



Minutes

Electoral Area 'G' Citizen's Committee

Meeting of *Monday, June 21, 2021*

Via Zoom

Present:

Mel Kotyk, Resident and Chair of the Citizens Committee
Gerald Partridge
Trisha Mills, Resident

OCP Project Team:

Anne-Marie Whittaker, Senior Planner, EcoPlan
Jordan Konyk, Project Planner, EcoPlan
Evelyn Riechert, EcoPlan

Absent:

Stanley Bobowski
Doug Woods
Bill Arnott, Resident
Rajinder Boora, Resident
Melodie Kolisnyk, Resident
Gary Lawrence, Resident
Ann Knight, Resident

Resigned from the Committee:

Andrew English, Resident

RDOS Project Manager:

JoAnn Peachy, Planner, Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

1. CALL TO ORDER

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
2. Discussion: Key Priorities & OCP Directions
3. Other Items: OCP Open House June 24th, and locations for pop up events
4. Next Meeting Date
5. Adjourn

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

2.1 Review and approval of Meeting Minutes of May 17th, 2021 deferred to the next meeting.

Regarding Committee Meeting Minutes:

There is a spectrum of minutes - from transcript to sparse record of decisions.

For this committee, we will make note that the minutes were reviewed, discussed and approved at each meeting.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Welcome

Area "G" is located within the unceded territory of the Syilx people (or Okanagan) Peoples.

6.2 Project Update

See attached committee meeting slides for project update information.

6.4 Discussion: Key Priorities and OCP Directions

See attached tables for exercise on key priorities and OCP directions. The objective of this exercise is to take what we heard in the resident survey and begin to create a rough framework (or foundation) for the OCP.

Committee discussion and recommendations for drafting the framework:

- The vision statement should tie in the whole valley.
- Each community is unique. The OCP structure should include broad goals and specific community goals (i.e. agriculture in Hedley is non-existent, however food processing as part of the industry is important to Hedley) or a subset of goals for each community, noting that there will be some overlapping goals or "common ground" for all communities.
- Identify what is unique about Area G and state all the values and concerns. Common goals should be emphasized.
- Change is difficult for communities, for instance, Hedley – business and tourism = traffic, but is also fundamental to the growth of the area. These are considerations and important to keep in balance.
- There needs to be additional follow up with part time/seasonal residents in some areas to understand their needs as well.
- Re: agricultural industry. Protection of farmers is important, but encouraging businesses in the agricultural industry. Independent ranchers, etc. self-sufficient.
- Need to ensure the OCP reflects the cultural attitude of the area, in particular it's independence.

- If agriculture changes, what happens to the economy of the area? Economic development goals should include options – i.e. trail systems, natural environment, outdoor recreation and enhancement, farm experience, river/water.
- Environmental protection: The valley landscapes are important, including parks system and protected lands, this contributes to the look and feel of the area.
- In some community's lot sizes should be considered in more detail as part of what protects the area's look and feel.
- Could the committee further develop be a table for each community?

Action Item: EcoPlan to determine how additional committee members (who did not attend the meeting) can further work on, or review preliminary draft OCP structure to ensure it reflects conversations/ideas of the committee.

6.5 Other Items

Two committee members have stepped down for personal reasons.

Committee Discussion:

- Could the committee add two new members? The RDOS requires the members who have stepped down to provide a written resignation. This can be in a letter or email. It is then forwarded to the Board and new members can then be appointed.

Action Item: EcoPlan to follow up with members who have stepped down and ask for their official resignation.

- New members should represent the diverse communities in Area G.
- It's important for all members to participate in this process and it should be clear the time requirement for the committee. This is estimated about 60% participation in meetings.
- Should the committee check in with members and inquire whether there are any barriers to participating?

Action Item: EcoPlan to follow up with all members as a check in and to ask whether members have any boundaries to participation.

- Note: the open house is happening this Thursday, June 24th. There are two sessions proposed.
- Pop up events for the summer will not be happening. The RDOS guidelines for COVID will remain in place until September 8th. After this date, in person meetings can resume.
- EcoPlan will look for other opportunities to engage and communicate with residents directly.

6.6

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting Closed at 9:00pm

7. Next Meeting Date

7.1 Next Committee Meeting is Scheduled for: **Monday, September 13th, 2021.**

Mel Kotyk _____

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 19 th , 2021	Phase 1	Background Report Review
May 17 th , 2021	Phase 2	Engagement Input, Round 1 Review.
June 21 th , 2021	Phase 2	Workshop - OCP Framework
September 13 th , 2021	Phase 3	Workshop – Review Draft Framework
November 8 th , 2021	Phase 3	Workshop - OCP Policy Directions
January 10 th , 2021	Phase 3	Draft OCP, Review of Community Input
February 21 th , 2021	Phase 3	Final OCP

A Community Vision for Area “G”

OCPs typically have an overall vision statement. A vision statement is a short sentence that describes what the community wishes to look like in the future. This helps the RDOS and outside agencies better understand, or get a picture of the community’s interests.

Thematic words from survey:	Other words or themes? List here.	Keywords or words that stand out for you? List here.
<p>Rural lifestyle</p> <p>Small</p> <p>Safe</p> <p>Agriculture</p> <p>Local business (tourism/agri-tourism)</p> <p>Natural/Environment</p> <p>Clean</p> <p>Healthy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The need for a diverse economy ● Connected trails for tourism ● Age diverse population ● Future residents ● Part timers ● Broader Valley considerations ● Sense of community ● Resilient to natural hazards (safe) ● Diversity of cultures ● Health of the natural environment (wildlife, waters, lands, etc.) ● Linking and integrating tourism and other job creation opportunities with respect for natural environment ● Managing inter-related themes/balance of values 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Small scale ● Rural ● Agricultural ● Open space ● Independent - self-sufficient cultural attitude ● Business attraction and retention

Community Goals Exercise

An OCP also includes “broad community goals”. Goals are defined as “values” with a direction of preference. These help breakdown the vision into its key parts and indicate what about these aspects the community prefers.

Topic Areas <i>(these are the “themes” pulled from the resident survey input)</i>	Preferred Direction(s)	Community Specific Interests?	Priority (does this need it’s own goal?)	Notes
EXAMPLE - Growth and Development	<i>Allow for any future growth and development, but restrict it to identified “growth areas” or existing neighbourhoods.</i>	<i>Yes, applies more to Rural Keremeos than in other areas</i>	<i>Yes. Community specific.</i>	<i>Consider how or whether future growth may or could affect Olalla, Hedley and mobile home parks?</i>
Growth and Development	Balanced with the natural environment	Hedley: landlocked, how people use the land within the community. How to best use the land we have? Water quality is a constraint. Tension between full time and part timers. Community values around design/heritage/theme		Consider how water quality limits growth. If new development occurred, where would it go? What kinds of development? Decisions made in one area can affect others (e.g. Olalla septic fields,

		Rural Keremeos: sense of scale, openness is valued. Concerns when open ag land transitions to ag-industrial buildings. Transition from fertile land to industrial use is concerning. Lot patterns and sizes.		or changes made on one farm)
Housing				
Agriculture & Agricultural Land Use		Rural Keremeos: maintaining fertile lands		
Infrastructure and Services		Hedley: Water quality.		
Natural Environment & Outdoor Recreation	Need to protect the environment Public access			
Community Safety				

Community Health & Wellbeing				
Economic Development & Tourism				
Character or "Sense of Place"	<p>People are drawn to the valley because it feels relaxed, simple, and has a family feel.</p> <p>Great place to raise children.</p>	Hedley: Unique look and feel.		
Heritage and History				
Other - list here.				

Example community goals from Town of Oliver OCP:

- .1 Economic Development:** Support and retain existing businesses, while encouraging new businesses to locate in the Town of Oliver.
- .2 Downtown Revitalization:** Support and enhance Downtown Oliver as the community's commercial hub and activity centre.
- .3 Sense of Place:** Protect and enhance the Town of Oliver's small town, rural character.
- .4 Natural environment:** Steward and protect the Town of Oliver's natural features and systems, including sensitive and endangered grasslands and bluffs, Tuc-el-nuit Lake and the Okanagan River.
- .5 Residential Development and Housing:** Encourage a diversity of housing options for a range of incomes, lifestyles and age groups.
- .6 Community Health and Wellbeing:** Promote community health, active living and recreation and support the area's aging population.

.7 **Water Resources:** Protect and manage water resources, for residential and agricultural uses and for ecosystem health and wellbeing.

.8 **Agriculture:** Protect the Town of Oliver's agricultural legacy and maintain existing agricultural operations and Agricultural Land Reserve lands within the Town.

.9 **Infrastructure and Services:** Maintain and enhance the Town of Oliver's high quality municipal infrastructure and services.

.10 **Transportation:** Maintain a safe and effective transportation system for all, including pedestrians and cyclists.