

PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
A G E N D A

for the meeting to be held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018
in the Regional District Office Boardroom 1981 Alaska Avenue,
Dawson Creek, BC, commencing at 1 p.m.

1. Call to Order: Director Rose to Chair the Meeting
2. Director's Notice of New Business:
3. Adoption of Agenda:
4. Adoption of Minutes:
M-1 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2018 (Page 2)
5. Business Arising from the Minutes:
6. Delegations:
D-1 Jana Zelenski, Principal Landscape Architect, Lanarc Consultants – Connecting Communities Trails Project Update (R-1)
7. Reports:
R-1 September 13, 2018 – Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services – Connecting Communities Trails Projects - Update (Page 4)
R-2 September 18, 2018 – Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services – Park Maintenance Seasonal Staffing Model (Page 6)
R-3 September 17, 2018 - Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services – Montney Park 2019 Trail Development (Page 9)
R-4 September 18, 2018 - Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services – Cactus Trails (Page 12)
R-5 September 17, 2018 – Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services – Blackfoot Park Upgrades and Fee for Service (Page 24)
R-6 September 14, 2018 Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services - Blackfoot Park Boat Launch Review (Page 27)
8. New Business:
9. Adjournment:



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

M-1

DATE: March 27, 2018
PLACE: Boardroom, Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, BC
PRESENT: **Directors**
Director Dan Rose, Meeting Chair
Director Karen Goodings (via teleconference)
Director Don McPherson

Staff

Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services
Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER Director Rose called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

**ADOPTION OF THE
AGENDA**

March 27, 2018
Agenda

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director McPherson,
That the Regional Parks Committee agenda for the March 27, 2018 meeting be adopted.

CALL TO ORDER:

DIRECTOR'S NOTICE OF NEW BUSINESS:

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

M-1 Regional Parks Directors' Committee Minutes of January 29, 2018

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

DELEGATIONS:

CORRESPONDENCE:

REPORTS:

R-1 March 16, 2018 - Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator - Trails Feasibility
Study Project Award

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

NEW BUSINESS:

NB-1 Blackfoot Park Boat launch – February 22, 2018 – Letter from the Comptroller

COMMUNICATIONS:

DIARY:

ADJOURNMENT:

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

M-1
January 29, 2018

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director McPherson,
That the Regional Parks Committee Meeting minutes of January 29, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED.

REPORTS:

R-1
Contract Award –
Trails Feasibility
Study

MOVED by Director McPherson, SECONDED by Director Goodings,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the
“Connecting Communities Trails Feasibility Study Contract No. 02-2018” be awarded to
Lanarch 2015 Consultants, in the amount of \$66,495 (excluding taxes), and that the Chair
and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the
Regional District.

CARRIED.

NB-1
Blackfoot Boat
Launch

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that staff be
authorized to research the original intention of the 2007 Water Use Plan and compile all
prior correspondence regarding the Blackfoot/ Clayhurst boat launch in a report back to
the Regional Parks Committee to determine next steps.

Adjournment: The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Director Dan Rose, Chair

Bryna Casey, Parks & Rural Recreation Coordinator



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 13, 2018

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **Connecting Communities Trails Project - Update**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee receive the following reports for information and discussion;

- Connecting Communities – Phase 1 Community Input Summary
- Connecting Communities – Options Development

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Board that staff consult with property owners adjacent to the proposed and preferred trail routes between Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe and Fort St John and Charlie Lake.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The Connecting Communities Regional Trail Study explored two potential trail connections between communities in the region: Fort St. John to Charlie Lake & Dawson Creek to Pouce Coupe. Phase 1 of the process focused on analyzing existing conditions, building a framework for opportunities and constraints, and gathering preliminary ideas from the community.

The attached Community Input Summary summarizes the community engagement that was undertaken to raise awareness and to gather early ideas and insights about potential routes.

The Preliminary Options Development Summary goes into detail about the routes considered, and the identified strengths and weaknesses of each.

A meeting will be held on September 27 in Dawson Creek and September 28 in Fort St. John to review the documents with the Working Group (staff from member municipalities) as they will be able to provide knowledge or insights into some of the connections, both within and beyond their community boundaries. The information gathered throughout this Regional Parks Committee meeting and these staff working group meetings will provide the groundwork for narrowing down the options to a 'preferred route'.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

- 1) That the Regional Parks committee recommend to the Board to provide direction to staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☐ Ensure that the Solid Waste Management Plan is operating on a fiscally defensible basis.
- ☐ Ensure effective execution of Public Safety and Emergency Services initiatives.

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head: *T. Morgan*

CAO:

[Signature]

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- ☐ Foster Collaboration on services with municipalities and electoral areas.
- ☐ Establish a strategy for coordinated advocacy on identified issues.
- ☒ Manage parks and trails in the region.
- ☐ Support the agricultural industry within the regional district.
- ☐ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

This project has a total value of \$70,000. An “Active Communities” grant was received from Northern Health for \$30,000, and the Peace River Regional District budgeted \$45,000 in 2018.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Once approved, these documents will be publicized on the Engage! website, through social media and in paper copy at the Peace River Regional District offices. Prior to publicizing these documents, staff will identify the preferred direction from key staff with the partnering municipalities, and Regional District Directors and speak to the landowners who may be adjacent to the proposed route to discern support.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Connecting Communities – Phase 1 Community Input Summary (link in email re: agenda)
2. Connecting Communities – Options Development (link in email re: agenda)



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 18, 2018

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **Park Maintenance Seasonal Staffing Model**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that the seasonal maintenance contracts be terminated by September 30, 2018, for the following regional parks:

1. Blackfoot Regional Park
2. Montney Centennial Regional Park
3. Spencer Tuck Regional Park
4. Minaker River Regional Park

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that an investigation of a seasonal staffing cost/benefit model for regional park maintenance be brought back to the Regional Parks Committee for discussion in time for 2019 budget discussions.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Currently park maintenance work is divided between contractors (under maintenance contracts) and PRRD staff. PRRD staff are responsible for maintaining outbuildings and park equipment on site; park development projects; coordinating with contractors (e.g. danger tree removal); and general maintenance outside of the scope of work for the contractors.

Contractors are responsible for ensuring that the park is free from litter and waste; for maintaining all toilets and the provision of necessary supplies; cutting grass; reporting emergency situations; completing and sending a "Weekly Park Status Report" and pictures on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule (per contract, frequency of minimum visitation specific to each park).

In early 2018 the PRRD tendered the maintenance contracts for Blackfoot, Montney, Spencer Tuck and Minaker regional parks. The contracts are tendered such that the term of contract is on a season to season basis but may be renewed for up to a maximum of two additional years based on satisfactory performance. Seasons for Blackfoot, Montney, Spencer Tuck and Minaker regional parks are considered to be March 1 to October 31 (maximum), while Sundance Lake is year round.

Season	Months
Shoulder season (weekly maintenance as needed)	March 1- April 30
Summer season (weekly maintenance guaranteed)	May 1 – September 30
Shoulder season (weekly maintenance as needed)	October 1-October 30

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Note: the Sundance Lake Regional park contract expires December 31, 2018 with no further opportunities for renewals.

The park maintenance contracts state that extensions for contracts will be determined on an annual basis 30 days before the completion of the contract term. The contract term ends on October 31, 2018. Should the Regional Parks Committee recommend to investigate a seasonal staffing and cost/benefit model, the current contracts would not be extended and would need to be terminated by September 30, 2018. Should the Board decide to continue park maintenance via external contractors, the contracts could be re-tendered in early 2019.

Considerations:

- Minaker River Regional Park would be a challenging park for seasonal staff to maintain, given its remote location, although the maintenance schedule could be adjusted.
- Sundance Lake requires year-round service and maintenance.
- The Regional Parks Committee has directed that a caretaker site be developed at Blackfoot Regional Park. Staff envision the Caretaker would assume more responsibility for upkeep and maintenance at that park, thereby needing less Regional District staff support for maintenance.
- Future park developments include: Iver Johnson Memorial Community Park; the Peace Lookout Park; and Old Fort Community Park

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

- 1) That the Regional Parks Committee renew the regional parks contracts for Blackfoot Regional Park, Montney Centennial Park, Spencer Tuck and Minaker River regional parks; tendered the Spencer Tuck Regional Park contract; and that there is an investigation into a seasonal staffing cost/benefit model for regional park maintenance and to bring back such information to the Regional Parks Committee for discussion before the end of June 2019.
- 2) That the Regional Parks Committee receive this report for discussion and provide further direction to staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☐ Ensure that the Solid Waste Management Plan is operating on a fiscally defensible basis.
- ☐ Ensure effective execution of Public Safety and Emergency Services initiatives.
- ☐ Foster Collaboration on services with municipalities and electoral areas.
- ☐ Establish a strategy for coordinated advocacy on identified issues.
- ☒ Manage parks and trails in the region.
- ☐ Support the agricultural industry within the regional district.
- ☐ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Currently park maintenance contractors are budgeted based on the parks being open throughout the shoulder season and the summer season, as this is the maximum expense that could be incurred. The total budgeted value of these contracts for 2018 was \$104,950.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

none

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

none



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 17, 2018

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **Montney Park 2019 Trail Development**

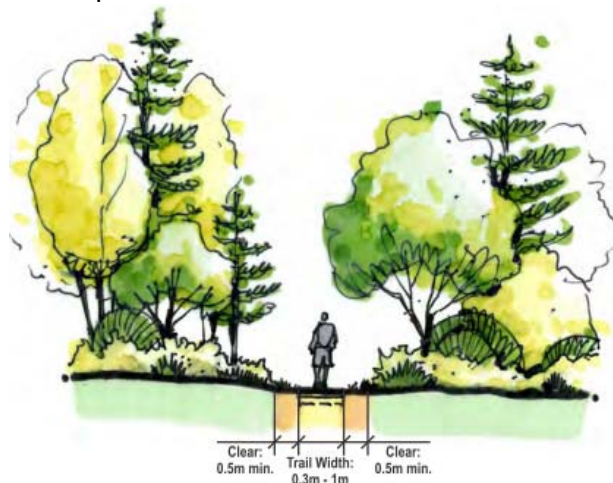
RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board the B.C Wildfire Service be authorized to construct trails in Montney Centennial Regional Park, if the BC Wildfire Services offers to do so, and as proposed in the 2018 Montney Centennial Regional Park Plan.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

When not needed to respond to wildfire situations, the B.C Wildfire Service has offered their assistance to build trails and assist with small park projects over the last three years. The 2018 Montney Centennial Regional Park Plan suggests the installation of trails throughout the 22.8 ha park. Should the B.C Wildfire Service offer in 2019 to build trails, staff are seeking authorization for them to do the work. There is no charge for the work to be completed. Staff will need to seek authorization from the Province prior to any construction as the property is currently licensed to the Regional District by way of a license of occupation.

Trails were identified as a priority in the park plan. Approximately 53.3% of all respondents of the survey stated that hiking trails were a 'desired amenity' at the park. When people were asked about issues and concerns they stated that the lack of things to do was a reason why they do not spend more time at the park. A large loop hiking trail was identified as the priority trail for the park, at approximately 1.5km long and would follow the lake shore to the south and then through the wooded area to the northeast and around and back to the boat launch area (see attachment #1). This trail is proposed to be a more natural type of trail, with a cleared and compacted native soil surface that would be suitable for hiking and walking.



Should B.C Wildfire Service be called out to work in the process of creating trails, the project could be either put on hold, not completed, contracted out, or be completed as time allows by the Field Services staff.

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head: *Trish Morgan*
September 25, 2018

CAO:

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The addition of trails to Montney Centennial Park may necessitate annual maintenance. Maintenance could entail an annual inspection by staff, followed by the creation of a work plan, and Field Services staff completing the work, as time allows. An alternate option would be to work with a local outdoor organization to see if a partnership opportunity exists, and maintenance of the trail could be the responsibility of the organization. Interest has been shown by a Fort St. John Frisbee Golf for a disc golf course at Montney, which could be a compatible use for the trail.

Signage would be installed to state that the trail is 'use at your own risk' and that care and attention should be taken for uneven ground, slips, trips and falls.

The Regional Parks Committee may also want to consider whether to convert the park to day-use vs overnight camping, which may reduce the maintenance costs.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Parks Committee provide further direction to staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☐ Ensure that the Solid Waste Management Plan is operating on a fiscally defensible basis.
- ☐ Ensure effective execution of Public Safety and Emergency Services initiatives.
- ☐ Foster Collaboration on services with municipalities and electoral areas.
- ☐ Establish a strategy for coordinated advocacy on identified issues.
- ☒ Manage parks and trails in the region.
- ☐ Support the agricultural industry within the regional district.
- ☐ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

The initial installation for the trail, should BC Wildfire Service be able to do so in the summer of 2019, would have no cost to the organization. Annual maintenance funding in the amount of about \$10,000 should be budgeted for each year after to keep the trails safe for public use.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

1. Excerpt from Montney Centennial Regional Park Plan – Develop a Trail Network

OVERALL PARK CONCEPT - MONTNEY CENTENNIAL REGIONAL PARK



LEGEND

— Park Boundary

— Park Access Road (two-way)

— Walking/Hiking Pathway

— Vehicle Parking Area

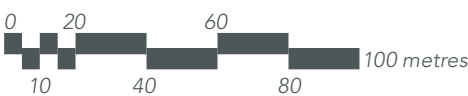
— Natural Treed Area

— Open Lawn Area

— Vehicle Campsite (back-in)

— Vehicle Campsite (pull through)

— Tent Campsite



Note: The above concept sketch shows a general arrangements of proposed future improvements at Montney Centennial Regional Park. More detailed investigation will be required to verify actual siting of various amenities based on terrain, geographical features, and existing vegetation.



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 18, 2018

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: Cactus Trails

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board to rescind the following motion:

That staff be authorized to investigate options for the use of an existing trail, known as the Cactus Trail, and meet with user groups of the trail and affected landowners to discuss options to mitigate concerns and to address maintenance issues.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the March 10, 2016 Regional Board meeting the following motion was passed:

That staff be authorized to investigate options for the use of an existing trail, known as the Cactus Trail, and meet with user groups of the trail and affected landowners to discuss options to mitigate concerns and to address maintenance issues.

For approximately two years staff attempted to reach out (with little success) to a number of groups to host a meeting to discuss the Cactus Trails. In early 2018 the Blizzard Bike Club (BBC) contacted staff to discuss their renewed interest in the trails. Staff requested that the BBC discuss their proposal with the adjacent property owners. Staff also reached out to the adjacent property owners explaining the existing direction from the Regional Board and asking them to provide their concerns and comments in writing.

After discussions with the adjacent property owners, all parties were in agreement that the best recommended course of action was to leave the trails in their current state and over time the trails will revegetate. Additionally the BBC did not feel that they could mitigate the adjacent property owners concerns and agreed to no longer pursue licensing of the property.

In order to remove this resolution as an "action item", the Board is required to rescind the resolution from 2016.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

- 1) That the Regional Parks Committee provide direction to staff through the Regional Board.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☐ Ensure that the Solid Waste Management Plan is operating on a fiscally defensible basis.
- ☐ Ensure effective execution of Public Safety and Emergency Services initiatives.
- ☐ Foster Collaboration on services with municipalities and electoral areas.
- ☐ Establish a strategy for coordinated advocacy on identified issues.

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- ☒ Manage parks and trails in the region.
- ☐ Support the agricultural industry within the regional district.
- ☐ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

none

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

none

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

In February 2015 the Province of BC and the Blizzard Bike Club (BBC) approached the Regional District to request that the Regional District obtain a lease over the lands known as the Cactus Trails. These trails, located on the Cecil Lake Road across from the former Beatton Regional Park, had been developed and operated by the BBC for the previous six to seven years. The majority of the Cactus Trails sit on Crown land which is owned by the BC Transportation Finance Authority (BCTFA), while a small portion has encroached onto private land. The intent was for the Regional District to obtain a lease for the Crown land portion from the BCFTA and then sub-lease it to the BBC who would maintain it. With respect to the private land, the BBC would either have to move the trails off the private land or enter into agreement with the landowners for the use of the land.

At the September 3, 2015 meeting of the Regional Board the following motions were passed:

Recommendations from the August 20, 2015 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

1. *That, upon receiving written feedback from property owners, a 15-year Licence of Occupation be entered into with the BC Transportation Finance Authority for the purpose of providing public recreation in the area known as the Cactus Trails and that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement; and*
2. *That, upon execution of the Licence of Occupation for Cactus Trails, staff be authorized to develop a sub-lease for the Board's consideration that will provide for the Blizzard Bike Club to operate and maintain the trails and property on behalf of the Regional District.*

On September 18, 2015 a meeting was held with the BBC, the adjacent landowners, Regional District staff and Director Goodings. The landowners brought forward a number of concerns and as a result the BBC agreed to immediately close any trails that led onto their private property. At that time all parties agreed to meet again at some point in the future to continue to consider how or if the trails could continue to be utilized while also mitigating risk and impacts to the adjacent landowners.

Soon after the September 18th meeting the BBC met with their membership who then decided that they were no longer interested in managing the trails they had developed. On February 8, 2016 the Regional District received a formal letter providing this notice. The BBC noted in the letter that they would be interested in being part of a larger group made up of other user groups to try to manage the trails and address the landowners concerns.

Attachments:

1. February 7, 2018 Letter: Colin & Nicole Copes
2. Cactus Trails Maps
3. February 24, 2016 Board Report: Cactus Trails Update
<https://prrd.bc.ca/board/agendas/2016/2016-10-868894833/pages/documents/09-R-03reporttoBoardcactustrailsfeb2016.pdf>

Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

February 7, 2018

Re: Cactus Trails

Attention: Trish Morgan

According to the last meeting, we were to “meet with user groups of the trails and affected landowners to discuss options to mitigate concern and to address maintenance issues”.

Rather than have meetings to discuss our concerns; Blizzard Bicycle Club wrote an article in the Alaska Highway News basically slandering us as the landowners. Also, they put articles on Facebook blaming the landowner for the closure of the Cactus Trails. They then put up NO TRESPASSING signs. Not once did they contact us. Two years have passed and now they want to revisit.

It is our opinion that this should never have happened if all the affected landowners whether it be private or crown had been contacted at the beginning of this project rather than three quarters of the way through to making these trails official. We researched when the Blizzard Bike Club started with the Regional District and that was in March 2015 and we as landowners were not consulted until September 2015. These trails were constructed several years prior to 2015. I have been the occupier of these lands prior to my purchasing them, therefore I am aware that there was no contact with the previous landowners.

Now two years later you are asking what our opinion is.

We will address the questions you stated in your letter and will follow with a list of other concerns we have.

1. a.) Yes, we do have concerns regarding the trails on the public land. These trails are in an unsafe area because the hills are always sliding. In fact, there have been several new slides in the last two years. Is the Regional District prepared to put their money into something that is unstable?

Also, the hikers and bikers have a tremendous impact on the wildlife in the area. These hills have been the home of moose, deer, bear and many species of birds, however, since these trails were developed there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of wildlife. For Example, the moose would use that area in the summer as a shady resting area and the

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bears would eat the berries there before they went into hibernation. Birds used to be abundance down there. Deer used to graze on the hills in the spring time.

b.) Yes, we do have concerns with the trails on our private land. They will always be an attraction for people to trespass beyond the trails. How does the Regional District plan to keep the people off of our private land?

A six strand barb wire fence with steel posts would be a solution however, who is going to put this fence up; who is going to pay for this fence; and who is going to maintain the fence?

The fence should not be our responsibility of the private land owner because these trails were put on our land without our permission.

c.) Even if the trails that are on our private land are deactivated a fence will still need to be constructed to keep the trespassers out.

2. a.) Since the BBC has left the Cactus Trails in 2016 there has been a noticeable reduction in the number of bikers, hikers and joggers and people using the Cactus Trails as boots camps.

b.) The trespassing decreased once the BBC put the no trespassing signs up and Fort St. John Tourism removed the advertisement from its brochure advertising the phenomenal view from the top of the hills. Before the signs were put up there were many hikers and bikers on our land. There was garbage found regularly on our hills and on the top in the field. Even though the area has no trespassing signs, there are still some hikers and bikers trespassing.

3. a.) Yes, we do think there will be impacts to our private land. There will always be someone who will want to hike beyond the trails and onto the private land. If there is a fence in all likelihood it will be cut. With public trails that close to our land it could bring our land value down.

b.) The conditions that we would like to see put in place are the following:

- The area needs to be professionally surveyed
- Steel six strand barb wire fence with steel gates
- Steel posts.(steel posts need to be used because we are certified organic farmers)
- Signage of no trespassing and livestock at large
- Scheduled maintenance program for the fence.

4. If the trails are not maintained, the area will eventually revert back to its natural state before they developed those trails. The amount of usage will dwindle as the years go by.

The following are other concerns we have.

-Weeds such as kochia that are in the valley have the potential to spread onto our private land. Who is going to prevent this or monitor the spread of unwanted vegetation.? (there are weeds in the valley that are not on top) We are certified organic farmers, therefore spraying with a herbicide is not an option.

-Fire hazard is a huge concern. Two years ago we were fortunate to spot smoke at the top of our hills before the fire got out of hand. The culprits just ran away.

-Startling livestock or the horses while the family is horseback riding on the hills.(We have encountered problems with hikers being rude to us when we met them on our trails on private land)

-Liability from injuries – this is probably the greatest concern. Many of the hills are steep and unstable. It will require extra liability insurance.

In the past, we have found trespassers starting to build a blind for hunting deer. Those who trespass appear to have no respect for the landowner. They leave garbage and cut down trees without permission.

Parking – the starting point is on a very dangerous curve on the Cecil Lake Road.

Thank you for requesting our concerns. It has been a great relief to us over the last two years not having to worry all the time about people trespassing on our property. We still have some issues but they are greatly reduced since these trails have not been widely used.

Sincerely,

Colin and Nicole Copes

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R-4

Private
PID: 015-597-041

Private
PID: 012-659-398

PID: 010-874-330
Crown Provincial

CECIL LK RD

PID: 010-874-275
Crown Provincial

100 50 0 100 200
Metres
1:7,000 1 cm = 70 m

September 25, 2018

The Peace River Regional District provides no warranty in regards to the information displayed. Errors or omissions may be present.
Not intended for legal purposes.





R-4

Owner: BC Transportation Finance Authority
Roll #: 760-008674.000

General Location of Cactus Trails

Owner: BC Transportation Finance Authority
Roll #: 760-008677.000

Owner: Crown
No Roll #
Legal: SW 1/4 Sec 18 TP84 R17 W6M

- Highway Mile Marker
- Rural Community
- 911 Civic Address
- Townships
- ▬ Main Roads (1:10000 - 1:5000)
- ▬ Minor Roads (1:10000 - 1:5000)
- ▬ Water Course
- ▬ Water Bodies
- ▬ Fire Protection Area
- ▬ Parcels

1: 22,237



NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_10N
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is for reference only
September 25, 2018

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes



Peace River Regional District REPORT

To: Chair & Directors

Date: February 24, 2016

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services

Subject: Cactus Trails update

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Regional Board authorize staff to investigate options for the use of an existing trail, known as the Cactus Trail, and meet with user groups of the trail to discuss options to mitigate concerns and to address maintenance issues.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At the February 17, 2016 meeting of the Regional Parks Committee, the following motion was passed:

"That the Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that staff investigate options for the use of an existing trail, known as the Cactus Trail, and meet with user groups of the trail to discuss options to mitigate concerns and to address maintenance issues."

In February 2015 the Province of BC and the Blizzard Bike Club (BBC) approached the Regional District to request that the Regional District obtain a lease over the lands known as the Cactus Trails. These trails, located on the Cecil Lake Road across from the former Beaton Regional Park, had been developed and operated by the BBC for the last six to seven years. The majority of the Cactus Trails sit on Crown land which is owned by the BC Transportation Finance Authority (BCTFA), while a small portion has encroached onto private land. The intent was for the Regional District to obtain a lease for the Crown land portion from the BCTFA and then sub-lease it to the BBC who would maintain it. With respect to the private land, the BBC would either have to move the trails off the private land or enter into agreement with the landowners for the use of the land.

At the September 3, 2015 meeting of the Regional Board the following motions were passed:

Recommendations from the August 20, 2015 Regional Parks Committee Meeting

1. *That, upon receiving written feedback from property owners, a 15-year Licence of Occupation be entered into with the BC Transportation Finance Authority for the purpose of providing public recreation in the area known as the Cactus Trails and that the Chair and Chief Administrative Officer be authorized to sign the agreement; and*
2. *That, upon execution of the Licence of Occupation for Cactus Trails, staff be authorized to develop a sub-lease for the Board's consideration that will provide for the Blizzard Bike Club to operate and maintain the trails and property on behalf of the Regional District.*

On September 18, 2015 a meeting was held with the BBC, the adjacent landowners, Regional District staff and Director Goodings. The landowners brought forward a number of concerns

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

T. Morgan

CAO:

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and as a result the BBC agreed to immediately close any trails that led onto their private property. At that time all parties agreed to meet again at some point in the future to continue to consider how or if the trails could continue to be utilized while also mitigating risk and impacts to the adjacent landowners.

Soon after the September 18th meeting the BBC met with their membership who then decided that they were no longer interested in managing the trails they had developed. On February 8, 2016 the Regional District received a formal letter providing this notice. The BBC notes in the letter that they would be interested in being part of a larger group made up of other user groups to try to manage the trails and address the landowners concerns.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- 1.6 Regional Parks: the PRRD will manage its existing regional parks through the 10 year Parks and Trails Master Plan to be safe, secure and inviting.
- 1.6.2 Support the ongoing development and maintenance of public trail networks by non-profits societies.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S): none

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S): Staff will send a letter to the adjacent landowners to provide an update on the status of the trails.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Please see:

- 1) February 4, 2016 letter from the Blizzard Bike Club
- 2) Cactus Trails map



Blizzard Bicycle Club
www.blizzardbikeclub.com
 10109 95 Ave,
 Fort St John, BC V1J 1H9

February 8, 2016

Peace River Regional District

PO Box 810, 1981 Alaska Avenue

Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8

Attention: Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services

Direct: 250-784-3218

Trish.Morgan@prrd.bc.ca

Cactus Trails - Mountain Bike Trail Expression of Interest

Dear Mrs. Morgan,

On behalf of the Blizzard Bicycle Club (BBC) we would like to thank you for all of your help in moving forward the Cactus Trail development. Last fall we had a meeting with yourself and the landowner, Colin Kopes and a number of concerns were raised by he and his wife. While we agree with the PRRD that their concerns could be addressed in the long run, many of them seemed to centre around other users of the trail system. To adequately address these concerns it would likely be necessary to work fencing and additional liability insurance into the plans if the trails were to remain multi-user. All in all while mistakes were made in the creation of the trails there is definitely hope that a long term trail system could be maintained at this location, if the landowner's concerns could be addressed. Following this meeting the Blizzard Bike Club suspended all use, maintenance and activities on the private land portion of the trail, conducting a clean up and installing "No Trespassing" signs at each point of entry of the trail system to the private land.

At our next regular monthly meeting following this, we discussed whether the BBC wanted to continue to move the trails forward given the concerns, the corrective actions necessary and the potential liability of managing a multi use trail where other users had already raised concerns beyond our control. The BBC voted to remove our request to the PRRD to sub-lease the trails through the regional district. Discussion with the club executive did however identify that the BBC would be interested in joining or partnering with a stand alone 'Cactus Trails Group' that would ideally be comprised of a variety of user groups in order to better share the liability and responsibility of managing the trails.

Thank you for all of your time spent in this matter and we hope that we will be able to renew this trail development under the umbrella of a larger representative interest group. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact the undersigned via email at: dwebster@eco-web.ca or blizzardbikeclubfsj@gmail.com.

Sincerely,

Prepared by:

Dan Webster
 Vice President

Reviewed by:

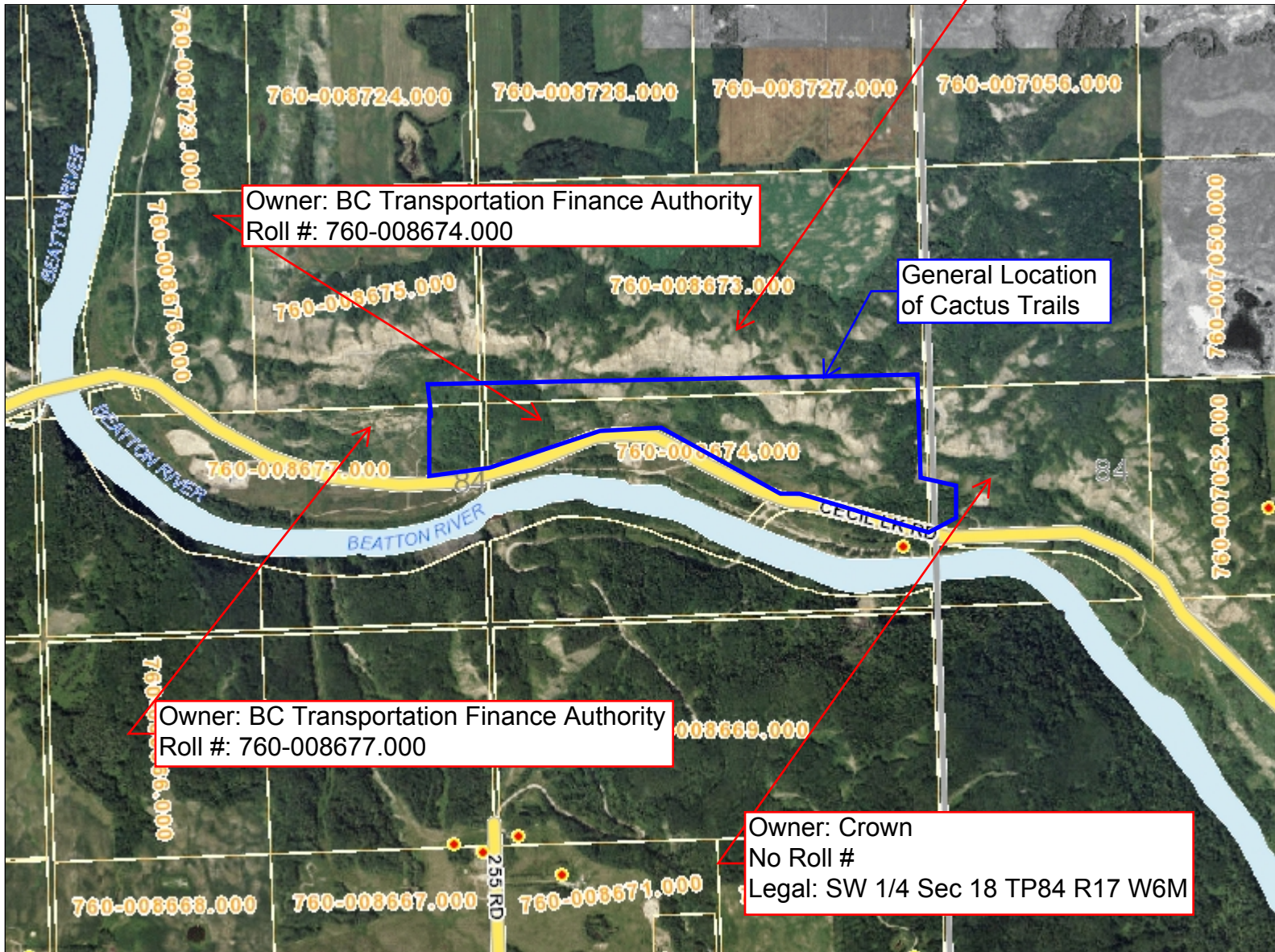
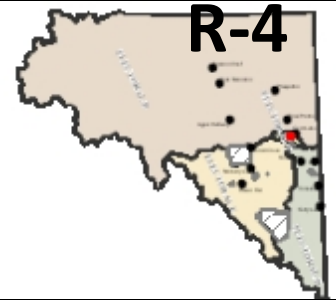
Kevin Shaw
 President

September 25, 2018



Peace River Regional District

Private Land



Legend

- Highway Mile Marker
- Rural Community
- 911 Civic Address
- Townships
- Main Roads (1:10000 - 1:5000)
- Minor Roads (1:10000 - 1:5000)
- Water Course
- Water Bodies
- Fire Protection Area
- Parcels

1: 22,237



1,129.6 0 564.82 1,129.6 Meters

NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_10N
© Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.

September 25, 2018

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 17, 2018

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **Blackfoot Park Upgrades and Fee for Service**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee receive the following update for information and discussion.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board to prepare a pilot project fee-for-service model for Blackfoot Regional Park for the summer of 2020.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

Per the recommendations from the Blackfoot Park Design Study, in February of 2018 the Regional Parks Committee recommended to the Regional Board that \$100,000 be budgeted for 2018 in order to create a caretaker site for the park.

Staff contracted Urban Systems to assist with the RFP document due to the technical specifications required and to ensure that all upgrades are completed to allow for future expansion. The RFP will be tendered by the end of September, closing mid-October, with contract awarded shortly thereafter.

The scope of work includes the preparation of the caretaker site, installation of water and sewer system, expansion of electrical system to the site, installation of attendant shack, installation of perimeter fencing, installation of two park entry gates, and widening of road opposite of attendant site to allow for a place to park while park users register to camp.

Staff are aiming for the work to be completed prior to May 1, 2019 park opening date.

The intention of installing a caretaker site was to pilot a pay-for-use model at Blackfoot Regional Park. Prior to this, the following tasks must be completed;

- Staff must draft a new regulatory bylaw for the parks with adoption by the Regional Board
- Staff must research service models and payment structures for a Park Attendant
- Creation of a scope of work for the Park Attendant
- Tendering a Park Attendant contract

There may be public pushback for a pay-for-use service, given that all regional parks in our region have historically been free to use. A communications campaign would need to be completed and implemented to let the public know about the changes. Typically, a fee-for-service park would provide users with an increased level of amenities, which will not yet be available in 2019.

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

September 25, 2018

CAO:

Page 1 of 2

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None at this time.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☐ Ensure that the Solid Waste Management Plan is operating on a fiscally defensible basis.
- ☐ Ensure effective execution of Public Safety and Emergency Services initiatives.
- ☐ Foster Collaboration on services with municipalities and electoral areas.
- ☐ Establish a strategy for coordinated advocacy on identified issues.
- ☒ Manage parks and trails in the region.
- ☐ Support the agricultural industry within the regional district.
- ☐ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

\$100,000 has been budgeted in 2018 for the Caretaker Site project. It is likely that the project will not be completed prior to the end of the fiscal year and will have to be carried over to 2019. A cost estimate will be provided to the Regional Parks Committee for the remainder of the work for the working budget in 2019.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

No communications considerations at this time. In 2019, staff will look to release communication to the public (including park signage, social media, Board Highlights, and other advertising) to outline the reasoning for the work being completed.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Attachments:

1. Blackfoot Park Site Drawings

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK CONCEPT PLAN





REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 14, 2018

From: Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services

Subject: **Blackfoot Park Boat Launch Review**

RECOMMENDATION #1:

That the Regional Parks Committee receive the report titled "Blackfoot Park Boat Launch Review" for discussion.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

At its April 18, 2018 meeting, the Regional Board resolved that;

Staff be authorized to research the original intention of the 2007 Water Use Plan and compile all prior correspondence regarding the Blackfoot/Clayhurst boat launch and bring all information back to the Regional Parks Committee to determine next steps.

The conditions in the 2007 Water Use Plan (WUP), for the operation of BC Hydro's Peace hydroelectric facilities, reflect the December 2003 consensus recommendations of the Peace Water Use Planning Committee. The WUP described the operating and non-operating activities that were to be implemented by BC Hydro. Access to the Peace River was required in this plan and stated as the following;

To provide safe and reliable access to and from the Peace for the full operating range at Peace Canyon Generating Station. Four sites below Peace Canyon Dam were identified for the construction and maintenance of river access. They are: Lynx Creek, Halfway River, Peace Island Park, and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

The intention of WUPs are "to find a better balance between competing uses of water, such as domestic water supply, fish and wildlife, recreation, heritage, flood control, and electrical power needs, which are environmentally, socially, and economically acceptable to British Columbians (BC Hydro - https://www.bchydro.com/about/sustainability/conservation/water_use_planning.html)

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

- 1) That the Regional Parks Committee recommend to the Regional Board that further direction be provided to staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- ☐ Ensure that the Solid Waste Management Plan is operating on a fiscally defensible basis.
- ☐ Ensure effective execution of Public Safety and Emergency Services initiatives.
- ☐ Foster Collaboration on services with municipalities and electoral areas.
- ☐ Establish a strategy for coordinated advocacy on identified issues.

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

Trish Morgan
September 25, 2018

CAO:

[Signature]

Page 1 of 5

- ☒ Manage parks and trails in the region.
- ☐ Support the agricultural industry within the regional district.
- ☐ Not Applicable to Strategic Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

A public boat launch was built at Blackfoot Regional Park to provide river access for boaters, fishermen, hunters, search and rescue groups, and for other users of the Peace River. When in operation it was the only boat launch on the Peace River between the Taylor Landing Provincial Park boat launch and the Alberta border.

Over the summers of 1994/95, the main components for this boat launch were installed located downstream from and abutting the Don Phillips Bridge. This location is reportedly vulnerable to Peace River water level fluctuation, in part due to waters generated by hydroelectric generation and seasonal precipitation. It is also indicated that this location was susceptible to damage caused by the freezing and thawing of the river.

In 1995, when the boat launch was completed, it consisted of:

- A concrete pad above the high water mark
- In-water pads
- A concrete pad below the high water mark.

Almost immediately after the launch was completed, in 1996, BC Hydro had a planned release of water to investigate a sinkhole in the dam. The release impacted the boat launch and displaced the original “in-water pads” for the boat launch approximately 60m downstream. This required repair in that same year.

In August of 2003, the boat launch was blocked off due to degradation of the boat launch area, concerns about liability, and because the boat launch was no longer considered safe for public use.

BC Hydro approached the PRRD in September of 2010 in regards to repairing the boat launch at this location. The offer came as part of the Water Use Plan imposed on BC Hydro by the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights. The Peace Water Use Plan recommended physical works for the Peace Hydroelectric System that would result in enhanced recreational access to the Peace River below Peace Canyon Dam. At this time, BC Hydro had completed a feasibility study and were moving towards a design and costing phase for upgrading the existing boat launch ramp and required the Regional District’s consent to proceed. A letter of authorization was supplied from the PRRD, being the upland owner/license of occupation holder, so that BC Hydro could apply to the Province for a license of occupation for the beach site, which was supplied in September of 2010. The PRRD offered to relinquish License of Occupation for

the foreshore property between the Peace River and the Park so that BC Hydro could acquire it to construct an engineered boat launch.

In June of 2011, BC Hydro released its “Management Plan for Proposed Blackfoot Park Upgraded Public Boat Launch Site – Peace River” which outlined the project overview, description, background, location and development requirements and impacts and even went so far as to propose starting the work on the project in ‘low water’ period of summer 2012.

Then, in June of 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that they were no longer planning to construct the boat launch. On June 12, 2014 Bob Gammer, Manager of Community Relations, met with Director Goodings, Director Hiebert, and Director Jarvis along with Chris Cvik, CAO and Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services. Mr. Gammer explained that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from their obligation under their Water Use Plan to construct a boat launch at the Blackfoot Park based on the following issues:

- The cost to construct the Taylor Landing boat launch was over budget due to unforeseen construction conditions.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations would not allow a parking lot to be constructed on the banks of the Peace River due to their concern for flooding.

BC Hydro was still open to considering other options for a boat launch in the vicinity of Blackfoot Park, but recommendations needed to be made by the end of summer 2014. The Community Services Staff held a public meeting on August 25, 2014 at Blackfoot Regional Park to examine the Boat Launch and to look at alternate options for water access. Over 20 members of the public came to this meeting to offer questions, comments, concerns and discuss best sites for building the new boat launch.

In September 2014, Community Services staff submitted an application to remove the boat launch, which was previously just blocked off so that people could not use it. The Regional District felt it was necessary to remove as it posed a safety hazard. All necessary approvals were received from the Province and work commenced on remediating the former boat launch area to previous condition. At this time, a recommendation by the Board was made to forward information from the August 25, 2014 public meeting to BC Hydro that identified an alternate location on BC Hydro property on the opposite side of the road from Blackfoot Regional Park. The recommendation was also made that the send a letter to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Water Use Plan to provide safe and reliable access to the Peace River at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

In late October 2014, the Regional Parks Committee met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the August 25 public meeting to identify next steps. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and planned to go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province would support and fund this new potential location, as it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. A recommendation was made to the Board to authorize that a letter be sent to BC Hydro to indicate that the PRRD would work in partnership with BC Hydro to examine the feasibility of constructing a boat launch at the aforementioned location.

On July 23, 2015 a letter was forwarded to the office of the Comptroller of Water Rights asking for authorization from that office to examine this new location (to the west of the bridge) so that BC Hydro would be able to move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

A letter, dated August 18, 2015, was then received from the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights responds that their authorization is not required for BC Hydro to provide feasibility support.

In response, on January 19, 2016 a letter was sent, on Board approval, to Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

Then, on June 23, 2016, the Regional District received a letter from the Comptroller of Water Rights which denied any request for funding on the basis of;

- A new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities have been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned.
- Recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor.
- No funds remain associated with the Blackfoot Launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.
- This letter stated that the “obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot Park was removed in 2013.”

A letter was forwarded from the Chair of The Regional District to BC Hydro to request its rationale for the cancellation of upgrades. A conference call was held on April 18, 2017 with the Regional Parks Committee members and BC Hydro Staff. BC Hydro stated that the discontinuation of the project was due to safety concerns, low expected use, and that the launch would be expensive and difficult to construct.

Staff then sent a letter on October 16, 2017, with background information to Peace River South MLA Mike Bernier to encourage him to assist in lobbying BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights for the installation of a boat launch at Peace River Regional District’s Blackfoot Park.

In November 2017, the Regional Board resolved that staff be authorized to organize a meeting with the North Peace and South Peace MLAs to discuss the boat launch project at Blackfoot Regional Park. The MLAs attended the Board Meeting of December 8, 2017. MLA Bernier provided a follow up letter after conversations with the Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights and BC Hydro. In his response, MLA Bernier stated that BC Hydro had been relieved of its obligation to construct the boat launch due to the site being not technically feasible, usage studies forecasting lower use than a boat launch at Taylor, and that costs were expected to be very high. The Comptroller Water Rights advised MLA Bernier that a letter was being sent to the PRRD to clarify his position.

A letter was forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights to request that the decision to discontinue the project be revisited. A response was received in February 2018 stating that without any information contradicting the low forecasted use there is insufficient justification to revisit the Comptroller’s decision to not require additional boat ramp feasibility studies at this location.

In 2018 the Regional Board authorized that the Chair hand deliver a letter to Minister Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development expressing disappointment over the 2016 decision to relieve BC Hydro of its obligation to construct a boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park and requesting that the Minister review and reconsider the decision. No response has been received to this letter.

There are residents in the Peace River Regional District would work support a boat launch at this newly proposed location, though initial cost, liability, ongoing maintenance, and safety concerns may make it impractical to move forward on any boat launch at this Regional Park.

Attachments:

1. Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch Resolutions
2. [March 28, 2018 – Report: Recommendations from the March 27, 2018 Regional Parks Committee](#) (link)
3. February 22, 2018 – Letter: Comptroller of Water Rights to PRRD
4. December 14, 2017 – Letter MLA Bernier to PRRD
5. November 15, 2017 – Letter: PRRD to MLA Davies
6. November 15, 2017 – Letter: PRRD to MLA Bernier
7. [October 17, 2017 – Report: Recommendation from Regional Parks Committee](#) (link)
8. October 16, 2017 – Letter: PRRD to Comptroller of Water Rights
9. October 16, 2017 – Letter: PRRD to MLA Bernier
10. April 20, 2017 – Report: Blackfoot Park Boat Launch
11. March 3, 2017 – Letter: PRRD to BC Hydro
12. [November 2, 2016 – Report: Letter of Request - Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch](#) (link)
13. [August 18, 2015 – Comptroller of Water Rights to PRRD](#) (link)
14. [July 23, 2015 – PRRD to Comptroller of Water Rights](#) (link – scroll down 1 page)
15. [November 29, 2014 – Report: Boat Launch on Peace River](#) (link)
16. October 29, 2014 – Letter: PRRD to BC Hydro
17. September 18, 2014 – Report: Recommendations for the Blackfoot Park Boat Launch
18. [August 21, 2007 – Peace Project Water Use Plan](#) (link)

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK BOAT LAUNCH – BOARD RESOLUTIONS**April 12, 2018 Board Meeting:**

RD/18/04/42

That staff be authorized to research the original intention of the 2007 Water Use Plan and compile all prior correspondence regarding the Blackfoot / Clayhurst boat launch and bring all information back to the Regional Parks Committee to determine next steps.

CARRIED.**March 8, 2018 Board Meeting:**

RD/18/03/42

That the correspondence dated February 22, 2018 from the Office of the Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights regarding the Blackfoot Regional Park boat launch be referred to the Regional Parks Committee.

CARRIED.**January 11, 2018 Board Meeting:**

RD/18/01/61

That the Peace River Regional District Board Chair hand deliver a letter to Minister Donaldson, Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development expressing disappointment over the 2013 decision to relieve BC Hydro of its obligation to construct a boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park and requesting that the Minister review and reconsider the decision.

CARRIED.**October 26, 2017 Board Meeting:**

RD/17/10/22 (26)

- 1) That staff be authorized to organize a meeting with the North Peace and South Peace MLAs to discuss the boat launch project at Blackfoot Regional Park; and
- 2) That the Regional Parks Committee and Regional Board Chair be authorized to attend.

CARRIED.**May 25, 2017 Board Meeting:**

RD/17/05/36 (25)

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights to request that the decision regarding the requirement for BC Hydro (Site C) to replace the boat launch at or near Blackfoot Park be revisited, to explain the current situation and include various options for the boat launch.

CARRIED.**January 26, 2017 Board Meeting:**

RD/17/01/42 (26)

That the Chair forward a letter to BC Hydro to request its rationale for the cancellation of upgrades to the Blackfoot Park boat launch.

CARRIED.**September 25, 2018**

BLACKFOOT REGIONAL PARK BOAT LAUNCH – BOARD RESOLUTIONS

R-6

November 24, 2016 Board Meeting:

RD/16/11/08 (24)

That staff forward a letter, with background information, to Peace River South MLA Mike Bernier to encourage him to assist in lobbying BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights for the installation of a boat launch at Peace River Regional District's Blackfoot Park.

CARRIED.

July 14, 2016 Board Meeting:

RD/16/07/30

That the correspondence dated June 23, 2016 from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding the Blackfoot Launch Site, be referred to the Regional Parks Committee.

CARRIED.

September 3, 2015 Board Meeting:

RD/15/09/44

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot Boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

CARRIED.

November 27, 2014 Board Meeting:

RD/14/11/22 (27)

That the Regional Board authorize a letter to be sent to BC Hydro requesting that the Peace River Regional District work in partnership with BC Hydro to examine the feasibility of constructing a boat launch on Crown land adjacent to Blackfoot Park and that the details of the partnership be outlined once the Comptroller of Water Rights makes a decision whether to support the examination of the new boat launch location.

CARRIED.

September 18, 2014 Board Meeting:

RD/14/09/19 (18)

That the Regional Board forward information from the August 25, 2014 public meeting at Blackfoot to BC Hydro identifying an alternative location on BC Hydro property, at Clayhurst, for the construction of a public boat launch and that a meeting be scheduled between the Regional Parks Committee and BC Hydro to discuss the option.

CARRIED.

RD/14/09/20 (18)

That a letter be forwarded to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Water Use Plan to provide safe and reliable access to the Peace River at Clayhurst / Blackfoot Regional Park.

CARRIED.

September 25, 2018

August 7, 2014 Board Meeting:

RD/14/08/17

That the Regional Parks Committee be authorized to schedule a meeting in Blackfoot Park and invite former members of the Blackfoot Park Commission, as well as other interested community members, to identify and discuss potential options for a boat launch in the vicinity of the park for presentation back to BC Hydro before the end of August.

CARRIED.



February 22, 2018

File: 76975-35/Peace
Ref: 235214

Bryna Casey
Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca

Dear Bryna Casey:

Thank you for your letter of October 16, 2017 regarding reservoir access near Blackfoot Regional Park. Your letter forwards a request from the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) Board of Directors that the Comptroller of Water Rights (CWR) revisit a decision made on October 10, 2013 to relieve BC Hydro of the requirement to improve boat ramp access at Blackfoot Regional Park.

We understand that the public currently accesses the Peace River at unsanctioned areas around, and adjacent to, the park and that the nearest formal boat ramps are a significant distance away, near Taylor and Dunvegan (1-2 hour drive). Looking at a map of the area it is also easy to understand that the informal boat ramp at this location opens up access to a long stretch of the Peace River and multiple parks, both in BC and Alberta. We therefore understand your desire to have improved boat ramp access near Blackfoot Regional Park.

The Peace Water Use Plan (WUP) Order only requires BC Hydro to study improvements to boat ramp access within Blackfoot Regional Park. That study was completed, and improved boat ramp access in the park was determined to not be feasible. Subsequently, the PRRD has previously requested that BC Hydro be required to conduct a feasibility study for an alternate boat launch location on the west side of the Don Philips Bridge on Crown property adjacent to the park (letters dated July 23, 2015 and January 19, 2016). In a letter dated June 23, 2016, the CWR declined to order a new feasibility study for an alternate boat ramp location, citing low forecasted use (based on a recreational user survey reported by BC Hydro in 2013) relative to high projected costs for boat ramp construction along the Peace River.

.../2



At this time, without any information contradicting the low forecasted use, there is insufficient justification to revisit the Comptroller's decision to not require additional boat ramp feasibility studies near Blackfoot Regional Park.

If you have new or additional information regarding forecasted use of a boat ramp near the park, we would be happy to review that to determine whether it would impact this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bruce O'Neill", is written above the typed name.

Bruce O'Neill, P.Eng.
Deputy Comptroller of Water Rights

September 25, 2018

Constituency Office:
 103, 1100 Alaska Avenue
 Dawson Creek BC
 V1G 4V8
 Toll Free: 1-855-582-3430
 Phone: 250-782-3430
 Fax: 250-782-6454



Province of
British Columbia



Mike Bernier, MLA
Peace River South

December 14, 2017

Peace River Regional District
 PO Box 810
 Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8

Attention: Chair Sperling

Thank you again for the opportunity to present at your Dec 8, 2017 board meeting where the board asked me to follow up on their questions around the Blackfoot Regional Park Boat launch.

At your request, I contacted both BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights to enquire on not only the history of the issue, but also future opportunities as I stressed this is something the Regional District is still hoping to have completed.

Originally, as an outcome of the Peace River Water Use Plan (Peace WUP) process, BC Hydro was required to build a boat ramp at the location of the old (now removed) Blackfoot boat ramp, immediately downstream of the Clayhurst Bridge on the south bank of the river at Blackfoot Regional Park. In 2013, though, the provincial Comptroller of Water Rights relieved BC Hydro of the obligation. The Comptroller also wrote the PRRD in 2016 to say that it would not be authorizing further works at Blackfoot Park at this time.

In April of this year, BC Hydro met by teleconference at the invitation of the PRRD to explain further the reasoning behind the cancelling of BC Hydro's obligation at Blackfoot Park.

BC Hydro stated:

1. That the sites within Blackfoot Regional Park were deemed not technically feasible as they were within the floodplain
2. The usage studies undertaken for Site C indicated that Taylor would have higher use
3. Given the costs incurred to upgrade Taylor (building a ramp in the challenging fast flowing river), that the expected cost per use at a Blackfoot Regional Park site would be even higher.

September 25, 2018

BC Hydro advises me that they explained on the conference call to the PRRD that they did not conduct the feasibility of the boat ramps internally and therefore had no engineering support that they could offer in-kind. BC Hydro does not have boat ramp engineers. They outsourced the feasibility studies to an external engineering firm. They also say they explained that they can provide the PRRD with the engineering firm's contact information and can provide information on the process/steps from feasibility through to construction if the PRRD wishes to proceed on their own and construct the ramp. In BC Hydro's opinion, all of these key reasons for cancellation continue to exist and they can confirm that there has been no further feasibility work conducted by BC Hydro as the project is cancelled as far as they are concerned and they will not be funding or constructing another boat launch.

I then had a conversation with the Comptroller of Water Rights who confirmed to me that they did relieve BC Hydro of its obligation years back. They also informed me that within the last few weeks, the PRRD office had written to the comptroller and he suggests I wait until his formal response to the board which may have more information that will clarify the situation.

I appreciate the Regional District is still eager to see another boat launch created on the Peace River at the Blackfoot Park, and once we receive correspondence from the Comptroller, it may guide the board in the direction that will need to be taken or considered, and whether the Province, or another agency is willing to financially support this initiative.

Thank you again for including me in this issue, and I will do my best to voice your concerns to the new government in hopes that there will be opportunities they can consider.

Regards,



Mike Bernier, MLA
Peace River South

September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

November 15, 2017

10104 100 St.
Fort St. John, BC
V1J 3Y7

via Email: dan.davies.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Attention: The Honourable Dan Davies
Peace River North Member of Legislative Assembly

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Peace River Regional District, this letter is to invite you to a meeting with the Peace River Regional District's Regional Parks Committee members and the Peace River South Member of Legislative Assembly to discuss the Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch Project.

The Peace River Regional District is requesting that BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights fulfill the obligations under the 2007 Peace Project Water Use Plan. Under that plan BC Hydro had been required to provide for a boat launch to be installed at a location adjacent to Blackfoot Regional Park, on the banks of the Peace River at Clayhurst. In 2014 the Comptroller of Water Rights released BC Hydro from that obligation.

At the October 26, 2017 Regional Board meeting, the Board of Directors passed the following:
that staff be authorized to organize a meeting with the North Peace and South Peace MLAs to discuss the boat launch project at Blackfoot Regional Park.

The following is some information on the history of the boat launch and the association between the Peace River Regional District and BC Hydro.

A public boat launch was built (at the east side of the bridge) by the Peace River Regional District in 1994/95 at Blackfoot Regional Park to provide river access for boaters, fishermen, hunters, search and rescue groups, and for other users of the Peace River. When in operation it was the only boat launch on the Peace River between the Taylor Landing Provincial Park boat launch and the Alberta border. The Regional District maintained and authorized use of this boat launch until 2003, when it was blocked off due to degradation of the boat launch area and safety concerns.

BC Hydro approached the PRRD in September of 2010 in regards to repairing and upgrading the boat launch at this location, as it had been identified in BC Hydro's Peace River Water Use Plan. In June of 2011, BC Hydro released it's "Management Plan for Proposed Blackfoot Park Upgraded Public Boat Launch Site – Peace River" which outlined the project overview and even went so far as to propose starting the work on the project in the of summer of 2012.

diverse. vast. abundant.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 785-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2018

Next, in June of 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that they were no longer planning to construct the boat launch. In a meeting with PRRD staff and Directors, Mr. Gammer, BC Hydro Manager of Community Relations, explained that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from their obligation under the Peace River Water Use Plan to construct a boat launch at that location. However, BC Hydro was still open to considering other options for a boat launch, but recommendations needed to be made by the end of summer 2014. The Community Services Staff held a public meeting on August 25, 2014 and with public input, discerned a superior location for new boat launch at a piece of Crown land on the opposite side of the road from the park.

In September 2014, the Regional District felt it was necessary to remove the boat launch as it posed a safety hazard. All necessary approvals were received from the Province and work commenced on remediating the former boat launch area to previous condition. At this time, a recommendation by the Board was made to forward information and suggest the alternate location from the August 25, 2014 public meeting to BC Hydro. The recommendation was also made that a letter be sent to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Peace River Water Use Plan.

In late October 2014, the Regional Parks Committee met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the August 25 public meeting to identify next steps. As BC Hydro was open to examining the new site, they planned to go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province would support and fund this new potential location, as it specifically was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. Furthermore, a recommendation was made to the Board to authorize that a letter be sent to BC Hydro to indicate that the PRRD would work in partnership with BC Hydro to examine the feasibility of constructing a boat launch at the aforementioned location.

On July 23, 2015 a letter was forwarded to the office of the Comptroller of Water Rights asking for authorization from that office to examine this new location (to the west of the bridge) so that BC Hydro would be able to move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

A letter, dated August 18, 2015, was then received from the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights responds that their authorization is not required for BC Hydro to provide feasibility support. In response, on January 19, 2016 a letter was sent, on Board approval, to Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

Finally, on June 23, 2016, the Regional District received a letter from the Comptroller of Water Rights which denied any request for funding on the basis of;

- A new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities have been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned.
- Recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor.

- No funds remain associated with the Blackfoot Launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.
- This letter stated that the “obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot Park was removed in 2013.”

There are many residents in the Peace River Regional District who would support and use a boat launch at this newly proposed location, though initial cost, liability, ongoing maintenance, and safety concerns may make it impractical to move forward on any boat launch at this Regional Park without further support from outside organizations.

As you can see, the history of the boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park is long and complicated. The Board of the Regional District hopes to work in partnership with BC Hydro to provide a feasibility study with the eventual hope of replacing the boat launch to provide public access to the river that gives our region its name.

If you are amenable to this meeting, please respond with your availability. Should you have any questions regarding our request, please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250-784-3218.

Yours truly,



Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator
Peace River Regional District

Attached:

Letter – August 18, 2015 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights re: PRRD requesting Comptroller’s support for BC Hydro providing a feasibility.

Letter – July 23, 2015 – Letter from PRRD to Comptroller of Water Rights requesting feasibility study.

Letter – June 23, 2016 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights responding to request to redirect funds to assist with the cost for feasibility study for alternative boat launch site.

Letter – July 19, 2016 – Letter from PRRD to Comptroller of Water rights providing clarification for original funds for boat launch be used for feasibility study.

September 25, 2018

August 18, 2015

File: 76975-35/Peace

Lori Ackerman
Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8



Dear Lori Ackerman:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2015 regarding the Blackfoot boat launch. From your letter I understand that, in a meeting between the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and boaters/fishers, an alternate boat launch location to that of Blackfoot Park was identified at the west side of Clayhurst Bridge.

I am aware BC Hydro is willing to provide support on assessing the feasibility of the Clayhurst Bridge site and that a number of people who attended the above referenced meeting are able to provide construction support.

The approval of the Comptroller of Water Rights is not required to authorise BC Hydro to provide feasibility support. Applications for required authorisations from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations would however be required to access crown land and to construct works on the foreshore and in the river channel. Those applications would need to be submitted through the nearest Front Counter BC office.

Thank you for keeping us updated on Peace River access endeavours.

Yours truly,

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Comptroller of Water Rights





PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

CA-5

Office of the Chair

July 23, 2015

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The Peace River Regional District is seeking the authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights to support BC Hydro in working with the Regional District to conduct a feasibility study to examine an alternative location for a boat launch on the Peace River at Clayhurst.

As you are likely aware, in June 2014 BC Hydro met with directors and staff from the Peace River Regional District and advised that they were discontinuing their plan to construct an engineered boat launch at Blackfoot Park on the east side of the Clayhurst Bridge. This decision, with the agreement of your office, came forward despite the conditions outlined in BC Hydro's 2007 Water Use Plan that "safe and reliable access" to the Peace River should be constructed and maintained at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

Following this meeting with BC Hydro, the Regional District held a community meeting at Blackfoot Park on August 25, 2014 to identify alternative options. Twenty (20) members of the public (all avid boaters some representing our local boating association) attended the August 25th meeting and identified that the location of the previous Clayhurst Ferry crossing on the west side of the Clayhurst Bridge would provide the best option for a boat launch. Individuals identified that at this location the river's current naturally slows and historically there has been a reduced risk of ice build-up over the winter. It was for these reasons that the ferry crossing was maintained here for many years.

Although it was recognized that the river bank is very steep, individuals felt that given the large size of the property (Crown land SW ¼ of LS 5 Sec 24 TP 82 R14 W6M), that a boat launch could be developed, along with a parking area and some picnic tables.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

September 3, 2015

September 25, 2015

☒ BOX 810, DAWSON CREEK, BC V1G 4H8 TELEPHONE: (250) 784-3200 • (800) 361-7773 FAX: (250) 784-3201 EMAIL: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 STREET, FORT ST. JOHN, BC V1J 4N4 TELEPHONE: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 EMAIL: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

...page 2

A number of the individuals in attendance also offered to donate their time and equipment to construct the launch in order to keep the overall construction costs low.

On October 30, 2014 the Regional District met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the public meeting. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and suggested first that they would go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province of BC would support and fund this potential new location as they do not believe it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. If your office is in agreement, to examining this new location then BC Hydro would move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize BC Hydro to examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan. The individuals who attended the community meeting are all avid boaters and have spent many years on the Peace River and we believe their expertise will be valuable in developing a new launch in a safe and cost efficient manner.

Should you have any questions regarding our request please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,



Lori Ackerman, Chair

September 3, 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In 2011 the Peace River Regional District conducted a public survey as part of the development of our Parks and Trails Master Plan. Residents clearly identified that they would like more access points to the Peace River for day use and boating.
- There are very few “safe and reliable” access points along the Peace River and with the construction of Site C the number of locations will decrease.
- The lack of suitable and established boat launches along the Peace River has been identified many times over the years and for that reason the proposal of constructing a proper boat launch at Blackfoot Park was recommended in BC Hydro’s 2007 Water Use Plan.
- A map has been provided and identifies boat launches on the Peace River east of Site C. As you will note there is currently only one boat launch located in BC at Peace Island Park near Taylor. The next closest boat launch is located at Many Islands Park in Alberta and is almost 200km driving distance and over 100km by boat. By establishing a launch at Blackfoot, the distances will be cut almost in half. Please see the chart below and attached map:

Boat Launches	Distance by Road (approximate)	Distance by Boat (approximate)
Taylor to Blackfoot (Proposed)	90 km	40 km
Blackfoot (Proposed) to Many Islands Park	105 km	63 km
Many Islands Park to Carters Camp	75 km	16 km
Carters Camp to Pratt’s Landing (+ 2km)	28 km	23 km
Pratt’s Landing to Dunvegan Bridge	46 km	30 km



June 23, 2016



Ref: 219790

Ms. Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson BC V1G 4H8

Dear Ms. Morgan:

This is a belated response to your letter dated January 19, 2016. I apologise for the delay.

Your letter forwards a motion by the Regional Board of Directors seeking to clarify a request for funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot launch site be made available to help fund a feasibility study for an alternate site.

In reviewing the Peace Project Water Use Plan I note there was agreement by the Peace Consultative Committee "To provide safe and reliable access to and from the Peace for the full operating range at Peace Canyon Generating Station. Four sites below Peace Canyon dam were identified for the construction and maintenance of river access. They are: Lynx Creek, Halfway River, Peace River Island Park and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park."

As a result of the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate issued by the Province on October 14, 2014, BC Hydro is required to build three new boat launch/day use sites to be located at Hudson's Hope, Lynx Creek and Cache Creek on the new Site C reservoir. The potential of nearby land-slides into the Site C Reservoir has excluded Halfway River as an appropriate site for a new launch. As well a new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities has been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned by the Peace Consultative Committee. Also, recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor. For these reasons the obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot was removed in 2013.

.../2

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Resource Stewardship Division	Director's Office Water Management Branch	Mailing Address: PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9M1 Telephone: 250-387-6949 Facsimile: 250-356-0605	Location: 3 rd Floor, 395 Waterfront Cres Victoria BC V8T 5K7
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September 25, 2018



Ms. Trish Morgan
Page 2

I should point out that no funds remain associated with the Blackfoot launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.

I trust this provides the clarification the Board was seeking.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Davidson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Director and Comptroller of Water Rights

September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

January 19, 2016

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Thank you for your letter of August 18, 2015 which was reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 3, 2015. At that meeting the Board passed the following motion:

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

BC Hydro has indicated a willingness to consider working in partnership with the Regional District to examine the alternative site, and as such we are requesting that funding that was originally set aside for the boat launch at Blackfoot Park should be considered to be reallocated to this project as it still supports the requirements of the Water Use Plan.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize funds to be expended so that BC Hydro may examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this request please feel free to contact me at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,

Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services

cc: Bob Gammer, BC Hydro

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PLEASE REPLY TO:



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September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

November 15, 2017

103-1100 Alaska Ave.
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4V8

via Email: mike.bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Attention: The Honourable Mike Bernier
Peace River South Member of Legislative Assembly

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Peace River Regional District, this letter is to invite you to a meeting with the Peace River Regional District's Regional Park Committee members and the Peace River North Member of Legislative Assembly to discuss the Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch Project.

As you may recall, the Peace River Regional District is requesting that BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights to fulfill the obligations under the 2007 Peace Project Water Use Plan. Under that plan BC Hydro had been required to provide for a boat launch to be installed at a location adjacent to Blackfoot Regional Park, on the banks of the Peace River at Clayhurst. In 2014 the Comptroller of Water Rights released BC Hydro from that obligation.

At the October 26, 2017 Regional Board meeting, the Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

that staff be authorized to organize a meeting with the North Peace and South Peace MLAs to discuss the boat launch project at Blackfoot Regional Park.

There are many residents in the Peace River Regional District who would support and use a boat launch at this location, which would provide the only boat launch to access to the Peace between Taylor and the Alberta Border. The Board of the Regional District hopes to work in partnership with BC Hydro to provide a feasibility study with the eventual hope of replacing the boat launch to provide public access to the river that gives our region its name.

If you are amenable to this meeting, please respond with your availability. Should you have any questions regarding our request, please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250-784-3218.

Yours truly,

Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator
Peace River Regional District

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September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

October 16, 2017

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

via email: ted.white@gov.bc.ca

Attention: Ted White, Director and Comptroller of Water Rights

Dear Mr. White,

At the Regional Board meeting of May 25, 2017 the Peace River Regional District Board of Directors passed the following resolution;

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights to request that the decision regarding the requirement for BC Hydro (Site C) to replace the boat launch at or near Blackfoot Regional Park be revisited, to explain the current situation, and include various options for the boat launch.

BC Hydro was required by the Comptroller of Water Rights, as part of the 2007 Water Use Plan, to ensure access to the Peace River at Blackfoot Regional Park. In 2014 however, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from that obligation. This decision came forward despite the conditions outlined in the water use plan that "safe and reliable access" to the Peace River should be constructed and maintained at that location.

Currently, the public accesses the Peace River at unsanctioned areas around and adjacent to the Regional Park. A major barrier to robust park use at this location is the lack of appropriate locations to access the water. The nearest water access to this location is at the Peace Island Park, in Taylor, approximately 40km away by water. In a meeting in August of 2015 at Blackfoot Park with members of the public, it was proposed that there may be a more appropriate location for a boat launch on the west side of the Don Philips Bridge, on Crown property directly adjacent to the park.

The Peace River Regional District believes that BC Hydro should be required to provide access to the Peace River at or around Blackfoot Regional Park and that the decision to discontinue the project be revisited.

Should you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community Services at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

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☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2018

Yours truly,



Bryna Casey,
Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Attached:

Letter – August 18, 2015 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights re: PRRD requesting Comptroller's support for BC Hydro providing a feasibility.

Letter – July 23, 2015 – Letter from PRRD to Comptroller of Water Rights requesting feasibility study.

Letter – June 23, 2016 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights responding to request to redirect funds to assist with the cost for feasibility study for alternative boat launch site.

Letter – July 19, 2016 – Letter from PRRD to Comptroller of Water rights providing clarification for original funds for boat launch be used for feasibility study.

Report – August 12, 2016 – Staff Report - History of Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch

September 25, 2018

August 18, 2015

File: 76975-35/Peace

Lori Ackerman
Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8



Dear Lori Ackerman:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2015 regarding the Blackfoot boat launch. From your letter I understand that, in a meeting between the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and boaters/fishers, an alternate boat launch location to that of Blackfoot Park was identified at the west side of Clayhurst Bridge.

I am aware BC Hydro is willing to provide support on assessing the feasibility of the Clayhurst Bridge site and that a number of people who attended the above referenced meeting are able to provide construction support.

The approval of the Comptroller of Water Rights is not required to authorise BC Hydro to provide feasibility support. Applications for required authorisations from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations would however be required to access crown land and to construct works on the foreshore and in the river channel. Those applications would need to be submitted through the nearest Front Counter BC office.

Thank you for keeping us updated on Peace River access endeavours.

Yours truly,

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Comptroller of Water Rights





PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

CA-5

Office of the Chair

July 23, 2015

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The Peace River Regional District is seeking the authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights to support BC Hydro in working with the Regional District to conduct a feasibility study to examine an alternative location for a boat launch on the Peace River at Clayhurst.

As you are likely aware, in June 2014 BC Hydro met with directors and staff from the Peace River Regional District and advised that they were discontinuing their plan to construct an engineered boat launch at Blackfoot Park on the east side of the Clayhurst Bridge. This decision, with the agreement of your office, came forward despite the conditions outlined in BC Hydro's 2007 Water Use Plan that "safe and reliable access" to the Peace River should be constructed and maintained at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

Following this meeting with BC Hydro, the Regional District held a community meeting at Blackfoot Park on August 25, 2014 to identify alternative options. Twenty (20) members of the public (all avid boaters some representing our local boating association) attended the August 25th meeting and identified that the location of the previous Clayhurst Ferry crossing on the west side of the Clayhurst Bridge would provide the best option for a boat launch. Individuals identified that at this location the river's current naturally slows and historically there has been a reduced risk of ice build-up over the winter. It was for these reasons that the ferry crossing was maintained here for many years.

Although it was recognized that the river bank is very steep, individuals felt that given the large size of the property (Crown land SW ¼ of LS 5 Sec 24 TP 82 R14 W6M), that a boat launch could be developed, along with a parking area and some picnic tables.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

September 3, 2015

September 25, 2015

☒ BOX 810, DAWSON CREEK, BC V1G 4H8 TELEPHONE: (250) 784-3200 • (800) 361-7773 FAX: (250) 784-3201 EMAIL: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 STREET, FORT ST. JOHN, BC V1J 4N4 TELEPHONE: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 EMAIL: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

...page 2

A number of the individuals in attendance also offered to donate their time and equipment to construct the launch in order to keep the overall construction costs low.

On October 30, 2014 the Regional District met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the public meeting. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and suggested first that they would go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province of BC would support and fund this potential new location as they do not believe it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. If your office is in agreement, to examining this new location then BC Hydro would move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize BC Hydro to examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan. The individuals who attended the community meeting are all avid boaters and have spent many years on the Peace River and we believe their expertise will be valuable in developing a new launch in a safe and cost efficient manner.

Should you have any questions regarding our request please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,



Lori Ackerman, Chair

September 3, 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In 2011 the Peace River Regional District conducted a public survey as part of the development of our Parks and Trails Master Plan. Residents clearly identified that they would like more access points to the Peace River for day use and boating.
- There are very few “safe and reliable” access points along the Peace River and with the construction of Site C the number of locations will decrease.
- The lack of suitable and established boat launches along the Peace River has been identified many times over the years and for that reason the proposal of constructing a proper boat launch at Blackfoot Park was recommended in BC Hydro’s 2007 Water Use Plan.
- A map has been provided and identifies boat launches on the Peace River east of Site C. As you will note there is currently only one boat launch located in BC at Peace Island Park near Taylor. The next closest boat launch is located at Many Islands Park in Alberta and is almost 200km driving distance and over 100km by boat. By establishing a launch at Blackfoot, the distances will be cut almost in half. Please see the chart below and attached map:

Boat Launches	Distance by Road (approximate)	Distance by Boat (approximate)
Taylor to Blackfoot (Proposed)	90 km	40 km
Blackfoot (Proposed) to Many Islands Park	105 km	63 km
Many Islands Park to Carters Camp	75 km	16 km
Carters Camp to Pratt’s Landing (+ 2km)	28 km	23 km
Pratt’s Landing to Dunvegan Bridge	46 km	30 km



June 23, 2016



Ref: 219790

Ms. Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson BC V1G 4H8

Dear Ms. Morgan:

This is a belated response to your letter dated January 19, 2016. I apologise for the delay.

Your letter forwards a motion by the Regional Board of Directors seeking to clarify a request for funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot launch site be made available to help fund a feasibility study for an alternate site.

In reviewing the Peace Project Water Use Plan I note there was agreement by the Peace Consultative Committee "To provide safe and reliable access to and from the Peace for the full operating range at Peace Canyon Generating Station. Four sites below Peace Canyon dam were identified for the construction and maintenance of river access. They are: Lynx Creek, Halfway River, Peace River Island Park and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park."

As a result of the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate issued by the Province on October 14, 2014, BC Hydro is required to build three new boat launch/day use sites to be located at Hudson's Hope, Lynx Creek and Cache Creek on the new Site C reservoir. The potential of nearby land-slides into the Site C Reservoir has excluded Halfway River as an appropriate site for a new launch. As well a new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities has been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned by the Peace Consultative Committee. Also, recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor. For these reasons the obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot was removed in 2013.

.../2

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Resource Stewardship Division	Director's Office Water Management Branch	Mailing Address: PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9M1 Telephone: 250-387-6949 Facsimile: 250-356-0605	Location: 3 rd Floor, 395 Waterfront Cres Victoria BC V8T 5K7 
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September 25, 2018

Ms. Trish Morgan
Page 2

I should point out that no funds remain associated with the Blackfoot launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.

I trust this provides the clarification the Board was seeking.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Davidson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Director and Comptroller of Water Rights

September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

January 19, 2016

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Thank you for your letter of August 18, 2015 which was reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 3, 2015. At that meeting the Board passed the following motion:

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

BC Hydro has indicated a willingness to consider working in partnership with the Regional District to examine the alternative site, and as such we are requesting that funding that was originally set aside for the boat launch at Blackfoot Park should be considered to be reallocated to this project as it still supports the requirements of the Water Use Plan.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize funds to be expended so that BC Hydro may examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this request please feel free to contact me at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,

Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services

cc: Bob Gammer, BC Hydro

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PLEASE REPLY TO:



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September 25, 2018



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: August 12, 2016

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: History of Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch

FOR DIRECTORS' INFORMATION:

A public boat launch was built at Blackfoot Regional Park to provide river access for boaters, fishermen, hunters, search and rescue groups, and for other users of the Peace River. When in operation it was the only boat launch on the Peace River between the Taylor Landing Provincial Park boat launch and the Alberta border.

Over the summers of 1994/95, the main components for this boat launch were installed located downstream from and abutting the Don Phillips Bridge. This location is reportedly vulnerable to Peace River water level fluctuation, in part due to waters generated by hydroelectric generation and seasonal precipitation. It is also indicated that this location was susceptible to damage caused by the freezing and thawing of the river.

In 1995, when the boat launch was completed, it consisted of:

- A concrete pad above the high water mark
- In-water pads
- A concrete pad below the high water mark.

Almost immediately after the launch was completed, in 1996, BC Hydro had a planned release of water to investigate a sinkhole in the dam. The release impacted the boat launch and displaced the original "in-water pads" for the boat launch approximately 60m downstream. This required repair in that same year.

In August of 2003, the boat launch was blocked off due to degradation of the boat launch area, concerns about liability, and because the boat launch was no longer considered safe for public use.

BC Hydro approached the PRRD in September of 2010 in regards to repairing the boat launch at this location. The offer came as part of the Water Use Plan imposed on BC Hydro by the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights. The Peace Water Use Plan recommended physical works for the Peace Hydroelectric System that would result in enhanced recreational access to the Peace River below Peace Canyon Dam. At this time, BC Hydro had completed a feasibility study and were moving towards a design and costing phase for upgrading the existing boat launch ramp and required the Regional District's consent to proceed. A letter of authorization was supplied from the PRRD, being the upland owner/license of occupation holder, so that BC Hydro could apply to the Province for a license of occupation for the beach site, which was supplied in September of 2010. The PRRD offered to relinquish License of Occupation for the foreshore property between the Peace River and the Park so that BC Hydro could acquire it to construct an engineered boat launch.

September 25, 2018

Staff Initials: *Casey*

Dept. Head: *J. Morgan*

CAO: *Ch. Birk*

Page 1 of 3

In June of 2011, BC Hydro released its “Management Plan for Proposed Blackfoot Park Upgraded Public Boat Launch Site – Peace River” which outlined the project overview, description, background, location and development requirements and impacts and even went so far as to propose starting the work on the project in ‘low water’ period of summer 2012.

Then, in June of 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that they were no longer planning to construct the boat launch. On June 12, 2014 Bob Gammer, Manager of Community Relations, met with Director Goodings, Director Hiebert, and Director Jarvis along with Chris Cvik, CAO and Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services. Mr. Gammer explained that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from their obligation under their Water Use Plan to construct a boat launch at the Blackfoot Park based on the following issues:

- The cost to construct the Taylor Landing boat launch was over budget due to unforeseen construction conditions.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations would not allow a parking lot to be constructed on the banks of the Peace River due to their concern for flooding.

BC Hydro was still open to considering other options for a boat launch in the vicinity of Blackfoot Park, but recommendations needed to be made by the end of summer 2014. The Community Services Staff held a public meeting on August 25, 2014 at Blackfoot Regional Park to examine the Boat Launch and to look at alternate options for water access. Over 20 members of the public came to this meeting to offer questions, comments, concerns and discuss best sites for building the new boat launch.

In September 2014, Community Services staff submitted an application to remove the boat launch, which was previously just blocked off so that people could not use it. The Regional District felt it was necessary to remove as it posed a safety hazard. All necessary approvals were received from the Province and work commenced on remediating the former boat launch area to previous condition. At this time, a recommendation by the Board was made to forward information from the August 25, 2014 public meeting to BC Hydro that identified an alternate location on BC Hydro property on the opposite side of the road from Blackfoot Regional Park. The recommendation was also made that the send a letter to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Water Use Plan to provide safe and reliable access to the Peace River at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

In late October 2014, the Regional Parks Committee met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the August 25 public meeting to identify next steps. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and planned to go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province would support and fund this new potential location, as it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. A recommendation was made to the Board to authorize that a letter be sent to BC Hydro to indicate that the PRRD would work in partnership with BC Hydro to examine the feasibility of constructing a boat launch at the aforementioned location.

On July 23, 2015 a letter was forwarded to the office of the Comptroller of Water Rights asking for authorization from that office to examine this new location (to the west of the bridge) so that BC Hydro would be able to move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

A letter, dated August 18, 2015, was then received from the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights responds that their authorization is not required for BC Hydro to provide feasibility support.

In response, on January 19, 2016 a letter was sent, on Board approval, to Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

Finally, on June 23, 2016, the Regional District received a letter from the Comptroller of Water Rights which denied any request for funding on the basis of;

- A new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities have been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned.
- Recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor.
- No funds remain associated with the Blackfoot Launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.
- This letter stated that the “obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot Park was removed in 2013.”

There are residents in the Peace River Regional District would work support a boat launch at this newly proposed location, though initial cost, liability, ongoing maintenance, and safety concerns may make it impractical to move forward on any boat launch at this Regional Park.

OPTIONS:

This report is for information only.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

This report supports Strategic Objective 1.6.1 stating that the PRRD shall “implement the 10 Year – Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan (adopted in 2014).”

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

When it was constructed, between 1994/95, construction of the boat launch was funded through the “BC 21” grant provided by the Province of BC (\$6,450), the “Rendezvous ’92 Legacy Fund” (\$9,427) and through a tax requisition of \$15,360 for a total cost of \$31,237.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

C-1 – Letter from BC Hydro (June 23, 2016)



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

October 16, 2017

103-1100 Alaska Ave.
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4V8

via Email: mike.bernier.MLA@leg.bc.ca

Attention: The Honourable Mike Bernier
Peace River South Member of Legislative Assembly

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Peace River Regional District, this letter is to request your assistance in lobbying BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights to fulfill the obligations under the 2007 Peace Project Water Use Plan. Under that plan BC Hydro had been required to provide for a boat launch to be installed at a location adjacent to Blackfoot Regional Park, on the banks of the Peace River at Clayhurst. In 2014 the Comptroller of Water Rights released BC Hydro from that obligation.

At the November 24, 2016 Regional Board meeting, the Board of Directors passed the following motion:

that staff forward a letter, with background information, to Peace River South MLA Mike Bernier to encourage him to assist in lobbying BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights for the installation of a boat launch at Peace River Regional District's Blackfoot Park.

The following is some information on the history of the boat launch and the association between the Peace River Regional District and BC Hydro.

A public boat launch was built (at the east side of the bridge) by the Peace River Regional District in 1994/95 at Blackfoot Regional Park to provide river access for boaters, fishermen, hunters, search and rescue groups, and for other users of the Peace River. When in operation it was the only boat launch on the Peace River between the Taylor Landing Provincial Park boat launch and the Alberta border. The Regional District maintained and authorized use of this boat launch until 2003, when it was blocked off due to degradation of the boat launch area and safety concerns.

BC Hydro approached the PRRD in September of 2010 in regards to repairing and upgrading the boat launch at this location, as it had been identified in BC Hydro's Peace River Water Use Plan. In June of 2011, BC Hydro released it's "Management Plan for Proposed Blackfoot Park Upgraded Public Boat Launch Site – Peace River" which outlined the project overview and even went so far as to propose starting the work on the project in the of summer of 2012.

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

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☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2018

Next, in June of 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that they were no longer planning to construct the boat launch. In a meeting with PRRD staff and Directors, Mr. Gammer, BC Hydro Manager of Community Relations, explained that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from their obligation under the Peace River Water Use Plan to construct a boat launch at that location. However, BC Hydro was still open to considering other options for a boat launch, but recommendations needed to be made by the end of summer 2014. The Community Services Staff held a public meeting on August 25, 2014 and with public input, discerned a superior location for new boat launch at a piece of Crown land on the opposite side of the road from the park.

In September 2014, the Regional District felt it was necessary to remove the boat launch as it posed a safety hazard. All necessary approvals were received from the Province and work commenced on remediating the former boat launch area to previous condition. At this time, a recommendation by the Board was made to forward information and suggest the alternate location from the August 25, 2014 public meeting to BC Hydro. The recommendation was also made that a letter be sent to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Peace River Water Use Plan.

In late October 2014, the Regional Parks Committee met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the August 25 public meeting to identify next steps. As BC Hydro was open to examining the new site, they planned to go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province would support and fund this new potential location, as it specifically was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. Furthermore, a recommendation was made to the Board to authorize that a letter be sent to BC Hydro to indicate that the PRRD would work in partnership with BC Hydro to examine the feasibility of constructing a boat launch at the aforementioned location.

On July 23, 2015 a letter was forwarded to the office of the Comptroller of Water Rights asking for authorization from that office to examine this new location (to the west of the bridge) so that BC Hydro would be able to move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

A letter, dated August 18, 2015, was then received from the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights responds that their authorization is not required for BC Hydro to provide feasibility support. In response, on January 19, 2016 a letter was sent, on Board approval, to Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

Finally, on June 23, 2016, the Regional District received a letter from the Comptroller of Water Rights which denied any request for funding on the basis of;

- A new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities have been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned.

- Recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor.
- No funds remain associated with the Blackfoot Launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.
- This letter stated that the “obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot Park was removed in 2013.”

There are many residents in the Peace River Regional District who would support and use a boat launch at this newly proposed location, though initial cost, liability, ongoing maintenance, and safety concerns may make it impractical to move forward on any boat launch at this Regional Park without further support from outside organizations.

As you can see, the history of the boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park is long and complicated. The Board of the Regional District hopes to work in partnership with BC Hydro to provide a feasibility study with the eventual hope of replacing the boat launch to provide public access to the river that gives our region its name.

Should you have any questions regarding our request, please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community and Electoral Area Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250-784-3218.

Yours truly,



Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator
Peace River Regional District

Attached:

Letter – August 18, 2015 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights re: PRRD requesting Comptroller’s support for BC Hydro providing a feasibility.

Letter – July 23, 2015 – Letter from PRRD to Comptroller of Water Rights requesting feasibility study.

Letter – June 23, 2016 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights responding to request to redirect funds to assist with the cost for feasibility study for alternative boat launch site.

Letter – July 19, 2016 – Letter from PRRD to Comptroller of Water rights providing clarification for original funds for boat launch be used for feasibility study.

September 25, 2018

August 18, 2015

File: 76975-35/Peace

Lori Ackerman
Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8



Dear Lori Ackerman:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2015 regarding the Blackfoot boat launch. From your letter I understand that, in a meeting between the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and boaters/fishers, an alternate boat launch location to that of Blackfoot Park was identified at the west side of Clayhurst Bridge.

I am aware BC Hydro is willing to provide support on assessing the feasibility of the Clayhurst Bridge site and that a number of people who attended the above referenced meeting are able to provide construction support.

The approval of the Comptroller of Water Rights is not required to authorise BC Hydro to provide feasibility support. Applications for required authorisations from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations would however be required to access crown land and to construct works on the foreshore and in the river channel. Those applications would need to be submitted through the nearest Front Counter BC office.

Thank you for keeping us updated on Peace River access endeavours.

Yours truly,



Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Comptroller of Water Rights





PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

CA-5

Office of the Chair

July 23, 2015

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The Peace River Regional District is seeking the authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights to support BC Hydro in working with the Regional District to conduct a feasibility study to examine an alternative location for a boat launch on the Peace River at Clayhurst.

As you are likely aware, in June 2014 BC Hydro met with directors and staff from the Peace River Regional District and advised that they were discontinuing their plan to construct an engineered boat launch at Blackfoot Park on the east side of the Clayhurst Bridge. This decision, with the agreement of your office, came forward despite the conditions outlined in BC Hydro's 2007 Water Use Plan that "safe and reliable access" to the Peace River should be constructed and maintained at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

Following this meeting with BC Hydro, the Regional District held a community meeting at Blackfoot Park on August 25, 2014 to identify alternative options. Twenty (20) members of the public (all avid boaters some representing our local boating association) attended the August 25th meeting and identified that the location of the previous Clayhurst Ferry crossing on the west side of the Clayhurst Bridge would provide the best option for a boat launch. Individuals identified that at this location the river's current naturally slows and historically there has been a reduced risk of ice build-up over the winter. It was for these reasons that the ferry crossing was maintained here for many years.

Although it was recognized that the river bank is very steep, individuals felt that given the large size of the property (Crown land SW ¼ of LS 5 Sec 24 TP 82 R14 W6M), that a boat launch could be developed, along with a parking area and some picnic tables.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

September 3, 2015

September 25, 2015

☒ BOX 810, DAWSON CREEK, BC V1G 4H8 TELEPHONE: (250) 784-3200 • (800) 361-7773 FAX: (250) 784-3201 EMAIL: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 STREET, FORT ST. JOHN, BC V1J 4N4 TELEPHONE: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 EMAIL: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

...page 2

A number of the individuals in attendance also offered to donate their time and equipment to construct the launch in order to keep the overall construction costs low.

On October 30, 2014 the Regional District met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the public meeting. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and suggested first that they would go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province of BC would support and fund this potential new location as they do not believe it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. If your office is in agreement, to examining this new location then BC Hydro would move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize BC Hydro to examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan. The individuals who attended the community meeting are all avid boaters and have spent many years on the Peace River and we believe their expertise will be valuable in developing a new launch in a safe and cost efficient manner.

Should you have any questions regarding our request please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,


Lori Ackerman, Chair

September 3, 2015

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In 2011 the Peace River Regional District conducted a public survey as part of the development of our Parks and Trails Master Plan. Residents clearly identified that they would like more access points to the Peace River for day use and boating.
- There are very few “safe and reliable” access points along the Peace River and with the construction of Site C the number of locations will decrease.
- The lack of suitable and established boat launches along the Peace River has been identified many times over the years and for that reason the proposal of constructing a proper boat launch at Blackfoot Park was recommended in BC Hydro’s 2007 Water Use Plan.
- A map has been provided and identifies boat launches on the Peace River east of Site C. As you will note there is currently only one boat launch located in BC at Peace Island Park near Taylor. The next closest boat launch is located at Many Islands Park in Alberta and is almost 200km driving distance and over 100km by boat. By establishing a launch at Blackfoot, the distances will be cut almost in half. Please see the chart below and attached map:

Boat Launches	Distance by Road (approximate)	Distance by Boat (approximate)
Taylor to Blackfoot (Proposed)	90 km	40 km
Blackfoot (Proposed) to Many Islands Park	105 km	63 km
Many Islands Park to Carters Camp	75 km	16 km
Carters Camp to Pratt’s Landing (+ 2km)	28 km	23 km
Pratt’s Landing to Dunvegan Bridge	46 km	30 km



June 23, 2016



Ref: 219790

Ms. Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson BC V1G 4H8

Dear Ms. Morgan:

This is a belated response to your letter dated January 19, 2016. I apologise for the delay.

Your letter forwards a motion by the Regional Board of Directors seeking to clarify a request for funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot launch site be made available to help fund a feasibility study for an alternate site.

In reviewing the Peace Project Water Use Plan I note there was agreement by the Peace Consultative Committee "To provide safe and reliable access to and from the Peace for the full operating range at Peace Canyon Generating Station. Four sites below Peace Canyon dam were identified for the construction and maintenance of river access. They are: Lynx Creek, Halfway River, Peace River Island Park and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park."

As a result of the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate issued by the Province on October 14, 2014, BC Hydro is required to build three new boat launch/day use sites to be located at Hudson's Hope, Lynx Creek and Cache Creek on the new Site C reservoir. The potential of nearby land-slides into the Site C Reservoir has excluded Halfway River as an appropriate site for a new launch. As well a new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities has been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned by the Peace Consultative Committee. Also, recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor. For these reasons the obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot was removed in 2013.

.../2

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Resource Stewardship Division	Director's Office Water Management Branch	Mailing Address: PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9M1 Telephone: 250-387-6949 Facsimile: 250-356-0605	Location: 3 rd Floor, 395 Waterfront Cres Victoria BC V8T 5K7 
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September 25, 2018

Ms. Trish Morgan
Page 2

I should point out that no funds remain associated with the Blackfoot launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.

I trust this provides the clarification the Board was seeking.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "G. Davidson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Director and Comptroller of Water Rights

September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

January 19, 2016

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Thank you for your letter of August 18, 2015 which was reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 3, 2015. At that meeting the Board passed the following motion:

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

BC Hydro has indicated a willingness to consider working in partnership with the Regional District to examine the alternative site, and as such we are requesting that funding that was originally set aside for the boat launch at Blackfoot Park should be considered to be reallocated to this project as it still supports the requirements of the Water Use Plan.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize funds to be expended so that BC Hydro may examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this request please feel free to contact me at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,

Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services

cc: Bob Gammer, BC Hydro

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PLEASE REPLY TO:



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9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2018



Peace River Regional District REPORT

R-6
R-2

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: April 20, 2017

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: Blackfoot Park Boat Launch Update

FOR CHAIR AND DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION:

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On April 18, the Chair of the Regional District, Regional Parks Committee, and staff participated in a conference call with BC Hydro staff (Bob Gammer, Alison Briggs, and Shelley Wenaas) for the purpose of clarifying the reasons for BC Hydro's discontinuation of the Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch Project.

BC Hydro had been required by the Comptroller of Water Rights, as part of the 2007 Water Use Plan, to ensure access to the Peace River at Blackfoot Regional Park. There was some preliminary work done on the project, including a feasibility study by BC Hydro. In 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from that obligation. The reasons for the discontinuation of the project were stated on the conference call as being;

- Safety concerns; they felt that there was no safe place to provide parking for boat launch users, annual flooding, and that the beach didn't provide a stable location to build access to a boat launch;
- Expected use; as part of the feasibility study, at least one user group was queried to their expected use of a launch at that location and the reported response is that there would have been limited use, and that there was more recreational value and use forecasted in the creation of a boat launch at the Taylor landing;
- Expensive and difficult to construct; that there could be potential erosion at the location, and that the cost of building a boat launch into a river was very high.

On that call, it was explained, that BC Hydro would only be required to build a launch at that location upon the order of the Comptroller of Water Rights. Further, BC Hydro stated that it is unlikely that they would reconsider the cancellation of the project without an order from the Comptroller of Water Rights. BC Hydro said that the Peace River Regional District may be able to provide BC Hydro and the Comptroller of Water Rights some forecasted use numbers and public comment on the potential project, which may help to build a case to reinstate the order.

In the summer of 2017, there is a Park Design Study slated to take place at Blackfoot Regional Park. As part of the community engagement, staff could ensure that the scope of the project extend to include querying the public as to their desire and potential use for the boat launch at this location, beginning to build a case for this location as the next BC Hydro funded boat launch.

BC Hydro further stated that there will be a review of the Water Use Plan in the next number of years, which may give the Peace River Regional District opportunity to provide input on the plan.

Staff Initials: *Casey*

September 25, 2018
May 10, 2017
Dept. Head: *[Signature]*

CAO: *[Signature]*

Page 1 of 2

BC Hydro said that the support that they may be able to provide in moving this project forward would be to provide the name and contact information for their boat launch engineer, who may be able to provide some information on where a more suitable location may be for such a launch. No financial contribution was mentioned.

Staff have previously been directed to send background information and a request to assist in lobbying BC Hydro to Peace River South MLA Mike Bernier. This has not yet been completed, as staff were waiting for confirmation from BC Hydro as to their reasons for the discontinuation of the project.

OPTIONS:

For Director's Information

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

In the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan, Strategic Objective 1.6.1 is to "Implement the Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan (adopted in 2014)."

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time

Attachments:

Letter – August 18, 2015 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights re: PRRD requesting Comptroller's support for BC Hydro providing feasibility study at Blackfoot Park.

Letter – June 23, 2016 – Response from the Comptroller of Water Rights responding to redirect funds originally set aside for boat launch be redirected to assist with cost of conducting a feasibility study for alternative boat launch site

Report – History of Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

R-6
R-2

Office of the Chair

July 23, 2015

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

The Peace River Regional District is seeking the authorization of the Comptroller of Water Rights to support BC Hydro in working with the Regional District to conduct a feasibility study to examine an alternative location for a boat launch on the Peace River at Clayhurst.

As you are likely aware, in June 2014 BC Hydro met with directors and staff from the Peace River Regional District and advised that they were discontinuing their plan to construct an engineered boat launch at Blackfoot Park on the east side of the Clayhurst Bridge. This decision, with the agreement of your office, came forward despite the conditions outlined in BC Hydro's 2007 Water Use Plan that "safe and reliable access" to the Peace River should be constructed and maintained at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

Following this meeting with BC Hydro, the Regional District held a community meeting at Blackfoot Park on August 25, 2014 to identify alternative options. Twenty (20) members of the public (all avid boaters some representing our local boating association) attended the August 25th meeting and identified that the location of the previous Clayhurst Ferry crossing on the west side of the Clayhurst Bridge would provide the best option for a boat launch. Individuals identified that at this location the river's current naturally slows and historically there has been a reduced risk of ice build-up over the winter. It was for these reasons that the ferry crossing was maintained here for many years.

Although it was recognized that the river bank is very steep, individuals felt that given the large size of the property (Crown land SW ¼ of LS 5 Sec 24 TP 82 R14 W6M), that a boat launch could be developed, along with a parking area and some picnic tables.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

☒ BOX 810, DAWSON CREEK, BC V1G 4H8 TELEPHONE: (250) 784-1300 • (800) 378-7773 FAX: (250) 784-3201 EMAIL: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
☐ 9505 100 STREET, FORT ST. JOHN, BC V1J 4N4 TELEPHONE: (250) 785-1125 FAX: (250) 785-1125 EMAIL: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2015

May 10, 2017

...page 2

A number of the individuals in attendance also offered to donate their time and equipment to construct the launch in order to keep the overall construction costs low.

On October 30, 2014 the Regional District met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the public meeting. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and suggested first that they would go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province of BC would support and fund this potential new location as they do not believe it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. If your office is in agreement, to examining this new location then BC Hydro would move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize BC Hydro to examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan. The individuals who attended the community meeting are all avid boaters and have spent many years on the Peace River and we believe their expertise will be valuable in developing a new launch in a safe and cost efficient manner.

Should you have any questions regarding our request please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services, at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,



Lori Ackerman, Chair

September 25, 2018
May 10, 2017

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- In 2011 the Peace River Regional District conducted a public survey as part of the development of our Parks and Trails Master Plan. Residents clearly identified that they would like more access points to the Peace River for day use and boating.
- There are very few “safe and reliable” access points along the Peace River and with the construction of Site C the number of locations will decrease.
- The lack of suitable and established boat launches along the Peace River has been identified many times over the years and for that reason the proposal of constructing a proper boat launch at Blackfoot Park was recommended in BC Hydro’s 2007 Water Use Plan.
- A map has been provided and identifies boat launches on the Peace River east of Site C. As you will note there is currently only one boat launch located in BC at Peace Island Park near Taylor. The next closest boat launch is located at Many Islands Park in Alberta and is almost 200km driving distance and over 100km by boat. By establishing a launch at Blackfoot, the distances will be cut almost in half. Please see the chart below and attached map:

Boat Launches	Distance by Road (approximate)	Distance by Boat (approximate)
Taylor to Blackfoot (Proposed)	90 km	40 km
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Pratt’s Landing to Dunvegan Bridge	46 km	30 km



R-6
R-2

August 18, 2015

File: 76975-35/Peace

Lori Ackerman
Chair
Peace River Regional District
Box 810
Dawson Creek BC V1G 4H8



Dear Lori Ackerman:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2015 regarding the Blackfoot boat launch. From your letter I understand that, in a meeting between the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) and boaters/fishers, an alternate boat launch location to that of Blackfoot Park was identified at the west side of Clayhurst Bridge.

I am aware BC Hydro is willing to provide support on assessing the feasibility of the Clayhurst Bridge site and that a number of people who attended the above referenced meeting are able to provide construction support.

The approval of the Comptroller of Water Rights is not required to authorise BC Hydro to provide feasibility support. Applications for required authorisations from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations would however be required to access crown land and to construct works on the foreshore and in the river channel. Those applications would need to be submitted through the nearest Front Counter BC office.

Thank you for keeping us updated on Peace River access endeavours.

Yours truly,

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Comptroller of Water Rights

Ministry of Forests, Lands &
Natural Resource Operations
Resource Stewardship Division

Office of the Comptroller
of Water Rights
Water Management Branch

Mailing Address:
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9M1
Telephone: 250-387-6949
Facsimile: 250-356-0605

Location:
3rd Floor, 395 Waterfront Cres
Victoria BC V8T 5K7

September 23, 2018
May 10, 2017





PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

January 19, 2016

Water Management Branch
PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9M1

Attention: Glen Davidson, Director & Comptroller of Water Rights

RE: Blackfoot Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Davidson:

Thank you for your letter of August 18, 2015 which was reviewed by the Board of Directors on September 3, 2015. At that meeting the Board passed the following motion:

That a letter be forwarded to the Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

BC Hydro has indicated a willingness to consider working in partnership with the Regional District to examine the alternative site, and as such we are requesting that funding that was originally set aside for the boat launch at Blackfoot Park should be considered to be reallocated to this project as it still supports the requirements of the Water Use Plan.

I sincerely hope that you will consider this recommendation and authorize funds to be expended so that BC Hydro may examine this new location in order to be consistent with the commitment outlined in the Water Use Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this request please feel free to contact me at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,

Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services

cc: Bob Gammer, BC Hydro

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PLEASE REPLY TO:



Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave, Dawson Creek, BC V1G 4H8 Tel: (250) 784-3200 or (800) 670-7773 Fax: (250) 784-3201 Email: prrd.dc@prrd.bc.ca
9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2018
May 10, 2017



R-6
R-2

June 23, 2016



Ref: 219790

Ms. Trish Morgan
General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services
Peace River Regional District
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave
Dawson BC V1G 4H8

Dear Ms. Morgan:

This is a belated response to your letter dated January 19, 2016. I apologise for the delay.

Your letter forwards a motion by the Regional Board of Directors seeking to clarify a request for funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot launch site be made available to help fund a feasibility study for an alternate site.

In reviewing the Peace Project Water Use Plan I note there was agreement by the Peace Consultative Committee "To provide safe and reliable access to and from the Peace for the full operating range at Peace Canyon Generating Station. Four sites below Peace Canyon dam were identified for the construction and maintenance of river access. They are: Lynx Creek, Halfway River, Peace River Island Park and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park."

As a result of the Site C Environmental Assessment Certificate issued by the Province on October 14, 2014, BC Hydro is required to build three new boat launch/day use sites to be located at Hudson's Hope, Lynx Creek and Cache Creek on the new Site C reservoir. The potential of nearby land-slides into the Site C Reservoir has excluded Halfway River as an appropriate site for a new launch. As well a new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities has been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned by the Peace Consultative Committee. Also, recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor. For these reasons the obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot was removed in 2013.

.../2

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Resource Stewardship Division	Director's Office Water Management Branch	Mailing Address: PO Box 9340 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9M1 Telephone: 250-387-6949 Facsimile: 250-356-0605	Location: 3 rd Floor, 395 Waterfront Cres Victoria BC V8T 5K7 
---	--	--	---

September 25, 2018
May 10, 2017

Ms. Trish Morgan
Page 2

I should point out that no funds remain associated with the Blackfoot launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.

I trust this provides the clarification the Board was seeking.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Glen Davidson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Glen Davidson, P.Eng.
Director and Comptroller of Water Rights



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: August 12, 2016

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: History of Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch

FOR DIRECTORS' INFORMATION:

A public boat launch was built at Blackfoot Regional Park to provide river access for boaters, fishermen, hunters, search and rescue groups, and for other users of the Peace River. When in operation it was the only boat launch on the Peace River between the Taylor Landing Provincial Park boat launch and the Alberta border.

Over the summers of 1994/95, the main components for this boat launch were installed located downstream from and abutting the Don Phillips Bridge. This location is reportedly vulnerable to Peace River water level fluctuation, in part due to waters generated by hydroelectric generation and seasonal precipitation. It is also indicated that this location was susceptible to damage caused by the freezing and thawing of the river.

In 1995, when the boat launch was completed, it consisted of:

- A concrete pad above the high water mark
- In-water pads
- A concrete pad below the high water mark.

Almost immediately after the launch was completed, in 1996, BC Hydro had a planned release of water to investigate a sinkhole in the dam. The release impacted the boat launch and displaced the original "in-water pads" for the boat launch approximately 60m downstream. This required repair in that same year.

In August of 2003, the boat launch was blocked off due to degradation of the boat launch area, concerns about liability, and because the boat launch was no longer considered safe for public use.

BC Hydro approached the PRRD in September of 2010 in regards to repairing the boat launch at this location. The offer came as part of the Water Use Plan imposed on BC Hydro by the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights. The Peace Water Use Plan recommended physical works for the Peace Hydroelectric System that would result in enhanced recreational access to the Peace River below Peace Canyon Dam. At this time, BC Hydro had completed a feasibility study and were moving towards a design and costing phase for upgrading the existing boat launch ramp and required the Regional District's consent to proceed. A letter of authorization was supplied from the PRRD, being the upland owner/license of occupation holder, so that BC Hydro could apply to the Province for a license of occupation for the beach site, which was supplied in September of 2010. The PRRD offered to relinquish License of Occupation for the foreshore property between the Peace River and the Park so that BC Hydro could acquire it to construct an engineered boat launch.

In June of 2011, BC Hydro released it's "Management Plan for Proposed Blackfoot Park Upgraded Public Boat Launch Site – Peace River" which outlined the project overview, description, background, location and development requirements and impacts and even went so far as to propose starting the work on the project in 'low water' period of summer 2012.

Then, in June of 2014, BC Hydro informed the Regional District that they were no longer planning to construct the boat launch. On June 12, 2014 Bob Gammer, Manager of Community Relations, met with Director Goodings, Director Hiebert, and Director Jarvis along with Chris Cvik, CAO and Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services. Mr. Gammer explained that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from their obligation under their Water Use Plan to construct a boat launch at the Blackfoot Park based on the following issues:

- The cost to construct the Taylor Landing boat launch was over budget due to unforeseen construction conditions.
- The Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations would not allow a parking lot to be constructed on the banks of the Peace River due to their concern for flooding.

BC Hydro was still open to considering other options for a boat launch in the vicinity of Blackfoot Park, but recommendations needed to be made by the end of summer 2014. The Community Services Staff held a public meeting on August 25, 2014 at Blackfoot Regional Park to examine the Boat Launch and to look at alternate options for water access. Over 20 members of the public came to this meeting to offer questions, comments, concerns and discuss best sites for building the new boat launch.

In September 2014, Community Services staff submitted an application to remove the boat launch, which was previously just blocked off so that people could not use it. The Regional District felt it was necessary to remove as it posed a safety hazard. All necessary approvals were received from the Province and work commenced on remediating the former boat launch area to previous condition. At this time, a recommendation by the Board was made to forward information from the August 25, 2014 public meeting to BC Hydro that identified an alternate location on BC Hydro property on the opposite side of the road from Blackfoot Regional Park. The recommendation was also made that the send a letter to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Water Use Plan to provide safe and reliable access to the Peace River at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

In late October 2014, the Regional Parks Committee met with BC Hydro to discuss the recommendations from the August 25 public meeting to identify next steps. BC Hydro was open to examining the new site and planned to go back to the Comptroller of Water Rights to look at whether the Province would support and fund this new potential location, as it was not identified in the 2007 Water Use Plan. A recommendation was made to the Board to authorize that a letter be sent to BC Hydro to indicate that the PRRD would work in partnership with BC Hydro to examine the feasibility of constructing a boat launch at the aforementioned location.

On July 23, 2015 a letter was forwarded to the office of the Comptroller of Water Rights asking for authorization from that office to examine this new location (to the west of the bridge) so that BC Hydro would be able to move forward with conducting a feasibility study working cooperatively with the Regional District.

A letter, dated August 18, 2015, was then received from the Director and Comptroller of Water Rights responds that their authorization is not required for BC Hydro to provide feasibility support.

In response, on January 19, 2016 a letter was sent, on Board approval, to Comptroller of Water Rights clarifying that the Regional District is requesting that funds originally set aside for the Blackfoot boat launch be redirected to assist with the cost of conducting a feasibility study for an alternative boat launch site.

Finally, on June 23, 2016, the Regional District received a letter from the Comptroller of Water Rights which denied any request for funding on the basis of;

- A new high capacity boat launch along with upland facilities have been developed at Taylor (Peace River Island Park) at an expense far greater than was originally envisioned.
- Recreational use surveys resulted in markedly less use forecasted for a boat ramp at or near Blackfoot in comparison to use at Taylor.
- No funds remain associated with the Blackfoot Launch feasibility study for re-allocation elsewhere.
- This letter stated that the “obligation for BC Hydro to conduct a boat launch feasibility study at or near Blackfoot Park was removed in 2013.”

There are residents in the Peace River Regional District would work support a boat launch at this newly proposed location, though initial cost, liability, ongoing maintenance, and safety concerns may make it impractical to move forward on any boat launch at this Regional Park.

OPTIONS:

This report is for information only.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

This report supports Strategic Objective 1.6.1 stating that the PRRD shall “implement the 10 Year – Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan (adopted in 2014).”

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

When it was constructed, between 1994/95, construction of the boat launch was funded through the “BC 21” grant provided by the Province of BC (\$6,450), the “Rendezvous ’92 Legacy Fund” (\$9,427) and through a tax requisition of \$15,360 for a total cost of \$31,237.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

Attachments:

C-1 – Letter from BC Hydro (June 23, 2016)



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Office of the Chair

March 3, 2017

BC Hydro
6911 Southpoint Drive E11
Burnaby, BC
V3N 4X8

via email: julie.fournier@bchydro.com
via email: bob.gammer@bchydro.com

Attention: Bob Gammer, Community Relations Manager, Northern Region
Julie Fournier, Peace Water License Requirements, Environmental Risk Management

Re: Clarification for project cancellation – Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch

Dear Mr. Gammer and Ms. Fournier;

The Peace River Regional District Board of Directors is requesting clarification as to why BC Hydro requested relief from the Comptroller of Water Rights for the construction of the Blackfoot boat launch in 2014, as there is uncertainty as to the official reasons for the termination of the project.

As you are aware, in June 2014, BC Hydro met with directors and staff from the Peace River Regional District and advised that they were discontinuing their plan to construct an engineered boat launch at Blackfoot Park on the east side of the Clayhurst Bridge. At that time the Regional District was advised that due to cost overruns at the Taylor launch that it was impractical to construct a boat launch at Blackfoot. This decision came forward despite the conditions outlined in BC Hydro's 2007 Water Use Plan that "safe and reliable access" to the Peace River should be constructed and maintained at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

However, based on a discussion and an email between BC Hydro staff and a Regional District Director it was suggested that the reasons for discontinuing the boat launch project at Blackfoot were not due to the cost overruns at the Taylor launch.

The boat launch was a valued piece of infrastructure by residents of the Peace River Regional District and as such, the Regional District would like written clarification on all the reasons to discontinue the project.

We look forward to receiving your reply,

Yours truly,

Brad Sperling,
Chair of the Peace River Regional District Board

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PLEASE REPLY TO:

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☐ 9505 100 St, Fort St. John, BC V1J 4N4 Tel: (250) 785-8084 Fax: (250) 785-1125 Email: prrd.fsj@prrd.bc.ca

September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Office of the Chair

March 3, 2017

BC Hydro
6911 Southpoint Drive E11
Burnaby, BC
V3N 4X8

via email: julie.fournier@bchydro.com
via email: bob.gammer@bchydro.com

Attention: Bob Gammer, Community Relations Manager, Northern Region
Julie Fournier, Peace Water License Requirements, Environmental Risk Management

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Brad Sperling,
Chair of the Peace River Regional District Board

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September 25, 2018



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Office of the Chair

October 29, 2014

BC Hydro – Northern Region
6911 Southpoint Drive
Burnaby, BC V3N 4X8
Email: Bob.Gammer@bchydro.com

Attention: Bob Gammer, Manager of Community Relations

RE: Peace River Boat Launch near Blackfoot Park

Dear Mr. Gammer,

Further to our meeting on June 12, 2014 regarding BC Hydro's decision to discontinue the plan to construct an engineered boat launch at Blackfoot Park, the Regional District held a community meeting at Blackfoot Park on August 25, 2014 to identify alternative options.

20 members of public attended the August 25th meeting and identified that the location of the previous Clayhurst Ferry crossing on the former "Green Family" property would provide the best option for a boat launch. Individuals identified that at this location the river's current naturally slows and there is reduced risk of ice build-up over the winter. It was for these reasons that the ferry crossing was maintained here for many years.

Although it was recognized that the river bank is very steep, individuals felt that given the large size of the property (now Crown land SW ¼ of LS 5 Sec 24 TP 82 R14 W6M), that a boat ramp could be developed, along with a parking area and some picnic tables. A number of the individuals in attendance also offered to donate their time and equipment to construct the launch in order to keep the overall construction costs low.

The Regional District hopes that you will consider this recommendation. The individuals who attended the community meeting are all avid boaters and have spent many years on the Peace River. The lack of suitable and established boat launches along the Peace River has been identified many times over the years and for that

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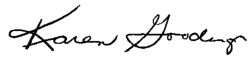
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September 25, 2018

reason the proposal of constructing a proper boat launch at Blackfoot Park was recommended in BC Hydro's 2007 Water Use Plan.

A copy of the meeting notes, pictures and map have been attached for your review. Should you have any questions about this recommendation please feel free to contact Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services at trish.morgan@prrd.bc.ca or 250 784-3218.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Goodings".

Karen Goodings, Chair

September 25, 2018

Peace River Regional District Regional Parks Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, August 25, 2014

Location: Blackfoot Regional Park

Present: Director Jarvis (Chair); Trish Morgan-Manager of Community Services, Jill Rickert-Community Services Coordinator (Recorder)

Community Members: Dave & Paula Friesen; Dave & Judy Russell, Tim & Charlie Hartnell, Steve Hartnell, George Streeper, Marvin Meeres, Tim Thomsen, Dwayne Shawchek, Tim Bennett (FLNRO), John Haukings (FLNRO), Dennis Nelson, Chad & Tia Esau, Donovan & Alex Giesbrecht, Perry Piper, Roni Nelson

Refreshments and a fire for roasting hotdogs prior to the meeting was supplied for everyone by the PRRD.

1. Introductions and opening remarks were stated and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Trish Morgan presented information and discussion to provide a background to the history of the boat launch located at Blackfoot Park.
 - Part of the Water Use Plan for the Peace Canyon and WAC Bennett Dam that identified Blackfoot Park as an area needing a boat launch as an obligation to communities impacted by the dams
 - Hydro approached the PRRD regarding a boat launch at Blackfoot Park in 2010
 - In 2011 a meeting regarding plans for a boat launch was held at Doe River Community Hall to discuss options
 - July 2014 Comptroller of Water Rights released BC Hydro of all obligations to land bordering river, therefore no longer obligated to PRRD to maintain/build boat launch.

Q: How much money do we have to work with?

A: TM – we don't know; FJ – need to work together on a plan that's reasonable and then approach them.

Q: What about the issues that Taylor has faced?

A: FJ – some issues occurred due to lack of knowledge regarding the nature of the rivers in the north; rivers run hard and aren't deep; unfortunately cost BC Hydro more money in the long run, important to help BC Hydro understand what needs to be done here with a good solid plan

Q: Are we restricted to the current location of the old launch?

A: TM – no not necessarily.

Comment: Ideal place would be above the bridge and upriver, out of the flood plain area to avoid the launch flooding and ruining it.

Comment: There is a lot of experience and knowledge just among the people present tonight that could help and tell you where the launch should go.

Group walked to current site of broken boat launch at near river...

Q: Will the new dam (Site C) stabilize the water level of the river at all?

A: FJ – yes in all likelihood, it could. Site C involves 3 major rivers located behind the dam, fewer running into it, means can control levels more with new dam

Comment: It's important that if and when a new boat launch is built the old one in the current location is cleaned up. A lot of mess there, concrete and rebar, should be cleaned up before new project is started.

Q: Any way there could be a bigger parking lot built if moved location of launch upriver?

A: TM – possibility if enough room.

Group walked to Bill Greene's land across from Blackfoot park and upriver from current location of launch...

Q: If boat launch built up river on Greene property, would PRRD/Hydro own it?

A: TM – Hydro land then hydro own it but likely PRRD would lease and run it, most likely

Q: Last time some of us met with BC Hydro to discuss launch, we told them where it should go, showed them and took pictures. What happened to all that information?

A: TM – not sure what Hydro did with all that info, but we are going to take this information we get tonight to the next Parks Committee mtg come up with some type of plan/report to take to the Board.

Q: How often would boat launch be used?

A: Daily when water levels are good, very busy on weekends. At current location, vehicles get stuck all the time and need a 4 wheel drive to get out, constantly helping people get out of launch area.

Q: TM – Is the water at the Greene site for new launch deep enough? High river bank (20-30 ft) and erosion, wonder about the stability and recession.

A: Lots of room and river plenty deep enough, could build ramp sideways (45° angle) and follow bank, fill in low spots not a lot of waste material must be utilised, very little maintenance in this area, easy area to expand with washrooms and picnic tables, keep access to public open.

Comment: The location of the old ferry crossing on the Green property is the ideal location. The river naturally slows at this location and although there is a steep bank, a ramp could be built back onto the property. (Group was in consensus that this was the only location)

Comment: BC Hydro met with some of us in 2013 and we walked this property and showed them this same location. They took pictures and notes. What did BC Hydro do with all of this information?

Q: TM - Cost?

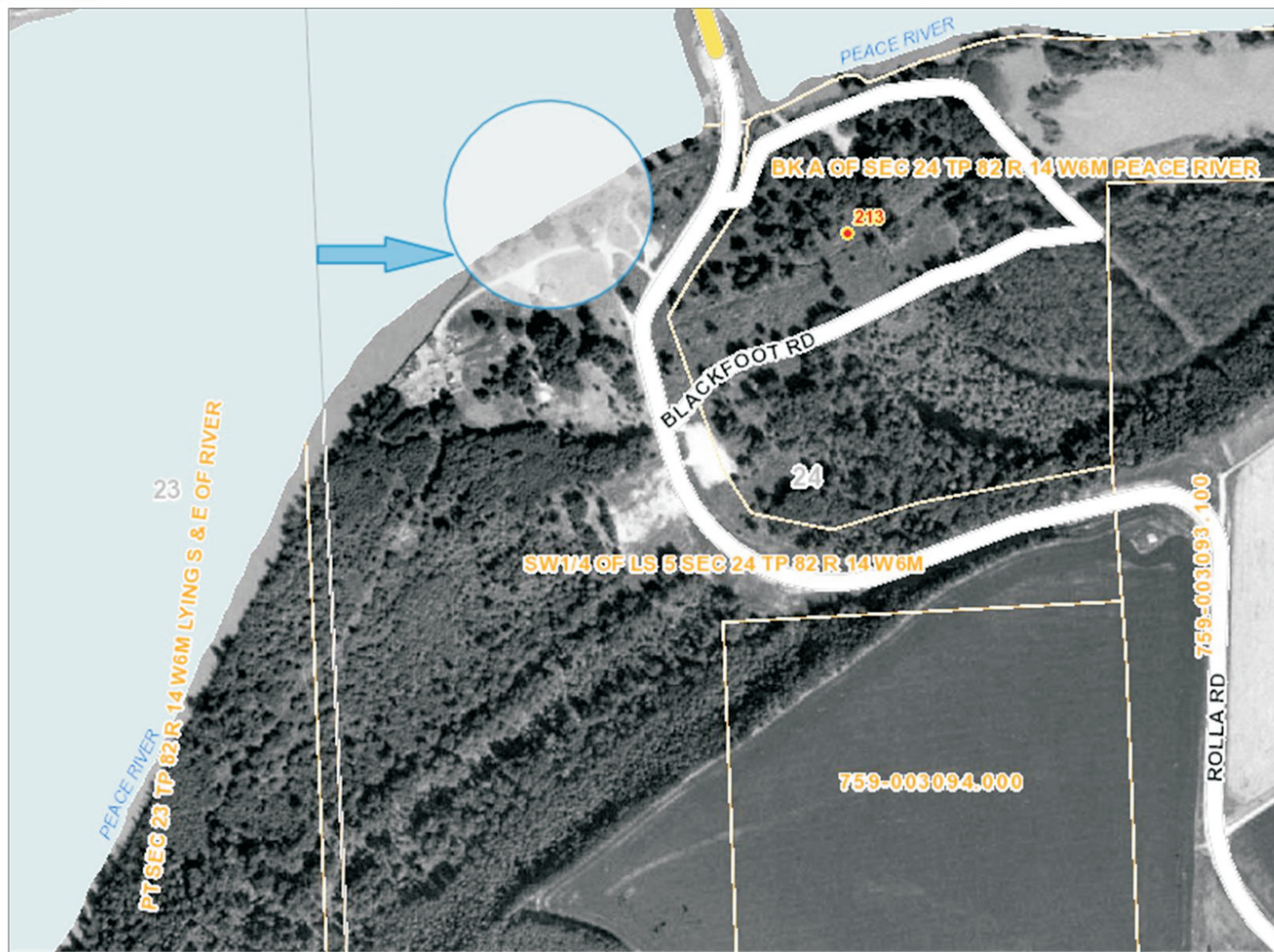
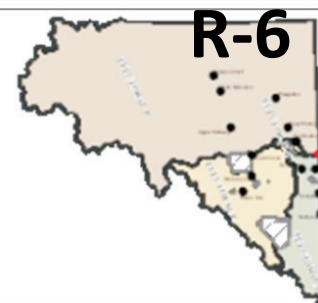
A: \$200,000 to \$300,000 to complete, lot of experience and knowledge here in community, people willing to help and donate time and equipment as long as there is money to finish it.

Group walked back to Blackfoot Park and examined a map and marked the location of a potential new boat launch.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Peace River Regional District



Legend

- Highway Mile Marker
 - Rural Community
 - 911 Civic Address
 - Sections
 - Main Roads (> 1:10000)
 - Minor Roads (> 1:10000)
 - Water Course
 - Water Bodies
 - Parcels
- West Peace Aerial Photo
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- North Peace Aerial Photo
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- South Peace Aerial Photo
- Red: Band_1
 - Green: Band_2
 - Blue: Band_3
- B&W Aerial Photo-1998
- High : 255
 - Low : 0

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309.0 0 154.52 309.0 Meters

NAD_1983_UTM_Zone_10N
© Latitude Geographics Group Ltd.

September 25, 2018

This map is a user generated static output from an Internet mapping site and is for reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

Recommended location of boat launch on Peace River

Recommended Location of a New Boat Launch on the Peace River



September 25, 2018

Examination of the previous boat launch site
on the east side
of the Clayhurst Bridge



September 25, 2018



**Examination of proposed boat launch site
on the west side
of the Clayhurst Bridge**

R-6



September 25, 2018

**Photos of ice build up on the
east side of the Clayhurst Bridge
sent in April 2013 from
Dwayne Shawchek
to Conny-Maud Groenvelt,
Division Manager with BC Hydro**



September 25, 2018



Peace River Regional District REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: September 18, 2014

From: Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services

Subject: Recommendations for the Blackfoot Park Boat Launch

RECOMMENDATION 1:

That the Regional Board forward information from the August 25, 2014 public meeting at Blackfoot to BC Hydro identifying an alternative location on BC Hydro property, at Clayhurst, for the construction of a public boat launch and that a meeting be scheduled between the Regional Parks Committee and BC Hydro to discuss the option.

RECOMMENDATION 2:

That the Regional Board send a letter to the BC Comptroller of Water Rights and the Regional Water Manager with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recommending that BC Hydro be held accountable to fulfill their obligations under the 2007 Water Use Plan to provide safe and reliable access to the Peace River at Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

On June 12, 2014 Bob Gammer, Manager of Community Relations, met with Director Goodings, Director Hiebert and Director Jarvis along with Chris Cvik, CAO and Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services. Mr. Gammer explained that the Comptroller of Water Rights had released BC Hydro from their obligation under their Water Use Plan to construct a boat launch at Blackfoot Park but that they are open to considering other options for a boat launch in the vicinity of Blackfoot Park, but recommendations need to be made by the end of the summer.

From the meeting at Blackfoot Park on August 25, 2014 it was recommended that a launch be constructed on the property adjacent to Blackfoot park, also known as the "old Greene property," where the Clayhurst ferry crossing used to be located. This property is Crown land and is regularly used for camping when Blackfoot Park is full. There was consensus amongst the group in attendance that this was the only suitable location on either side of the river. A number of community members also offered to assist with the construction should it go forward.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE: none

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S): none

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S): none

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

CAO:

Page 1 of 2

September 25, 2018

Please see the attached meeting notes from the August 25, 2014 meeting.

Excerpts from the Peace Project Water Use Plan (August 21, 2007)
<http://www.ceaa-acee.gc.ca/050/documents/p63919/97604E.pdf>

1.0 Introduction

“The conditions proposed in this Water Use Plan, for the operation of BC Hydro’s Peace River hydroelectric facilities, reflect the December 2003 consensus recommendations of the Peace Project Water Use Plan Committee...

The proposed conditions will change current operations at the Peace Canyon and Williston Reservoir and are expected to positively affect fisheries and wildlife habitat, shoreline conditions, flood control, and recreation interests. The proposed conditions are expected to decrease power generation revenues” (page 1).

5.4 Recommended Non-Operating Alternatives for the Peace

“The Peace Management Plan is limited to the portion of the Peace within British Columbia between Peace Canyon Dam and the BC/Alberta border. The work would be primarily conducted from Peace Canyon Dam to the Pine River confluence.

Following are the components of the Management Plan ...

Peace Access – To provide safe and reliable access to and from the Peace for the full operating range at Peace Canyon Generating Station. Four sites below Peace Canyon Dam were identified for the construction and maintenance of river access. They are: Lynx Creek, Halfway River, Peace Island Park and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park” (page 12).

7.6 Recreation

“The proposed operating conditions in this Water Use Plan are expected to have a minimal affect on the access or recreation activities on Williston Reservoir. The proposed physical works (e.g., improving or constructing reliable and safe reservoir access, debris removal, etc.) are expected to improve the recreation opportunity and public safety on Williston Reservoir...

The Peace operating regime is not changing. The proposed physical works are expected to provide safe and reliable access on the river at four locations. These are Peace Island Park, Lynx Creek, Halfway River and Clayhurst/Blackfoot Regional Park” (page 14).

Peace River Regional District Regional Parks Committee Meeting

Date: Monday, August 25, 2014

Location: Blackfoot Regional Park

Present: Director Jarvis (Chair); Trish Morgan-Manager of Community Services, Jill Rickert-Community Services Coordinator (Recorder)

Community Members: Dave & Paula Friesen; Dave & Judy Russell, Tim & Charlie Hartnell, Steve Hartnell, George Streeper, Marvin Meeres, Tim Thomsen, Dwayne Shawchek, Tim Bennett (FLNRO), John Haukings (FLNRO), Dennis Nelson, Chad & Tia Esau, Donovan & Alex Giesbrecht, Perry Piper, Roni Nelson

Refreshments and a fire for roasting hotdogs prior to the meeting was supplied for everyone by the PRRD.

1. Introductions and opening remarks were stated and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Trish Morgan presented information and discussion to provide a background to the history of the boat launch located at Blackfoot Park.
 - Part of the Water Use Plan for the Peace Canyon and WAC Bennett Dam that identified Blackfoot Park as an area needing a boat launch as an obligation to communities impacted by the dams
 - Hydro approached the PRRD regarding a boat launch at Blackfoot Park in 2010
 - In 2011 a meeting regarding plans for a boat launch was held at Doe River Community Hall to discuss options
 - July 2014 Comptroller of Water Rights released BC Hydro of all obligations to land bordering river, therefore no longer obligated to PRRD to maintain/build boat launch.

Q: How much money do we have to work with?

A: TM – we don't know; FJ – need to work together on a plan that's reasonable and then approach them.

Q: What about the issues that Taylor has faced?

A: FJ – some issues occurred due to lack of knowledge regarding the nature of the rivers in the north; rivers run hard and aren't deep; unfortunately cost BC Hydro more money in the long run, important to help BC Hydro understand what needs to be done here with a good solid plan

Q: Are we restricted to the current location of the old launch?

A: TM – no not necessarily.

Comment: Ideal place would be above the bridge and upriver, out of the flood plain area to avoid the launch flooding and ruining it.

Comment: There is a lot of experience and knowledge just among the people present tonight that could help and tell you where the launch should go.

Group walked to current site of broken boat launch at near river...

Q: Will the new dam (Site C) stabilize the water level of the river at all?

A: FJ – yes in all likelihood, it could. Site C involves 3 major rivers located behind the dam, fewer running into it, means can control levels more with new dam

Comment: It's important that if and when a new boat launch is built the old one in the current location is cleaned up. A lot of mess there, concrete and rebar, should be cleaned up before new project is started.

Q: Any way there could be a bigger parking lot built if moved location of launch upriver?

A: TM – possibility if enough room.

Group walked to Bill Greene's land across from Blackfoot park and upriver from current location of launch...

Q: If boat launch built up river on Greene property, would PRRD/Hydro own it?

A: TM – Hydro land then hydro own it but likely PRRD would lease and run it, most likely

Q: Last time some of us met with BC Hydro to discuss launch, we told them where it should go, showed them and took pictures. What happened to all that information?

A: TM – not sure what Hydro did with all that info, but we are going to take this information we get tonight to the next Parks Committee mtg come up with some type of plan/report to take to the Board.

Q: How often would boat launch be used?

A: Daily when water levels are good, very busy on weekends. At current location, vehicles get stuck all the time and need a 4 wheel drive to get out, constantly helping people get out of launch area.

Q: TM – Is the water at the Greene site for new launch deep enough? High river bank (20-30 ft) and erosion, wonder about the stability and recession.

A: Lots of room and river plenty deep enough, could build ramp sideways (45° angle) and follow bank, fill in low spots not a lot of waste material must be utilised, very little maintenance in this area, easy area to expand with washrooms and picnic tables, keep access to public open.

Comment: The location of the old ferry crossing on the Greene property is the ideal location. The river naturally slows at this location and although there is a steep bank, a ramp could be built back onto the property. (Group was in consensus that this was the only location)

Comment: BC Hydro met with some of us in 2013 and we walked this property and showed them this same location. They took pictures and notes. What did BC Hydro do with all of this information?

Q: TM - Cost?

A: \$200,000 to \$300,000 to complete, lot of experience and knowledge here in community, people willing to help and donate time and equipment as long as there is money to finish it.

Group walked back to Blackfoot Park and examined a map and marked the location of a potential new boat launch.

6. Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



September 25, 2018