REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

Area A Economic Development Commission
OPEN MEETING ADDENDA

2:00 p.m. PT
Tuesday, November 24, 2026
Location: Hybrid Model – In-person and Remote

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

Join by Video:
https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/93079902753?pwd=1DnbzuIpvRtHNZyPqjp7NKEtfkguO3.1

Join by Phone:
1-778-907-2071 Canada Toll-free

Meeting ID: 930 7990 2753
Meeting Password: 881036

In-Person Location: Kokanee Springs Resort - lower level of the 1st Lodge building at the rear of the building, 16082 Woolgar Road, Crawford Bay, BC

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Director F. Demman	Area A
Commissioner G. MacMahon	Kootenay Bay
Commissioner G. Medhurst	Crawford Bay – Chair
Commissioner P. Cullinane	Boswell
Commissioner R. Bertram	Crawford Bay/Gray Creek

STAFF PRESENT

Robin Baril	Meeting Coordinator

____ out of _____ voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Medhurst called the meeting to order at [Time] p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION

The agenda for the November 24, 2026, Area A Economic Development Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The September 8, 2026 Area A Economic Development Commission minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATION

5.1 East Shore Trail and Bike Association

Farley will discuss with the Commission an opportunity for winter trail maintenance and provide an overview report of the operations and effort as it relates to economic development and community benefit.

Note: Attachments added to the Addenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project: Collaborative Development Initiative

Commissioner MacMahon and Alyssa Tatryn will jointly present development plans for the next phase of the geothermal project.

Note: Attachments added to the Addenda.

6.2 Community Forest Expansion

To discuss the potential to build on the work initiated by Wildsight Creston and Creston Community Forest, to support the local economy and address potential methods of creating forest fire resilience around the communities on the East Shore.

7. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair will call for questions from the public at [Time] p.m.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next Area A Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2027 at 2:00 PT.

Proposed 2027 Area A Economic Development Commission meeting dates with a start time of 2:00 p.m.:

- January 12, 2027
- March 9, 2027
- May 11, 2027
- July 6, 2027
- September 7, 2027

- November 9, 2027

9. ADJOURNMENT

RECOMMENDATION

The Area A Economic Development Commission meeting be adjourned at [Time] p.m.

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY

AREA A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

3:00 p.m. PT
Tuesday, September 8, 2026
Location: Hybrid Model – In-person and Remote

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.

Join by Video:
https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/93079902753?pwd=1DnbzuIpvRtHNZyPqjp7NKEtfkguO3.1

Join by Phone:
+1-778-907-2071 Canada

Meeting ID: 930 7990 2753
Meeting Password: 881036

In-Person Location: Kokanee Springs Resort – lower level of the 1st Lodge building at the rear of the building, 16083 Woolgar Road, Crawford Bay, BC

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Director G. Jackman	Area A
Commissioner G. Medhurst	Crawford Bay – Chair
Commissioner G. MacMahon	Kootenay Bay
Commissioner R. Bertram	Crawford Bay/Gray Creek
Commissioner P. Cullinane	Boswell
Commissioner F. Demman	Wynndel

STAFF PRESENT

R. Baril	Meeting Coordinator

6 out of 6 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Medhurst called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

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

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded,
and resolved:

The agenda for the September 8, 2026 Area A Economic Development Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The August 4, 2026 Area A Economic Development Commission minutes, have been received.

5. DELEGATION

5.1 Tourist Radio Canada

Jim Ripley of Tourist Radio Canada gave a brief overview of the opportunities for Visitor's Radio or Tourist Radio for Economic Development along Kootenay Lake. Since 2013, radio advertising has been permitted and has expanded since that time. Advertising on Tourist Radio Canada can be tailored to meet the needs of the Community.

Jim answered the Commission's questions.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Community Forest Expansion

Director Jackman presented two areas that have been given the go ahead to expand into cut block areas. BC timber sales have a tenure on the land because of high value timber in certain areas. Community Forest can afford to do select logging harvest cuts to support a healthier forest over long range plans. Crown land has rules to abide to, must leave certain amount of waste. Sustainable cut blocks are not feasible to most large timber companies in the same way that Community Forests can operate.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce

Chamber of Commerce board members were not in attendance; however, the Commission has received the financial accounting for the Christmas Gala 2025. The Commission is still hoping for further details re: Executive Director position that was funded.

Commissioner P. Cullinane left the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

7.2 Kootenay Lake Geothermal Update

Commissioner MacMahon gave an update to the Commission on the work over the past couple months for the Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project. The 3D inversion has been initiated, they have done the first version of the model, however the 3D model looks different from the 2D version. Useable data is seen much deeper than they originally

thought.

ETSI BC funding is available for Community Benefit & Development Evaluation up to $25,000 which the South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society would like to apply for. They have been successful in obtaining a grant from ETSI BC in the past.

Moved and seconded
And resolved to be recommended to the Board:

To support an ETSI BC funding application, by South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society on behalf of Kootenay Lake Geothermal project, for a Community Benefit & Development Evaluation, which is planned for quarter one and quarter two of 2027. The ETSI BC funding application is noon on October 8, 2026.

Carried

8. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 3:25 p.m.

No questions from the public or media.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next Area A Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for November 10, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. PT.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
and resolved:

The Area A Economic Development Commission meeting be adjourned at 3:26 p.m.

Carried

Digitally approved by:

_____

Chair Gina Medhurst

ESTBA Winter Trail Maintenance Budget for RDCK Area A EDC

Overview

Following last year's mild winter and forecasts for this winter to be similar, the East Shore's recreation trails are seeing increased winter and shoulder season use. A milder winter will also more effectively enable further clean up of the trail network from the late spring windstorms that depleted all our 2026 annual maintenance funding.

While the network has been fully cleared, we have obligations with our various partners and stakeholders to ensure upkeep of the trail tread and corridors to specific standards.

Project Budget

Administration

Project Management (logistics, communications, final report)	$400.00
Financial Management (invoicing, materials acquisition, final report)	$170.00
Administration total	**$570.00**

Materials

Saw fuel and oil, saw chains	$180.00
Truck fuel	$160.00
Metal ¼" screen for bridge decking / screws and nails	$160.00
Signage replacements (vandalism, theft)	$400.00
Materials total	**$900.00**

Contractors

Chainsaw operators (blowdowns, corridor widening, overhangs, sightlines, viewpoint/regrouping area hazards and fall zones)	$2800.00
Support labour (debris management, trail tread repair, reroutes and corridors)	$1600.00
Contractor total	**4,400.00**

Request total	**$5870.00**

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY: A REGIONAL COORDINATION INITIATIVE

Building on Existing Investment Through Coordinated Regional Action

Discussion Paper | Area A Economic Development Commission | November 24, 2026

Presented by South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society / Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project

The Opportunity

The Kootenays possess significant geothermal resources with the potential to support economic diversification, investment, employment and long-term community prosperity. Existing hot springs operations demonstrate geothermal's contribution to regional tourism, while opportunities extend to greenhouse production, commercial and industrial heating, community infrastructure and potentially reliable, 24/7 electricity generation.

Over the past six years, the community-led Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project has attracted more than $500,000 in public funding and nearly $450,000 in volunteer contributions, supported by over 20 collaborating organizations. This investment has generated a substantial body of geological, geochemical and geophysical research, regional mapping, technical knowledge and community relationships.

Recent Cascade Institute research identifies broad but cautious public acceptance of geothermal in Western Canada, emphasizing the importance of trusted information, community engagement and demonstrated local benefits. The opportunity now is to build on this foundation through a coordinated regional approach extending beyond Kootenay Lake to geothermal opportunities across RDCK Electoral Areas A, D, H and K and interested municipalities.

Why Coordinated Action Is Needed

Despite the region's geothermal knowledge and commercial experience, information, resources and development opportunities remain dispersed among organizations, communities and individual projects.

A coordinated regional approach could:

- **Consolidate existing knowledge:** Improve access to geothermal research, resource mapping, project history and educational materials, while respecting existing information-sharing restrictions.
- **Build community understanding:** Identify public education priorities and credible sources of information about geothermal opportunities, benefits, risks and development requirements.
- **Identify economic opportunities:** Strengthen connections among geothermal proponents, commercial heat users, agriculture, industry, utilities and prospective investors.
- **Strengthen regional partnerships:** Identify shared priorities and potential roles for local governments, interested Indigenous Nations, technical institutions, community organizations and commercial stakeholders.

The objective is not to duplicate existing efforts or create another organization, but to identify how existing institutions, expertise and resources can work together more effectively to advance regional geothermal development.

Proposed First Step: Kootenay Regional Geothermal Coordination Initiative

South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (SKLCSS) proposes an initial regional coordination and scoping engagement from **January 15 to May 15, 2027**, designed to establish a practical foundation for collaborative action.

The proposed work, to be undertaken by an independent consultant working with the project lead, would include:

1. **Knowledge and resource review:** Summarize existing geothermal research, mapping, project history and educational resources, including the established ArcGIS StoryMap, and prepare an information package for authorized sharing.
2. **Regional stakeholder assessment:** Develop an organizational ecosystem framework and conduct approximately **18–24 structured interviews** with regional institutions, interested Indigenous Nations, technical organizations, commercial stakeholders and potential funding partners. Discussions would assess organizational priorities, mandates, capacity, potential leadership roles and willingness to participate.
3. **Coordination and education priorities:** Identify common interests, participation preferences, institutional leadership options and practical opportunities for collaboration. Apply findings from the Cascade Institute's research to identify appropriate public education priorities and trusted information sources.
4. **Recommendations and next steps:** Prepare a concise summary report, stakeholder ecosystem framework and recommendations for coordinated regional action, including potential leadership, responsibilities and future priorities.

The findings would be presented at the **Columbia Basin Trust RE:Energize Symposium in May 2027**, with final materials and recommendations delivered to SKLCSS following the event.

Preliminary Budget and Leadership

The proposed professional consulting fee is **$16,400 plus GST**, based on the scope prepared by Unlimited Opportunity. Any additional participation expenses, including Indigenous engagement supports where appropriate, would be considered separately.

SKLCSS would initiate the engagement and contribute existing project knowledge, research and relationships. Funding support could be explored through participating RDCK economic development areas and other regional partners. An independent consultant would coordinate stakeholder interviews, develop the ecosystem framework and prepare recommendations in collaboration with the project lead.

The initiative would not predetermine its long-term institutional home**.** Rather, a central objective is to identify which existing organizations or partnerships have the mandate, capacity and interest to steward future regional coordination. Commercial geothermal proponents, including Threshold Energy, would remain independent participants pursuing their own development activities.

An Invitation to the Area A Economic Development Commission

We invite the Commission to consider becoming an **initial supporting partner** in advancing this regional opportunity by:

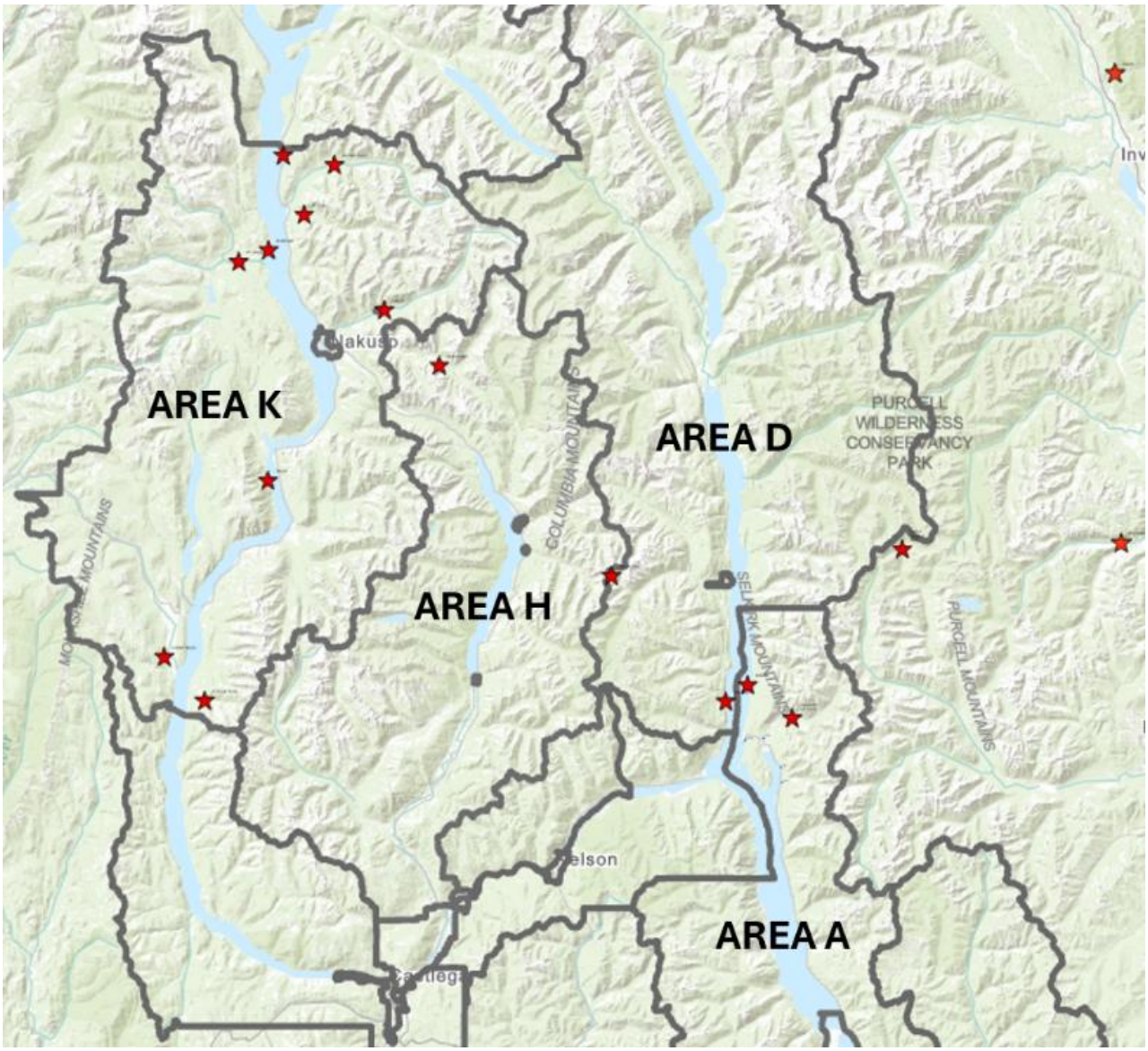
1. Providing feedback on the proposed initiative and its relevance to regional economic development.
2. Helping identify appropriate RDCK contacts, existing coordinating bodies and potential partners across Areas A, D, H and K.
3. Considering participation and potential financial support through a subsequent formal funding request.

At this stage, we are seeking the Commission's perspectives and guidance rather than a formal commitment.

Our objective is to move from six years of community-led research toward a coordinated regional approach that can translate existing geothermal knowledge, relationships and investment into lasting economic opportunities for the Kootenays.

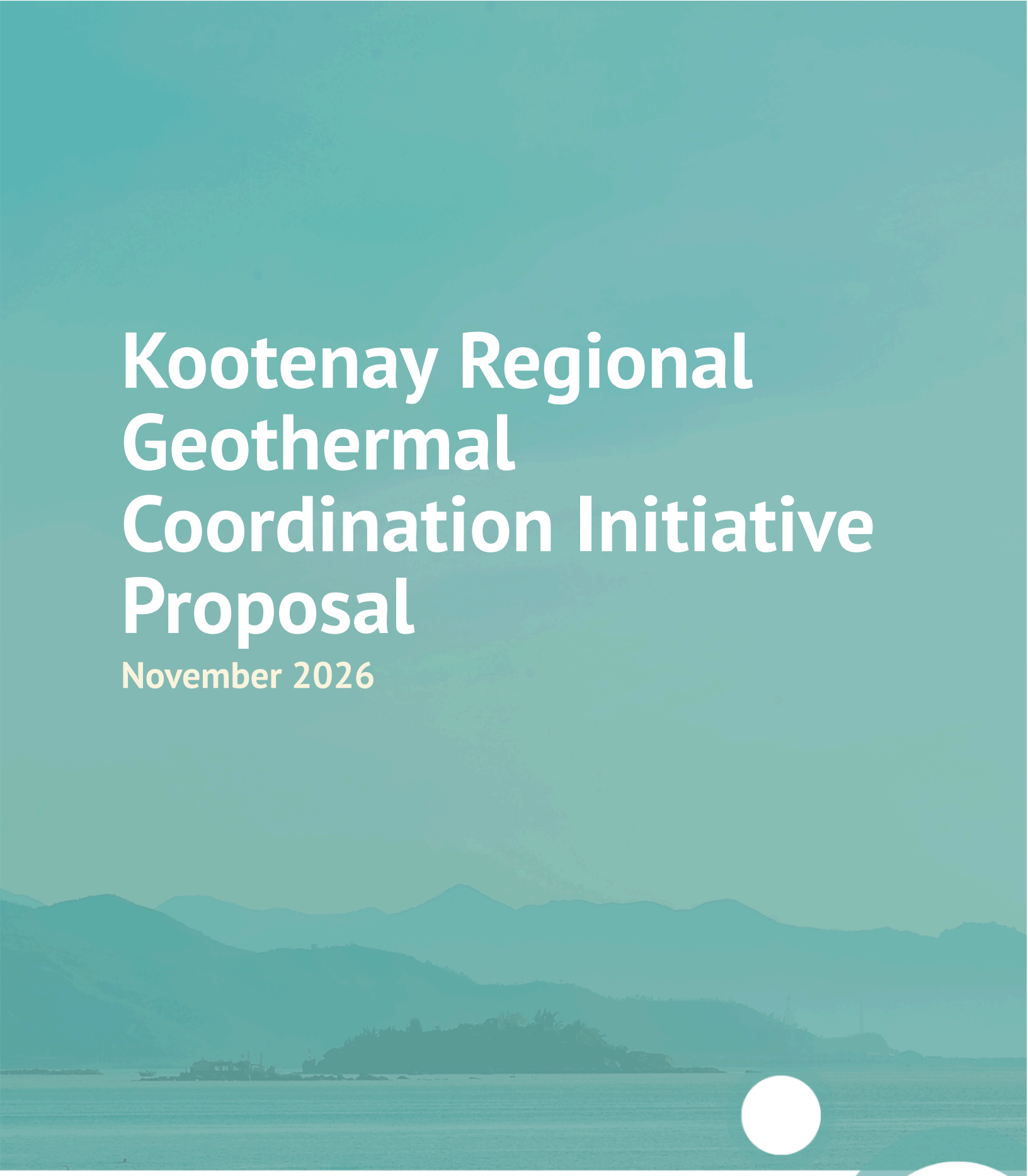
Supporting resources: [Kootenay Lake Geothermal ArcGIS StoryMap](#) | [Cascade Institute — Deep Listening](#)

Accompanying map: Regional hot springs and RDCK Electoral Areas A, D, H and K.



Kootenay Regional Geothermal Coordination Initiative Proposal

November 2026



Unlimited opportunity

Engagement Overview

South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society (SKLCSS) proposes a Regional Coordination Initiative from January 15 to May 15, 2027, to build on existing geothermal investment and strengthen regional economic opportunity. Over six years, the Kootenay Lake Geothermal Project has attracted more than $500,000 in public funding and nearly $450,000 in volunteer contributions, supported by over 20 collaborating organizations. This work provides a foundation for broader collaboration across RDCK Electoral Areas A, D, H and K and interested municipalities.

Geothermal knowledge, resources and development opportunities remain dispersed across communities and organizations. A coordinated regional approach could improve access to existing research, build community understanding and connect geothermal opportunities with potential users and investors. These opportunities extend beyond electricity generation to community heating, agriculture, industry and tourism, with potential benefits for economic diversification, employment and long-term community prosperity.

This initial scoping engagement will bring together regional institutions, interested Indigenous Nations, technical organizations and other partners to understand shared priorities, capacity and willingness to collaborate. It will clarify who is positioned to lead coordination, how others want to participate and what practical steps could strengthen community education and regional development. Cascade Institute research will help inform education priorities and the importance of credible information and demonstrated local benefits.

The Consultant and project lead will organize existing resources and interview findings into an ecosystem framework, summary report and presentation for the planned May RE:Energize Symposium. These materials will help partners consider potential leadership, responsibilities and next steps through existing institutions and partnerships. The longer-term opportunity is to translate the region's geothermal knowledge into investment and lasting community benefit.

Professional Fees: $16,400 + GST

Scope of Work

Key Activity	Deliverables	Expected Outcomes	Time Frame
Summarize existing resources — With the project lead, review available research, maps, project history and education materials; prepare a concise package and links for authorized distribution.	Resource summary, approved materials and access links, with sharing restrictions recorded.	Partners can use knowledge built through existing public and volunteer investment.	January
Define the ecosystem framework and participants — Select and adapt an organization profile template; confirm participant groups and contacts with the project lead, and prepare interview prompts.	Ecosystem mapping framework, initial participant list and interview guide.	Each interview gathers comparable information about organizational geothermal focus, mandate, potential leadership and participation roles	January
Coordinate outreach and interviews — With the project lead, confirm contacts, make introductions, distribute the resource package and arrange February–March discussions.	Coordinated outreach and interview schedule, with participation and follow-up tracked.	Relevant organizations receive context and a clear invitation to participate.	January–March
Conduct 18–24 structured interviews — Consultant facilitates with the project lead's support; explore geothermal focus, scale, leadership alignment, participation and desired influence.	Up to 24 one-hour interviews covering the agreed organization profile fields.	Partners' positions and potential roles are understood through direct conversations.	February–March
Complete ecosystem framework — Document interview findings in the ecosystem framework; clarify gaps, key contacts, authority, participation preferences and conditions.	Completed profiles for interviewed organizations; non-responses and information gaps identified.	A comparable picture shows who could lead, contribute to or join coordinated regional work.	February–March

Key Activity	Deliverables	Expected Outcomes	Time Frame
Synthesize themes and coordination options — Assess common priorities, differences and readiness for a committee or network; identify potential leads and reasonable next actions.	Summary themes, leadership options, participation overview and practical coordinated-action steps.	Partners can judge where coordination is viable and what decisions or approvals are needed.	April
Translate Cascade research into education priorities — Use Deep Listening findings to identify education topics, credible messengers and practical next actions for regional partners.	Education priorities linked to specific next actions in the coordinated approach.	Research on familiarity, trusted information, benefits and fairness informs practical education work.	April
Prepare the summary report and slides — Integrate the resource overview, ecosystem map, interview themes, leadership options and next actions; the project lead contributes context and review.	Concise summary report, ecosystem framework and slides; one consolidated review round.	Partners and the symposium audience can understand the emerging regional partnership and next steps.	April
Symposium presentation and final handoff — Consultant and the project lead present the interview themes, ecosystem map, education priorities and proposed next steps. Incorporate relevant symposium feedback and deliver final materials to SKLCSS.	Symposium presentation; final summary report, ecosystem profiles, slides and resource package.	Partners understand the findings, potential coordination leads and practical next steps; SKLCSS has the materials to support follow-up.	May

Changes to the Scope will be proposed when a) an activity is not achieving the Work, b) another activity is more likely to produce better results towards the Work, c) the priority of the Work has changed or d) availability has changed, reducing capacity to achieve the Work. Where there are material changes to the Scope and timelines the Parties agree to amend the Service Agreement.

Client Expectations

To deliver this scope efficiently, we ask SKLCSS and participating sponsors to:

- Provide existing reports, maps, StoryMap access and regional project information promptly, with clear sharing permissions and technical publishing support.
- Support participant identification, verify contacts and introductions with the project lead, and help coordinate online interviews across the agreed organization groups.
- Respect Nation-directed participation, confirm preferred protocols and budget separately for welcomed honoraria, travel or other participation supports.
- Flag timing or capacity changes promptly.
- Review recommendations and verify permissions before sharing findings, names or commitments publicly.

Confidentiality

All information shared throughout this engagement will be treated as confidential unless disclosure is authorized in writing.

This includes technical findings, assumptions, uncertainties, project records, financial information, contacts, strategic discussions, cultural knowledge, Indigenous knowledge, Nation-controlled information, and any other proprietary or sensitive information shared through the engagement.

The Consultant agrees not to disclose confidential information to any third party without prior written consent except where required by law.

Likewise, proprietary tools, templates, frameworks, and methodologies developed independently by the Consultant remain their intellectual property. Project-specific records and deliverables developed remain the Client's property, subject to any rights, restrictions, permissions, confidentiality requirements, and governance direction attached to information supplied by Indigenous Nations or other contributors.

About the Consultant

Alyssa Tataryn is a business consultant and facilitator who helps community-serving organizations clarify shared priorities, strengthen partnerships and turn complex opportunities into practical action. She brings more than fifteen years of entrepreneurial and consulting experience, working with nonprofit organizations, social enterprises, municipalities, educational institutions and Indigenous-led initiatives. She translates diverse perspectives and existing research into clear frameworks, decision tools and achievable next steps.

Community Forestry, Wildfire Resilience & Biomass Recovery

An integrated opportunity for Area A - Discussion brief for the Economic Development Commission, November 2026

Purpose and context

With Creston Community Forest (CCF) proposing expansion into the East Shore, the issue for Area A is how local communities might participate and benefit. This paper is intended to open discussion—not propose a new project or seek a funding commitment. The Crawford Creek and Duck Creek areas shown in the September 2026 EDC material are proposed forest development units, not confirmed harvestable areas or approved timber allocations.

Build on work already completed

The June 2025 Foresight Canada report, Forestry and Agriculture Circular Economy Research, prepared for Wildsight and CCF, provides a substantial foundation. It evaluates conversion of forestry and wildfire-mitigation residues into biochar and other products; production technologies; labour, access and preprocessing requirements; potential agricultural and forestry uses; market opportunities; and carbon-related revenues. Its recommendations point toward comparative costing, practical trials, feedstock monitoring and testing actual demand. The subsequent status and results of pilot activities should be confirmed with the partners.

Area A should not duplicate this work. The opportunity is to ask whether the research and pilot activities could be connected more directly to routine community forestry operations and wildfire risk reduction in the proposed expansion area.

The integrated operating model

Rather than collecting forest residues solely to supply a stand-alone biochar operation, consider planning compatible activities together: selective timber harvesting or salvage where authorized; prescribed thinning and fuel reduction; recovery of suitable low-grade wood and slash; and processing into biochar, chips or other products where markets justify it. Conventional timber sales, biomass value and eligible wildfire-treatment funding would each contribute to the overall economics.

Where harvesting and fuel-treatment objectives overlap, existing contractors, access roads, equipment and hauling systems may lower the incremental cost of biomass recovery. But savings are not automatic: some priority fuel-treatment sites lack merchantable timber, and terrain, soil protection, haul distances and extra machine time can outweigh the benefits of integration.

What is different from the Wildsight study?

The principal additional question is operational and policy-oriented: can integrated planning and mechanized recovery reduce the net cost of achieving the same wildfire-treatment outcome? This could be examined through the proposed “third-tier forestry” concept—wildfire resilience as an explicit objective, supported by selective timber recovery, biomass use and potentially differentiated treatment of eligible low-value material. This is a working concept, not an existing tenure category or an assumption that reduced stumpage is necessary.

What could be tested?

If CCF and Wildsight consider it useful, a small comparison within an appropriately selected treatment area could assess conventional fuel treatment and residue management against integrated timber/biomass recovery using existing forestry equipment and contractors. Any comparison should hold the fuel-treatment and ecological objectives constant.

Measure	Why it matters
Total cost per treated hectare	Shows whether the integrated approach reduces net treatment cost
Labour and machine hours; mobilization	Tests mechanization and shared-equipment advantages
Recoverable sawlogs, low-grade wood and biomass	Distinguishes timber revenue from biomass value
Hauling distance, moisture and processing yield	Tests practical feedstock economics
Product sales and verified treatment results	Avoids assuming markets or compromising wildfire objectives
Stumpage, approvals and funding treatment	Identifies actual policy barriers, if any

Potential Area A involvement and benefits

Local priorities and stewardship. Compare eligible CCF operating areas with Area A wildfire-risk priorities, while recognizing they may not overlap.

Contractors and workforce. Identify local capacity in selective harvesting, thinning, forwarding, chipping, hauling, processing and monitoring.

Participation and community benefit. Discuss appropriate channels for East Shore input into planning and transparent reporting, subject to CCF governance and provincial requirements.

Regional utilization. Assess whether existing biochar trials, agricultural uses or other outlets can absorb additional biomass before considering new capital investment.

Indigenous involvement. Engage interested Indigenous governments early regarding rights, stewardship priorities and possible participation.

Questions for EDC discussion

- Are CCF and Wildsight already examining integrated timber recovery, mechanized fuel treatment and biomass collection?
- Could the proposed Area A expansion offer suitable sites where timber and wildfire-treatment objectives overlap?
- What would Area A communities need to contribute—and what tangible local benefits could reasonably follow?
- Would a limited operational comparison clarify whether collection costs, markets, stumpage or other constraints are decisive?

Suggested next step

Invite CCF and Wildsight to brief the EDC on progress since the 2025 report and discuss whether Area A could be a constructive partner in an integrated forestry/wildfire-resilience demonstration. No separate biochar initiative, equipment purchase or funding commitment is proposed at this stage.

References:

https://www.crestoncommunityforest.com/post/working-alongside-wildsight-youth-climate-corps-and-the-innovative-biochar-project?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://wildsight.ca/2026/06/24/can-forest-waste-help-build-healthier-soils/

https://wildsight.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Forestry-and-Agriculture-Circular-Economy-Research_Final_V3.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

https://www.bcbiocarbon.com/?utm_source=chatgpt.com