

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**SRMMP RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION WORKING GROUP**  
**Meeting #9**  
**April 25, 2007**

**In Attendance:**

Bill Adair – Chair -	ILMB	Kent Petovello – Rec Hunting
Laura Luxton –	Minutes - ILMB	Douglas Dean – Motorized Winter Rec
Peter Cunningham–	East Kootenay	Craig Robinson – District of Elkford
	Landuse Coalition	Casey Brennan – Ecosystems
Dave Beranek –	Guide Outfitters	Ken Streloff - Tembec
Pat Gilmar –	non motorized	
	Winter Recreation	

**Regrets:**

Bill Hanlon  
Steve Kuijt  
Mike Sosnowski

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**1. Welcome and Introductions**

- Bill indicated that four 4x6 and one 4x4 Kiosks have been built; discussion will follow later in the agenda on developing content as well as determining locations.

**2. Review of Minutes from January 23, 2007**

- Bill reviewed the decisions on the AMAs in the East and Upper Flathead areas.
- Bill wrote letters to MOE in support of AMAs
- For the Upper Flathead SRMAC agreed on winter opening, spring closure and hunting closure.
- Discussion on summer closure
  - Wildlife values most critical in summer months
  - Without a summer closure the value of an AMA is negated
- MOE has passed decision on to Victoria. Deputy Minister to sign off on this.
- Ken Streloff (Tembec): talked about more beetle on the North Side of the Flathead and future development to access this timber, which is also in

- the AMA area. Permit is in place and expect to be in the Upper Flathead (Mc Latchie road) in mid-summer
- Kent Petovello: Change Café Creek to Cate Creek in previous minutes
  - Kent Petovello: Action Item – Dave French Brooks, AB is contact for the signs outside of Corbin
    - They need to be more knowledgeable about area
  - Last sentence on page 4 is wrong
  - Dave B: road access is a sensitive area – need to keep people on hard ground, no seizure will happen. Information very vague, looking for more info, Forest Service needs to get involved. Clear definition about mud bogging. Environmental Damage: Site disturbance, impact on the soil, landscape, water. Need to come up with some guidelines, looking at sensitive areas, marsh areas, how to enforce.
  - Douglas Dean: Can go mud bogging to the high-water line in Lake Koocanusa. Increased activity this year and it has started early this year, noticed damage in early March. Legislation for renewing ATV's will start next year
  - Pat Gilmar: Dorr Rd, south of Koocanusa, 15 years, good cooperation, now it's ruined. One tonne trucks bringing in quads, tracks going everywhere. Locals are trying to keep area the way it was, but others are ruining it. Season starts mid May. Create some designated areas for mountain biking and motor biking, to cut down on the amount of traffic. The area was signed, as grassland, but is mainly being ignored. Need some: before and after pictures and write a few paragraphs and put in local media. Locals are conscientious and willing to have designated areas. Alberta has a 50km/hr limit for quads.
  - Casey: Condoleezza Rice: Email, US government is pressuring the Canadian government to conduct a more thorough Environmental Assessment for Cline Mine, with the Federal Government. Agreement on environmental assessment continuing for the last few years. Canadian Environmental Act just limited to mine footprint of whole basin.

### **3. New Business**

#### New Kiosks

- 5 In total – 4 4x6 and 1 4x4

#### Possible Locations:

1. Corbin: Top of the Flathead road, staging area near Corbin, across the parking lot. Down by the bridge, great big power pole.
2. Lodgepole Ram Rd, staging area, part of the managed forest site. SE of Staging area south of compressor.
3. Coal Creek: Staging area in Fernie

4. Round Prairie, outside of Elkford – before turnoff, near fishing sign, just as you turn into the staging area. Or Brule Creek. (Check with Bill and Peter regarding locations around Elkford)
5. Sulphur Valley, Hartley Lake Staging Area, just before the bridge Hartley Pass Rd, just off the private land, Sulphur pass

## Content

- Maps, Brochure, Container for maps,
- You are here location on the map,
- Reference to the website,
- History bulletin who this is,
- User initiative – locals not just government – provides some legitimacy.
- Local interest feature, points of interest???
- Details of Bill 18, (Mud Bogging legislation)
- private land needs to be stressed
- Need to respect the land that they are using. Add Note to display, such as: Please Stay on designated paths, respect riparian, stay on hard surfaces – need to respect the land.
- Section designated to phone numbers: (information numbers) wildfires, CO's, report a poacher, report damage (you abuse it, we lose it – need a slogan), Tembec, relative, interested groups underneath the slogan not just a government initiative. Needs to be in a friendly manner, but also stress the need for cooperation, as well.
- Getting the message out, this is an experiment and see how it works. Need to build respect within the plan area.
- Suggestions regarding emergency pick up with Bighorn Helicopters, call for emergency helicopter. They know the area, first responders; ultimate call comes from the BC Ambulance Service.
- Where to go to get more maps, who created them, City Chambers have future kiosks

### **4. Snowmobile Trail Presentation: Peter Cunningham**

The Elkford Snowmobile Club with the support from the City of Elkford has a proposal to develop a snowmobile trail parallel and west of the Elk River Forest Service Road, so that the snowmobile cabin at Mt. Bleasdell can be accessed.

- Need to widen the trail in some places and cross a couple of creeks
- Bill Read email / letter from Bill Hanlon concerned about the use of ATV in the valley.
- Kent – is within the AMA, and there has been some non compliance.
- Dave: Needs to be some clarification between summer and winter use. Make the trails inaccessible below a certain snow depth, which might cut down on summer use.
- Casey: concerned about the construction of new roads during the summer, okay for winter use and good safety issues. Setting a precedent

- for the next time. Recognizes the desire for a loop. There is wisdom, caring capacity issues and intensify use in some areas need to look at the impacts, try to establish the more intensive areas
- Pat Gilmar: is in favour and as long as there are no impacts on the environment, otherwise there will be abuse.
  - Craig Robinson: District of Elkford supports this proposal.
  - Peter: Stay on the designated trails.
  - Douglas: will go up to AMA boundary and not inside.
  - Bill: Stakeholders need to come together and form a working group.
  - Casey: interested in how FRPA is active in this, what are the particulars of making this a designated trail? Need to talk to the Mountain Bike Club.
  - Ken: Good to have trails through blocks; this keeps the riders on the trails. Tembec has provided lots of signage and they are having results, especially in the Alexander region, designated areas within here.
  - Douglas: There are some times the roads will be ploughed but that's what we have to work with, running on active forest service roads.
  - Ken: Tembec has a good relationship with the Clubs and is trying to work on this.
  - Casey: Where is the cabin? Run along the power line and some of the roads will be active.
  - Both sides being ploughed, east side ploughed up to Tobermary Cr.

#### **5. Howell / 29 mile – Kent**

- This plan is supposed to have own legislation. Need new roads and decided at the table what to do with these new roads. Designate a colour, go on a field trip. Went in the summer three years ago, don't want another wildlife act, wants a blue colour. Can go over the Flathead head, 47km is the turnoff to Howell / 29mile creek, can see new sign at Corbin. Mid July tentative, second / third week in July (14-15 July). Perhaps a Sat
- Ken: Trees for tomorrow program, some of the roads are in there and come in and see the, Oliver, what roads will be kept open. Come in and give a presentation, on what will be happening, Provincial Government money, seem to have a large budget so they should be involved in this. Need to be proactive about this.

#### **6. Thunder Meadows – Pat Gilmar**

- 3yrs ago RA 2 zones agreed seasonal use: March 1 for Fairy Creek and March 15 for the Lizard Range. Corridor through Thunder Meadows for snowmobiles. Travel through the ski areas, but do not touch anything, pass through, argued to keep RA 1. When the process is over and there was to be a written agreement, however nothing has been done. Pat wrote up a short page on the events of 3yrs ago, sent to all winter motorized people that were at the meeting. At the next full table meeting

- this issue should be brought up here and decide on these issues, hammer in the details within the next few years.
- Gave up helicopter use within the Mountains, used to hire a helicopter for skiing at \$100 for 6 lifts, and during the land use plan gave up the Lizard Range, just to keep this area non-motorized. Happy with the compliance, has been infractions and problems, Thunder Meadows, can hear and see the snowmobiles.
  - Kent: support the view completely
  - Island Lake Lodges, need to live up to the recommendations of the use plan. Discussions with Steve Kuijt, of Island Lake Lodge, said that one more problem between the skiers and snowmobiles and no one will be able to cross the land – need to respect the land, follow the land use plans. Needed to stake out land and has good relationship with the Fernie Snowmobile Club. Prestige Tours and Fernie Snowmobile Club are the only groups allowed within their land.
  - Ken: Can tourists coming from other places go through the Island lake Lodge property. No they are not allowed.
  - **Agreement needs to be documented**

#### **Other Items**

- Trans Rockies is back on – Start in Invermere and finishing in Fernie (reverse order). Day 6 Blairmore to Sparwood, Day 7: Sparwood to Fernie. Everything is on hard surface except for the Coal discovery trail and Josephine Falls trail and then to Sulphur Springs road.
- Presentation by the Geotourism Map guide. Candidate maps, around the continent. Interested in coming in to talk with this group. Looking for places of interest, natural features.