



Minutes

Electoral Area 'G' Citizen's Committee

Meeting of *Monday, March 8, 2021*

Via Zoom

Present:

Anne Knight, Resident
Andrew English, Resident
Gary Lawrence, Resident
Trisha Mills, Resident
William Arnott, Resident
Stanley Bobowski, Resident
Mel Kotyk, Resident
Gerald Partridge
Doug Woods
Anne-Marie Whittaker, Senior Planner, EcoPlan
Jordan Konyk, Project Planner, EcoPlan

Absent:

Duncan Baynes
Rajinder Boora
Melodie Kolisnyk

RDOS Staff:

JoAnn Peachy, Planner, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

1. CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Role, Terms of Reference & Meeting Dates
3. Project Context
4. What is an OCP?
5. Discussion 1 – What are the key issues in your community?
6. Engagement Strategy for Area "G"
7. Discussion 2 – What is the best way to connect with residents in your community?

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

2.1 N/A – This is the first meeting of the Citizen’s Committee

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Welcome and Introductions

The committee includes residents from Area “G”. Members are new and long-time residents from a variety of professional and personal backgrounds. Involvement in the committee is based on the interest and desire to support and better the community, now and into the future. Several members are familiar and have engaged with the RDOS before on other initiatives

6.2 Role, Terms of Reference & Meeting Dates

Action Item: EcoPlan to follow up and provide members with the Committee Terms of Reference and Schedule of Projected Meeting Dates. All follow up questions can be directed to EcoPlan or JoAnn Peachy at the RDOS.

Committee Chair: Mel Kotyk (volunteered as Committee Chair)

The Chair of the Committee will act as the point person and liaison to the RDOS. The chair will be tasked with opening committee meetings, asking if members have questions or concerns that need to be addressed and/or items added to the agenda.

6.3 Project Context

See attached committee meeting slides for project process information.

Planned community events will follow current Provincial Health Guidelines. The first community open house event/sessions are anticipated to occur in late Spring/early summer (May/June). It is assumed these sessions will be scheduled online (multiple sessions will be held within each community). Prior to the first round of community sessions, there will be online engagement opportunities on Regional Connections, direct mail outs and a survey (both paper and online).

6.4 What is an OCP?

See attached committee meeting slides for project process information.

6.5 Discussion 1 – What are the key issues in your community?

Note: Discussion points from Agenda Item 1 that relate to this question have been included here.

- Wildfire risk is an important issue and growing concern for residents, in particular for residents in and around Olalla. Hedley is also taking initiative to start a FireSmart program within the community. A wildfire assessment for Hedley identified significant hazards.

- Derelict cars and dumping of debris are a major concern and issue for residents in the communities of Hedley (along hydro line) and Olalla. This has also caused safety concerns (vandalism and fires) in the past.
- Clarification, review and use of ALR lands for non-agricultural uses (large homes, large packing houses).
- Lack of regulation, in particular for building and development. While freedom of choice is valued, with it also comes risk, lack of follow up and conflict of land uses. It will be important to find a good balance there.
- Concerns around the quality and safety of some buildings and lack of mechanisms to enforce standards.
- Access and use of natural areas, in particular, residents use of trees for firewood (chopping down trees).
- Water quality (silt in the water and its impact on hot water tanks) and water safety (arsenic and leachate from the mines) are concerns. Hedley has been under a boil water advisory since late December. There is ongoing work with RDOS to improve water quality and quality reports will be published soon.
- ALR trails and access

6.6 Engagement Strategy for Area “G”

See attached committee meeting slides for engagement strategy information.

6.7 Discussion 2 – What is the best way to connect with residents in your community?

- Indigenous communities of USIB and LSIB will be contacted (not as a stakeholder, but as our neighbours and separate jurisdiction). The process for obtaining input is to first ask how both USIB and LSIB would like to be engaged in the OCP process. Further follow up and action will be undertaken with this direction.
- A member of the committee has access to the notice boards in Olalla (for posting project information).
- Posters at the local grocery store, credit union, rec centre was suggested as a good way to get the word out.
- Notice boards at the Hedley Post Office
- Local radio is not available to many residents (dead zone) and would not be a good tool for communication.
- Sandwich boards are a useful way for advertising events or information out to the community.
- Direct mail is the best way to ensure all residents have an equal notification.
- Part time, seasonal residents should be considered in this process and may require additional thought, to ensure we capture their input during their residence within the area.
- Migrant farm workers (not official residents) but these individuals are a part of the community and would be good to connect with them.

- Agricultural community will be an important group to obtain input from. Follow up on contacts for the Stock Association and BC Cattleman's.

6.8 Note

If Committee Members have additional thoughts, questions, comments, or suggested community contacts to share, please follow up with EcoPlan via email or by phone.

Committee Members are encouraged to visit the RDOS Regional Connections site to review introductory information and provide input to the existing activities posted.

7. ADJOURNMENT

7.1 Meeting Closed at 8:30pm

Advisory Planning Commission Chair

Anne-Marie Whittaker, EcoPlan

Advisory Planning Commission Recording Secretary / minute taker

Area "G" Citizens Committee

Schedule of Projected Meeting Dates

The following table outlines projected meeting dates for the Citizen's Committee based on the current project schedule. Should a meeting date need to be changed, Committee members will be provided advanced notice (1 week minimum) and a new meeting date will be selected.

Meeting Date	Project Phase	Meeting Content
March 8 th , 2021	Phase 1	Establish the Committee. Tell us about your community? What is an OCP?
April 12 th , 2021	Phase 1	Background Report Review
May 17 th , 2021	Phase 2	Engagement Input, Round 1 Review.
June 7 th , 2021	Phase 2	Workshop - OCP Framework
September 13 th , 2021	Phase 3	Workshop – Policy Directions
November 8 th , 2021	Phase 3	Workshop - OCP Goals and Objectives
January 10 th , 2021	Phase 3	Draft OCP, Review of Community Input
February 21 th , 2021	Phase 3	Final OCP