



# Teck Coal Elk Valley Communities of Interest Advisory Initiative

**PARTNERS MEETING**

Sparwood Senior’s Drop-In Centre  
101 4 Ave, Sparwood, BC V0B 2G0

February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 pm



## Communities of Interest Advisory Initiative (COIAI) Partners Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Sparwood Senior’s Drop-in Centre      **Date:** February 13, 2024      **Start:** 9:00am      **End:** 1:30pm

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**Meeting Start: 9:05am**

General welcome and housekeeping - Nich

Land acknowledgement - Anita

Safety share

- Reminder to check furnace filter clogging with colder weather conditions

Roundtable introduction - Everyone

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### Steering committee updates/elections - Anita

- Found a new community safety rep

### Wildlife Corridor

Tim Johnson, Emilie Brien, and Brenda Davison gave a presentation on reconnecting the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor. The presentation focused on the Elk valley and Jim Prentice wildlife corridors.

### Teck reclamation presentation – Lori

- *Recap of reclamation process;*
  - o Landforming (1 – 3 years)
  - o Vegetation (1 – 6 years)
  - o Monitoring (2 – 7+ years)
- *2023 highlights:*
  - o 2.4+ million seedlings planted
  - o 456 hectares planted by 65 planters
  - o 90% of landforming completed by Indigenous vendors
- Brownie collaboration project
- Reclamation views from the Elk Valley

Evgeni – Q: ? (He had many questions pertaining to success rates of vegetation in waste rock)

Lori—A: Answered with anticipated success rates based on elevation, species, and availability of top soil.

Community member- Q: Someone asked if Teck restores land other than their own.

Lori – A: No, currently just Teck owned land impacted by mining.

**Coffee Break: 10:50**

**Meeting Readjourns: 10:55am**

### Teck in Review - Rory

- *Separation:*
  - o Glencore is acquiring 77% of Teck's steelmaking coal operation (which is currently pending approval from fed government)
  - o 20% stake sold completed to Japanese company: Nippon Steel Corporation

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- 3% acquired by South Korean steelmaker Posco
  - Both companies were previously working with Teck
- Sale expected to be completed by October 2024 at the latest
- Despite Glencore acquisition, Teck/EVR will remain as a private entity of sorts
- Things like benefits for employees, and previously made commitments will be maintained, if not increased

Len Gostick – Q: Raises concern about Canadian company being sold to international ownership, heard about Glencore flipping company in 2 years, is there concern from anywhere regarding this?

Rory – A: Unaware of any official statements saying that, but has heard media statements but is unsure of the validity of them.

Unknown Community Member - Q: If you have a foreign company coming in, how can you hold them accountable?

Rory – A: These sorts of considerations are being looked at while the sale is pending approval, both on our side and the Federal government. Failure to maintain commitments will lead to regulatory issues. The sale was conditional on Glencore maintaining, if not improving, upon many previously made commitments to things such as employee benefits, reclamation, nature positivity. This will be a change of name, not change of level of commitment.

Dave Beranek? - Comments about previous open pit mining company in the valley before Teck

- **Water Treatment:**

- Water treatment goals have increased, and the timeline has been shortened (more ambitious). Water treatment capacity is expected to double.
- Public water open house last November in Fernie.

Nancy-Jo – Q: When making predictions and modelling, are you considering drought, snow pact, and rainfall?

Rory – A: Yes. Last year was tricky regarding that and this year is expected to be similar. By June 2024 Teck hopes to analyze the previous years data, to see the full impact. Climate change is always in consideration, as our many other factors.

Nich – Comments that previous questions from Nancy were brought to water team via Nich. The water modeling team was indeed incorporating climate variability factors into Teck's water quality models.

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Community member- Q: Is city water being treated?

Patrick – For Sparwood it is not necessary, so no. One well for the city was found to have selenium that has since been shut down, with a new one taking it's place.

Evgeni – Q: Are there any commitments to the life of the water treatment facilities?

Rory – A: Two kinds of water treatment facilities: active water treatment facilities and passive water treatment facilities, saturated rock fills (passive) are more effective. They will run for the life of operations. There is no precedent, Elk valley water treatment plan is the most ambitious in the world, We are focusing on passive treatment which would pose lower operational costs past the life of mine.

### - *Construction*

- Sparwood admin building (next to McDonalds) has begun construction, no date of completion yet. Grand opening party to be planned by Nich and Rory
- Elkview operations admin and maintenance complex: has been using a temporary permit, but housing struggles has unfortunately led to seeking a permanent permit
- BC Hydro open houses to talk about new electrification project for the valley. By 2050, Teck is planning to be carbon neutral, which requires more electricity.
- Battery powered mining tucks, trolley assist program, are some examples of what power is needed for, but will require more electrical power than is currently available.
- Upgrading the grid along the highway to service different sites. Completely BC hydro's project, but Teck is the primary client, no impact or cost for anyone else

Community member – Q: BC hydro bought outside power this year as their sources couldn't provide enough (namely dams due to drought) where will this new power coming from?

Rory – A: BC hydro is confident they have the contingency plans and is actively looking to the future with drought considerations.

### - *Community Investment*

- In 2023, successes for the community investment included the radium overpass (largest community investment), big ranch conservation project, Timbers landing (mostly government funded), and Sparwood centennial plaza.

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### Feedback review- Nich

- Majority of feedback type is requests, and most feedback comes from Sparwood

Dave - Q: Does Teck understand a decrease in feedback cases to correlated to the successful mitigation of community impacts?

Rory – A: An important distinction is that a decrease in complaints doesn't mean the issue is gone, the feedback line is not a good source for modeling/tracking issues. There is other tracking we do, this data alone is not reliable for problem tracking.

Shelley – C: I see dirty vehicles leaving the gate, and on Michelle creek road, and I no longer report them as I saw little was done to improv upon this.

Nich – R: The feedback is valuable in the context of our decision making. The more we hear about an issue, the better equipped we are to tackle these community impacts.

Community member- C: Policy and practice are not the same thing

Rory – R: We are aware of these issues, and we agree more remedial actions needs to be taken

Shelley - Q: Are there dirty vehicles policies on a municipal level?

- Not in Sparwood
- Not in Fernie

### Cultural Sensitivity & Humility Training Initiative- Jared Basil

- Jared was unable to present.

Roundtable ending discussions:

- Evgeni:
  - Elk River alliance, symposium on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 pm (time is tentative)
  - Friendship bracelet fundraiser for griz jail bail fund
- Randal:
  - Wild sight panel on connectivity March 14<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 pm @ Art station
- Lori:
  - Winter in the wild in Elkford, lots of community events this weekend
- Tom:
  - Homelessness a large issue in Fernie, RCMP and municipal government focusing on that, short-term rentals discussion ongoing

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Simon - Q: Is the city Fernie prepared to write a letter regarding their thoughts that the Residency tenancy act has on rentals?

Tom– A: Good question for council, being in a resort community it's difficult, I don't think council would go that route now, currently in a waiting game.

- Patrick
  - o Road closure bylaw by off-leash dog park
  - o Crown mountain coking has 3 open housing happening this week
- Creighton
  - o 1526 people hired total, 1022 people hired externally
  - o 2024 projections are similar
  - o Housing a struggle in regard to employment
- Sherry/Nancy
  - o Primary care access is a priority as it helps with emergency care
- Anita
  - o Not quitting, but retiring
  - o Job posting ends in March, begins in July

<i>Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Community</i>
Anita Palmer	COTR	RDEK A.
Brenda Davison	Crowsnest Conservation	Crowsnest pass
David Beranek	Southern Guide Outfitters	Sparwood
Jason Clifton	LRSD	Crowsnest Pass
Mya Walz	Teck	Sparwood
Sherry Sopko	Interior Health	Fernie/Sparwood
Nancy-Jo O'Neill	Interior Health	Fernie, RDEK, Sparwood, Hosmer, Elkford
Creighton Globber	Teck	Fernie
Katey Taylor	Elk Valley Family society	Fernie/Sparwood
Shelley Wedderburn	Michel creek road	Sparwood
Rosamaria Rocca	Senior's Org.	Sparwood
Dean Ward	Municipality of Crowsnest Pass	Crowsnest Pass
Caitlin Whelpton	Teck	Sparwood
Nicole Latka	Sparwood Chamber	Sparwood



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**Teck**

Patrick Sorfleet	District of Sparwood	Sparwood
Michele Schalekamp	District of Sparwood	Sparwood
Len Gostick	District of Elkford	Elkford
Mariah Besplug	Teck	Elkford
Tom Kramer	Elkford ATV club	Elkford/Sparwood/Fernie
Lori Lemke	Teck	Elkford`
Randal Macnair	Wildsight	Fernie
Evgeni Matveev	Elk River Alliance	Fernie
Simon Howse (attended virtually)		
Nich Godri	Teck	Fernie