

**Summer Village of Ghost Lake
Natural Environment and Lake Stewardship Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes**

Nov 15 / 2015 Fritz cabin - #409 Summer Village of Ghost Lake

Karen Laustsen – Co-Chair
Sharlene Fritz – Co-Chair
Bruce MacDonald
Connie Beaton

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Notes
January 23, 2016	NELSC meeting – 9:30 am	Connie Beaton's place, Ghost Lake Village

Minutes

	Agenda Item	Discussion/notes	Action/notes
	Call to Order and Welcome by Co-Chair	Meeting started at 9:45 am	
1.	A. Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the October Minutes as drafted by Karen. Accepted by Connie, seconded by Sharlene • Communication of next meeting • Council liaison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen to send Oct minutes to Sharon Plett • Sharlene to circulate draft Nov minutes, including to Noel, our council rep • Next meeting date: Connie to post hard copy notice at community center, Sharlene to contact Sharon Plett and Corinne Smith to publicize via website and email
1.	B. Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the next goals and priorities? • Education and outreach • Stay connected and informed by participation in other groups (e.g., GWAS) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get village input through survey • Host speaker series at community center • Attend meetings and workshops hosted by others

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2.	Organizational Structure In Province	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the previous meeting, Bill Motherwell from Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (GWAS) explained history of area and current provincial network of water stewardship groups. Water for Life strategy began in 2003. Progress report up to 2011. Alberta Water Council stems from Water for Life strategy. Council created Watershed Planning and Advisory Councils (WPACs). Our WPAC, the Bow River Basin Council (BRBC), is relevant to this geographic area. Ghost Watershed Alliance Society (GWAS) advises the BRBC by providing State of the Watershed reports (SOW), which are used to create a Watershed Management Plan (WMP). Next SOW from GWAS is scheduled to be released March 2016. The BRBC has a living document called the Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan (BBWMP). Our situation is unique. As a small municipality, we cannot form a stewardship group at present. Reaching out to other stakeholders may make this option possible in the future. However, due to our municipal status, we may be eligible for government funding to complete environmental projects. We recognize that lake stakeholders may have competing interests and difficult historical relationships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultivate relationships with groups and individuals with lake front interests, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghost Lake Recreations Cottage Club Private landowners Stoney nation Request that one (or more) SVGL representative (s) sit on a working group of the BRBC, preferably Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan committee. Trans Alta case to be discussed further. Karen and Sharlene to compile October meeting notes to provide others with the excellent information given by Bill.
3.	A. Lake Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water levels as dictated by provincial agreements with Trans Alta have impacted many aspects of village life as well as the riparian and wetlands areas. Committee believes it is critical to improve communication. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish liaison with Trans Alta in conjunction with council and village administrator
3.	B. Lake Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revisit ALMS study. Excellent data. Despite flood, several indicators remained level. Next one scheduled for 2018. Discussed provincial "Clean, drain, dry your boat" campaign. Inspections for all water craft noted along BC and AB highways. Prevent invasive species from entering lake. Need to increase awareness in SVGL. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite provincial spokesperson to present information at AGM or visit lake during the summer. Provide YouTube link for people to view. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sirFdOCwwT8&feature=youtu.be
3.	C. Lake Winter Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing regulations require anglers to remove huts, but some still remain. Research done into Sylvan Lake case. Voluntary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inquire about possibility of RCMP registering huts in conjunction with village administrator. Villagers may also contact AB Enviro hotline if

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		registration of huts by RCMP reduced misuse.	misuse continues (i.e., garbage left on ice). 1-800-222-6514
4.	Shore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erosion control on east end complete. Many thanks to council and Kevin Foudy. Status of dredging and dock improvements unknown. Again, dependent on relationship with Trans Alta. Migratory birds are of great interest to many in the village. Some feel the extreme fluctuations in lake level have decreased the flock size and variation in species. Discussion centered around educating interested individuals and possibly creating a sighting inventory. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communicate with dock committee and council. Status of Matrix study? Communicate with Trans Alta. Karen to contact Gus Macki, a well known bird specialist, about the possibility of visiting the village in the spring to help identify bird species.
5.	Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Province undertaking ground water inventory. Possibility for SVGL to be involved? Native prairie conservation must include spraying for thistle and toadflax. Break the problem into smaller geographic units and target one area at a time. Hand picking crews and education would go a long way to solving problem. Reclaimed hillside has sage and prairie grass. Additional native species to be added to this slope. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact GoA about status of groundwater project. Connie and Karen to plant seeds given to them by BowPoint nursery. Communication with council regarding weed spraying: target thistle and toadflax. Organize hand picking crews. Possible monetary incentive?
6.	Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the possibility of using ArcGIS for village planning? Personal license is \$150/year. Municipal license depends on type of use. Shooting on property east of village is a concern. Interest in collecting historical documents related to the village (e.g., 1929 title map). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen to speak with her son Kai as he has education in this area. Investigate regulations around shooting issue. Karen to contact Sheila Miller about obtaining title map.
7.	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharlene motions to adjourn meeting at 11:50. Karen seconds. 	