiu.org website. Several hard copies were also printed for the meeting and made available at the door.

2. Land Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Waskesiu community we acknowledge that we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nation and Métis ancestors of this special place and reaffirm our relationship with one another.

3. Adoption of the Meeting Agenda for the 2024 AGM

Motion:

“That the Agenda for this 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Meeting, be approved and adopted.”

*Moved by Jake Burllet
Seconded by Grit McCreath*

Carried unanimously.

4. Brief Introduction of 2024 Waskesiu Community Council Members & Administrator

Thank you to everyone who took the time to be with us here today - it is appreciated. A special “shout out” to Noreen Matthews - our Council Administrator. Noreen is responsible for keeping Council organized, and on track. In addition, she was yet again instrumental in pulling everything together for this meeting. Bravo Noreen!

Thanks to all our Councillors - they are a diverse and talented group of people who are committed to the community - and enthusiastic about the future of Waskesiu and Prince Albert National Park. Your Community Council is comprised of a total of 7 members. Five of them are with us here today in person, and one is planning to participate by phone.

- Rob Phillips, Council Vice Chair*
 - *Cabin Owners Representative* (*Rob is currently out of the country)
- Bentley Crozier
 - *Member at Large*
- Linda Lavallee
 - *Business Owners Representative*
- Jacqueline Archer
 - *Permanent Residents Representative*
- Jennifer Wood, Secretary/Treasurer* (*Jennifer is unable to attend)
 - *Member at Large*
- Bob Cyr
 - *Member at Large*
- Jim Kerby - Council Chair
 - *Cottage Owners Representative*

All members of Council have just been re-elected for a 3 year term.

Procedural Matters

As always, we have some procedural matters to get through on our Agenda - hopefully very quickly - after which there will be a brief Chair’s report, followed by a Q&A session with Council.

- After this meeting, from 10:45 – noon, Parks Canada Agency representatives will provide a 20 minute presentation and then answer questions that have been submitted in advance. Time permitting, they may be able to take questions from the floor as well.
- Please note that the annual general meeting of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association will be held on Saturday, August 31st.

- After our meeting today, please remember to support the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department fundraising BBQ - it's just outside - and if you present the ticket that you received upon registration for this meeting you will get a drink, and a burger or hot dog, for just a Toonie. That's a heck of a deal!
- Now for the procedural matters.

5. Adoption of the 2023 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Motion:

“That the Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Corporation, in the form presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”

Moved by Dan Bohem

Seconded by Rob Oswald

Carried unanimously.

6. Financial Reporting

Councillor Bob Cyr presented the financial statements on behalf of the Community Council in the absence of the Council's Treasurer, Jennifer Wood.

• Presentation and Adoption of the 2023/2024 Financial Statements of the Corporation:

Motion:

“That the Financial Statements for the most recent fiscal year of the Corporation, in the form prepared by Virtus Group LLP and presented to this Annual General Meeting, be and the same are hereby approved and adopted.”

Moved by Bob Cyr

Seconded by Erin Gagne Harder

Carried unanimously.

• Waiver of Appointment of Auditor / Appointment of Virtus Group LLP to prepare Review Engagement Financial Statements:

Motion:

“That the Corporation dispense with the appointment of an auditor for the current fiscal year and appoint Virtus Group LLP to prepare the Corporation's financial statements for the current fiscal year on a review engagement basis, with Virtus Group LLP's remuneration to be determined by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.”

Moved by Bob Cyr

Seconded by Wayne Simpson

Carried unanimously.

7. Chair's Year-End Report - Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby

The last 12 months have, once again, been very busy for your Community Council. As I mentioned earlier, it was also an election year – with all seven members of Council returning for another three year term. So, I want to start by thanking all my Council colleagues for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the Waskesiu community.

We have many questions to address during the Q&A session with Parks Canada – so I am purposely keeping my report short today. There are a few things that I want to touch on – and emphasize – during our time here today.

- First, I want to continue to emphasize the importance of our Waskesiu “Vision 2028” strategic planning process - a Council led initiative advanced in conjunction with Parks Canada Agency along with input from all the key stakeholder groups in Waskesiu. The resulting “Implementation Strategy” (called the Community Action Plan) that was developed via that process for Waskesiu was excellent. I urge you to take the time to read this important document that looks to our collective future. As reported last year, the latest iteration of the Community Action Plan is designed to culminate in a commemoration in 2028 - marking the 100th anniversary of the official opening of the Park back in August of 1928. The Community Action Plan is online and can be found on waskesiu.org.
- **AIS – What is it and why does it matter?**
 - Learning new acronyms isn't fun, but it's critical that everyone in Waskesiu learns about “AIS” – the short form for “Aquatic Invasive Species”. Why does it matter?
 - We are going to learn more today from experts at Parks Canada – but let me start by saying that AIS can include zebra and quagga mussels, whirling disease, Eurasian water milfoil, certain carp species, and other invasive species.
 - In terms of PANP, Zebra and quagga mussels pose the most serious and imminent danger. They are prodigious filter feeders; they strip nutrients from the water leaving little or no food for native species. This affects the entire food web, impacting plant and animal life in the region, and altering water chemistry and clarity.
 - They are currently of highest concern, and several other jurisdictions have taken action to prevent their spread. Infestations are permanent and often irreversible.
 - In my time here in Waskesiu the two things that have worried me the most for our community have been:
 - Fire – including near evacuation of our townsite
 - Zebra mussels and AIS

- We need heightened public awareness combined with thoughtful, effective action. Waterbodies like Lake Winnipeg in Manitoba are already experiencing the devastation that occurs when a waterbody is infected with zebra mussels.
 - The presence of AIS in Alberta has led to significant restrictions and quarantines regarding watercraft (including in Waterton National Park).
 - Clear Lake Manitoba, in Riding Mountain National Park, has been shut down to watercraft – think about what that would be like in Waskesiu.
 - The common goal is to prevent the establishment of AIS in the Park.
 - It is up to our community, working in partnership with Parks Canada and the Province of Saskatchewan, to:
 - (1) understand the enormity of this issue, and
 - (2) take steps to prevent catastrophic (and in some cases irreversible) damage to water bodies throughout the Park.
 - If you love this lake, and the other lakes in this beautiful Park, please listen and learn today, and please commit yourself and your family to be part of the solution.
- **On a much lighter “note”** (pardon the pun) I want to promote the Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival - August 23rd to 25th. The Lakeside Festival requires 1000s of volunteer hours to plan, fundraise for, and implement - and it has become the townsite's biggest annual event. Please volunteer if you can (Simone Kerby would love to hear from you) - and please plan to attend with your family and friends. The festival is, once again, free to attend. You can support the festival by donating to the Waskesiu Foundation, by buying festival branded merchandise, by purchasing 50/50 tickets (last year's winner took home over \$3900 tax free dollars!) and by attending the Original 16 beer gardens on Saturday. Details are available at lakesidefestival.ca, and at the Waskesiu Recreation Association's office on Montreal Drive near the tennis courts.
 - Last, but not least, the Waskesiu Foundation still needs to hit its fundraising goal for the Phase 3 Recreation Renewal project. That project will see a new recreation office building, two dedicated pickle ball courts, and improved vegetation on the recreation grounds. (The Waskesiu recreation grounds are already very impressive – and this will be the icing on the cake.) With your help, that project can become a reality. Information and the opportunity to make online donations is available at waskesiufoundation.ca – and if you donate by August 15th your donation will effectively be doubled, thanks to a matching program. Let's do this thing!

8. Question and Answer Session (for Community Council)

This is your opportunity to ask your Community Council any questions you want, so we are going to open the floor for that purpose right now. If we can answer your question today, we will, and if not, we promise to get back to you.

Final Announcements and Adjournment

Please stay for a brief presentation by, and a Question and Answer session with, representatives of Parks Canada Agency - including our new Acting PANP Field Unit Superintendent Jennifer Duquette, and Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten.

Before I call for a Motion to adjourn, just a final reminder to please support the Waskesiu Volunteer Fire Department fundraising BBQ - it's going to be held just outside this building on Lakeview Drive right after the WSRA annual meeting. Remember, if you present your ticket that you received upon registration for this meeting you will get a burger or hot dog, and a drink, for just a Toonie!

Member Question: Does the Park have a documented fire suppression plan? If so, is it available to the public domain?

Answer: This question will be included in PCA's Q&A session that follows this meeting.

Member Request related to the foregoing question: Please have this issue (fire suppression plan) shown in the AGM meeting minutes as "Business Arising" from this meeting. We would like to have the answer to this question in a timely manner.

Member Question: What does the park have in place for wildfire policy around public safety, wildlife, and personal threats. Can the Waskesiu Community Council have a conversation with the Park and ask how they are managing this?

Answer: Council will have a follow up discussion on this issue with Parks Canada Agency.

Member Question: Does the RCMP dispatch in Waskesiu advise the Council of any violent incidents/criminal activity?

Answer: Only indirectly after inquiry. If you require this information, you can go to the RCMP website site and sign up to have information like this sent to you. (RCMP Crime Watch Advisory)

9. Adjournment

10:50 a.m.

Moved by Jake Bulet

Carried unanimously.