

**Waskesiu Community Association Inc.**  
(Waskesiu Community Council)  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**and**  
**‘Waskesiu 2020 and Beyond’ Community Action Plan**  
**Report Card & Update**

TERRACE GARDENS  
Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**MEETING MINUTES**

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**Councilors – Waskesiu Community Council**

Jim Kerby, Chair  
*Cottage Owners Representative*

Bryan Matheson  
*Member at Large*

Randy Kershaw  
*Cabin Owners Representative*

Nancy Wood Archer, Vice Chair  
*Commercial Lessees’ Representative*

Janice MacKinnon  
*Member at Large*

Jennifer Wood  
*Member at Large*

Brent Hamel, Sec.-Treasurer\*  
*Permanent Residents Representative*

(\*Brent Hamel was unable to attend.)

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Present: There were 48 members of the Waskesiu Community Association and, representing Parks Canada Agency, Prince Albert National Park Field Unit Superintendent David Britton.

Community Council Chair (2016/2017) and Chair of the annual general meeting – Jim Kerby

1. **Waskesiu Fire Department Fundraising BBQ** (12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.)
2. **Call to Order & Welcome** (Waskesiu Community Council Chair - Jim Kerby) **1:04 p.m.**

- Adoption of 2017 AGM Meeting Agenda

*A Motion to adopt the Meeting Agenda as circulated was made by Grit McCreath and seconded by Sheila Gagne* **Carried**

- Adoption of 2016 AGM Minutes

*A Motion to adopt the 2016 AGM minutes as circulated was made by Mona Finlayson and was seconded by Merlyn Lambert* **Carried**

3. **Waskesiu Community Council - Chair’s Year End Report** (Jim Kerby)

Good afternoon – thank you again for being here – particularly on such a wonderful Waskesiu day! Your commitment to our townsite, and to Prince Albert National Park, is noted and greatly appreciated.

As Chair of the Waskesiu Community Council, I am pleased to report to you - once again - that, since last year's AGM, your Council has been active, and very productive.

The Community Council is formally recognized as the "voice of the Waskesiu community" pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding with Parks Canada Agency that was signed in 2002.

The Community Council - which is *your* Council - is currently comprised of Jim Kerby (Chair), Nancy Wood Archer (Vice-Chair), Brent Hamel (Secretary-Treasurer), Bryan Matheson, Randy Kershaw, Janice MacKinnon, and our newest Councillor – Jennifer Wood. We continue to be ably assisted by our very talented Administrator, Noreen Matthews. Noreen – I want to expressly thank and acknowledge you for everything that you have done to assist us.

The respective roles that each Council member fulfils are as follows:

Randy Kershaw is the Waskesiu's cabin owners' representative  
Nancy Wood Archer is the Waskesiu business community representative  
Brent Hamel is the Waskesiu's permanent residents' representative  
Jim Kerby is the Waskesiu's cottage owners' representative  
Bryan Matheson is a Member at large  
Janice MacKinnon is a Member at large  
Jennifer Wood - our newest Councillor - is a Member at large.

I would like to extend a special thank you to Jennifer Wood for having put her name forward during this year's by-election – a warm welcome to the Community Council Jennifer.

The current Council holds office until the summer of 2018 – when all seven Council seats will become vacant, and new elections will be held. If you are interested in serving our community as part of the Waskesiu Community Council, I encourage you to contact me - or another member of Council – to learn more.

In 2013 the Community Council initiated a "visioning" process. We started our work, initially, with Parks Canada Agency, and then we expanded our discussions to include all the key Waskesiu stakeholder groups. That visioning process was called “Vision 2020 and Beyond”.

The purpose of “Vision 2020 and Beyond” was to collaborate on what we, as a community, wanted the Waskesiu townsite to look like, and feel like, in the year 2020 - and beyond.

Because Council believes that the “Vision 2020 and Beyond” process was one of the most important undertakings our community could pursue, we worked with all the key stakeholder groups in Waskesiu. In 2014, we held an incredibly successful Community Open House - with over 220 people in attendance. That Community Open House provided us with great feedback – and helped to shape a "shared vision" for Waskesiu.

At the 2015 AGM our community enthusiastically endorsed the Community Action Plan – a detailed plan focused on "action", and designed to successfully achieve the shared community vision. Last year – as was contemplated in the Community Action Plan - we gave you the first detailed update on progress and status. Later today we will give you a second update. More on that later in the agenda.

At this point in our meeting, I would like to provide a few highlights regarding what has happened in Waskesiu since our 2016 AGM.

As a reminder, in 2015 the federal government announced an extra \$2.6 billion dollars for Parks Canada Agency nationally – with funds to be used for, among other things, completing work that had been deferred in relation to existing Parks Canada assets and infrastructure.

During the last couple of years our community, and PANP, has significantly benefited from literally tens of millions of dollars in federal money to improve our Park and townsite infrastructure – including our marina, roads, trails, and our water and sewer systems. These investments – which I am sure David Britton will comment on in more detail - included: \$15.3 million to resurface Highway 263 (the Scenic Highway); a \$7.4-million rehabilitation of the Waskesiu marina; a \$3-million rehabilitation of access to the Grey Owl Site; a \$1.5 million improvement to the townsite's water main systems; \$500,000 to repair 35 kilometers of trails around the townsite; and \$2 million for the second phase of an environmental project to rehabilitate grasslands, maintain health of the Sturgeon River plains bison population and work with First Nations and Metis people to help connect visitors to the Park. Among other projects, additional funding has been provided to pay for a new force main, to replace the existing beach houses at Waskesiu's main beach with new buildings, and to replace the washroom facilities at the staff trailer park at the end of Montreal Drive. David Britton and Gregg Rutten will provide more updates and information later in today's meeting. The recapitalization work at Waskesiu Lake's main Marina was completed this spring. That has resulted in many improvements there – including added space for parking and storage, paved (smooth) roads, the replacement of all docks, and the addition of new docks that accommodate about 100 additional boat slips. This was a major injection of new capital into Prince Albert National Park for the benefit of our community.

As of a few weeks ago, the long-awaited infrastructure work on the Kingsmere road and the Kingsmere River boat launch was completed, so that public access was again available. The results are spectacular – and I encourage you to make the trip and check out the new launch area, and the new pedestrian bridge near the rail cart portage. Work on the trail to Grey Owl's cabin continues – and I understand that much needed restoration work on Grey Owl's cabin have now been completed.

In August of 2016 we enjoyed the second Waskesiu Lakeside Music Festival – an annual festival that will be held for the third time – this year on August 26th – during the last weekend of August. We hope to keep growing this event every year – and we encourage you to be part of that. Admission is free –so please support the Lakeside Music Festival by your attendance, by inviting your friends to Waskesiu, and by agreeing to volunteer. Remember – the Vision 2020 process was and is far more than just building facilities and improving infrastructure – it was (and is) also about trying to bring more visitors to our Park outside of the June 15 to August 15 window.

March of 2016 saw the arrival of David Britton in Prince Albert National Park, our new Field Unit Superintendent. Another sincere welcome to your new home David – we are very pleased to have you and Holly here as part of this wonderful community. We look

forward to hearing from you and our Townsite Manager, Gregg Rutten, later in today's meeting.

The last year also saw a very important reorganization of the Waskesiu Chamber of Commerce – and the creation of the Waskesiu Community Council. Thanks to significant efforts of many people, the new Waskesiu Community Council is off to a great start.

Please help the Recreation Association to continue to enhance recreational and event offerings in our community. You can do so by buying a season membership for your entire family for only \$200! Another easy way is to recycle your returnable cans and bottles via the blue and green bins located throughout Waskesiu and outlying areas – as all the proceeds from recycled containers placed in those bins go to the Waskesiu Community Council. The proceeds from recycling are used to take care of townsite recreation facilities, provide recreation offerings, and put on community events.

The Waskesiu Recreation Area renewal project – which includes the proposed Waskesiu mini-golf facility - continues to make significant progress. You will hear more about that exciting project today from Councillor Bryan Matheson.

Other highlights include:

In August of 2016, we hosted the Chief Executive Officer of Parks Canada – Mr. Daniel Watson – as part of community roundtable meeting. In the spring of this year, as contemplated by the Waskesiu Vision 2020 Community Action Plan, Council hosted a Waskesiu “Leaders Roundtable” meeting, with representatives from Parks Canada Agency and each of Waskesiu's community organizations present, to continue our community dialogue and information sharing process.

On July 1st – as part of the “Canada 150” celebrations, we hosted the largest Canada Day celebration in our community's history. This year also saw free admission to all of Canada's national parks and historic sites – resulting in an increase in visitation to our community.

The Waskesiu Foundation, working in conjunction with Parks Canada Agency, completed a new camp kitchen at the Narrows and at Point View. In that regard, the Waskesiu Foundation continues to be a real Waskesiu community success story – a story that we proudly shared with Parks Canada CEO as a potential model for other National Park communities to consider. The Foundation has now raised over \$2 million in our community – all of which goes right back into Waskesiu and surrounding area to enhance the Waskesiu experience. In that regard, the Foundation has introduced a “planned giving” opportunity, and an endowment fund. You can learn more by visiting the Foundation website.

In addition to the new SaskTel stealth tower in the Red Deer campground (and LTE coverage now being switched on for our community), Council is working with Parks Canada, the WSRA, and the Waskesiu Chamber, to see if high speed DSL (wired) services, and improved wireless services, can be brought to Waskesiu soon. In that regard, Council worked with Parks Canada Agency to support an initiative that allowed iNet2000 to access a previously decommissioned tower owned by Parks Canada, and located near the Height of Land, helping to enhance the quality of wireless communications in the townsite. We will specifically discuss the SaskTel opportunity later in today's meeting.

In closing, I would like to say to Parks Canada Agency – including among others Townsite Manager Gregg Rutten, and our Superintendent David Britton, that our Council has really appreciated our working relationship. While there are now – and will in the future be – areas of concern and disagreement from time to time, the fact is that we share many common goals – including enhancing the Waskesiu experience, protecting our environment, trying to keep our business community strong, and increasing visitation to the Park – all of which makes it easier to collectively, and respectfully, work together to achieve the desired goals.

In conclusion, thank you again for being here today. We encourage you to continue to share your views with Council on how to continue to enhance the Waskesiu experience. Your dedication to Prince Albert National Park, the townsite of Waskesiu, and our community, is greatly appreciated.

#### **4. Financial Report – Janice MacKinnon**

##### **• Presentation and Adoption of 2016/2017 Financial Statements of the Corporation:**

Following a review of the 2016/2017 Financial Statements, Janice MacKinnon asked that the following Motion be considered by the members of the Corporation:

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

*The foregoing Motion was moved by Jake Bulet, and seconded by Brian Morgan.*

*Carried Unanimously*

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

The following Motion was presented by Janice MacKinnon for consideration of the members of the Corporation:

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

*The foregoing Motion was moved by Sheila Gagne, and seconded by Tom Webb.*

*Carried Unanimously*

#### **5. Parks Canada Update – David Britton, Prince Albert National Park Field Unit Superintendent**

David Britton introduced himself and brought regrets from Gregg Rutten, Townsite Manager and presented the following updates to the members:

##### Canada 150 and Free Visitation

- This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Confederation, and the federal government has positioned it as a big celebration across the entire country.

- From the point of view of the federal government, free admission to Parks Canada Agency's national parks and national historic sites has been one of the most visible parts of the celebration.
- Parks Canada anticipated that there would be increased visitation because of free entry.
- Considerable planning went into how we approached this summer in PANP, including:
  - More consumables (everything from additional toilet paper to fire wood) were procured.
  - Commissionaires were hired for coverage on weekends and overnight.
  - PANP doubled the number of students we hired.
- A brief explanation (and caveat) about how visitation is measured – and about the gate entrance process – was provided.
- Prior to the summer, we were having about an average year in Prince Albert National Park (down a bit in winter due to lack of snow). So far, the summer has been going well – and our visitation in July was 81K as compared to 73K last year, an increase of approximately 11%.
- For the Canada Day long weekend, visitation was up approximately 40%.
- Variable results across Canada are being experienced as between various Parks Canada Agency sites, e.g. Elk Island was up approximately 70% in July.
- Overall, we've found it busy in Prince Albert National Park, but manageable, in a large measure due to the pre-planning that we did.
- Usual events, by branding them as Canada 150 – meant a bigger Canada Day parade, enhanced funding for Lakeside Festival, etc.

### **Parks Canada Review of Development Process**

- In previous discussions with many community groups, including the Parks Canada Agency, shortcomings in the Cottage Regulations have been noted – they are dated and have some challenges in being flexible enough to effectively apply to the wide range of situations in Parks Canada Agency townsites.
- Parks Canada has launched a process to review and modernize these Regulations and others that relate to development in Canada's national parks, including in Waskesiu, Prince Albert National Park. It's a national initiative, led by the national office of Parks Canada Agency.
- Amongst the issues that will be considered is what elements need to be in federal Regulations, and what can be better captured by local policies within individual townsites (e.g. cabin guidelines, Land Use Directives) providing more flexibility as amendments can be made locally.
- This initiative will go beyond just regulations, and look at the whole process by which development is approved in townsites.
- The national office lead on this initiative visited Waskesiu in April and met with the Waskesiu Community Council and with the President of the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association, Rob Phillips.
- Next step is consultation on some broad principles around the development process, likely this fall or winter, and Parks Canada Agency will communicate with the Waskesiu Seasonal Residents Association and with the Waskesiu Community Council when we know more.

### **Prince Albert National Park - Park Management Plan**

- This is the high-level plan that sets direction for the Park for the next ten years.
- It is signed by our Minister, when completed, and tabled in Parliament.
- A draft was developed internally by the Park's management team based on discussions at the Prince Albert National Park roundtable in November, and other stakeholder discussions.
- Doesn't propose significant changes in direction related to Park management
  - Continue ecological conservation approach – grasslands, bison, forest aquatics.
  - Adapt to meet evolving needs of visitors to the Park.
  - Work with outside groups and promote the Park beyond its boundaries.
  - Townsite – focus on a healthy community and collaboration with community groups.
- Draft plan was distributed by email to our Waskesiu and Prince Albert National Park stakeholder groups.

- The draft plan is also available on our Parks Canada website.
- Open houses were also held in Waskesiu on July 8 & 15, and advertised in media.
- End of the consultation period is August 13.

### **Infrastructure**

- As you know Prince Albert National Park has benefitted from more than \$25M in infrastructure investment beginning two years ago. We are now past the halfway point in delivering on these projects.
- Several projects are now complete:
  - Highway 263 resurfacing.
  - Force main from lift station 3 to the sewage lagoon.
  - Marina rehabilitation – road, parking, storage, and dock replacement.
  - Seasonal staff trailer park washroom replacement.
- Work going forward
  - Design work for the replacement of the big and small beach houses
  - Upgrades to trails (Fisher, Boundary Bog, Waskesiu River Trail, Grey Owl, West Side)
  - Kingsmere/Grey Owl – (thanks for your patience) the road is now open, boat launch rehabilitation is complete, a new pedestrian bridge installed, conservation on Grey Owl’s cabin completed; next year rail cart upgrades.
  - Water Treatment Plant controls – replacement to be completed this fall.
  - Campground upgrades – enlarge and improve camp sites, improve traffic routing and turning radii for larger RVs - Narrows and Beaver Glen, this fall.

### **Question & Answer Session with the Park Superintendent**

*Member Question:* Regarding the Tree Beard trail, will it be enhanced?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* There is no capital project spending allocated for the Tree Beard trail.

*Member Question:* Can Parks Canada Agency give an update on commercial leases, now to be 21-year lease from 42 years, is that policy decision finalized?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks management at the senior level is concerned that Parks Canada Agency is not getting appropriate returns to the Crown. Part of that is why they are establishing an Interim Policy for commercial leases, while determining a new long-term policy. Nothing changes for existing leases.

*Member Request:* The area around the community billboard looks neglected, perhaps you could send a summer student employee to clean it up and cut the grass, etc.

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* We will ask our assets team to look at this.

*Member Question:* Is there any way to have the signs on the ‘bird’ streets have lights to shine on them as they are very hard to see at night?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* I will also pass it along.

*Member Question:* Are there no plans for upgrades to the golf course?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* There is nothing immediate in the capital plan but will continue to work with them.

*Member Question:* The 20-ft. easement between the cabins have some neighbors who improve the grass, water, and cut the grass. Why doesn’t Parks Canada look after that area?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks Canada Agency has no plan to manage the back area of the cabins.

*Member Question:* Travelling the Narrows Road is very rough. There is a sign out warning drivers, but will it be graded soon?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Our grader broke down, it has now been fixed and the road will soon be graded.

*Member Comment:* I noted a family with a large BBQ, moved one of the picnic tables right on to the beach. If this becomes a habit, it will create quite a mess.

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* There is nothing preventing families from doing so, but we will keep an eye on it.

*Member Comment:* There has been an 11% increase in visitation, what do you see as need for change, what is Parks looking for?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Increase in day use. There has been a small increase but we will continue to conduct a visitor information survey every 5 years to better understand what is going on with visitors.

*Member Comment:* You can't have a wiener roast on the beach. Signs should be posted and could dictate no cooking is allowed on the beach, and must be in designated areas only.

*Member Comment:* – Parks Canada Agency's Canada 150 initiative is an excellent idea, we see many more people, it is very healthy for Saskatchewan, our business community, and the Park. Very progressive idea for the Park to consider.

## **6. SaskTel DSL High Speed internet opportunity**

Council Chair Jim Kerby informed the members an opportunity that is before Council and the community for the implementation of High Speed Internet services (wired not wireless) from SaskTel in the Waskesiu Lake townsite. The service would be SaskTel's DSL high speed service, and would come in two options with 2017 pricing being as follows: HS Basic is \$52.95/month not including tax; HS Advanced is \$69.95/month not including tax.

The service will be the same quality as you would find anywhere else in the province. It will be a wired service to your cabin over the existing telephone system currently in place within the townsite. For this project to go ahead we need to know the number of cabin and cottage owners that would sign up for the service. The service offering is basically 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 or 12 months (SaskTel will allow for up to an 8 month disconnect). Parks Canada Agency will be providing approximately \$35,000 toward the startup/capital costs SaskTel has indicated must be paid for by the Waskesiu community.

There is an 'Expression of Interest' document that you should fill out and return ASAP if you are interested, and it will be posted on the home page of [waskesiu.org](http://waskesiu.org). We would like to hear back from everyone by the end of August.

*Member Question:* Have any other groups or organizations committed money?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Waskesiu Community Council, Parks Canada Agency and the Chamber have all committed to support this initiative, plus you can donate through the Waskesiu Foundation.

*Member Question:* Do you know what funds are required and what is committed so far?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Total funds needed will likely be in the range of \$100,000, and thus far about \$65,000 has been identified.

*Member Question:* Is there a way for Parks Canada Agency to collect a nominal fee at the gate to



put toward this opportunity?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Many options were looked at but we do not have the ability to collect any additional fees in the manner suggested.

## **7. Waskesiu ‘2020 and Beyond’ Community Action Plan – Report Card (Jim Kerby)**

Between Council Chair Jim Kerby and Councilor Bryan Matheson, an update on the status of the Waskesiu Vision 2020 and Beyond Community Action Plan and its Implementation Strategy was presented to the members.

A copy of the presentation will be placed on [www.waskesiu.org](http://www.waskesiu.org). As well, a copy of the Stantec “Master Plan” for the Waskesiu Recreation Project will be placed on the Waskesiu Community Council page of [waskesiu.org](http://waskesiu.org).

## **8. Question and Answer Session**

*Member Question:* What is going to happen to the downtown breakwater and dock?

*Parks Canada Agency Answer:* Parks is bringing in a diver to survey both breakwaters. There is a no plan to have the breakwater removed.

*Member Question:* Is there some way to give our community resident’s access to the Community Hall and Terrace Gardens for recreation, ping pong, card games, etc.

*Waskesiu Recreation Association Answer:* We need staff available to take something like that on, and we don’t have that extra staff capacity at present. We now have the ping pong table in the recreation hall. That is a good a start.

*Member Comment:* Volunteers are needed for the Waskesiu Recreation Association, but what are people needed for?

*Waskesiu Recreation Association Answer:* We need volunteers to sit on Committees, organize recreation events, including for example pickle ball, lawn-bowling, and tennis tournaments, to help with our social events, and to raise funds for the recreation renewal project. Kudos to Marissa Glanville, Recreation Coordinator for a great job!

No additional questions were forthcoming, and the Chair asked for a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

## **9. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jake Burlet*

*Carried Unanimously*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.