

# MEETING MINUTES

## Parkland County

Gravel Pit NE 33 50-2-5 at Range Road 23  
Meeting Date: September 15, 2008



**PROJECT: PARKLAND COUNTY**

**Purpose: Town Hall Meeting to discuss "Range Rd 23 Pit" Activities & Solutions**

### ► Attendance List

A total of 21 attendees (residents / interested individuals) were present at the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting representing all areas surrounding the subject property.

County Staff Members in Attendance:

Cpl Eric Dunn	RCMP
Pat Vincent	Parkland County
Al McCully	Parkland County
Ken Van Buul	Parkland County
Pete Morris	Parkland County
Rob McGowan	Parkland County
David Cross	Parkland County

Randall Conrad  
M.Sc.  
Partner

Michael Roma  
MBA  
Partner

Elected Officials:

Rob Wiedeman	Parkland County Mayor
Ken Darby	Councillor Division 5

Facilitators:

Megan Jones	RC Strategies
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**Meeting commenced at 7:05pm**

### ► Review of the Agenda

1. Introductions (5 min)
2. Area Overview (5 min)
3. Facts (5 min)
4. Issues Identification (5min)
5. Questions / Group Work (25 min)
6. Information Sharing / Prioritization (10 min)

### ► Introductions

- Rob Wiedeman, Parkland County Mayor
- Ken Darby, Parkland County

10315 - 109 St NW  
Edmonton, Alberta  
Canada T5J 1N3  
T  
780.441.4262  
F 780.426.2734  
W rcstrategies.ca

- Pat Vincent, Parkland County
- Al McCully, Parkland County
- Ken Van Buul, Parkland County
- Pete Morris, Parkland County
- David Cross, Parkland County
- Rob McGowan, Parkland County
- Megan Jones, RC Strategies

Representatives from Sustainable Resources Development (Province of Alberta) were also invited to attend. No representation was present from said organization.

### ► Area Overview

Gravel Pit – NE 33 50-2-5 at Range Road 23

<<<< INSERT MAP >>>>

The discussed plot of land is located along the North Saskatchewan River Valley.

### ► Facts

- Land is owned by the Province and jurisdiction lies with the RCMP. RCMP enforcement is limited due to resources.
- County Enforcement is limited due to jurisdiction and resource limitations.
- The County realizes that Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) use is a concern and has taken action including:
  - An OHV Use Committee was struck and met repeatedly during 2007
  - Recommendations from the committee were adopted by Council and are being implemented including:
  - Changes to the OHV Bylaw (copies can be found on the County website)
  - Targeting enforcement in certain areas (including Tucker's Field)



### ► Issues

- Major issues with the land right now:
  - Fires at bush parties (safety concern) and associated noise
  - OHV use and associated noise
  - Other illegal activities occurring on the lands

*Are there any other issues? Please do not bring up issues already identified. (5 min)*

All attendees were given the opportunity to bring up additional issues / areas of concern with the Gravel Pit. The following is a list of additional issues the attendees identified:

- Garbage on RR 23 and surrounding area.
- Volumes of youth / people.
- Harassment of animals / children.
- Noise (OHV's / Music / Etc...)
- Vehicles parked at the junction.
- Potential for surrounding homes vandalization and / or crime.
- Burning of bales / Uncontrolled Fires.
- Law Enforcement (lack of response and / or slow response times).
- Crown land vs. County land discrepancy.
- Speed of vehicles on RR 23.
- Dust from gravel road on the weekends.
- Drugs.
- Guns / Knives / Weapons.
- Sour gas hazard.
- Burning of stolen vehicles.
- Pushing out of families from recreational area.
- Unsafe area to be.
- Unlawful camping.
- Pollution.
- Damage to the area on both public and private land.



*\* Note: Please see attached sheet for additional information from a concerned citizen unable to attend the meeting.*

### ► Questions / Group Work / Prioritization

A total of 4 tables (of approximately 4-5 attendees) were present at the meeting. Each table was given the task to answer the 3 questions provided with possible solutions from Residents, County, and "Other" groups / individuals. A total of 5 minutes was allocated to each question for discussion and recording of their solutions.

The recorded solutions were then handed into the facilitators and grouped under common actions / solutions (by the facilitators). All three questions were addressed / discussed.

The attendees were then given 3 post-it notes each to place on the solution(s) they approve of most.

Each question is outlined below, in addition to the results post-prioritization.

#### 1. *What can we do as residents to mitigate / address the situation?*

- Record license plate numbers.
- Phone RCMP early on.
- Raise the issue.

- Contact the County.
- Form an alliance and keep an eye on each other and the area.

*\* Note: none of the recorded prioritizations were given "post-it note" prioritization.*

## 2. What can the County do to mitigate / address the situation?

1	Take out road to pit permanently / Close Road	23
2	Lease crown land to area	5
3	Put up barriers	3
4	Lobby Provincial Government to make laws clear (i.e. Crown vs. County)	2
5	Signage in area	1

### Other actions mentioned, but not given "post-it" prioritization

- Declare River Hill Road Unsafe
- Presence of By-law / Peace officers
- Prevent access to the River
- Make it illegal to be there
- County to purchase area



## 3. What other organizations can help mitigate / address the situation and how?

1	RCMP	Implement and Enforce Curfew	8
2	Government	Lease land to Individuals	4
3	RCMP	Breathalyzer	4
4	County Police	Work with RCMP	2

### Other Actions Mentioned, but not given "post-it" prioritization:

- Public Lands – Contact
- RCMP / Law Enforcement – Write Tickets (i.e. speeding, drugs, crime, etc...)
- Environment (Fish & Wildlife) – Clean Up Garbage
- Government – Trespassing Enforcement
- F.O.P (Farmers On Patrol) – Crimewatch
- RCMP – Education in Schools
- Parkland County – Put up Barriers

## ► Thank you

Finishing topic discussion among facilitators, county staff and attendees.

**Meeting Officially Concluded at 9:15pm**



**TOWN HALL MEETING**  
**"Range Rd 23PIT"**  
**ACTIVITIES AND SOLUTIONS**

Action	County's ability to Implement Immediately	Recommend County To Action	Rational
	Yes	Yes	
	Yes	Yes	
Lease Crown Land to Area (Residents?)	Yes	Yes	This option is for the local residents to approach the Province to lease the land and use for private purposes. If the province were to allow this type of lease the area would still be available for local use and the area would be considered private property. This option could take a while to implement. In the alternative the County could look at this area as a day use recreation area as the location would serve well as a day use alternative for the West Central area of the county.
	Yes	Yes	

Action	County's ability to Implement Immediately	Recommend County To Action	Rational
Lobby Provincial Government to make laws clear (i.e. Crown vs. County)	Yes	Yes	Provincial Crown Land is seen to be "for anyone's use for any thing". Ensuring that provincial laws and statutes allow legitimate use while discouraging illegitimate use through an amendment to trespassing laws and other legal means can be deterrent to bush parties, and illegal activities.