



Regional District of Central Kootenay
CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE
Open Meeting Agenda

Date: Thursday, January 8, 2026
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Creston and District Community Complex - Erickson Room
312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

Directors will have the opportunity to participate in the meeting electronically. Proceedings are open to the public.

Pages

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote (hybrid model).

Meeting Time:

8:00 a.m. PST
9:00 a.m. MST

Join by Video:

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/92632670829?pwd=VkcPYOv0WnMTDNowScaJt12nFYz8zN.1>

Join by Phone:

+1 778 907 2071 Canada Toll Free

*6 to unmute or mute
*9 to raise or lower your hand

Meeting ID: 926 3267 0829

Meeting Password: 430277

In-Person Location: 312 19 Avenue North Creston, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Stuart Horn called the meeting to order at [Time] a.m.

3. ELECTION OF THE CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE (CVSC) CHAIR

1. Call for Nominations (3 times)
2. Opportunity for Candidates to Address the Committee (two minutes per address)
3. Vote by Secret Ballot
4. Declaration of Elected or Acclaimed CVSC Chair
5. Destroy Ballots

RECOMMENDATION:

That the ballots used in the election of the CVSC Chair be destroyed.

4. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

5. COMMENCEMENT OF THE CVSC MEETING

The Chair assumes the chair.

6. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

7. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

The agenda for the January 8, 2026 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated.

8. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

5 - 11

The REVISED December 4, 2025 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

9. STAFF REPORTS

9.1 STAFF REPORT: REAL ESTATE FOUNDATION FUNDING: GOAT RIVER WATERSHED WATER SUSTABILITY PLAN - PHASES 3 & 4 ENGAGEMENT

12 - 25

The Board Report from Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability and Resilience Supervisor, seeking Board approval to apply for Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) Grant to support Phases 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning, has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board authorize staff to apply for the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) grant to support Phases 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning; AND FURTHER, that if successful the grant

funding be allocated to Community Sustainable Living Service S105; AND FURTHER, that if successful, the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign all necessary documents.

10. NEW BUSINESS

- 10.1 CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY** 26 - 34
Saara Itkonen, Library Director, will present additional budget details for the Committee.
- 10.2 FOR INFORMATION: CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY** 35 - 37
The Creston Valley Public Library November 18, 2025 Board minutes and agenda are included for information.
- 10.3 DISCUSSION ITEM: VALLEY COMMUNITY SERVICES USE OF ROTACREST HALL** 38 - 42
The Committee Report dated January 8, 2026 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager Operations and Asset Management has been received.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board approve the RDCK enter into a five-year agreement with Valley Community Services for non-exclusive use of the lower floor of the Rotacrest Hall, to deliver therapeutic activation programming for seniors, commencing on February 1, 2026 and ending on January 31, 2031, and that the Board Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized the execute the agreement.

- 10.4 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX CONCESSION AGREEMENT**
The Committee report dated January 8, 2026 from Craig Stanley, Regional Manager Operations and Asset Management, has been received.

NOTE: The report will be added in the Addenda.

11. OLD BUSINESS

- 11.1 ACTION ITEM LIST** 43
Item #2 & 3 have been updated.
Item #5 has been crossed off the list.
Item #6 has been crossed off the list.

12. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public and members of the media at _____ a.m.

13. CLOSED

13.1 Meeting Closed to the Public

RECOMMENDATION:

In the opinion of the Committee - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90 (2)

(b) the consideration of information received and held in confidence relating to negotiations

(i) between the municipality and a provincial government or the federal government, or both, or between a provincial government or the federal government, or both, and a third party,

(ii) between the municipality and another local government or between another local government and a third party, or

(iii) between the municipality and a first nation or a prescribed Indigenous entity, or between a first nation or a prescribed Indigenous entity and a third party;

13.2 Recess of Open Meeting

RECOMMENDATION:

The Open meeting be recessed at [Time] in order to conduct the Closed meeting.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. MST.

15. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at [Time].



Regional District of Central Kootenay

CRESTON VALLEY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Open Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 4, 2025

8:00 a.m. PST

9:00 a.m. MST

Creston and District Complex – Erickson Room

312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' PRESENT

Director A. DeBoon	Town of Creston
Director G. Jackman	Electoral Area A
Director R. Tierney	Electoral Area B
Director K. Vandenberghe	Electoral Area C

STAFF PRESENT

Y. Malloff	General Manager Finance, Information Technology and Procurement
J. Chirico	General Manager of Community Services
T. Davison	Regional Manager – Recreation and Client Services
C. Stanley	Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management
S. Sudan	General Manager of Community Sustainability and Development Services
E. Stout	Building and Bylaw Manager
P. Marshall-Smith	Sustainability and Resilience Supervisor
C. LeBlanc	Community Resilience Coordinator
D. Seguin	General Manager of Fire & Emergency Services
R. Baril	Meeting Coordinator

CRESTON STAFF PRESENT

M. Moore	Creston Chief Administrative Officer
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GUESTS

Director A. Watson	RDCK Board Chair/Electoral Area D
Director W. Popoff	Electoral Area H
D. Dumas	Creston Town Councillor

1. ZOOM REMOTE MEETING INFO

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Meeting Time:

8:00 a.m. PST

9:00 p.m. MST

Join by Video:

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Join by Phone:

+1 778 907 2071 Canada Toll Free

*6 to unmute or mute

*9 to raise or lower your hand

Meeting ID: 926 3267 0829

Meeting Password: 430277

In-Person Location: 312 19 Avenue North, Creston, BC

2. CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeBoon called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

3. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

4. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded,

And resolved:

The agenda for the December 4, 2025 Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adopted as circulated

Carried

FREEDOM OF THE FLOOR

Moved and seconded,
And Resolved:

That Freedom of the Floor be granted to Director Watson, Director Popoff and Councillor Dumas.

Carried

5. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The November 6, 2025 Creston Valley Services Committee minutes, have been received.

ORDER OF THE AGENDA CHANGED

The Order of Business was changed to consider Item 7.1 Staff Report: Christmas Lights Tour at this time.

7. STAFF REPORTS

7.1 STAFF REPORT: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR

There is no driver availability for the Christmas Lights Tour this year due to unforeseen circumstances. Staff to share the Christmas Lights Tour route with the Tourism center and post to the RDCK website by middle of December.

7.2 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON VALLEY TRANSIT RIDERSHIP

The draft budget for Creston Valley Transit Service S234 is dictating a 10% increase for 2026. Creston is a small transit system, and staff has been directed to make inquiries regarding the impacts of changes in service. BC Transit would need to advertise route adjustments before any changes take place. The Committee would like to see the implications of reducing the on-demand service is, to reduce the budget by 10%.

Director Vandenberghe confirmed that there are bike carriers on the front of the buses in Creston Valley.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 DISCUSSION ITEM: DANGEROUS DOG SERVICE ESTABLISHMENT BYLAW

The Committee is interested in a direct comparison of the services they wish to have included in an aggressive and dangerous dog service. This service would prioritize aggressive and dangerous dogs. The need that this service would aim to fill is to have a kennel facility and personnel to handle aggressive and dangerous dogs.

The Committee has concerns over the proposed budget for the establishment of this service and would like to see the scale of the service decreased from the original proposal to match what the Committee would like to accomplish.

Direction to Staff: Contact other kennels in the area, and fine tune the analysis of the service provided to focus only on aggressive and dangerous dog holding facility and management and present the Committee with options of reduced costs for this service in January.

8.2 CRESTON MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

Tammy Bradford, Chief Executive Officer of Creston Museum and Todd Kelner, Treasurer of Creston Museum presented the 2026 draft budget for the Creston Museum & Archives to the Committee. The museum has seen 4,500 visitors this year, 65% are residents of Creston's local community.

\$5,000.00 of the 2026 draft budget is set aside to increase the gift shop to generate more revenue. The largest project planned for 2026 is making the existing bathroom accessible, which will involve significant renovation to the building to accommodate. Museum will be applying for funding to do this work to meet building code, as well as setting aside \$50,000.00 to contribute to this project. A new roof over the car building is also being planned.

The Committee was very appreciative of the in-depth report that the Museum put forth and will move this item to January for further budget discussions.

8.3 CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Saara Itkonen, Library Director and Kathy Durnin, Library Board Chair presented the 2026 Creston Valley Public Library draft budget to the Committee. Library has been in operation in Creston for 105 years. In the last year, inclusive of Friday closures, the library saw 15% service reduction hours, with only an 8% reduction in visits. There was a 60% increase in bookings for free meeting space in the last year. Library staff have been resourceful in library programming over last year. Library is seen as a unique space that the community really embraces.

The 2026 library draft budget has been done with 2 scenarios: open Fridays versus closed Fridays. The difference between the 2 budgets is \$75,000.00. The library will be applying for a Columbia Basin Trust grant for accessibility upgrades to the building: for a ramp to the garden, new accessible doors accessible shelving for large print books, and accessible furniture. \$37,000.00 has been budgeted for capital improvements for the library. The library will also be running a fundraising campaign in 2026.

In 2025 the capital reserve was reduced, taking money away from the long-term care of the building to allow for a larger taxation lift within the library's budget. There is a need to replace the HVAC system in the building and are budgeting this work to span over 2026-2027. Staff recommend that a deeper facility condition assessment is needed to identify reserve demands for the next 25 years.

The Committee will move this item to January for further budget discussions.

RECESS/ REORDER

The meeting recessed at 12:36 a.m. and reconvened at 10:46 a.m.

9. OLD BUSINESS

9.1 GOAT RIVER WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING

Staff presented an update from engagement for the Committee. Phases 1 and 2 are completed now, with great feedback from the community. The survey remains open till 2026 with full results that will be shared once completed. Open houses were well attended, however members of the communities felt that further engagement is needed. Staff are hoping for a very good attendance at the next engagement, which will

be farm visits. Staff reported that the council to council (C2C) meeting has been confirmed for the spring 2026.

Staff Direction: committee members would like to see the assemblance of meeting notes on the staff-to-staff engagements and that staff ensure that Director Watson and other board members can attend the C2C meeting.

9.2 DISCUSSION ITEM: CRESTON AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COMPLEX

Staff invited this Committee to share any thoughts or ideas to entertain in respect to the 2026 draft budget for Service S224 and the Committee had several suggestions:

- Interactive screens be available for rent to create advertising revenue
- Pickle ball court rental times
- Can outdoor spaces generate more revenue

Staff provided insight into the implementation of ideas suggested. Staff will prepare a report to address these suggestions for a future meeting.

9.3 DISCUSSION ITEM: FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Town of Creston is working on setting up governance for this proposed advisory committee and associated bylaw. It will be decided later if this advisory committee will have delegated authority from the Regional District or the Town of Creston.

9.4 DISCUSSION ITEM: ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN

EAP workshop to discuss governance to be hosted January 6-7, 2026.

9.5 DISCUSSION ITEM: TOWN OF CRESTON AND CRESTON LIBRARY WARMING CENTRE

Staff are concerned about the type of occupancy for the library building, in respect to be in compliance with the BC Building Code, and being able to house members of the public overnight. The proposed multiuse room is attached to the RDCK staff washroom. There are also security concerns surrounding hardware and artwork.

CAO Moore will pull this request for the library meeting space to be considered as an overnight warming centre.

ORDER OF THE AGENDA RESUMED Item 6.1 Creston FC Youth Football Club was considered at this time.

6. DELEGATE

6.1 DELEGATION: CRESTON FC YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB

The Creston FC Club is one of the Valley's largest youth sports organizations, and their mandate is to provide accessible and community centered football programs that encourages participation for all.

Space is limited for hosting this club, due to restrictions on field sizes and lack of lighting, which is effecting the clubs ability to grow to meet the popularity of the sport.

The club is requesting:

- Turf Field (with lights)
- Kinsman Rehabilitation
- Indoor Facility
- Local Spaces

The Committee requested that the club provide the financial reports and a plan for future discussion.

**ORDER OF THE
AGENDA CHANGED**

The Order of Business was changed to consider Item 9.6 Recreation Facility – Creston and Areas B, C and Area A Service S224 at this time.

9.6 FOR DISCUSSION: RECREATION FACILITY - CRESTON AND AREAS B, C AND AREA A SERVICE S224

Craig Stanley, Regional Manager – Operations & Asset Management presented the revised budget for Recreation Facility – Creston and Areas B, C and Area A Service S224. Tender award for the refrigeration project will be going before the Board on December 11, 2025.

Remaining funding once the draft budget is approved will be set aside for: sports fields, baseball, soccer. However, the needs and wants are not aligned with the lower half of the property. This space must be conceptualized and analyzed and brought forward for community engagement with the available options.

9.7 ACTION ITEM LIST

#5 - Staff have arranged a meeting for January, strike out for January.

#6 - This has fallen back in order of importance with all the moving pieces that the library is working on. Strike out item 6 for January.

10. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public and members of the media at 12:23 p.m.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

11. CLOSED

11.1 Meeting Closed to the Public

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

In the opinion of the Committee - and, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter – the public interest so requires that persons other than DIRECTORS, ALTERNATE

DIRECTORS, DELEGATIONS AND STAFF be excluded from the meeting;

AND FURTHER, in accordance with Section 90 of the Community Charter, the meeting is to be closed on the basis(es) identified in the following Subsections:

90. (1) A part of a council meeting may be closed to the public if the subject matter being considered relates to or is one or more of the following:

(e) the acquisition, disposition or expropriation of land or improvements, if the council considers that disclosure could reasonably be expected to harm the interests of the municipality;

(n) the consideration of whether a council meeting should be closed under a provision of this subsection or subsection (2);

Carried

11.2 Recess of Open Meeting

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

The Open meeting be recessed at 12:24 p.m. in order to conduct the Closed meeting.

Carried

12. NEXT MEETING

The next Creston Valley Services Committee meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
And resolved:

The Creston Valley Services Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Carried

Digitally approved by

Arnold DeBoon, Chair



Real Estate Foundation Funding: Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Plan – Phases 3 & 4 Engagement

Author: Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability & Resilience Supervisor
File Reference: 10-5200-20-WGI-Goat
Electoral Area/Municipality: Electoral Areas B, C; Town of Creston
Services Impacted S105 & A108

1.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board authorize staff to apply for Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) Grant to support Phases 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning;

AND FURTHER, that if successful the grant funding be allocated to Community Sustainable Living Service 105.

AND FURTHER, that if successful, the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign all necessary documents.

2.0 BACKGROUND/HISTORY

In April 2025, the Board approved the Goat River Watershed engagement strategy to support co-development of a Water Sustainability Plan (WSP) with yaqan nuʔkiy. The approach reflects provincial WSP requirements for partnerships, issue identification, and collaborative governance.

In 2025, the RDCK received funding from REFBC to support early engagement and relationship-building. Engagement milestones were approved by the Board in October 2025, and an update is provided – ATTACH01. In summary:

- Phase 1 and Phase 2 resident engagement (media campaign, survey, open houses) are complete.
 - Survey conducted with 256 responses – summary provided in the attachment
 - 6 open houses conducted with 129 attendees
- Successful co-development of materials with yaqan nuʔkiy staff, of note is the 3D watershed model for the Goat River Watershed which will launch on January 8, 2026, at the Creston Visitor Centre.
- Work is underway with yaqan nuʔkiy Council and the Fraser Basin Council to design a two-part relational and governance process for Spring 2026.

Staff are now seeking additional funding to continue the engagement process into 2026 as the RDCK and yaqan nuʔkiy prepare to initiate Phase 3 of WSP development, including collaborative governance design, deeper community involvement, and development of shared priorities. The hope is that this additional funding will also support the scoping of the Water Sustainability Plan with the Ministry of Water Lands and Resource

Stewardship.

REFBC funding would support expanded engagement, technical translation, and preparation for a provincial request to designate the Goat River Watershed for a WSP.

3.0 PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A WSP is a potential regulatory mechanism under the Water Sustainability Act to address chronic low flows, drought risk, water quality concerns, and cumulative impacts affecting the Goat River Watershed.

To progress toward WSP initiation, the RDCK and yaqan nu?kiy must demonstrate readiness through:

- respectful partnership building
- shared issue identification
- co-developed engagement processes
- early technical work and data synthesis
- documentation of community values and watershed priorities
- early governance and decision-making structures

Phases 3 and 4 engagements will provide the foundation for a future application to the Province to designate the Goat River Watershed for a WSP under Section 65 of the Water Sustainability Act.

REFBC funding aligns with their priorities in watershed collaboration, Indigenous-local government partnerships, water literacy, and community engagement.

3.1 Alignment to Board Strategic Plan

- Develop relationships and partnerships: strengthens RDCK relationships with yaqan nu?kiy
- Energy efficiency and environmental responsibility: advances climate adaptation and water security work.
- Manage our assets and service delivery in a fiscally responsible manner: supports evidence-based, community-centered watershed planning that includes Arrow-Erickson & Lister RDCK water systems
- Regional approach to growth: contributes to region-wide watershed governance objectives (WGI).

3.2 Legislative Considerations

- Water Sustainability Act (sections 65–84) describes mandatory process steps for WSP development and regulatory authorities available through a WSP
- Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act supports co-development with First Nations
- Local Government Act provides authority to engage communities and support collaborative planning

3.3 What Are the Risks

- Insufficient engagement may delay or undermine the ability to pursue a WSP
- Without external funding, staff capacity to undertake Phases 3–4 will be limited
- Uncoordinated engagement risks weakening relationship with yaqan nu?kiy and the community

4.0 PROPOSED SOLUTION

That the RDCK apply to REFBC for funding to support the implementation Phases 3 and possibly 4 engagement activities, including:

- Develop economic analysis of the value of water in the region
- Complete isotopic mapping of groundwater and surface water across the Goat River Watershed, including the Canyon Overburden Aquifer (No. 0489) and the East Creston/Lister Bedrock Aquifer (No. 0488), will establish the first comprehensive hydrological fingerprint for this system
- Continue to implement the co-developed WSP-aligned engagement plan with yaqan nuʔkiy refining and iterating as needed
 - Multi-season community engagement (farmers, residents, water users, irrigation districts, youth, stewardship groups).
 - Technical storytelling, data translation, mapping, and public learning resources.
- Capacity to support yaqan nuʔkiy participation, knowledge gathering, and cultural protocols aligned with ʔakxamis ɔ̄api qapsin (all living beings), ʔukiniʔwitiyaʔa (many people working with one heart), and ʔiʔqawxawizikimik (everyone holds this belief together) guiding principles.
- Early governance design and scoping for future WSP

4.1 Financial Considerations of the Proposed Solution

REFBC APPLICATION – PROPOSED BUDGET SUMMARY (LATE 2026–2027) – note this budget is intended to support activity in the second half of 2026 and will be informed by planning sessions with RDCK Directors. A more detailed budget is attached as Attachment C.

Category	Purpose	Amount
Facilitation & Coordination	Facilitation support, coordination of multi-party processes	\$50,000
Watershed Technical Work	Goat River Watershed analysis including Canyon Aquifer 0489 and East Creston/Lister Aquifer 0488	\$60,000
Economic Analysis	Assessment of economic impacts, benefits, and trade-offs	\$20,000
Data Visualization & Communications	Maps, graphics, dashboards, public-facing tools	\$15,000
Community Workshops & Meetings	In-person sessions, sectoral roundtables, materials	\$30,000
Preliminary Scoping of the Water Sustainability Plan	Early-stage meeting and facilitation supporting WSP readiness	\$25,000
Total		\$200,000

COMPLEMENTARY FUNDING SOURCES (confirmed)

Funding Source	Purpose	Amount
Investment Agriculture Foundation (IAF)	Producer-focused engagement in 2026: on-farm visits, in-person sessions, direct mail outreach	\$100,000
Community to Community (C2C) Program	Supports Council-to-Board engagement and relationship building between yaqan nuʔkiy Council and RDCK Directors (Areas A, B, C) and the Mayor of Creston	\$20,000

RDCK STAFF

Source	Notes	Amount
Service 105 – Community Sustainability	Sustainability & Resilience Supervisor	0.25 FTE
Administration 108	Community Resilience Coordinator	0.25 FTE

4.2 Risks with the Proposed Solution

- Funding not awarded
 - Mitigation - seek funding from other sources
- Increased community expectations without parallel provincial commitment
 - Mitigation – Continue to provide clear and transparent communication
- Need for strong coordination to ensure work progresses at the speed of relationship.
 - Mitigation – this will

4.3 Resource Allocation and Workplan Impact

Work aligns with the existing workplan for Sustainability & Resilience Supervisor and Community Resilience Coordinator (CRC) related to the Watershed Governance Initiative for 2026 and would be used to support the extension of the CRC in 2027.

4.4 Public Benefit and Stakeholder Engagement of Proposed Solution

- Continues to build community readiness for future WSP processes
- Strengthens relationship with yaqan nu?kiy through co-governance principles
- Supports agricultural, residential, and environmental groups to participate meaningfully
- Improves local understanding of water supply risks, drought, and climate impacts

4.5 Leveraging Technology

- Story Maps, web-based tools, and data visualizations to support public understanding.
- Mapping and communication tools consistent with previous WGI directives.

4.6 Measuring Success

- Completion of Phase 3 & 4 engagement milestones aligned with provincial guidance.
- Increased community participation rates.
- Documented shared values, issues, priorities, and governance pathways.
- Readiness to seek a WSP Designation Order

5.0 ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION(S)

RDCK undertakes limited Phase 3 engagement using current staff capacity rather than seek contracted services if grant is approved.

5.1 Financial Considerations of the Alternative Solution(s)

Staff time is the same but scope for broad and meaningful engagement would be reduced.

5.2 Risks with the Alternative Solution(s)

- Possibly insufficient readiness for a WSP

- Community trust and participation will most likely be impacted negatively because staff will have limited time for meaningful engagement.
- Slower partnership development with yaqan nu?kiy

5.3 Resource Allocation and Workplan Impact

Significant strain on internal capacity.

5.4 Public Benefit and Stakeholder Engagement of Alternative Solution

Without additional funding, having staff time only would put a strain on staff resources and would impact the ability of staff to enable meaningful discussion (technical support, funds for engagement, facilitation support) with community on water sustainability planning in the Goat River Watershed.

5.5 Measuring Success

- Completion of Phase 3 & 4 engagement milestones aligned with provincial guidance.
- Increased community participation rates.
- Documented shared values, issues, priorities, and governance pathways.
- Readiness to seek a WSP Designation Order

6.0 OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT NOT PRESENTED

None considered

7.0 OPTIONS SUMMARY

Option 1 (Recommended):

That the Board authorize staff to apply for the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) grant to support Phases 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning;

AND FURTHER, that if successful the grant funding be allocated to Community Sustainable Living Service 105.

AND FURTHER, that if successful, the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign all necessary documents.

Option 2:

Proceed without external funding using only internal resources.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Board authorize staff to apply for the Real Estate Foundation of BC (REFBC) grant to support Phases 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning;

AND FURTHER, that if successful the grant funding be allocated to Community Sustainable Living Service 105.

AND FURTHER, that if successful, the Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to sign all necessary documents.

Respectfully submitted,
Paris Marshall Smith, Sustainability & Resilience Supervisor

CONCURRENCE

Acting Chief Administrative Officer – Joe Chirico

Approved

General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services – Sangita Sudan

Approved

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – APRIL 2025 - Update on Engagement Strategy for the Goat Watershed Water Sustainability Plan

Attachment B – NOVEMBER 2025 - Update on Engagement Strategy for the Goat Watershed Water Sustainability Plan

Attachment C - Further details on proposed Real Estate Foundation application to support Phase 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Planning



Board Report – For Information

Update on Engagement Strategy for the Goat Watershed Water Sustainability Plan

Author:	Paris Marshall Smith
File Reference:	WGI-Goat Watershed-Engagement
Electoral Area/Municipality:	Creston, Areas A, B and C
Services Impacted	S105 – Community Sustainable Living Service

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide the Board with an update on the community engagement strategy for the development of the Water Sustainability Plan (WSP) for the Goat Watershed, which is being co-developed in partnership with yaqan nuʔkiy and the Province of British Columbia.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND UPDATE

In April 2025, the Board approved the engagement strategy for the Goat Watershed WSP, which prioritizes trust-building, reciprocal learning, and public participation grounded in local and Indigenous knowledge. The Board requested more details of the engagement strategy. The following represents an initial draft. It will be strengthened and shaped through collaboration with yaqan nuʔkiy knowledge holders, ensuring it reflects shared values, insights, and direction. It may also change with the involvement of the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship.

Engagement activities are organized by area of focus and could include:

A. Relationship with yaqan nuʔkiy

- Leadership meetings between yaqan nuʔkiy Nasookin and Council and RDCK Chair, Creston Mayor and Area A, B and C Elected Officials to set collaboration principles and review engagement outcomes
- Shared time on the land: gatherings, walks, and meals between yaqan nuʔkiy Nasookin and Council and RDCK Board Chair, Creston Mayor and Area A, B and C Elected Officials
- Joint creation of communication materials (infographics, videos, maps)

B. Engagement with Elected Officials

- Ongoing dialogue to build understanding of WSP governance frameworks and co-management collaborative processes
- Workshops with RDCK Directors as needed

C. Engagement with Residents

- **Media Campaign (Spring-summer 2025):**

A four-phase public education campaign designed to progressively build awareness, reflection, and action around local water challenges. Each phase has distinct messaging including *Did You Know*s (see below for examples):

- **Phase 1: "What is your Connection to Water in the Valley?"**
 - A conversation starter inviting residents to reflect on the importance of water in their lives and share their thoughts through social media and community displays.
 - Focus: Curiosity, personal connection, non-technical language.
- **Phase 2: "Is Our Water Supply Secure?"**
 - Educational content highlighting where our water comes from, current supply vulnerabilities, and changes residents have noticed over time.
 - Focus: Prompting reflection on risks to drinking water, farming, and ecosystems.
- **Phase 3: "How Does Water Shape Our Community?"**
 - A storytelling phase featuring local voices (growers, youth, Elders) about how water supports livelihoods, traditions, and community well-being.
 - Focus: Building emotional connection and highlighting dependence on healthy water systems.
- **Phase 4: "What Can We Do Together?"**
 - Sharing practical water stewardship actions, promoting survey participation, and encouraging residents to get involved in dialogue sessions.
 - Focus: Empowerment and pathways to community action.

Materials include social media posts, local newspaper features, posters at community hubs, and visual displays at the Creston Visitor Centre.

- **Water Awareness Survey (Summer 2025):**

- A broad community survey assessing public understanding of water issues, drought impacts, and values related to the Goat Watershed.
- Survey responses will inform the design of fall dialogues and the drafting of WSP recommendations.

- **Kitchen Table Dialogues (Fall 2025):**

- Small-group discussions hosted by local growers, residents, and community champions to gather input on water concerns and adaptation ideas.
- Supported by customized discussion kits including watershed maps, drought facts, and open-ended questions.

- **Community Science Sessions (Fall 2025):**

- In-person public learning events focusing on local hydrology, climate impacts, drought adaptation strategies, and cumulative effects on water supply.
- Led by researchers, local experts, and Indigenous knowledge holders.

Examples of *Did You Know*s:

1. **Did You Know?**

When trees don't get enough water through the fall, they go into winter in a stressed state and are more vulnerable to pests, disease, and wildfire. A dry watershed doesn't just raise fire risk today — it weakens the forest's ability to recover tomorrow.

2. **Did You Know?**

When drought hits in late summer and fall — like it has in recent years — it can reduce the size, quality, and shelf life of local crops like apples, berries, and vegetables. Less water at harvest time means smaller yields and higher risks for farmers.

3. **Did You Know?**

Fall drought doesn't just dry out fields — it can also stress fruit trees and vines, leading to weaker crops the following year. Water shortages today ripple into our future food supply.

D. Engagement with Interest Groups

- **Sector-Specific Roundtables (Summer – Winter 2025):**

Roundtables will be held to provide key sectors with the opportunity to contribute knowledge, express concerns, and identify sector-specific needs and opportunities related to water sustainability. Each roundtable will be designed to foster open dialogue and solution-oriented discussion. Sectors include but are not limited to: agriculture, industry, environment and conservation, irrigation and improvement districts.

- **Collaboration with Kootenay Boundary Farm Advisors (KBFA), Fields Forward and the Ministry of Agriculture:**

Recognizing the vital importance of the agricultural sector to the Valley's economy and culture, the engagement strategy includes a focus with local food producer organizations, Fields Forward, KBFA and the Ministry of Agriculture to support sectoral outreach.

Specific activities include:

- co-hosting engagement sessions for food producers
- gathering technical input
- ensuring representation of those who may wish to participate more directly in subsequent advisory processes related to the water sustainability plan
- building shared understanding ensure that resident and stakeholder education reflects the real challenges and solutions being discussed within the agricultural sector.

Throughout the engagement, co-development with yaqan nuʔkiy remains central, and the use of Ktunaxa language, incorporation of Ktunaxa place names, and knowledge-sharing will be guided by yaqan nuʔkiy .

3.0 NEXT STEPS AND TIMELINE

Spring - Summer 2025:

- Implement media campaign to progressively move the public from curiosity to action.
- Launch Water Awareness Survey and promote across RDCK and community networks.
- Continue outreach to potential kitchen table hosts and partner organizations (KBFA, Growers' Associations, etc.).

Summer - Fall 2025:

- Analyze survey responses and identify key themes.
- Finalize kitchen table dialogue materials and book facilitators/training.
- Confirm dates and speakers for Community Science Sessions.

Fall - Winter 2025:

- Conduct Kitchen Table Dialogues with food producers and residents.
- Deliver four Community Science Sessions on drought trends, water security, and adaptation planning.

- Host targeted sectoral roundtables with agricultural, industrial, and conservation stakeholders.

Winter - Spring 2026:

- Consolidate all engagement results into an Engagement Summary Report.
- Present report to the Board for review and direction on integration into the Water Sustainability Plan draft.

CONCURRENCE

Chief Administrative Officer – Stuart Horn

Approved

General Manager of Development and Community Sustainability Services – Sangita Sudan

Approved

Manager of Community Sustainability Services – Dan Séguin

Approved

RDCK UPDATE ON FOR THE GOAT WATERSHED WATER SUSTAINABILITY PLANNING – NOVEMBER 2025

New Low-Flow Information for the Goat River Watershed

On November 21, 2025 Isaac Dekker, yaqan nuʔkiy Watershed Stewardship Coordinator, shared updated flow monitoring results for the Goat River from September 2025. These measurements show the river reached 2.5 m³/s, the lowest flow recorded in recorded history (since 1919). This is an unprecedented value in the dataset and represents a significant new marker in understanding drought conditions in the Goat River Watershed.

Based on our collective work to date, including hydrology, fish habitat assessments, and community observations, we know that the Goat River begins to experience ecological stress well before this threshold. Low flows of this magnitude reduce available habitat, increase water temperatures, and limit the river's ability to move sediment and support aquatic life. For these reasons, the 2.5 m³/s measurement signals not only a low-flow year, but a potential crisis-level condition for both the river and the broader Goat River Watershed. This impacts all activities – fisheries (Kokanee require 2.7 m³/s to spawn), agriculture, industry, tourism, residents in the region.

This new information underscores the importance of the water sustainability planning process now underway with yaqan nuʔkiy. It reinforces what many in the community have already been observing: drought conditions are deepening, the watershed is more vulnerable than in past decades, and proactive, collaborative planning is urgently needed to support long-term water security.

Engagement update and overview

Engagement for the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability Plan (WSP), co-developed with yaqan nuʔkiy, has advanced significantly through 2025. Early phases focused on resident awareness, foundational relationship-building, and technical literacy.

Work is now transitioning toward deeper storytelling, sector-based dialogue, and leadership-to-leadership processes that will shape Phase 3 and possibly 4 of the WSP in 2026.

A. RELATIONSHIP WITH YAQAN NUʔKIY

- A two-part leadership engagement is being designed for Spring 2026, in collaboration with yaqan nuʔkiy Council and the Fraser Basin Council. This work will confirm collaboration principles, review engagement findings, and support early governance planning.
- Shared time on the land with yaqan nuʔkiy leadership and RDCK/Creston elected officials will be embedded in this two-part process to support trust-building and shared learning.
- Communication materials continue to be co-developed, including the 3D Goat River Watershed model launching January 8, 2026 at the Creston Visitor Centre.

B. ENGAGEMENT WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS

- Informal engagement with RDCK Directors has occurred continuously through the Creston Valley Services Committee and through direct participation in public events.
- RDCK elected officials attended all six 2025 open houses, one director for Area C attended every open house.
- Additional workshops with elected officials will be scheduled in 2026 as needed to deepen understanding of WSP governance frameworks and provincial requirements.

C. ENGAGEMENT WITH RESIDENTS

to build a clearer picture of how much water is being used, by whom, and at what time of year

Media Campaign (Spring–Summer 2025)

Our communications focus in 2025 has been on helping residents connect their personal water use to overall watershed conditions. Each phase builds toward a clearer understanding of seasonal demand and how different users rely on water across the year.

- **Phase 1 – Completed: “What Is Your Connection to Water in the Valley?”**

Launched a valley-wide conversation about daily water use through displays, interviews, and social media stories. This phase began identifying the different ways households, farms, and businesses depend on water.

- **Phase 2 – Completed: “Is Our Water Supply Secure?”**

Provided information on drought, low-flow conditions, and water availability, paired with six open houses (137 attendees). A follow-up newsletter and Board summary will share what we heard including information about peak-use periods, irrigation needs, and domestic water patterns.

- **Phase 3 – Scheduled 2026: “How Does Water Shape Our Community?”**

A storytelling series will highlight growers, Elders, youth, and water-dependent sectors to deepen understanding of who uses water, when, and why. Stories will explore seasonal cycles and shifts in demand. This will be complimented by directed producer engagement as outlined below in the **IAF Stream 3 Application**.

- **Phase 4 – Scheduled 2026: “What Can We Do Together?”**

Will focus on community-based solutions, including ways to reduce peak-demand pressures and enhance shared stewardship during the highest-use months.

Water Awareness Survey (Summer 2025) – Completed

The survey (206 respondents) provided a first broad snapshot of water use behaviours, domestic consumption patterns, drought impacts, and resident perceptions of supply. Findings will help shape more targeted data-gathering in 2026.

Kitchen Table Dialogues (Fall 2025) – In progress

Small group conversations hosted in homes, farm shops, and community spaces are helping us learn about actual water use across sectors.

Community Science Sessions (Winter 2025 – Spring 2026) – In progress

Public learning events with researchers, Indigenous knowledge holders, and local experts link hydrology and cumulative effects to real community water use. These sessions help residents understand how individual choices and sector-based practices contribute to overall seasonal demand.

Summary

As of November 2025, early engagement phases are complete, foundational relationships with yaqan nu?kiy are strengthened, the community has an improved understanding of water conditions and risks and staff are learning more about what consumption patterns are across the watershed. The initiative is now positioned for Phase 3 in early 2026, beginning with the January 8 Producers' Lunch-and-Learn at Jimmy's and proceeding into leadership-to-leadership work, storytelling, and expanded sectoral engagement including working directly with producers as outline in the application to IAF.

Further details on proposed Real Estate Foundation application to support Phase 3 & 4 of the Goat River Watershed Water Sustainability

Planning Category	Purpose	Detailed Scope & Deliverables	Internal or external	Amount (\$)
Facilitation & Coordination	Structured facilitation and coordination of multi-party processes	This funding is a placeholder to support either RDCK staff time and off-set RDCK taxation and LGCAP funding or to hire facilitators or a combination of both - at this time	Unknown - to be determined	50000
Watershed Technical Work	Targeted watershed and aquifer analysis for decision support	Desktop technical review of Canyon Aquifer 0489 and East Creston/Lister Aquifer 0488; maps and plain-language technical memo; identification of data gaps	External - requires specialized skill set	60000
Economic Analysis	Assessment of economic impacts, benefits, and trade-offs	Scenario-based desktop economic analysis; risks of action vs inaction; short briefing paper outlining assumptions and implications	External - requires specialized skill set	20000
Data Visualization & Communications	Translate technical and governance information into accessible formats	Maps, infographics, and visual summaries suitable for Board, CVSC, and public use; reusable design assets	Internal - GIS	15000
Community Workshops & Meetings	Purposeful in-person engagement across the Goat River Watershed	In-person sessions including sector roundtables and community meetings; venues, materials, facilitation, and travel; documented input summaries	Internal - funding to support travel costs, facility rentals, catering etc...	30000
Preliminary WSP Scoping	Assess readiness and appropriateness of a Water Sustainability Plan	Early-stage partner discussions; WSP readiness memo; clarification of scope, governance, resourcing, and decision points	Internal - funding to support travel costs, facility rentals, catering etc...	25000
Total				\$200,000

Creston Valley Public Library

2026 Budget Overview

Supporting community well-being
through accountable, sustainable
public service

Total 2026 Budget

		Incl Fridays	Friday Closure	
	2025	2026	2026	
Revenue	Budget	Budget	Budget	
RDCK	570,537	663,177	587,653	1
Province	77,832	62,975	62,975	2
Donations	14,000	15,000	15,000	3
Library Generated Revenue	4,000	4,638	4,638	4
Other Grants and Revenues	15,000	64,900	64,900	5
Transfer from reserve	56,161	60,000	57,405	6
Total	737,530	870,690	792,571	
Expenditures	Budget	Budget	Budget	
Advertising and promotion	200	3,000	3,000	7
Books & collections	59,935	62,332	62,332	
Book supplies	6,500	6,760	6,760	
Board operations	300	312	312	
Computer costs	20,439	20,000	20,000	
Copier	3,000	3,120	3,120	
Digital/Other collections	11,000	15,210	15,210	8
Finance expenses (accounting, etc)	14,040	20,000	20,000	9
Furniture and Equipment	1,000	64,900	64,900	10
Insurance	10,558	11,000	11,000	
Internet	1,550	1,612	1,612	
Janitor	15,000	15,600	15,600	
Membership dues	1,200	1,560	1,560	
Office supplies and shipping	10,740	11,170	11,170	
Operations & Miscellaneous	500	520	520	
Programming supplies	4,773	4,964	4,964	
Repairs and maintenance	13,300	13,832	13,832	
Telephone and utilities	22,000	26,558	26,558	11
Travel & Training	3,300	3,200	3,200	
Wages and benefits	523,338	585,040	506,921	12
Main Budget Total	722,673	870,690	792,571	
Total reserve	156,000	96,000	98,595	
Capital improvements	HVAC replacement \$150,000 (from RDCK reserve)			

Notes to budget

Revenue

1. RDCK grant request: Lower amount is -\$75,524 with Friday closures, of which \$61,702 is difference in salaries & benefits
2. Province: Amount of provincial funding will be lower in 2026 than in 2025
3. Donations: Most donations come from Friends of the Library
4. Library generated revenue: From printing, which covers what the Library pays for the service
5. Other Grants: \$59,875 is from Columbia Basin Trust Accessibility Grant (of which \$37,775 is for accessible doors & ramp = capital upgrades to building)
6. Transfer from reserve: Fundraising campaign planned for 2026 to increase reserve/open Fridays for at least one year

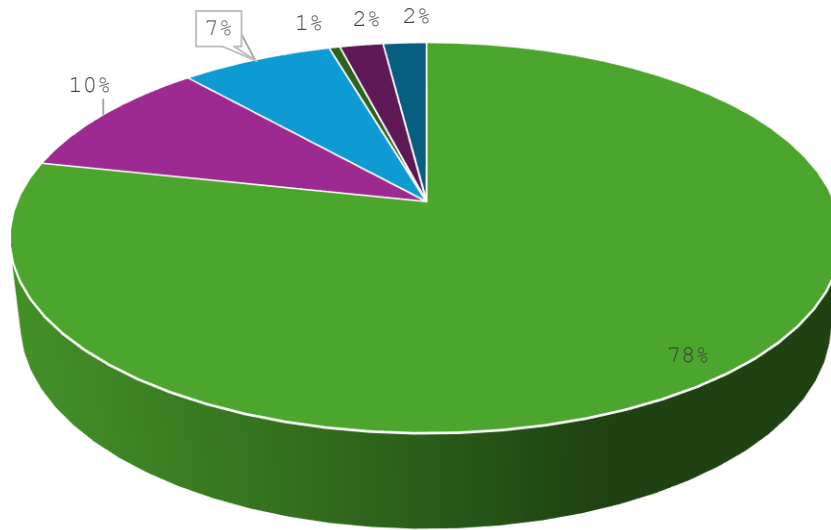
Expenditures

7. Advertising and promotion: Fundraising budget
8. Digital/Other collections: The expense increases 7% - 12% each year
9. Finance expenses: Increase mainly for contract for new bookkeeper at market rate (about double what retired bookkeeper charged)
10. Furniture and equipment: CBT Accessibility Grant
11. Telephone and utilities: Large increase in Fortis electricity (20%)
12. Wages and benefits: 4% increase under collective bargaining agreement

2026 Budget Snapshot

- Funding mix remains primarily supported through the regional district
- Lack of growth in provincial funding necessitates continued closure on one day per week to balance budget
- Reserves continue to provide some stability
- Grants and donations support flexibility and service enhancements
- Fundraising campaign planned for 2026 with aim of raising \$100,000 to enable the library to re-open on Fridays for at least one year and support a Legacy Fund for the future

2025 Budget – Funding Sources



Town of Creston & RDCK	78%
Province of BC	10%
Reserves	7%
Internal income	1%
Donations	2%
Other grants	2%

- Town of Creston & RDCK
- Province of BC
- Reserves
- Internal income
- Donations
- Other grants

Strategic Alignment

- Budget reflects continued alignment with RDCK strategic priorities
- Stable and predictable funding
- Long-term service sustainability
- Financial stewardship
- Reliable delivery of core public services

Search our Collections

Creston Library Catalogue

Library Of Things

Libby: digital reading & more

Kanopy: Movies online

Cantook Station: French eBooks

Library2Go

Library Events Calendar

All Events

Adults

Community

Kids

Seniors

Teens

Supporting Community Well-Being

Lifelong learning and literacy

- Storytime for 0-5 year olds and caregivers
- Visits to Swan Valley and Crestview
- 1-1 computer & device skills support
- Children's, teen, and adult programming

Social connection and inclusion

- Reading Buddies – teens and kids
- Monthly Board Game night – all ages
- Puzzle Table
- Designated spaces for various demographics

Accessible services for residents of all ages

- Subscription to CELA – indefinite loan of print accessible devices and curated content
- Seniors movie screenings
- Partnership with KCCS for government forms assistance



Decision Requested

- **Approval of the 2026 Creston Valley Public Library budget (\$587,653)**
- Consideration of ways to enable temporary funding increase to support Friday opening pending advocacy with province to increase its funding
- Ongoing partnership to support sustainable, accountable library services

Thank You

- Thank you to the RDCK Community Services Committee for your continued partnership
- Your support enables stable, inclusive library services and helps strengthen our community
- The Library remains committed to sustainable, high-value public service





CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of Creston Valley Public Library

Date: November 18, 2025

Present: Kathy Durnin (Chair), Alison Szpak (Treasurer), Maria Aryan, Tealia Decker, Megan Stager, Kelly Vandenberghe (RDCK Rep), Joanna Wilson, Saara Itkonen (Library Director, by videoconference)

Regrets: Monique Ares (Town Rep)

Guests: Asha Delisle (Emergency Management & Climate Readiness Coordinator, Town of Creston), Jared Riel (Creston Fire Chief)

Minute-taker: Megan Stager

Call to order: 7:01pm

Adoption of Agenda

Motion to accept agenda M/S Alison/Tealia. Carried.

Approval of Minutes of October 2025 meeting

Motion to approve minutes M/S Megan/Alison. Carried.

Nomination

Alison reported that the Nominations Committee had reviewed the nomination of Joanna Wilson and recommended approval of her election to complete the term of office of Osa Grey, who had resigned.

Motion to elect Joanna Wilson to complete a vacated term of office ending at the AGM in April 2026 M/S Maria/Alison. Carried.

New Business

Use of Library multi-purpose/meeting room as secondary warming centre

- Asha DeLisle and Jared Riel made a presentation concerning the use of the Library multi-purpose/meeting room as a secondary overnight warming centre for the Town of Creston, in the event that the primary warming centre became unavailable during extreme weather conditions, in accordance with the town's Extreme Weather Response Plan. The discussion that followed covered questions of insurance coverage, indemnification of costs of cleaning and repairs for any damage, and the need for an agreement between the Town and the Library, as well as a logistics plan with an SOP for activation and use of the secondary warming centre, both agreement and plan to be subject to review by the Board. Under the Library's lease agreement with RDCK, subsection 8.1 (1), the Library as Tenant must request the consent in writing of the RDCK prior to subletting any part of the premises. Motion to request the consent in writing of the RDCK to enable the Library to enter into a sublet agreement with the Town of Creston for use of the Library multi-purpose/meeting room as a secondary warming centre. M/S Megan/Maria. Carried.



CRESTON VALLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Announcements

- Kathy welcomed Kelly Vandenberghe, who had been appointed by the RDCK to be its representative as a non-voting Board member.
- Saara mentioned the series of pieces that had appeared in the press in recent months advocating for increased provincial funding for BC libraries. She had been invited to speak at a meeting of a library federation in northern BC as libraries there faced the prospect of cutting opening hours owing to budgetary constraints.
- Kelly informed members about the Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program (NEPP) for planning for weather related events. The RDCK had put together the program so that communities could pool resources and databases in the event of an emergency.
- Kelly spoke about the recent public engagement sessions held to discuss a water sustainability plan. RDCK was concerned about the water resources in District communities and wanted to develop a sustainability plan for the Goat River Watershed and beyond. The next level of engagement would include commercial/agricultural producers.

Committee Reports

None

Old Business

None

Adjourn: 7:58 pm

Next meetings: January 20, February 21, April 21

Creston Public Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 7.00 p.m.

AGENDA

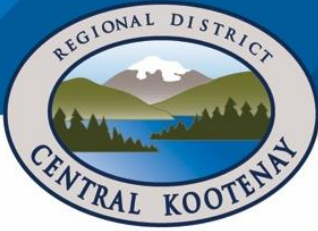
1. Call to order [1 minute]
2. Consent agenda [1 minute]
 - Adoption of agenda
 - Approval of previous (November 18) meeting minutes [1 minute]
3. Announcements [10 minutes]
4. Committee reports: Friends of the Library (FOL); Kootenay Library Federation (KLF); Labour/Management; Policy; Human Resources; Fundraising [8 minutes]
5. Library Director reports (Usage statistics, Operations, Financial)
6. Old business
 - Investments
 - Fundraising
7. New business
8. Adjournment

Next meetings – Tuesdays at 7.00 p.m.: February 17, April 21 (AGM + regular), May 19, June 16, September 15, October 20, November 17

Our Vision: Empowering access to a world of ideas.

Our Mission: A welcoming space for the creation and sharing of information, ideas, and culture.

Our Values: Community collaboration, Environmental stewardship, Lifelong learning, Literacy, Patron-centred services, Reconciliation, Respect and inclusivity, Understanding and empathy, Universal access, Volunteerism, Well-trained and professional staff.



Committee Report

January 8, 2026

Valley Community Services Use of Rotacrest Hall

Author: Craig Stanley, Regional Manager Operations and Asset Management
File Reference: 01-0515-20
Electoral Area/Municipality: Creston, Area B, Area C, Specified Area A
Services Impacted: Service S224

1.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the Board approve the RDCK enter into a five-year agreement with Valley Community Services for non-exclusive use of the lower floor of the Rotacrest Hall, to deliver the therapeutic activation program for seniors, commencing on February 1, 2026 and ending on January 31, 2031, and that the Board Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the agreement.

2.0 BACKGROUND/HISTORY

Valley Community Services (VCS) have operated the “Therapeutic Activation Program for Seniors” (TAPS), out of the lower level of the Rotacrest Hall for many years.

On behalf of the RDCK, VCS received a grant from Columbia Basin Trust in 2014 in the amount of \$150,000 and contributed this grant to the RDCK for renovation of the Rotacrest Hall including the purchase and installation of kitchen fixtures and accessories. Partially in consideration of that contribution, VCS was granted two consecutive five-year, non-exclusive, facility use agreements for the use of the Rotacrest Hall to deliver their TAPS programs. The fees were set at \$10 for each of the five-year terms.

In 2021, VCS raised funds and constructed an outdoor pavilion adjacent to the Rotacrest Hall. The pavilion was dedicated in Spring 2022. The RDCK was a funding partner in that project and as the owner the RDCK governs the use of the pavilion.

The last five-year agreement expired in January, 2024. Staff issued a one-year non-exclusive facility use agreement, with the same terms in place, and set to expire on January 31, 2026. Valley Community Services have requested that a new five-year term be agreed to with similar terms.

3.0 PROBLEM OR OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

The best long-term use of the Rotacrest Hall has not been determined. Through anecdotal feedback, staff are aware that TAPS provide great value to the community; however, this has not been compared to other needs, nor is there a comparison or evaluation of other senior’s programming vis a vis the demand and the supply of RDCK spaces and programs for seniors.

The terms in the agreement allow the RDCK to use the lower level of the Rotacrest Hall after 4:00PM on weekdays, and all day on weekends, but this has rarely been exercised partly due to the logistics required for daily mobilization and demobilization of TAPS setup. Also, the upper floor of the Rotacrest Hall and other spaces in the CDCC are available and so the lower floor is not in demand.

Valley Community Services have provided the Creston Valley Services Committee with regular updates on their activities, including TAPS, and they have been good renters and take good care of the spaces they use.

Current use of the space is as follows:

SPACE/FACILITY

- Office and Inner Storage Room - Lower Level
- Table Storage - Lower Level
- Kitchen - Lower Level
- Main Hall - Lower Level
- Outdoor pavilion when available – not booked by other groups or RDCK

DAY & TIMES

Exclusive use during term Monday - Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

PARKING

Two (2) designated parking stalls adjacent to the lower level of the Hall for Licensee vehicles. This includes overnight parking.

3.1 Alignment to Board Strategic Plan

This recommendation aligns with the following Board Strategic priorities:

- Develop relationships and partnerships
- Organizational Excellence
- Manage our Assets in a Fiscally Responsible Manner

3.2 Legislative Considerations

The length and the form of the agreement, more than one year for this type of agreement, requires RDCK Board approval.

3.3 What Are the Risks

The use of the Rotacrest Hall for seniors’ programming in a community that has a high population of seniors is reasonably and arguably beneficial. Losing that programming could lead to a gap in community benefits.

4.0 PROPOSED SOLUTION

Staff are recommending that this agreement be approved for five years and that the minimum fees of \$10 per year be charged for the non-exclusive use.

4.1 Financial Considerations of the Proposed Solution

The \$10 per year fee for the non-exclusive use of the space is the only financial consideration. There is no analysis of other revenue opportunities, nor is there any current demand for this space.

4.2 Risks with the Proposed Solution

The use of the Rotacrest Hall for seniors' programming offsets other potential uses; i.e. RDCK programs and services and childcare. Currently there is no comparison of the needs of childcare spaces to seniors' spaces. A long-term agreement could mean that any better or higher needs being met would be delayed should they be determined to be higher priority during the term of this agreement

4.3 Resource Allocation and Workplan Impact

This arrangement will have no impact on the current workplan or service delivery model for community services.

4.4 Public Benefit and Stakeholder Engagement of Proposed Solution

This solution will allow VCS to continue to offer TAPS in the Rotacrest Hall for up to five more years.

There has been no stakeholder engagement for this proposed solution.

4.5 Leveraging Technology

N/A

4.5 Measuring Success

The success of the programs offered by VCS could be measured by participation rates and feedback from the participants. Staff from VCS provide annual updates to the Committee and they could be required to provide user statistics and data regarding their programs.

It is difficult to compare the benefits of TAPS to other potential uses, given that there is no demand for this space, and other RDCK spaces experience moderate usage levels.

5.0 ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION(S)

Alternative solutions are as follows:

1. Enter into a five-year agreement and apply RDCK fees and charges commensurate with a large meeting room rental for adult community recreation use.
2. Honour the terms of this agreement for less than five years.

5.1 Financial Considerations of the Alternative Solution(s)

If the fees were increased, commensurate with current large meeting room fees, then VCS would pay \$90.94 per hour or \$544.71 per day according to RDCK large meeting room rental rates for adult community recreation use.

5.2 Risks with the Alternative Solution(s)

The risk of the alternative solutions impact VCS and TAPS. There is no risk to the RDCK other than this could displace senior's programming i.e. the community benefits are impacted.

5.3 Resource Allocation and Workplan Impact

This has no impact to current staff workplan, except to administer the fees if alternate solution 1 is approved.

5.4 Public Benefit and Stakeholder Engagement of Proposed Solution

The public benefits to these solutions have not been analyzed.

There has been no community engagement regarding these options.

6.0 OPTIONS CONSIDERED BUT NOT PRESENTED

That the RDCK not enter into a long-term agreement with VCS and administer use of the Rotacrest Hall for the TAPS program as a short-term rental using monthly agreements, as is done with other renters and user groups, and charge the current appropriate rental rates.

7.0 OPTIONS SUMMARY

The pros and cons of the options are as follows:

Proposed Solution – Enter into a five-year agreement for \$10 per year as per RDCK practice for minimum fees.

Pros:

- TAPS will continue without disruption to their services

Cons:

- Cost recovery is not commensurate with RDCK fees and charges policy
- Relationship with community partners is mitigated

Alternate Solution

1. Enter into a five-year agreement and apply RDCK fees and charges commensurate with large meeting room rental for adult community

Pros:

- Increased revenue and cost recovery

Cons:

- VCS/TAPS not configured for this
- Could result in loss of programming for seniors

2. Honour the terms of this agreement for less than five years; i.e. year to year

Pros:

- Maintains continuity for the participants at TAPS for the time being
- Allows RDCK flexibility for future years – i.e. to determine other uses

Cons:

- Not what VCS/TAPS have requested which could impact the relationship between the parties

8.0 RECOMMENDATION


That the Board approve the RDCK enter into a five-year agreement with Valley Community Services for non-exclusive use of the lower floor of the Rotacrest Hall, to deliver therapeutic activation programming for seniors, commencing on February 1, 2026 and ending on January 31, 2031, and that the Board Chair and Corporate Officer be authorized to execute the agreement.

Respectfully submitted,



Craig Stanley – Regional Manager – Operations and Asset Management

CONCURRENCE

Regional Manager, Recreation and Client Services – Trisha Davison 

CVSC ACTION ITEMS LIST – 2025-12-04

#	ACTION ITEM	MEETING ORIGIN	STATUS
1.	STAFF DIRECTION: That the Board direct staff to prepare a draft policy for Board review that requires recipients of financial grant in aid funds to engage with local area Directors and/or provide documentation during the budget process, to be eligible for funding via taxation in a given year.	05-Jan-2023	This has fallen back in the priority list based on other work.
2.	STAFF DIRECTION: Dangerous Dog Bylaw to be written to enable Staff to work sub-regionally in conjunction with RCMP to act on dangerous dogs including provisions for safe and approved housing and care of animals until their future is determined.	02-Mar-2023 03-Oct-2024 01-May-2025 Dec-4-2025	Staff direction: reduce costs presented in Service Case Analysis Dec. 4 2025. Bylaw has received 1 st reading – 20-Feb-2025. Out for legal review. Aiming to have 2 nd reading for July 2025. 2 nd reading July 17, 2025; will provide SCA and draft establishment bylaw as per resolution 178/23 in October.
3.	STAFF DIRECTION: Staff to create a contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School where RDCK lists what the funding is for and what the expectations are for the funding. To formalize the agreement, Staff to include in the agreement what the rates are that RDCK is going to charge to receive that funding. CVSC would review the contribution agreement with Kootenay River Secondary School every year.	01-Jun-2023	Ongoing. Staff will include funding for the auditorium in conversations with SD8 regarding facility use discussion. SD8 is in a consultation process to determine public use policies. Conversation should be with SD8 administration.
4.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff request a workshop/session (in conjunction with a site visit for the Creston Valley Services Committee) with the Traditional Use Study (TUS) authors, the Ktunaxa Nation and Yaqan Nukiy, to educate the Committee to better understand the TUS.	09-Sept-2023	Ongoing. Staff meeting with Ktunaxa and LKB staff October 30, 2024. Staff and Directors participated in the TUS Workshop with Ktunaxa in April 2025. Staff is arranging a workshop on Regional Parks in Creston, A,B,C.
5.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff arrange a meeting with the RDCK and the Town of Creston to discuss internal governance regarding the Kootenay Employment Services contract.	07-Mar-2024	
6.	STAFF DIRECTION: That staff work with library to develop a policy around the capital reserve and investment amounts to establish how the reserved funding is being spent.	07-Mar-2024	Ongoing