



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY AREA A ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION OPEN MEETING MINUTES

2:00 p.m. PDT

Tuesday, March 11, 2025

Location: Hybrid Model – In-person and Remote

WEBEX REMOTE MEETING INFO

To promote openness, transparency and provide accessibility to the public we provide the ability to attend all RDCK meetings in-person or remote.

Join by Video:

<https://rdck-bc-ca.zoom.us/j/92632670829?pwd=VkcPYOv0WnMTDNowScaJt12nFYz8zN.1>

Join by Phone:

+1-778-907-2071 Canada Toll (Vancouver)

Meeting Number (access code): 930 7990 2753

Meeting Password: 881036

In-Person Location: Kokanee Springs Resort – lower level of the 1st Lodge building at the rear of the building, 16083 Woolgar Road, Crawford Bay, BC

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Director G. Jackman	Area A
Commissioner G. MacMahon	Kootenay Bay
Commissioner G. Medhurst	Crawford Bay – Chair
Commissioner R. Bertram	Crawford Bay/Gray Creek

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

Commissioner P. Cullinane	Boswell
Commissioner T. Toole	Crawford Bay/Boswell

STAFF PRESENT

R. Baril	Meeting Coordinator
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GUESTS

G. Garbula	President of Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce
M. Rokeby-Thomas	Director of Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce
T. Taylor-Topp	Marketing Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce

4 out of 6 voting Commission/Committee members were present – quorum was met.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Medhurst called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. TRADITIONAL LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

We acknowledge and respect the Indigenous peoples within whose traditional lands we are meeting today.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and seconded,
and resolved:

The agenda for the March 11, 2025 Area A Economic Development Commission meeting, be adopted as circulated.

Carried

4. RECEIPT OF MINUTES

The January 28, 2025 Area A Economic Development Commission minutes, have been received.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Kootenay Lake Ferry Strike

5.1.1 Survey Results

The recent survey created by an anonymous member of the public was completed by nearly 300 people in the ferry strike effected areas. Over 52% of responses were gathered from public on the east shore of Kootenay Lake. The survey will run again in April to gather additional data from businesses and members of the public affected by the ferry strike.

5.1.2 Collaboration Discussion

Members of the Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce joined the Commission to discuss the ferry strike. Concerns from public that are suffering harm as a direct result of the ferry strike need to be detailed and shared with provincial contacts. The Commission would like the Labor Relation Board (LRB) and BC Minister of Labor to understand the level of harm that the strike is causing.

The Commission and Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce are going to gather a list of maintenance concerns with the vessels for the Glade, Harrop and Kootenay Lake routes. Any items of concern will be shared with the BC Minister of Transportation and Transit.

Kootenay Lake Chamber of Commerce has a new board, and the focus of the new board is community communication. The Chamber have had several successful public information sessions that have been well attended. The Chamber is just starting their membership drive for 2025.

5.2 Kootenay Lake Geothermal Update

The South Kootenay Lake Community Services Society were successful with their Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program (REDIP) application for funding to support the Geothermal project. The project team are currently reviewing the existing program plan including work with Selkirk College and College of the Rockies and have proceeded with student interviews. They are also preparing for a thermal survey over the Ainsworth area and a drone magnetometer survey in the Riondel area. Commissioner MacMahon has a meeting with a representative from Accelerating Community Energy Transition (ACET) to discuss potential funding options for the project through the ACET program.

Commissioner MacMahon answered the Commission's questions.

6. PUBLIC TIME

The Chair called for questions from the public at 3:18 p.m.

No questions from the public.

7. NEXT MEETING

The next Area A Economic Development Commission meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. PDT.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved and seconded,
and resolved:

The Area A Economic Development Commission meeting be adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

Carried

Digitally approved by

Chair Gina Medhurst