

Area I Community Plan Review

MEETING NOTES

GLADE COMMUNITY MEETING (40 ATTENDEES), JULY 12, 2017

Presentations were made with reference to the Official Community Plan, Brilliant Head Ponds Stewardship Collaborative and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the area. Staff presenting included Meeri Durand, RDCK Planning Manager; Nora Hannon, Community Wildfire Coordinator; and John Cathro, Community Wildfire Protection Plans

Fire Services

- Insurance options (premium) due to recent wildfires in Fort McMurray and reports
- CBT Co-op being discussed as an option for rural home insurance

Official Community Plan

- Draft Plan expected for September or October following the community meetings underway and agency engagement
- ALR Boundaries need to be reviewed based on the Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI)
- Docks
 - Not on private land
 - Brilliant Power Corporation (liability)
 - No docks have been legally permitted

Emergency Management

- CPR/Ferry chemical spills (access blocks) – how can the community evacuate if the ferry or CPR rail line not available
- Risk (front country forests burned 100 years)
- 1950s fire suppression has changed the way forests are compiled/managed
- Concentrations of water followed by drought
- July 2017 – 223 fires burning, and 14,000 evacuees in British Columbia
- Intent of wildfire protection plans is to change forest structure by removing snags and debris
- Different licensees (tenure over Crown land)
- Mount Sentinel (80% of area to BCTS), others licensees include Kalesnikoff, ATCO and small business
- 2 km buffer high priority area in wild/urban interface (WUI)
- Glade steep and lots of understory - fuel treatment has been directed to easily accessible areas
- Critical to protect your own house
- Mow area adjacent to roads (eg. cigarette butts)
- Corridors (hydro or industry, roads, CPR) contributes to complexity of situation
- Priority Zone 1 (house to 10m) * sprinkler or debris removal Priority Zone 2 (10m to 30m) Priority Zone 3 (30m zone)
- Scoring system used in the United States if home is not Fire Smart they are not insured – use a risk assessment methodology

- Fire smart Ambassadors (this week in Area I)- provide prescription for steps to take and certificate to show insurance (Cariboo & Fort McMurray) program initiated by fire underwriters
- Glade insurance rates differ because of ferries
- Queen's Bay (porta-tanks) sprinklers program to achieve Fire Smart Community status with Province
- CBT looking for funding Fire Smart on private lands – only funding available through local governments is for Crown land
- Can address your own property while waiting for CWPP in Area I (October 2018) prescriptions and fuel treatment – there are RDCK staff trained to provide this service

PASS CREEK AND BRILLIANT COMMUNITY MEETING (40 ATTENDEES), JULY 13, 2017

Presentations were made with reference to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the area, Official Community Plan, and Brilliant Head Ponds Stewardship Collaborative. Staff presenting included Nora Hannon, Community Wildfire Coordinator; and John Cathro, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and Meeri Durand, RDCK Planning Manager

Fire Services

- PDF presentations will be posted on the RDCK project page following August meetings
- Home partners program (Wildfire Mitigation Specialists) assessment conducted and certificate issued
- Fire Smart Canada recognition program for community wide efforts like Queen's Bay
- Insurance implications for Fire Smarting homes and properties to ensure reduced rates or coverage (fire underwriters)
- Glade not insured because it is served by a cable ferry (limited coverage for communities with restricted access and no fire hall)
- Bulk purchase for porta pumps and roof sprinklers to reduce costs to residents a possibility
- 40,000 hectares at risk forest in RDCK (50% Crown, 50% Private) within wildfire urban interface
- BC Timber Sales, ATCO, Kalesnikoff, CPR, Ferries, Columbia Power, Fortis BC, Brilliant Power Corporation all key property owners
- 3 major areas (Pass Creek and two locations in Glade)
- Mount Sentinel – rocky/steep so not as high risk or lands are adjacent to private property (Tarry's/Thrums) – focus in these area will be on voluntary risk reduction on private lands
- Stakeholder committee in place for collaborative efforts
- Asset Management Program in RDCK – initial treatment (\$1,000s) but maintenance costs low to maintain areas that have been treated under the CWPP program

Official Community Plan

- Norn's Road – low hanging Fortis BC line (3 years) adjacent to Pine Road damaged by tree (logging trucks using road) a potential hazard in the area
- Fire Smart - minimum requirements needed - asphalt or metal roofing
- Cell coverage issue in Pass Creek – RDCK working with CBT to look at connectivity network (safety issue)
- ALR boundary issue Pass Creek
- Nodes of non-arable land for infill

- 1999 Pass Creek study for ALR removal. Beef Cattle (revisit) north end of Pass Creek
- Brilliant – small lots (chicken/rabbits)

SHOREACRES, VOYKIN AND PLAYMOR JUNCTION WEST COMMUNITY MEETING (31 ATTENDEES), AUGUST 9, 2017

Presentations were made with reference to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the area, Official Community Plan and Brilliant Head Ponds Stewardship Collaborative. Staff presenting included Andrew Doran, Community Fire Smart Coordinator; John Cathro, Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Meeri Durand, RDCK Planning Manager; and Heather Leschied, Living Lakes Canada

Fire Services

- There is no Provincial or Federal support program to assist private landowners with Fire Smart works on private lands – CBT is looking at the feasibility of a program throughout the basin
- RDCK has been collaborating with forestry companies to look at how to cooperatively address this issue
- Concern that the work is not being undertaken fast enough and that there is a sense of urgency – RDCK has taken the lead with mitigation work across the Province
- Rock Creek fire spread regardless of tree spacing – but had high fuel loads and dry ground cover – you can control fuel loads but can not control heat and oxygen
- Focus has been on mitigation at a provincial and national level based on science and research elsewhere
- Teck Cominco has been actively treating properties
- Concern expressed that industrial land owners are not participating and own much of the private lands around communities

Official Community Plan

- There is not a lot of development in Shoreacres – how was the vulnerability of the aquifer determined? – RDCK used studies that were conducted for Shoreacres in the 1980's and more recent hydrological assessments for the Ministry of Transportation gravel pit – data was then collected from the province on well depth and water tables close to septic disposal systems
- There are private properties and the CPR property that is making connection of trails difficult – may need to be negotiation for access

Brilliant Head Ponds

- Efforts are being made by First Nations to reintroduce salmon to the Kootenay River or Brilliant Head Ponds in the next two years under a joint US/Canada Salmon Enhancement Program
- Celgar bio-soil amendments should be investigated as to potential impacts to water quality on lands adjacent to the Kootenay River
- What will happen to the information once the Guidelines are developed and the work completed? The information will be integrated into Development Permit Areas, OCP Policy or in other areas Lake Management Plans have been developed
- Ownership is primarily industrial – would like them to agree to a conservation zone

THRUMS AND TARRYS COMMUNITY MEETING (35 ATTENDEES), AUGUST 10, 2017

Presentations were made with reference to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the area, Official Community Plan and Brilliant Head Ponds Stewardship Collaborative. Staff presenting included Andrew Doran, Community Fire Smart Coordinator; John Cathro, Community Wildfire Protection Plans; Meeri Durand, RDCK Planning Manager; and Heather Leschied, Living Lakes Canada

Fire Services

- Can control fuel but not oxygen and heat
- There was a wildfire on Sentinel Mountain decades ago in the summer of 1967 and started at the Brilliant school
- The RDCK has hired two fire smart ambassadors, a community wildfire mitigation technician and a fire smart program coordinator
- Area I has also provided support to train several members of the volunteer fire departments for Tarrys, Glade and Pass Creek that are able to provide private property assessments
- The objective is to reduce risk and may have future implications for household insurance – trying to take a proactive leadership role
- The fire smart program is based on research on wildfire behavior since the 1970s
- Organizing as a community important for fuel reduction
- Also looking at support for school programs and education
- Fort McMurray was presented a fire smart program three weeks prior to the fire
- Clear cuts may appear to be better over the short term but lead to increased fuel loads after fifteen years – fuel breaks are easier to maintain and reduce the intensity and behavior of wildfires
- May be able to maintain through removal of trees that are not resistant to fire due to needles and oils and replace with more fire resistant species like larch and fir
- Selective timber harvesting by tenure holders allows companies to benefit from the work
- CPR lands are high risk (Beasley Bluffs) and in 2008 were identified as a high priority area for treatment but CPR is not engaged
- CBT is looking at how to support fire mitigation works on private lands
- Why are they decommissioning the forestry roads – these could act as access for fire suppression in case of fire and are an important asset for communities – liability and maintenance costs to tenure holders
- Sentinel mountain is held by BC Timber Sales and some smaller tenure holders – surrounded entirely by private land (highest ratio of private to public land in the RDCK – responsibility for fire suppression falls on volunteer fire departments)
- Infrastructure and utilities have been mapped as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- RDCK has prepared emergency and evacuation plans for most communities and undertaken pre-planning for specific events where access is limited – notification program in place by phone or email
- CPR owns the timber rights to many properties in the community which adds some complexity to fuel reduction
- There is no proper access to the Kootenay River from Tarrys or Thrums and a stand pipe is needed for emergency response purposes – only public access point is an undeveloped right of

way at the end of Stubb Road

Official Community Plan

- Issues with access to Shoreacres Beach – there are Teck lands where public access could be improved but there is no interest
- There are 100s of small water systems in Area I – only four are recognized as organized water systems – Interior Health is pursuing some of these informal systems to meet safe drinking water standards
- CBT will not support untreated water systems – some systems have been flagged due to commercial operations or daycares that require potable water supply
- Infrastructure may be required in the future to ensure safe drinking water supply systems

Brilliant Head Ponds

- The Brilliant Head Pond is a cold water refuge for salmon and has been identified as a key area for the reintroduction of salmon
- The project could assist with the identification of public access areas and infrastructure improvements
- Nine wetlands were surveyed in the Kootenay River beside Tarrys and Thrums
- A fish ladder was planned for at the Brilliant Dam where the tunnel is – want to reintroduce salmon as part of the Columbia River Treaty Process – they are already netting salmon above the Grand Coulee Dam
- Fortis BC and other power operators fall under the Water Comptroller of BC – agreement under the Canal Plant Agreement – two members are new to the collaborative from Fortis BC and Columbia Power – shift in values