

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF PINCHER CREEK NO. 9
Wednesday, November 12, 2025,
11:00 am
Council Chambers

Present: Reeve Rick Lemire, Deputy Reeve Tony Bruder, Councillors **Dave Cox**, John MacGarva and Jim Welsch.

Staff: CAO Roland Milligan, Director of Corporate Services Meghan Dobie, Public Works Manager Alan McRae, Utilities & Infrastructure Manager David Desabrais, Finance Manager Brendan Schlossberger, Development Officer Laura McKinnon, and Executive Assistant Jessica McClelland.

Reeve Rick Lemire called the meeting to order, the time being 11:00 am.

1. Approval of Agenda

Councillor John MacGarva

Moved that the agenda for the November 12, 2025, Committee Meeting be approved as presented.

Carried

2. Delegations

Alberta Forestry and Parks

Peter Swain, Regional Director of the South Region, attended the meeting at this time. MD of Pincher Creek Council requested a dialogue on the following areas that are under the supervision of Alberta Forestry and Parks:

Waterton Reservoir Provincial Recreation Area (PRA)

- Alberta Forestry and Parks is considering expanding the current recreational area, which currently has 17 sites, with potential growth to 30 sites. There is no specific timeline or firm plans at this stage.
- Council has concerns on boating, speeds, wake zone, swimming area signage, all in the interest of public safety.
 - It was discussed that the RCMP, Fish and Wildlife, as well as Conservation Officers, can enforce laws and issue tickets for any safety concerns.
 - The MD has regulatory authority over the PRA; together with Parks, they can collaborate to ensure adequate signage for public safety.
- It was suggested to arrange a meeting with the MD of Pincher Creek and Cardston County, as well as with Parks, since we share the same concerns.
- Council has concerns about possible zebra muscle infestation.
- There is currently no boat inspection area between the US border and Waterton Dam. With Waterton National Park closed to outside watercraft, this is putting pressure on the Waterton Dam. Council asked Parks to review the potential for a camp host program at this site to help address

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some concerns. It was noted that such a program existed in previous years, but since it ended, issues have emerged.

Cottonwood Campground

- Council questioned if Cottonwood Campground was going to offer services since the copper theft leaving the campground with no power.
 - Parks is looking into it, although it will be costly.

ID #4 Investigation of Potential for Campground on Parks Title

- Was purchased to be incorporated into the parks division in 2008, as part of the previous Waterton Springs Campground.
 - Has not reached the stage of consultation with Government, First Nations and the Public.
 - Parks' understanding is that this area falls under the lands division, not under parks, so it is not scheduled to become a park.

Potential Raw Water Storage Site

- Council questioned Parks about the possibility of a raw water storage site at the old gravel pit location – parcel A plan 871 0645.
 - Parks stated that because it is in the PRA, there is an ability to enter into a long-term lease with the MD.
 - MD has spoken with the lands officer and understands the lease option.
 - Looking at the overall cost/benefit of the potential solution.
 - Question the process for timeline to access the lands to test if its feasible.
 - Temporary access can be granted from Parks within a week.

Grazing Permission Around Oldman Reservoir

- Is there a possibility of developing a coop for grazing around the Oldman Reservoir?
- MD has contacted forestry but hasn't received any answers.
 - Parks has looked into this idea since 2020, but is more complicated compared to other areas.
 - Currently, there are no grazing leases due to the shape and size of the lands in question.
 - Historically, Parks has tendered this area out to grazing, but has not had anyone for this particular area.
 - Parks can provide information on what this process would involve. A suggestion was made to invite Parks and a Grazing Management Specialist to an Agricultural Service Board meeting to discuss.

Castle Provincial Park

- Concerns on lack of logging in Castle Park.
 - Issues causing fireload.
- Pushing visitors to outlying areas.
- Parks is exploring areas to do the right kind of work needed for a park.
 - Firesmarting is allowed under the Parks Act.
 - The issue is getting the appropriate people in place to do the work.

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- Time and money are better spent focusing on vegetation close to structures.
- Is it possible for Parks to provide refuse bins at Parks locations? Currently it is the MD to clean up, empty private bins, or deal with campers dumping in ditches.
 - Parks said they have bins at all locations and are unsure why people aren't using them effectively, they have staff to maintain bins.
 - Suggestion made to increase signage to let visitors know where to leave refuse.
- Question was raised whether Parks needs to provide septic dump sites, at what size campground is it provided.
 - The Parks Act states that only if water is provided at locations of a specific size.
 - Given the distance between the campsites to the existing dump site, it hasn't been a consideration with Parks.
 - The MD's concern is that it is a cost to our taxpayers, without the funds coming from tourism to recover the costs.

Council thanked Peter Swain for attending and having an open discussion on their concerns. Peter Swain left the meeting at 12:01 pm.

3. Closed Session

Councillor Jim Welsch

Moved that the Council move into closed session to discuss the following, the time being 12:04 pm.

- a) 2025 Actuals vs. Budget and Draft 2026 Operating Budget – ATIA Sec. 28.1
- b) CAO Performance Review – ATIA Sec. 22.1 (**moved to Council meeting*)

Councillor Dave Cox

Moved that Council move out of closed session, the time being 2:15 pm.

Carried

4. Round Table

5. Adjournment

Councillor Jim Welsch

Moved that the committee meeting adjourn at 2:16 pm.

Carried



REEVE



CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER