

# WASKESIU COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES



**DATE:** MONDAY, February 26, 2024  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Saskatchewan Time)  
**LOCATION:** Virtual Via ZOOM

**Attending from Council:** Councillor Jim Kerby (Chair), Councillor Jacqueline Archer, Councillor Bentley Crozier, Councillor Linda Lavallee, Councillor Bob Cyr

**Attending from PCA:** Acting Field Unit Superintendent Jennifer Duquette, Waskesiu Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten

**Regrets:** Councillor Jennifer Wood (Secretary/Treasurer), Councillor Rob Phillips (Vice-Chair)

1. **Call to Order** **9:03 a.m.**

2. **Motion to move the Council Meeting “In-Camera”**  
*Jacqueline Archer/Bob Cyr* *Carried*

3. **Motion to terminate the “In-Camera” portion of the Council Meeting** **10:00 a.m.**  
*Linda Lavallee/Jacqueline Archer* *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. **Adoption of Agenda for the Public Meeting of Council as circulated**  
*Jacqueline Archer/Linda Lavallee* *Carried*

6. **Adoption of the Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2024 as circulated**  
*Bob Cyr/Linda Lavallee* *Carried*

7. **Review of 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)

8. **Correspondence (for information only unless otherwise noted with an asterisk\*)**

- Email sent on January 29 from Jim Kerby to Kari Bryson and Len Hergott regarding Waskesiu Community Council & Elk Ridge Resort - Touching Base

- Email received February 1 from Randy Scriven, Affinity Insurance Services regarding Directors and Officers insurance policy renewal (April 15<sup>th</sup>) and response by Council Chair including complete renewal form

- Email received February 14 from Lisa Rowe, Chamber Administrator, regarding cheque refund error on cheque from Chamber and related responses by Council Chair/Council Administrator

**9. Townsite Report** – Gregg Rutten, Townsite Manager

- There were no updates to the previous Townsite Report of January 26, 2024, except for an update regarding the status of the proposed Tree Removal Protocol.

- PANP Fire Management Officer Glenn Rupert has now completed a draft of the Tree Removal Protocol. It will be reviewed internally by PCA and, once feedback from Parks staff has been reviewed, it will then be shared with Council for Council's review and comment.

**10. Confirm Goals & April Meeting Date for "Alignment of Priorities" Discussion (PCA Budget Priorities/Capital Planning and Vision 2028 Community Action Plan)** – proposed meeting of Council, PCA & Waskesiu Foundation representatives

**ACTION ITEM** - Acting Superintendent to send out the final draft of the proposed agenda for the April Meeting ("Alignment of Priorities" Discussion) which will then be circulated with members of Council and representatives of the Waskesiu Foundation board.

**11. Status of Response from Parks Canada regarding "Phase 3" of Recreation Renewal** – PCA approval in principle being sought by the Waskesiu Recreation Association and the Waskesiu Foundation

- Because of the Acting Superintendent's new role and the fact that the Townsite Manager was away on holidays, PCA may need a bit more time to provide their approval in principle. A discussion between the Council Chair and PCA was scheduled immediately following the Council meeting to discuss this matter and provide updated information to PCA to help inform their decision making and hopefully expedite it.

**12. 2023 PANP Freight Trails Proposal** - Bob Cyr

- There has been a request and offer from an individual resident of Elk Ridge (supported by others), willing to provide equipment and to clear historical trails (such as the Freight Trail) in PANP to accommodate additional cross country skiing opportunities in the winter (and hiking in the summer). They also suggested an opportunity for PANP to provide interpretive signage outlining the history of the trails.

- The Townsite Manager replied that the challenge PCA has is getting approval for volunteers doing any work in the Park. To get approval for this type of work, it would have to be an organized non-profit group.

- Councillor Cyr has requested that the Townsite Manager provide him with an outline of what would be required for a non-profit group to be accepted for an undertaking of this nature.

**ACTION ITEM:** Councillor Cyr will draft a written response to the Elk Ridge group on behalf of Council confirming, among other things, that their proposal was discussed with PCA at the February 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The response from Council to the proponents will be shared by Councillor Cyr with the Acting Superintendent, as a courtesy, before it is sent out.

**13. Indigenous Forum & Roundtable Discussions - Prince Albert National Park** – follow up regarding Community Council's request for a list of the First Nations and Metis organizations that are invited by PCA to participate in the PANP Roundtable and shared governance discussions

- This information has very recently been received by Councillor Cyr and the Council Chair from PCA. The Council Chair assured PCA that Council will not be contacting these groups without PCA's knowledge and prior approval. The intent behind the request from Council was to have a fuller understanding of which FN

and Metis organizations had been invited, and who was participating in the roundtable. The information received by Councillor Cyr and the Chair will be shared with the balance of Council only.

#### 14. Other Business

##### a) Cottage Development Guidelines

- Councillor Wood had requested that the Townsite Manager identify a couple of dates that would work to meet with the Cottage Development Guidelines committee during the week of April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Townsite Manager responded and confirmed that April 8, 9 or 11 are available options for a meeting in his calendar.

##### b) Status/Timing of the Road Surface Repair Work at the End of Waskesiu Drive

- Council had requested that the Townsite Manager advise Council regarding what paving still must be completed at the end of Waskesiu Drive (near the start of the trail to Kapasiwin) and the proposed timing.
- The Townsite Manager reported that, from Parks Canada's perspective, the road surface has been repaired. There are still several concrete barriers in place to protect water valves. These will remain until Kapasiwin completes the re-paving that they are required to do because of their water/sewer line upgrades.

**c) Waskesiu Community Council Corporate Credit Card** – A recommendation by the Council Chair & Treasurer was put forward that the Waskesiu Community Association Inc. should take steps to obtain a corporate credit card for the Waskesiu Community Council from the Conexus Credit Union.

The following motion was made:

*That the Administrator of the Waskesiu Community Association Inc. take steps to obtain a corporate credit card for the corporation from the Conexus Credit Union:*

*(1) having a \$3000 credit limit;*

*(2) secured by a \$3000 GIC; and*

*(3) with authorized use being restricted to the Administrator and the Treasurer of the Corporation.*

**Bentley Crozier/Bob Cyr**

**Carried**

#### 15. Future Meeting Dates:

**Friday, April 19** – Virtual via Zoom

**Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>** – Location in Waskesiu to be determined

**Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** – Annual General Meeting, Terrace Gardens

#### 16. Adjournment

**11:30 a.m.**

**- Motion to adjourn made by Linda Lavallee.**

**Carried**

### **Action Items (From the February 26, 2024 Council Meeting)**

**ACTION ITEM:** Council Administrator to canvas Council to identify at least two (2) available meeting dates during the weeks of April 15 and April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the “Alignment of Priorities” meeting and get back to PCA with those dates so the meeting can be scheduled.

**ACTION ITEM:** Council Administrator to add the school bus service issue in PANP as a discussion point on the April 19<sup>th</sup> Council meeting agenda. Council Chair, and Councillors Crozier and Archer, to have a discussion on this subject prior to that meeting.

**ACTION ITEM:** Council Chair, Townsite Manager, and the Acting Field Unit Superintendent to establish an initial working committee for PANP’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration in 2028. PCA to provide information to Council regarding what was done in other national parks for their centennial and/or other major landmark celebrations. It is extremely important to involve Indigenous people and Metis in the celebration planning and development. *Acting Superintendent Duquette and the Townsite Manager to reach out to the Council Chair prior to the end of March to identify a meeting date in May, 2024.*

**ACTION ITEM:** - Acting Superintendent to send out a copy of the proposed final agenda for the April 2024 Meeting regarding “Alignment of Priorities”, following which it will be circulated by the Council Administrator to all members of Council and to representatives of the Waskesiu Foundation board.

**ACTION ITEM:** Councillor Cyr will draft a written response to the Elk Ridge group on behalf of Council confirming, among other things, that their proposal was discussed with PCA at the February 26<sup>th</sup> Council meeting. The response from Council to the proponents will be shared by Councillor Cyr with the Acting Superintendent, as a courtesy, before it is sent out.

### **Action Items (From the December 1, 2023 Council Meeting)**

**ACTION ITEM:** Parks Canada to provide an update to Council on the Riffle Dam once repairs have been made. *Ongoing.*

**ACTION ITEM:** Tom Perry, Ecologist Team Leader for Prince Albert National Park, to share PCA’s Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) communication plan with Council once it has been written. If deemed of value by PCA, an AIS working group (comprised of representatives from PCA, Council and other stakeholders) will be established. *Ongoing.*

### **Action Items (From the October 16, 2023 Council Meeting)**

**ACTION ITEM:** PCA to determine how to advance the school bus service issue in PANP. The Townsite Manager is now heading up this item. *The Townsite Manager spoke with the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Saskatchewan Rivers Public School Division about this issue. The School Division does not appear to be interested in having buses come to Waskesiu as the Park is not part of the school district. The CFO advised Gregg Rutten that this would create scheduling issues, affect the length of time students are on the buses, and would create overtime hours for bus drivers. The Townsite Manager felt there was no real appetite for the school division to have a bus come into Waskesiu.*

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

**ACTION ITEM:** During the winter season, Council is to discuss Fire Smarting initiatives with Parks Canada for the Waskesiu community, including how Fire Smarting relates to the new Tree Removal Policy.

*Ongoing.*

**ACTION ITEM:** Council and PCA to further contemplate having a PCA policy/directive/communication regarding bicycle use in the townsite, including dealing with proper etiquette and safety regulations.

*There will be a proposed communication piece worked on by the Townsite Manager, and Councillor Phillips, and supported by Carla Flaman. Ongoing.*

### **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).