

Meeting Minutes

Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 2, 2021

2 PM

Regional Parks Headquarters
490 Atkins Avenue
Victoria BC V9B 2Z8

Present: Tracey Moss, Regional Parks (Chair); Alistair Crawford (by phone), Transport Canada; Sean Dimoff (by phone), Transport Canada; Adam Parfitt, Victoria Rowing Society; Paul Regensburg, Member of the General Public; Sergeant Steve Kruk, Saanich Police; Sergeant Brad Brajcich, Saanich Police; Marc Solomon, Regional Parks; Jeanette Mollin, Regional Parks (Recorder)

Regrets: Due to late notification of the meeting, representatives from Haig-Brown Fly Fishers Association and Golden Rods and Reels could not attend

The meeting was called to order at 2pm

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Moss provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Welcome and Introduction

A round table of introductions took place for the benefit of the new members.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOVED by Brad Brajcich, **SECONDED by** Adam Parfitt
That the agenda for the December 2, 2021 Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. Approval of Minutes – December 8, 2020

MOVED by Adam Parfitt, **SECONDED by** Paul Regensburg
That the minutes of the Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee of December 8, 2020 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

5. Review of 2022 Proposed Events and Restrictions on Elk Lake

MOVED by Adam Parfitt, **SECONDED by** Brad Brajcich
That the 2022 Proposed Events and Restrictions Schedule on Elk Lake be approved as presented.

CARRIED

6. New Business

a) Clarification on Transport Canada Permit Process

Members wanted confirmation from Transport Canada on their permit approval process. Members pointed out that it was difficult last year in getting approvals from Transport Canada as they thought that the minutes of the meeting would suffice.

S. Dimoff explained that the direction and approvals comes from the Ministers office. He stated that a discussion took place with the Ministers office on a streamlined process which would include a statement in the meeting minutes from the Capital Regional District (CRD) and the Saanich Police to be attached to all Transport Canada permit applications. He pointed out that the schedule cannot change once it is approved at the Committee level.

B. Brajcich read the following statement out from the Saanich Police:

The Saanich Police Department is aware of the events listed and discussed here at the Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee meeting on December 2, 2021. The Saanich Police Department is willing to enforce and is able to enforce these events as required. It should be noted that this confirmation does not ensure a dedicated police presence assigned to the event. This approval does not extend to events not discussed or included at this meeting, as those will need to seek individual approval, separately.

As agreed upon from the members, Chair Moss added the following statement after the meeting from the CRD:

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is aware of the events listed and discussed at the Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee meeting on December 2, 2021. It should be noted that this does not confirm that the events have been approved as all event organizers must submit a Park Use Permit Application to the CRD for events that are in or originate from the regional park. This does not extend to events not discussed or included at this meeting, as those will need to seek individual approval, separately.

S. Dimoff reminded members that if a permanent structure is to be installed on the lake that a Navigation Protection Program Permit would have to be submitted to Transport Canada.

b) In-lake Remediation Update

Chair Moss provided an in-lake remediation update as follows:

- Elk/Beaver Lake suffers from high nutrient levels as a result of changes to the landscape and watershed surrounding the lake.
- A watershed management plan was drafted and approved by the CRD and the District of Saanich to address high nutrient levels in the watershed to reduce inputs into the lake.
- Acadis Consulting has been contracted to develop a detailed design plan for in-lake remediation to address high nutrient levels that have built up in the bottom of the lake.
- An oxygenation system will be installed in two locations, one at Brookleigh boat launch and one at Beaver Lake behind the washroom building.
- The detailed plan will include oxygenation systems to manage lake nutrient levels, and improve water quality and habitat for wildlife. The design will be reviewed by CRD staff and project collaborators and will include a plan to mitigate impacts to the values of the lake (environmental, social, and cultural).
- The plan will be shared with key stakeholders.
- Current planning estimates that a system will be installed in 2022, pending

appropriate approvals.

c) Membership Update

Chair Moss provided the following membership update:

- New Terms of Reference were developed in July 2021
- The new membership appointments were approved at the October 13 Capital Regional District Board meeting
- There are two new representatives from Haig Brown Fly Fishing and Golden Rods and Reels fishing communities.
- There were three positions appointed, two for the general public and one for the swimming community. The motorized recreational use position was not filled.
- The new term of appointments will start January 2022 for a three year term.

Chair Moss thanked B. Stevenson and P. Regensburg for their contribution on the Committee for the past 10 years.

d) Request for Weather Buoy

A.Parfitt was approached by the University of Victoria (UVic) for a weather buoy to be installed permanently on the lake. The weather buoy will be part of the school weather network with data available through their website for public use, <https://www.victoriaweather.ca>. The proposed weather buoy will consist of a collection of meteorological instruments mounted on a large conical white buoy (an old horsepower restriction buoy that the top broke off). From a distance, it will not look much different than what is already on the lake. The weather station will capture data relating to atmospheric temperature, atmospheric humidity, UV Index, incoming solar radiation, wind speed, wind direction and atmospheric pressure. This weather station also allows stakeholders to collect other parameters as well; for example, UVic is interested in collecting water column temperature data. The plan is to have the buoy located in the middle of Elk Lake in line with the horse power restriction buoys. This serves two purposes: 1) keeps it out of the way of traffic; 2) allows for 360 degrees of unobscured wind data. This weather data can also be used to check the safety of the water conditions in what is typically the roughest location on the lake for all recreational users prior to going out on the water.

S. Dimoff stated that the request will have to go through the Navigation Protection Program Permit process.

7. Adjournment

MOVED by Adam Parfitt, **SECONDED** by Brad Brajcich

That the December 2, 2021 Elk/Beaver Lake Recreational Use Advisory Committee be adjourned at 3:05pm.

CARRIED