

To: Parkland County Council

From: Mark Gunderson

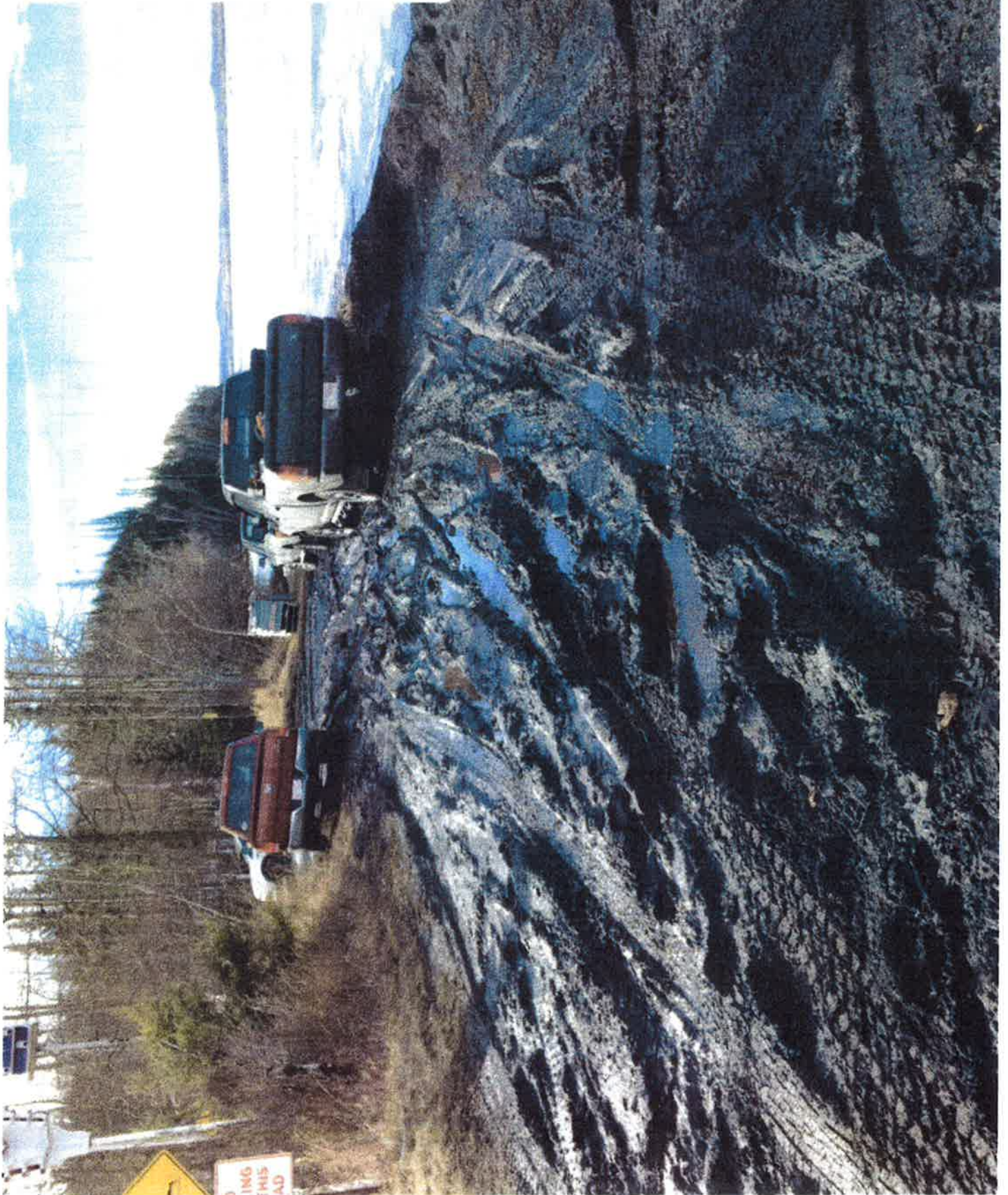
Date: April 11, 2015

Re: Fallis Boat Launch

- Attached is a photo of what your Administration is proposing. On the reverse side is a copy of the Parkland Questionnaire upon which they based their recommendations.
- The Parkland Questionnaire is **FATALLY FLAWED**: as you can see, if voters wanted to cast their vote either in favor of the turnaround or the berm, they **HAD** to vote for Option 1 (public access). The turnaround/berm issue was a hot button and voters could not vote on those if they voted for a residents only launch or to close the launch.
- Council must **FOLLOW** the findings of its own expert 2 Boat Launch studies of Lake Wabamun (2012 AND 2014) which both concluded that the Fallis boat launch must either be closed or restricted in use to local residents only, due to the soft coal shore and lakebed, wave action and unfavorable topography at that site.
- What has been proposed by administration might be an embarrassment for the County in the eyes of AEP, the Wabamun Watershed Committee and all environmentalists because it endorses the acceleration of the degradation of the boat launch and entire shore.
- Fallis boat launch and beach use has skyrocketed due to the closing of the Seba launch and other launch site restrictions being enforced along with a burst of new recreational users on the lake generally without other better sites elsewhere being opened up.
- Restricting use of the Fallis launch to residents only would involve improving the launch substrate on land and lakebed, fencing, gating and keyed access, residents only signage and enforcement as with other similar locations on the lake. Do what you feel best with the turnaround or berm issue but then you don't need the turnaround.
- The boat launch site is, I believe, entirely within the statutory road allowance. The berm (aka turnaround) is on a county road and right of way (Beach Way).
- The Parkland County Questionnaire did not address the **BIGGER ISSUE** however: the fact that now fishermen, ski-doo's, quads, trucks, boats, quads, and sea-doo's, and boaters are now using anywhere they like along the entire 2 block length of Beach Way to park and access the lake in winter and summer. These people are both local and non-local users of the lake and access must somehow be granted for everybody to share the lake. Everyone comes here in droves because there are no controls like are instituted elsewhere. But the Beach Way boulevard and shoreline are being seriously destroyed.

- The Fallis Residents Survey however did address this **BIGGER ISSUE** and 69% of people who responded stated that bollards, chains/cables with locks should be installed along the length of Beach Way to stop lake users from accessing the lake except at designated sites (the boat launch would suffice for this purpose). Access to these areas along Beach Way would be opened for the installation of piers and boat racks for, say, a month in the spring and fall and closed at all other times with such winter/summer traffic directed to the boat launch access.
- The **FUTURE** of Lake Wabamun: in 5 to 10 years all access to the lake will be restricted to a few large, controlled launches with washing, licensing and invasive species inspection stations with all other launches closed. Day use boaters will need a permit and use will be capped to limit degradation. This is consistent with steps taken in the US regarding overcrowding and environmental protection requirements on popular lakes.
- The County should also beautify Beach Way. It's a mess now.
- I humbly submit that its time for some leadership. This problem will only get worse if Administration's proposal is adopted.

**BOAT LAUNCH PRE-2015
- ADMINISTRATION'S
RECOMMENDATION**





FALLIS INFORMAL BOAT ACCESS INPUT FORM

Personal Information

Name		Municipal Address	
Email		Phone Number	

Please fill in the pros and cons for each option and rank your options:

Option #1a Boat access to remain as is – clean up launching point, rest remains as is	
Pros	Cons
Option #1b Boat access to remain as is – return to pre-2015 condition	
Pros	Cons
Option #2 Boat access to be restricted to local residents only	
Pros	Cons
Option #3 Boat access to be closed completely	
Pros	Cons
RANKING	
#1 (most supported)	
#2 (next most supported)	
#3 (least supported)	

Submit to:
Community & Protective Services Dept.
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Parkland County, AB T7Z 1X4

Email: PRC@parklandcounty.com

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