

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

for the meeting to be held on **Monday, October 24, 2016**
in the Regional District Office Boardroom 1981 Alaska Avenue,
Dawson Creek, BC, commencing at **10:30 am**

- 1. Call to Order:**
- 2. Director's Notice of New Business:**
- 3. Adoption of Agenda:**
- 4. Adoption of Minutes**
 - M-1 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2016
 - M-2 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2016
- 5. Business Arising from the Minutes:**
- 6. Delegations:**
 - D-1 Doug Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, District of Chetwynd and Merlin Nichols, Mayor, District of Chetwynd – South Bank Recreation Sites – Site C Project
- 7. Correspondence:**
 - C-1 June 23, 2016 – Glen Davidson, Director and Comptroller of Water Rights – Re: Feasibility Study for Boat Launch at Blackfoot Park
 - C-2 September 28, 2016 – Chad Carlstrom, Urban Systems Ltd. – Re: Charlie Lake Boat Launch – Project Update
- 8. Reports:**
 - R-1 August 12, 2016 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator – History of Blackfoot Regional Park Boat Launch
 - R-2 August 8, 2016 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator – Play, Clean, and Go at Blackfoot Regional Park
 - R-3 August 22, 2016 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator – Invasive Species
 - R-4 August 2, 2016 – Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services – Minaker River Park & Prophet River First Nation
 - R-5 July 28, 2016 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator – Minaker River Regional Park Information
 - R-6 June 2014 – Trish Morgan, General Manager of Community & Electoral Area Services – Review of Regional Parks and Trails Master Plan
- 9. New Business:**
- 10. Adjournment:**



**PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

M-1

DATE: October 13, 2016
PLACE: Regional District Downstairs Meeting Room, Dawson Creek, BC
PRESENT: **Directors**

Director Dan Rose, Meeting Chair
Director Karen Goodings
Chair Don McPherson

Staff

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

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:25 am

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Rose,
that the Regional Parks Committee agenda for the October 13, 2016 meeting be
adopted.

Call to Order

Director's Notice of New Business

Adoption of the Agenda

Minutes

M-1 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2016

Business Arising from the Minutes

Delegations

Reports

R-1 August 10, 2016 report from Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator,
regarding tenure of the land previously used as a boat launch at Blackfoot Regional
Park

New Business

Items for Information

Adjournment

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

M-1
May 20, 2016

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Goodings,
that the following minutes be adopted and also be provided at the next Regional
Parks Committee meeting:

a) Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2016.

CARRIED.

REPORTS:

M-1

R-1 re:
Blackfoot Boat
Launch release of
Tenure

The License of Occupation held by the Peace River Regional District for the property, previously used as the approach to the boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park, has expired and must either be renewed or released back to the Province. The PRRD could then apply for the License of Occupation for the whole beach front area to provide maintenance and management to this land adjacent to the park.

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Rose,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the Statutory Declaration be signed and submitted to Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations that would release tenure of the land previously used as the approach to the boat launch at Blackfoot Regional Park.

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Rose,
That the Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that any decision regarding securing tenure to the entire beach front area at Blackfoot Regional Park be deferred until the proposed Park Design study is completed and recommendations provided.

CARRIED.

Adjournment:

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Chair McPherson,
that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 am

Director Rose, Chair

Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation
Coordinator



**PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT
REGIONAL PARKS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

M-2

DATE: May 20, 2016

PLACE: Regional District Office Boardroom, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: **Directors**

Director Dan Rose, Meeting Chair
Director Karen Goodings – via teleconference
Director Rob Fraser

Guest – via teleconference

Erin Harlos, Environmental and Social Mitigation Program, BC Hydro

Staff

Trish Morgan, Manager of Community Services
Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:35 am

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Goodings, that the Regional Parks Committee agenda for the May 20, 2016 meeting including additional items, be adopted.

Call to Order

Director's Notice of New Business

Adoption of the Agenda

Minutes

M-1 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2016

M-2 Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2016

Business Arising from the Minutes

Delegations

D-1 Erin Harlos – Environmental and Social Mitigation Program, BC Hydro, Site C – Peace River Community Recreation Site Fund.

Reports

R-1 May 13, 2016 report from Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator regarding Play Clean Go Signage

R-2 May 12, 2016 report from Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator regarding Regional Parks Day

R-3 May 13, 2016 report from Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator regarding Minaker River Park Study

R-4 May 13, 2016 report from Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator regarding Dunlevy Campground Closure

New Business

Items for Information

Adjournment

CARRIED.

Vary the Agenda: MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Fraser, That the agenda be varied to deal with Item D-1 at this time.

CARRIED.

DELEGATION:

D-1 re: Site C PR
Community
Recreation Site
Fund

Ms. Harlos, Environmental and Social Mitigation Program, BC Hydro, noted that Site C Clean Energy Project Environmental Assessment Condition No. 40 requires that BC Hydro finalize and implement an Outdoor Recreation Mitigation Plan (ORMP) to mitigate changes in recreational opportunities and loss of existing areas resulting from the Site C project. It is anticipated that the Peace River Community Recreation Site Fund, in the amount of \$200,000, will be established in early 2017.

BC Hydro is seeking input from the Regional District if it is interested in taking on the management of the fund to support alignment and coordination with other Regional District recreational grant programs i.e. trails grants, grants-in-aid, while BC Hydro is prepared to manage the fund directly.

A question and answer period ensued. Topics included:

- Intent of ORMP is to upgrade existing undeveloped or new recreation areas
- Is there an opportunity to establish a legacy fund for future use?
- endowment could be discussed later
- regional district should be involved with administration but needs to be cautious with respect to public perception
- is there an opportunity to develop a terms of reference?
- Yes, draft for discussion, BC Hydro is looking for input, review of criteria and eligibility
- Still needs to be discussed at Board level
- Revive previous conversations with BC Hydro re: boat launch at Clayhurst
- BC Hydro required to provide continued operational funding

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Rose,
That the Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the Site C – Peace River Community Recreation Site Fund be discussed with a focus on what role the Regional District could undertake with respect to the development of a Terms of Reference (criteria and eligibility), including engagement on the application process, possible establishment of an endowment fund, and administration of the fund.

CARRIED.

MINUTES:

M-1 and M-2
May 5 and Feb 17,
2016

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Goodings,
that the following minutes be adopted:

- a) Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2016; and
- b) Regional Parks Committee Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2016.

CARRIED.

REPORTS:

R-1 re:
Play Clean Go
Signage

Staff have been raising awareness of invasive species in the region by placing informational signage within Regional District parks and trails focussed on invasive plants. It was noted that invasive species, such as gold fish, should be included on signage within proximity to lakes.

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Fraser,
That the Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that staff be authorized to investigate, working with BC Parks, to determine if there are invasive species, i.e. goldfish, in any lakes or rivers within Regional District parks.

CARRIED.

Reports: (cont'd)

R-2 re: Regional Parks Day MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Goodings, that the Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that a "Regional Parks Day" be scheduled for June 18, 2016 at Blackfoot Regional Park, for an approximate cost of \$2,000, with event expenditures to be cost shared between the Invasive Plant Program and Park budgets.

CARRIED.

R-3 re: Minaker River Park Study In the 2012 – 2017 Minaker River Management Plan re-routing the road away from the river due to ongoing erosion problems was identified as an anticipated project. In order to bring the driveway up to an acceptable standard the road will need to be repaired and the river bank reinforced. Prior to commencing work an application must be submitted to FrontCounter BC for an approval for "Bank Erosion Protection". The services of a qualified engineer to produce appropriate drawings, maps, and site plans will be necessary.

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Fraser,

- a) That the Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the Parks Committee and interested Board members be authorized to conduct a site visit at the Minaker River Park to determine the feasibility of repairing the driveway and reinforcing the river bank due to erosion problems; and
- b) that staff be authorized to apply to the Municipal Insurance Association of BC (MIABC) Risk Management Grant Program for a \$10,000 grant to assist with the "Driveway Assessment / Engineering / Road Work" project at the Minaker River Park; and
- c) that staff be instructed not to proceed with the "Driveway Assessment / Engineering / Road Work" study until after the Parks Committee and Board has completed its site visit and determined the merits of the project.

CARRIED.

R-4 re: Dunlevy Campground closure Staff had been directed to investigate the feasibility of the current Dunlevy Boat Launch area as a potential location to establish a Regional District campground. As part of the Water Use Agreement BC Hydro was obligated to construct the boat launch to provide physical works on the reservoir for use by recreational users. Staff contacted private persons, government organizations – BC Hydro, BC Parks and historical archives to understand the history of the campsite. The site has been in existence from 1982 to 1990, reportedly the site was shut down in 1990 due to a lack of funding, however the location is still used to gain access to the boat launch.

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Goodings, That the Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that a letter be forwarded to BC Parks inviting representatives to attend a Parks Committee meeting to update the Committee on BC Parks future plans for the Dunlevy campground on Williston Lake.

CARRIED.

Reports: (cont'd)

R-5 re:
Commemorative
Gifting

Commemorative gifting can provide for a range of opportunities for individual and/or corporate residents to contribute directly to a park or program of their choice. The Commemorative Gifting Program (CGP) not only enhances public spaces but allows for the honouring and memorialization of loved ones and respected community members. The CGP could include bicycle racks for \$250, picnic tables for \$1,000 plus a placard to commemorate the item/person. Maintenance costs are typically built into the item price. The program, if approved, would operate on a cost-recovery basis, planning, procurement, installation and maintenance would all be taken into account when donation requirements are developed.

MOVED by Director Fraser, SECONDED by Director Goodings,
That the Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that staff be authorized to develop a commemorative gifting program that operates on a cost recovery basis, to enhance park amenities.

CARRIED.

Director Goodings a copy of the page from the Parks and Trails Master Plan that indicates examining opportunities, should they arise, as a result of the Site C Project.

Adjournment:

MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Director Fraser,
that the meeting adjourn.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 pm

Director Rose, Chair

S. Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator



Box 357
Chetwynd, BC
Canada V0C 1J0

tel: (250) 401-4100
fax: (250) 401-4101
email: d-chet@gochetwynd.com

September 12, 2016

Peace River Regional District
P.O. Box 810
Dawson Creek, BC
V1G 4H8



Attention: Chris Cvik, Chief Administrative Officer

Dear Mr. Cvik:

Re: South Bank Recreation Sites – Site “C” Project

Enclosed please find five (5) copies of a brief report from the District of Chetwynd in relation to South Bank Recreation sites as proposed by Chetwynd.

The report outlines the intent of the recreation area designations and the funding source to implement these recommendations.

The District would be pleased to present the recommendations at the Regional District's next Regional Parks Committee meeting.

Yours Truly,



D.B. (Doug) Fleming, ACIS, CMC
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Siobhan Jackson, BC Hydro

October 24, 2016

Vision Statement

Chetwynd exists in order that area residents have sustainable opportunities for
Security, Health, Safety and Prosperity
in surroundings that display the best of our natural environment.

District of Chetwynd

Presentation on

Peace River South Bank Recreation Sites

Introduction

BC Hydro has provided an opportunity to Peace Region communities to develop recreation facilities on the south bank of the Peace River as a mitigation initiative in response to the construction of the Site “C” Dam. BC Hydro has committed up to \$200,000.00 for development of the subject recreational venues on the South Bank.

The District of Chetwynd, having been instrumental in negotiating this opportunity with BC Hydro, viewed three potential sites for recreational investment. Ultimately two sites were selected as having strong possibility for regional recreation venues (see attached plans marked Area 1 and Area 2).

The purpose of the south bank recreation sites and viewing area arose as a result of the perceived negative impacts which may affect Chetwynd as a result of the Dam project, such as heavy rock hauling, increased worker/commuter traffic, and disruption of normal routines resulting from the hauling of goods, materials and equipment through the community of Chetwynd. Additionally, currently enjoyed recreational opportunities in the area of the Dam would be curtailed or limited during the construction of the Dam.

The proposed use and locations selected are intended to provide regional residents benefits through new and/or enhanced recreational opportunities. Residents have been using this area recreationally for many years. Development of enhanced recreation facilities will add to the quality of life for residents of the Peace region.

Support for the recommendations contained in this report will be sought from the Peace River Regional District and BC Hydro.

AREA 1 – Lakeside Camping Area

Area 1 was selected because of its relatively easy access by motor vehicle, its proximity to the (future) lake, and the vast area available for development of wilderness style camping.

The area could support several graveled campsites, complete with picnic tables and fire pits, a firewood shelter, pit toilets (concrete) and a large gazebo for gatherings. The area would readily support development of wilderness style campsites and has a source of gravel immediately adjacent to the site for campsite development and access road maintenance. Future expansion capability also exists at this site should demand warrant, and the river (future lake) views at this location are truly inspiring.

This area is currently being used for camping by hunters and summer recreationalists.

A 'trust fund' could be established for the future care and maintenance of the site, as well as any potential future campsite improvements or expansion.

Development of this site would likely require some form of Crown Land tenure.

Proposed Budget:

Site Development

6 – Campsites @ \$6,000 each	\$36,000
6 – Fire pits @ \$200 each	1,200
6 – Picnic tables @ \$1,500 each*	9,000
3 – Concrete pit toilets @ \$2,500 each	7,500
1 – Firewood shelter	5,000
1 – Gathering place gazebo	35,000
Road access improvements	<u>25,000</u>
Sub Total - Construction	\$118,700

Care & Maintenance Fund	<u>\$30,000</u>
-------------------------	-----------------

Total Site 1 Costs	\$148,700
--------------------	-----------

* includes pre-constructed concrete base







D-1



October 24, 2016

Area 1

Legend

 Area 1

D-1

Google earth

Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe



400 m

October 24, 2016

AREA 2 – Peace/Pine Valley Park Reserve

The second site viewed by the Chetwynd contingent was a spectacular viewpoint located on the high banks of the Pine River Valley near the confluence of the Peace River.

Area 2 is located generally at the confluence of the Peace and Pine rivers. The site is breathtaking and offers dramatic views of the Pine River Valley, the meandering river and nearby railway grade, access to unique grasslands and follows a road which switchbacks to an abandoned industrial area and ultimately the Peace River.

This area is simply awe inspiring and it was felt that this area should be protected and preserved for future generations through some form of park dedication or reserve.

Minor investment in the way of establishing a couple of more viewpoints, perhaps 2-3 pit toilets (concrete) and signage explaining the importance of the area and the need to demonstrate respect for the area.

In addition, funds might be placed into a Care and Maintenance fund to ensure the area remains pristine and accessible.

This area represents one of last remaining untouched vistas in the Peace Region and should be preserved for future generations.

Proposed Budget:

Site Development

3 – Concrete pit toilets @ \$2,500 each	\$7,500
5 – Picnic tables/benches @ \$1,500 each	7,500
5 – Gravel site pads @ \$1,000 each	<u>5,000</u>
Sub Total	\$20,000

Care & Maintenance Fund	<u>\$31,300</u>
-------------------------	-----------------

Total Site 2 Costs	\$51,300
--------------------	----------









Area 2

Legend

Feature 1

D-1

Google earth

Image City of Fort St. John
Image © 2016 DigitalGlobe

1 mi



October 24, 2016



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 
---	--	--	---

October 24, 2016

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 28, 2016

File: 1958.0384.01

City of Fort St. John
10631 100 Street
Fort St. John, B.C., V1J 3Z5

Attention: Wally Ferris, General Manager of Community Services

RE: CHARLIE LAKE BOAT LAUNCH – PROJECT UPDATE

The purpose of this letter is to summarize the Charlie Lake Boat Launch project to date given the unexpected circumstances that have caused delays to the project.

Below is a summary of the sequence of events that have occurred corresponding to project milestones:

- Late 2015
 - Created preliminary design drawings to be used with environmental applications. It was noted that environmental applications for both the provincial and federal government were required for this project due to the work in a watercourse. Identified environmental permits included:
 - BC Water Act Section 9 Approval application for BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations
 - Project Review Application for Fisheries and Oceans Canada
 - Creation of an Environmental Management Plan
 - Scientific Fish Collection permit
 - Environmental permits were submitted in December 2015.
 - Preliminary drawings did not include a detailed site survey or verification of land ownership. The land was assumed to be owned by the City through discussions with City staff.
 - Detailed design drawings were not prepared at this time due to the possibility of design changes resulting from feedback during the environmental review process.
 - The target date for the boat launch installation was the spring of 2016.
- January 2016
 - Received Section 9 preliminary acceptance letter.
 - Received notice from FrontCounter BC that the proposed upgrades to the Charlie Lake Boat Launch were on Provincial Crown Land and that the City does not own the land nor operate a Crown Land Tenure Lease on the land at the boat launch location.
 - We verified land ownership of the area. The City has a Crown Land Tenure District Lease 4007 (DL4007) on the nearby wharf. The City owns the land of the adjacent parking lot, the land currently occupied by the Rotary RV Park, and the weir and surrounding land.
 - Through discussions with City staff, the City has mistakenly acted as the owner and operator of the boat launch site for a number of years.
- February 2016
 - Started to prepare a land tenure amendment application to amend Crown Land Tenure Lease DL4007 (the wharf) to extend the area to also include the boat launch.

October 24, 2016

- March 2016
 - While preparing the land tenure amendment application, we completed a search on the Integrated Land and Resource Registry regarding archeological sites. The results came back with a single sensitive record for an archaeological site within close proximity to our project area.
 - Prepared a management plan for DL4007
- April 2016
 - Submitted a land tenure amendment application to FrontCounter BC which included:
 - Site plan showing existing land tenure, proposed amendment, and their respective areas;
 - GIS shapefiles of proposed tenure amendment area;
 - Letter of request to amend DL4007; and,
 - Management plan for DL4007 and the amendment area.
- May 2016
 - FrontCounter BC accepted the application to amend Crown Land Tenure Lease DL4007 on behalf of the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations and noted it passed preliminary review. During the application review, the application will be referred for comment to:
 - First Nations;
 - Other government agencies having statutory responsibilities related to the application;
 - Local governments; and,
 - The general public.
 - The target application turnaround time is 140 days. Assuming the start date of the application is May 12, 2016, 140 days later places notice at September 29, 2016. We therefore aimed to target the end of the boating season for construction assuming the application was received in advance.
 - Due to public use of the deteriorating boat launch, and public complaints of its condition, we created a sign for the City warning boaters of the condition and provided a map of alternate boat launch locations. Noted on this sign was a statement stating:
 - *The City of Fort St. John has made an application to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resources Operations, Peace Region, for amendment to DL4007 for boat launch purposes covering approximately 0.156 hectares situated on provincial crown land in the vicinity of Charlie Lake, Peace River District.*
The City of Fort St. John intends to restore this boat launch if application is approved.
 - Posted a public notice in the Alaska Highway News for two consecutive weeks as required by the amendment application.

To date, the City has not received approval of the application to amend Crown Land Tenure DL4007 such that it includes the boat launch. As construction cannot occur without the lease in place, and forecasting the time required to complete a detailed design, publish a public tender, allow for a two-week tendering period, receive the insurance and bonding submittals from the contractor, and allow for material supply, we have reached a point where we advise to plan for construction of the boat launch in the spring of 2017 shortly after the ice is off. The BC Water Act Approval will be resubmitted in the near future to ensure that Approval is received over the winter months.

Attention: Wally Ferris, General Manager of Community Services
File: 1958.0384.01
Date: September 28, 2016
Page: 3 of 3

Attached is a figure showing the existing Crown Land Tenure DL4007 and the proposed amendment area, as well as a copy of the notice to users of the boat launch posted in May 2016.

Sincerely,

URBAN SYSTEMS LTD.



Chad Carlstrom, P.Eng.

/cc

\\usl.urban-systems.com\projects\Projects_FSJ\1958\0384\01\Q-Quality-Records\Internal Review\Documents\2016-09-28 WFerris Update LTR\2016-09-28 Charlie Lake Boat Launch - Project Update.docx



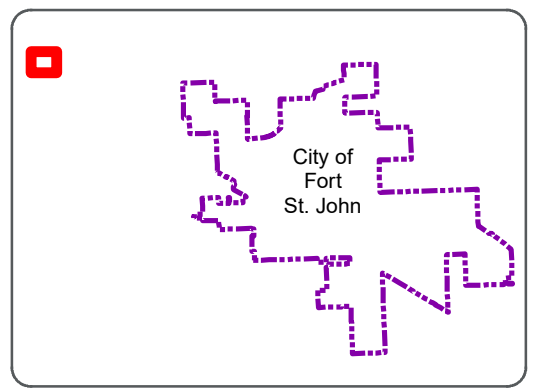
\\us1.urban-systems.com\projects\Projects_FSU\1958.0384\01-Drafting-Design-Analysis\GIS\Projects\MXD\Current\LEASE APPLICATION.mxd Last updated by nelson on Monday, March 14, 2016 at 2:57:04 PM

October 24, 2016

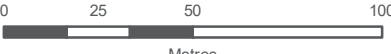
City of Fort St. John
Charlie Lake Boat Launch

Site Plan

-  Proposed Crown Tenure
-  Parcels
-  City Boundary



The accuracy & completeness of information shown on this drawing is not guaranteed. It will be the responsibility of the user of the information shown on this drawing to locate & establish the precise location of all existing information whether shown or not.



0 25 50 100
Metres



N

Coordinate System:
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

Scale:
1:190 543

Data Sources:

- Municipal boundary provided by Land and Resource Data Warehouse.
- Imagery provided by ESRI basemaps.

Project #: 1958.0384.01
Author: NJ
Checked:
Status: ~ DRAFT ~
Revision: A
Date: 2016-03-14



URBAN
systems

FIGURE 1



**ATTENTION VISITORS
IMPORTANT NOTICE!**

**VARIABLE UNDERWATER CONDITIONS &
LOW WATER LEVELS**

USE BOAT LAUNCH AT OWN RISK

**MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR LARGE
WATERCRAFT**

**ALTERNATE BOAT LAUNCHES AVAILABLE
FOR PUBLIC USE AS SHOWN ON MAP**

● = Boat Launch

THE CITY OF FORT ST JOHN HAS MADE AN APPLICATION TO THE MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS, AND NATURAL RESOURCES OPERATIONS (MFLNRO), PEACE REGION, FOR AN AMENDMENT TO DL4007 FOR BOAT LAUNCH PURPOSES COVERING APPROXIMATELY 0.156 HECTARES SITUATED ON PROVINCIAL CROWN LAND IN THE VICINITY OF CHARLIE LAKE, PEACE RIVER DISTRICT.

THE CITY OF FORT ST. JOHN INTENDS TO RESTORE THIS BOAT LAUNCH IF APPLICATION IS APPROVED.



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.

October 24, 2016

Staff Initials: *Casey*

Dept. Head: *J. Morgan*

CAO: *Ch. Birk*

Page 1 of 3

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)



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: August 8, 2016

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: **Play, Clean & Go at Blackfoot Regional Park**

FOR DIRECTORS' INFORMATION:

On July 30, 2016, the Peace River Regional District hosted an event at Blackfoot Regional Park. The purpose of having this event was for the Invasive Plant Program and Community Services Department to work together to promote Regional District parks, to create a learning opportunity around invasive and native plants, and to partner with other agencies to encourage learning and having fun in the great outdoors responsibly.

The event ran from 10:30 in the morning until about 4:00pm and provided just enough time for everyone to do some interactive learning and to have a whole lot of fun!

BC Conservation Officer; Blake Parker, started off the activities, engaging everyone in a discussion about how to be "bear aware" and their responsibilities as hikers, campers, and nature enthusiasts to keeping not only themselves safe, but the animals too. Everyone learned about how to be responsible for their own safety and about how to preserve wildlife heritage.

South Peace Search and Rescue continued the interactive learning by talking about "Survive Outside" techniques; teaching the kids what to do if they get lost in the woods. Now, the participants (and guardians) all know that they should always tell someone else where they are going before they leave, that they should "hug a tree" and stay put if they get lost, about just how important it is to keep warm and dry, and how to help the searchers find them! Everyone asked lots of questions and after the activity was finished they ran a game of "Hide and Search and Rescue."

Staff from the Peace River Regional District then took the stage to talk about invasive and native plants in the Region. Everyone learned a lot about plants they see each day, and about the plants that they should report! This event was the kick off to the "Play, Clean & Go" program being implemented by the Regional District, which is an education and outreach campaign. The objective of the program is to slow or stop the spread of terrestrial invasive species through changes in our behaviour.

October 24, 2016

Staff Initials: *BCasey*

Dept. Head: *J. Morgan*

CAO: *Ch. Birk*



Next came the trail lunch, where the group all talked about what to eat if you're going to be out in nature for an extended period of time. Granola bars, trail mix, dried fruit, juice boxes and water were all supplied, with even a cookie for dessert! While some chose to sit on the grass of the playground area to eat leisurely, others chose to participate in the lunchtime activities, either planting a native plant with PRRD staff, reading a book on waste reduction with the Northern Environmental Action Team, or learning the basics of how to set up a simple tent.

After lunch, Susan McGarvey with the Northern Environmental Action Team, helped everyone to understand the effects of waste on our natural environment, and about outdoor water use and pollution. This event helped participants learn that reducing the amount of water that we use and waste that we produce is easy to do without making big lifestyle changes.

Finally, the BC Wildfire Services team helped everyone to understand fire and fire safety, including how to properly make a campfire, the importance of using fire pits, how to prevent forest fires, and how to safely extinguish the fire once you're done. The kids all had the pleasure of meeting Smokey the Bear and then everyone even got to see how physically demanding it is to be a fire fighter when they pulled out the hoses and let the group try!



The day closed with a "thank you" to all of the participants and presenters. Staff drew for the three 'outdoor' themed prizes, taken away by three happy participants who seemed very excited to get out into the outdoors and use them. The day hosted around 25 - 30 participants ages ranging from 2-14. The event also hosted parents and adults who were just out to enjoy a day in the park. Very positive

feedback was received by staff, including words of encouragement to run another “Park Day Event” soon.

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):

This event cost \$800 in supplies, and over \$2,000 in advertising for the event. The advertising costs were so high due to postponing the first event after all of the advertising was already complete. Additional advertisements were also needed to notify the public that the event was no longer taking place. Event budget was split between the Invasive Plants Program and the Community Services Department.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Advertising for this event was by regional newspaper, radio, and on social media. In the questionnaire, 90% of participants responded that they had heard of the event through word of mouth or over social media.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Due to the relative “success” of this first time event, Community Services Staff are considering the possibility of running another “Parks Day” in winter of 2016.



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: August 22, 2016

From: Bryna Casey

Subject: Invasive Species Awareness

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Regional Parks Committee recommends to the Regional Board that the Community Services Department along with the Invasive Plants Department be authorized to work with the Invasive Species Council of British Columbia to create and install signage in the five Regional Parks that highlight the undesirable effects of releasing non-native aquatic species into rivers and lakes in the Peace River Regional District.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The following resolution was passed by the Peace River Regional District Board of Directors at its June 3, 2016 meeting;

REPORTS: (continued)

R-17

June 3, 2016 – Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

PLAY CLEAN GO SIGNAGE

RD/16/06/28

MOVED Director Ackerman, SECONDED Director Hiebert,
That staff be authorized to work with BC Parks to investigate if there are invasive species, i.e. goldfish in any lakes or rivers within the Regional District parks.

CARRIED.

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to British Columbia and pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on people, animals, or ecosystems. When an aquatic 'pet' (e.g. goldfish) is no longer wanted, they are often abandoned to nearby waters where they can become a significant ecological and environmental problem.

Goldfish are a member of the carp family, and their release into the wild is developing as an issue in some parts of BC, specifically at Como Lake in Coquitlam. At this lake, goldfish are competing and influencing dozens of local species and do not have any natural predators, and are reported by CBC as "throwing the ecosystem off balance."

Staff contacted BC Parks and BC Rec Sites and Trails and found that they are not aware of any invasive species in their parks. Neither organization has any awareness programs happening in any of the BC Parks in the Peace Region at this time.

BC Parks did refer staff to the Invasive Species of BC website, which established a "Don't Let it Loose" awareness and education program, developed for the issue of releasing non-native species into water ways and the potential negative effects of doing so. This program has awareness materials, such as a "rack card" briefly outlining the issue and prevention, a fact sheet, and a corresponding educational activity for children grades 3-5.

October 24, 2016

Staff Initials: *Casey*

Dept. Head:

J. Morgan

CAO:

Ch. Burk

Page 1 of 2

This organization has said that they would work in collaboration with the PRRD to develop signage using messaging and images from the “Don’t Let it Loose” campaign. Signage could be installed at Regional Parks, acting as a preventative measure in these specific areas. This strategy on its own may not have the desired effect of increasing region-wide awareness, as there are only 5 Regional Parks. Furthermore, the Invasive Plants Department focusses only on invasive plants and has no official direction to provide awareness on invasive species.

OPTIONS:

As presented.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

Invasive Plant Management – Strategic Objective 1.53 is to “implement public outreach and education initiatives focused on achieving prevention through increased awareness.” This report, furthermore, supports Strategic Objective 1.6.3 stating that the PRRD shall “Update and develop policies, procedures, and bylaws to support existing parks and provide guidelines to explore future opportunities.”

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Development and signage installation in the Regional Parks for this purpose was not budgeted for in 2016. It would cost approximately \$2,000 to develop messaging, design, print, and install 1 (16’x20’) sign at each of the 5 Regional Parks. This amount could be budgeted in 2017, if it were the wishes of the Regional Parks Committee.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

With the consent of the Regional Parks Committee, staff could share information on the negative effects of releasing household pets into water systems in our region via social media.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

The Board has not identified that raising awareness or providing signage for this project is a strategic priority in 2016.

Attachments:

A-1 “Don’t Let It Loose” Rack Card

DON'T LET IT LOOSE!

R-3



Why be Concerned?

Invasive species are plants and animals that are not native to British Columbia and pose undesirable or detrimental impacts on people, animals or ecosystems—costing our economy millions of dollars a year. Some of BC's most serious invasive species came from the intentional, improper disposal of aquariums and terrariums into our waters and vast wilderness.

Pet and Aquarium Owners

When they are no longer wanted, some exotic 'pet' species are often abandoned to nearby woods and waters where they can become a significant ecological and environmental problem. It is important for pet owners to understand a pet's life span and long-term care needs before adoption or purchase.

Releasing unwanted pets is not humane or ethical.

Releasing unwanted pets into the wild is not an ethical or humane option. In most cases, pets will starve because they do not have skills to live in the wild, or are killed by predators or cars. The ones that do thrive and reproduce cause major problems to the environment.

October 24, 2016

BC's 'Pet' Invasives

BC is now home to the following introduced, invasive pet and plant species. Learn more at:
www.bcinvasives.ca



Goldfish



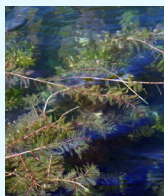
Red Eared Slider Turtle



Brazilian Elodea



American Bullfrog



Eurasian Watermilfoil



Koi Carp



European Rabbit



Parrot Feather

Don't Let it Loose BC!

Never release your plants and animals into the wild or dump aquariums or water garden debris into rivers, streams, lakes or storm sewers.

What Should I do Instead?

- Contact the retailer where you purchased the animal/fish to see if they will take it back.
- Contact science centers, zoos or aquariums to see if they can use the animal/fish for educational purposes.
- Dry and freeze unwanted aquatic plants and add them to non-composted trash.
- Consider humane euthanasia by a veterinarian.

REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES TO:
www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
www.bcinvasives.ca | 1-888-933-3722



REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: July 28, 2016

From: Bryna Casey, Parks and Rural Recreation Coordinator

Subject: **Minaker River Regional Park Information**

FOR DIRECTOR'S INFORMATION:

Minaker River Regional Park is a rustic and rural park with many unique attributes that attract multiple user groups. The 19.8 hectare park is located approximately 0.4km west of Milepost 200 on the Alaska Highway and has been tenured to the Peace River Regional District for 24 years, since 1992. The original 1992 tenure was renewed in 2002, and again in 2012, which will remain in effect until 2022. The Park site is adjacent to Crown land on the north, south and west sides of the parcel, with the east side of parcel being adjacent to private land, which appears to be vacant and forested. This area is also designated agricultural- rural under the Peace River Regional District's Rural Official Community Plan

In a "Guest Book" left at the park between 2008 and 2011, visitors reported coming to that park from the United States, Eastern Canada, and from all parts of Western Canada and, unsurprisingly, from all over the Peace River Regional District. Comments left in this book painted a picture of multi-generational use, of the public using it as a staging area to enter the expansive back country, and of proud community members.

Annual Maintenance

Since 1992, the Regional District has maintained the Park using Park Maintenance Contractors, who are responsible for;

- Ensuring that the park is kept free of garbage
- Keeping the grass trimmed
- Maintaining toilets and ensuring that they are stocked with supplies
- Cleaning and maintaining park amenities (picnic tables, walkways, outbuildings)
- Reporting any emergency or criminal situations to Community Services Staff.

The PRRD does, on at least an annual basis, provide danger tree services, coordinates sewage pumping from outhouses, delivers invasive plant removal programs, and deals with any bylaw issues as they arise.

Park Significance to the Community

In past years, the park was used by a gymkhana group who threw an annual event bringing all of the communities in the sparsely populated region together for a weekend of community fun (see attached document for a "Western Producer" article on the northerly event, which was last held, in it's 35th year in 2010! Correspondence from then contractor, Judy Leake, filed in 2009, says that this event was the longest held gymkhana event in British Columbia.

The park is used by campers, fishermen, hunters, and other backcountry travelers. It is also often used as a staging area for local guide outfitters. Reportedly, there can be more than 15 horses in the corral area at any given time, and is especially busy in the hunting season. Minaker River Park remains one of

Staff Initials: *Casey*

Dept. Head: *J. Morgan*

CAO: *Ch. Birk*

the reportedly “best places” to access the backcountry in the area. Maintenance contractors report that there are many weddings, family reunions, nature retreats, and that regular camping occurs. There is a First Nations burial ground on the property which is not maintained by the Regional District or First Nations groups in the area. Extreme caution is exercised as to not disturb the site. A photo is attached of the marker that denotes the site as a burial ground.

Distinct Vegetation and Species

The vegetation at this park consists a poplar/aspen forest, bushes, shrubs, flowers and native grasses. The ecosystem supports a varied bird population, including but not limited to red winged blackbirds, robins, migratory waterfowl, thrush, sparrows, blue jays, whiskey jacks, grosbeak martens, and many others. Larger animals, such as bear, wolves, coyotes, moose and elk migrate through the park.

Current and Ongoing Issues

Reports have been found, going back as far as 1997, indicating that there has been a long history of necessary road work done by the PRRD at this park; providing gravel to fix culverts where they’ve washed out; providing gravel when rain and river overflow have eroded the roads; removing driftwood that is blocking the road after periods of high water; and remediating beaver dams which cause the river to back up over the road. As the park is located directly beside the Minaker River, when there is a large amount of rain fall, oftentimes driftwood will be deposited into the park. There is a reported long standing issue, though no sightings are known of in 2016, of bears in the park.

Park Budgets and Expenses

The 2016 budget for Minaker River Park includes a \$20,000 allocation for the “Driveway Assessment & Engineering/Road Work Project”. From 2010-2015, the Park costs the Regional District on average, \$20,000 per year.

Minaker River		560	2015	2015 YTD	2015 Variance	2016
	Contractor		15,000	11,050	3,950	15,000
	Public Works Meals		0	29	-29	200
	Supplies		750	96	654	800
	Driveway Assessment & Engineering/Road Work		10,000	5,121	4,879	20,000
	Park Signs		6,500	0	6,500	1,000
	Park Kiosk					2,000
	Fire Rings					500
	Miscellaneous		500	0	500	500
	Picnic Tables		3,000	0	3,000	3,000
	Recycle Bin and Hide-A-Bag		1,500	0	1,500	1,500
	SUB-TOTAL		37,250	16,297	20,953	44,500

Future Plans

The Community & Electoral Ares Services Department consider the following work as priority should the Regional District continue to manage the park:

- Discerning the feasibility of road work, including river bank stabilization where the road runs next to the river, grading the road and filling in pot holes. Though road work is done every year, park access is limited and reduces public use.
- Park signage, inclusive of highway signage from the north and south, and signage in the park (park regulations, “be bear aware”, etc.)
- Installing a public information “kiosk” to display information to park users – invasive species awareness, wildlife information, Regional District events and notices.

OPTIONS:

Once the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation meets with the Board regarding the Prophet River First Nations proposal for the park site, the Board may wish to consult with the BC Guide Outfitters Association and North Peace Rod & Gun Club to determine if any impacts may exist to backcountry travelers should the PRRD discontinue management of the site for the public.

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 (approved in 2014).”

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

Maintaining and park improvements cost the Peace River Regional District on average \$20,000 per year.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

No communication considerations at this time.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

No other considerations at this time.

Attachments:

- 1990 Western Producer Article on Minaker River Park’s Gymkhana Event
- Map of Minaker River Park
- Photo of First Nation’s Burial Ground Marker
- Photo of the Minaker River as seen from the Park in August 2016.

PRODUCER

Editor: Western Horseman

A gymkhana event at nowhere (so it seems).

For 15 consecutive years, right in the middle of nowhere, people come together to partake in a little fun, frolic and competition at the banks of the Minaker River near Trutch Mountain, at about Mile 200 on the Alaska Highway in northeastern British Columbia, thanks to Herb and Judy Leake. (Herb is the main participant, Judy, general manager, organizer, participant etc. etc.)

This part of the country is very sparsely populated; the inhabitants live a very unique lifestyle. Most of the children on these outposts are educated by correspondence. Messages and other items of timely importance are aired several times daily by CKNL Radio either from Fort St. John, 150 miles away, and/or repeated by the same station from Fort Nelson, 100 miles in the other direction. This way everybody knows who is doing what, where and how - the whole neighbourhood, which is several hundred miles in either direction, knows when Ma will be discharged with the new baby from hospital; when Pa's part arrived at the dealer; when someone's horses got lost and found their way into the neighbour's yard, 30 miles down the road. Also, everyone knows that the doctor's appointment was changed; or when one needs a hand haying or branding. Mail usually gets picked up whenever someone goes to town.

Now, to the event itself.

As can be assumed, participants as well as spectators travel a great distance. To many this is a reunion of some sort. Many may not have seen each other since last year; others may have had a visit at an auction or horse sale. It goes without saying, this is a family affair because everyone from baby to grandma gets into action. Most of them arrive a day or so early, just to be sure that there is sufficient time to catch up on the latest items that could not be conveyed over the air. The camping units come in all shapes and sizes - some are perfectly content with a lean-to, others rough it in their air-conditioned motor-homes. Groups gather around the campfire and rinse their throats of road dust.

A handful of volunteers are still busy until late that night bringing the rustic ground into respectable condition. Many things which were supposedly done the year before, or before that, need to be attended to. For sure not all will be taken care of this year - what the heck, there is always next year! And of course, the Minaker River in flood condition will bring some unwanted debris or cut another channel right in the middle of the arena. A small bulldozer and a set of discs may be needed to smooth and level the ground. A lot is accomplished in a day or two in this part of the world as there are almost 20 hours of daylight. The crew is in a hurry because most are in the middle of haying also.

Saturday comes all too soon, and it is going to be a big day. Just to give everybody a chance to recoup from the busy and long Friday, as well as the late arrivals, the show is to start at 10 a.m. One way or another, mostly the other, nobody is watching the clock that closely anyway, nor do they mind. Headquarters is set up under a fly tent which serves as an office, storage room and announcer's booth manned by P. Gillis, who keeps the crowd entertained and the show running smoothly. The portable generator, hidden behind some bushes to keep the noise down, is providing electricity for the P.A. system and the coffee pot. The hastily erected food booth provides the usual fair for the hungry and thirsty.

Those hot-blooded souls who get bored watching, or just feel that they should rinse off the arena dust, are taking a dip into the clear mountain-fed river; others may just get lucky, hooking a mountain whitefish, northern grayling or rainbow trout for supper.

In the middle of the afternoon, when most of the events have taken place, some of the contestants' chests are not wide enough to display all the ribbons they've earned. Not only do they get ribbons, there is no shortage of trophies as well. Some participants are disappointed with their performance and are promising themselves to practice more and not to bring a green horse next year. Others could not be any happier if they had won the national finals. One of the eleven hopefuls of the 1991 bull-riding finals got his indoctrination in this arena.

All in all, it was another successful event - some pleasant moments to remember, a few spills and scratches, but no broken bones or runaways. As the evening nears, the dust is settled and the campfires are ablaze, the day's events are rehashed and ideas exchanged for next year. Some may see each other in the interim; for others, there will always be next year.

P.S. Author's note: "It was the first time that a mule ever competed in such an event in this arena. The best mule, although seasoned at roping, packing, driving etc., did not too good nor bad, as all the common and at-the-spur-of-the-moment venues were new to him. The mule was featured in Western Horseman, January '90 edition.

Hellmut Batzelt
Janson Beck BC
90-12-03

[Western Horseman]
(BDEC)

Discover Minaker River Regional Park in the Peace River Regional District

Minaker River Regional Park

~20.62 ha

BCGS: 094G.076

Minaker River

Minaker River
Regional
Park

PRRD

BC

50 25 0 50 100
1:5,000 Metres 1 cm = 50 m
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 10N

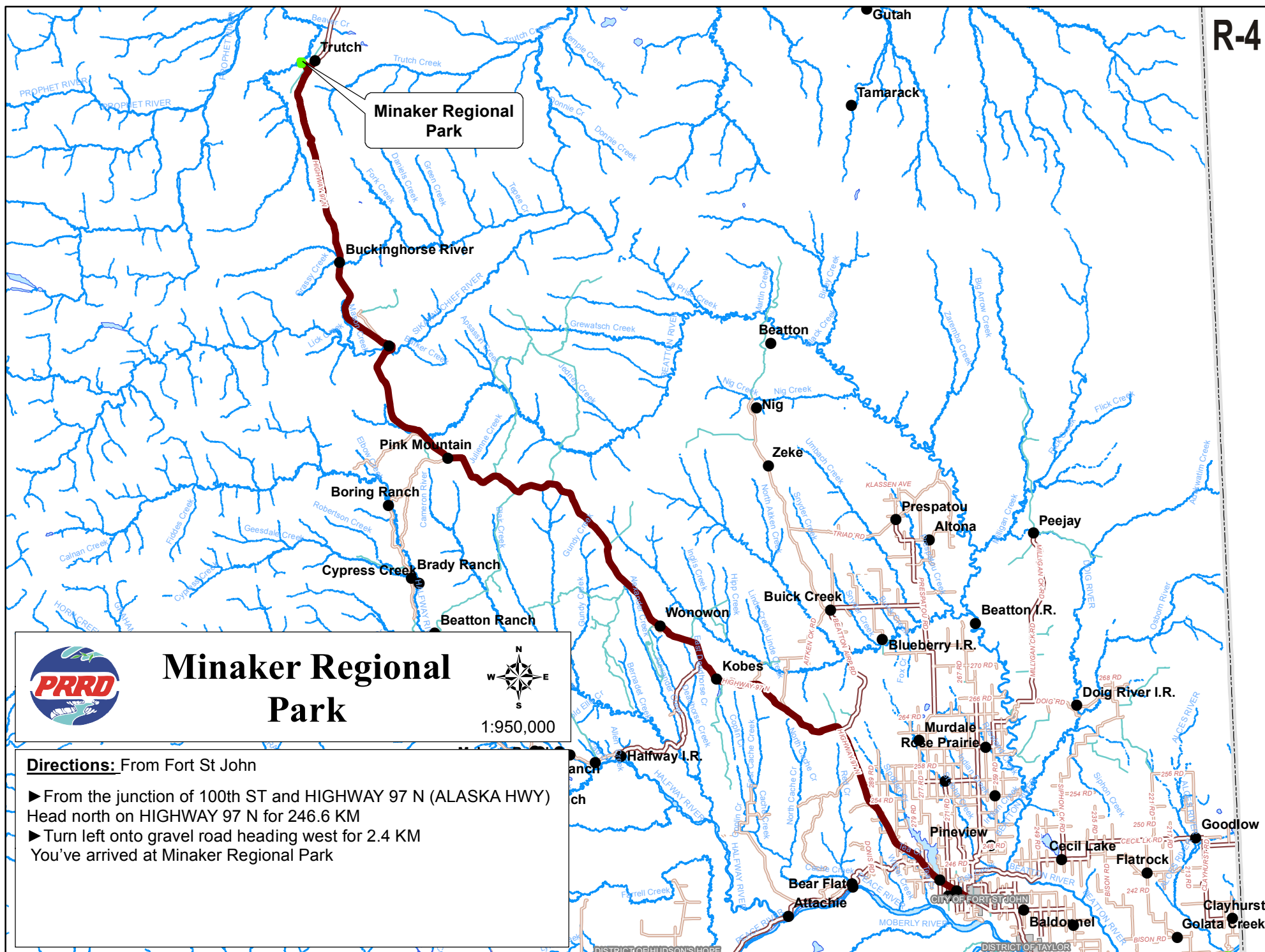
Gravel
Hard Surface
Seasonal

Ortho Source: Bing Maps (Microsoft)

Revised: 7/31/2012
Original: 3/5/2012



October 24, 2016



R-4



27/06/2007

October 24, 2016





REPORT

To: Regional Parks Committee

Date: August 2, 2016

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

Subject: **Minaker River Park & Prophet River First Nation**

FOR DIRECTORS' INFORMATION:

On July 8, 2016 staff had a conference call with Marianne Johnson from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding Minaker River Park.

Prophet River First Nation is starting negotiations with the Province regarding adding additional reserve lands. Minaker River Park is included in a greater portion of land that they have expressed interest in due in part to their traditional territory and burial grounds that are adjacent. The long-term plan that the Province has discussed with Prophet River FN would be for the Province to sell the property to Prophet River FN, who then would transfer it over to the Federal Government to be included as reserve land.

The PRRD has tenure to the park site until 2022, although there is a clause that allows for either party to end the tenure agreement with notice. Marianne did explain that it would be unlikely that the Province would transfer the property to another tenure holder without our consent, but this is not absolute, just unlikely. If the PRRD released our tenure, then Prophet would have to follow the same procedure to apply for a free Crown grant as any other applicant.

Marianne indicated that at some point in the future that Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) will be coming to the Board to discuss what is proposed by Prophet River FN and their request to include the park. Initially Prophet River FN was not willing to consider any kind of partnership, but it sounds like they are open to the discussion now.

Ideas/Concerns:

- 1) The PRRD has made capital and operational investments into the park during our tenure, will we be compensated for these? The tenure agreement states that we will not be, but if the Board considers releasing the tenure perhaps we can negotiate this and perhaps negotiate a new site where a park could be developed.
- 2) If the Board decides to not release the tenure and we continue to maintain it, it will likely be surrounded by reserve lands
- 3) If surrounded by reserve lands then there will be no access to the back country through this site. This is currently an issue with Blueberry's Treaty Land Entitlement proposals.
- 4) If Prophet River FN is open to considering a partnership, then perhaps we can work with them to manage the site and ensure access to the backcountry – from my understanding is primary reason why people use this park. This leads to the question about whether we have the capacity to manage such an arrangement if we could come to an agreement?

October 24, 2016

Staff Initials:

Dept. Head:

T. Morgan

CAO:

Chibuk

Page 1 of 2

OPTIONS: None until MARR provides more details on the request from Prophet River FN.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE: The PRRD will manage its existing regional parks through the 10 year Parks and Trails Master Plan.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S): none at this time

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S): none at this time

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S): none at this time

Attachments: none at this time