

Meeting Minutes
Parkland County
Subject: Range Rd 23 pit
April 8, 2009
Hansen's Corner Hall

Attendance List (attached)

- 58 people in attendance
- County Council included Mayor Rob Wiedeman, Councillors Ken Darby and Darrell Hollands
- County Staff included Ken Van Buul, Pete Morris, Rob McGowan, Dave Cross
- RC Strategies, Megan Jones

Meeting started at 7pm

Introductions

- Facilitators – Dave Cross, Parkland County and Megan Jones, RC Strategies
- Council Members – Mayor Rob Wiedeman, Councillor Ken Darby and Darrell Hollands
- County Staff – Ken Van Buul, Rob McGowan, Pete Morris

Purpose of Meeting

- Gain a better, more clear understanding of the communities wishes regarding access to Range Rd 23 pit area

County Presentation

- September 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes were highlighted and reviewed with special attention paid to issues and solutions identified by the community at that time
- Group was informed that that information was rolled up by Administration and sent to Council for their consideration. Council discussed the information and based on that discussion and community feedback asked administration to go back to the Community to get clarification around their wishes for access to the area.
- Rob McGowan presented information regarding the current state of the Range Rd 23 pit area for group to consider when providing feedback on the access issue.

Community Questions

- Group was asked two questions regarding access
 1. Why should access be allowed to the Range Rd 23 pit area?
 - o Fishing
 - o Recreation: camp/horseback riding
 - o Swimming
 - o Rescue on the river
 - o Launching canoe

- No other safe access
 - Easiest access for 2-wheel drive vehicle
 - Place for families/family friendly
 - Don't feel garbage issue
 - People using it provide a level of security
 - Property value as a benefit, being close to river
 - Hills of Hope – beautiful place to go (history)
 - Right people using it will push wrong people out
 - Activities better there than on private property
2. Why should access not be allowed to the Mickelson's Pit area?
- Inappropriate use of the area by young people
 - Activities spilling over onto private land, e.g. chasing cows
 - RCMP don't respond/dangerous
 - Danger of wild fires
 - Unsanitary for use/no facilities
 - Garbage
 - Safety on road
 - Animal harassment
 - Poaching
 - Dust
 - Guns/drugs found in area
 - Noise issues
 - Stolen vehicle set on fire
 - Property values go down
 - Drinking and driving

Feedback Form

- Feedback form was provided to gather additional information and feedback from the community residents in attendance
- They were asked to complete it and hand it in prior to leaving the Hall
- **Compiled results are as attached**

Next Steps

- Group was informed that the information collected would be compiled and provided to Council for the debate and decision
- Notification of when this item will go to Council and information regarding how to speak to it at the Council Meeting, if they so wish, will be mailed out to those in attendance this evening

Meeting Concluded with Thank You's at 8:30pm

Parkland County Council would like your feedback regarding Range Rd 23pit. Although there are a number of issues that were talked about tonight, we would like your feedback on the following topics so Council may better understand the current use of the area and the wishes of the Community.

1) Do you currently use the Range Rd 23pit area for recreational purposes?

Yes 23

No 18

If yes, please check (v) the activities that you utilize the area for:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| • Camping | <u>8</u> |
| • Walking | <u>15</u> |
| • OHV | <u>3</u> |
| • Fishing | <u>9</u> |

Other, please specify ____

- afternoon swim, BBQ
- horseback riding
- enjoy view
- horseback riding, swimming, picnics
- swimming, boating
- hunting, with permission from Mr. Mickelson
- ATV, boating, swimming
- Swimming, picnic

2) If the Range Rd 23pit area road were to be removed would this restrict your use of the area? Yes 21 No 20

Comments

- Remove road for safety and liability issues, or turn into a park and properly manage it. The safety of people living on this road and people using it.
- Removal of road will remove the liability to County and will also relieve the stress on land owners on this land
- My kids have a lot of fun camping, walking/OHV and fishing at Range Rd 23
- It is a great place to camp and use with the horses! My kids also love to camp and swim there.
- We loved to go down but leaving it "as is" is too dangerous

- This is the best boat launch/take out for small craft between Keephills and Devon. The location is perfect for a family afternoon river float from Keephills launch to take out at Range Rd 23 Pit. Vehicle access is a must for this use. Other take outs are too steep or difficult to access.
- Removing the road would not stop bad people from doing bad things. If the gravel is removed, (can't read the rest)
- Put in a gate and leave the road
- That is the only easy access to the river close by. We do river floats. We (need) vehicles left at one end and be able to get rafts and boats and people safely out.
- The County should finish the plan to remove the road as the permit stated when gravel haul completed. Area to be restored to as before. If not, County is going beyond what was agreed with Sustainable Resources. How come no information from a provincial government rep. from Sustainable Resources?
- Do not use any more with garbage and unsafe conditions
- If the road is closed, people can still walk down to the river to enjoy activities. Closing the road will be a deterrent to people carrying cases of beer, etc.
- We don't ever go down there. Our concern is the public road.
- As we live on that road, we have no use for it.
- Closing the road would resolve the problem.
- I live on Rge Rd 23. The best solution to the problem area would be to remove the road to the pit. Parkland County is no longer getting gravel from the river. There never was an access to the river until the County moved in. Now they are done, restore the area and remove the road to river.
- Use other means to access river.
- We loved to go down but leaving it as it is, is too dangerous.
- Removal of road will remove the liability to County and will also relieve the stress on land owners on this road.
- Remove road for safety and liability issues or turn into a park and properly manage it. The safety of people living on this road and people using it is a concern.

3) Does vehicular access to Range Rd 23 Pit negatively impact your use of the area?

Yes 15

No 23

Comments

- Increased traffic on Twp Rd 510 and our subdivision
- Leave the road open
- I would like to see vehicle access remain "as is".
- I can sympathize with the people living down that road but we live on 627 west of 770, so if they want to talk about traffic, they should be driving east to the corner between 5 and 6 pm when the gravel trucks are out on the roads.
- No, not at all.

- My use of area requires vehicular access
- I can understand the local peoples' concerns are, but they are naïve in thinking that removing the road will change anything.
- It has turned too much to city people (young) bush parties
- This road enhances my use, especially not needing a 4X4 to get to the river.
- We do not use anymore, with garbage and unsafe conditions.
- If I choose to go there I would be either hiking or horseback riding. Either can be done on a closed road.
- The traffic on weekends is frightening. We are afraid to leave our property because there are so many strangers parked on our road approach, Rge Rd 23 and SH 770.
- It negatively impacts our home, as we live on that road. I'm scared for the safety of my family and my animals.
- Because of the out of control crowds going down in vehicles we will not go down to the area. It is dangerous. (This question is worded poorly).
- Stealing
- Traffic is extreme, cannot walk on the road, dust is unbearable. Speeders, garbage, beer cans and bottles.
- Too many vehicles going up and down, stunting. Not safe to walk. If this is to be used it should be enforced as a day use only. This would remove the all night parties.
- Cost to the County to reclaim land as per their contract with the government soul be cheaper than turning into a park.

4) Vehicle traffic to Range Rd 23 Pit is heaviest on? (Please check (v) 1 of the following)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Long Weekends | <u>20</u> |
| b. Weekends | <u>17</u> |
| c. Weekday | <u>1</u> |
| d. Never - it is not an issue | <u>5</u> |
| e. It is always busy | <u> </u> |
| f. Other, please specify | <u>All summer</u> |

Comments

- Not enough police to enforce highways let alone this.
- I find it very busy during the summer holidays and the odd weekend.
- There are very minimal numbers of people there.
- I have only seen traffic there on weekends. I have used location at various times of week. As I am an occasional user, I cannot do more than speculate to the largest use.
- I don't live on the road and so cannot answer.

- I can only speculate that the use is busiest on weekends when most people would have time off. I have used it in the weekday evenings and it has been fairly quiet.
- We are on Rge Rd 24 so don't see the traffic. Only people on Rge Rd 23 can state usage.
- I live on Rge Rd 22 and have young people drive onto my land trying to access the pit.
- I am unsure. I have only heard the horror stories from people living on Rge Rd 23.
- Every weekend traffic starts Friday night and goes all night. It gets heavier on Saturday afternoons to evening with traffic in and out all night. Traffic multiplies substantially on long weekends with the greatest number of people throughout the first two days.
- This is not just about traffic. It is about many other adverse issues to address.
- I live on Rge Rd 23. How are people who don't live on this road going to give an accurate answer to give you a true perspective.
- The traffic goes all night and during the day and a lot of the vehicles are speeding.
- Bush parties, etc.
- It is heaviest on long weekends but not limited to.
- Stolen tractors to pull vehicles out when they get stuck and damaging the tractors and property.
- People living on road have to deal with noise all night with people stunting on road with vehicles, running over pets, throwing out things at land owners as they drive by.

5) If I had a vote to remove the access road to Range Rd 23pit I would vote the following:

Please check (v) 1 of the options below:

- The access road to Range Rd 23Pit would be removed and fencing erected at the JCT. Of RR 23 and TWP. RD. 510 8
- Range Rd 23 Pit would be closed and reclaimed as a natural area pedestrian traffic only 7
- Range Rd 23Pit would be closed to all vehicle traffic, not including OHV's 1
- Range Rd 23Pit would be closed to all vehicle traffic including OHV's 6
- Do nothing - we just need more enforcement presence during specific times of the year 15

Comments

- Make it a day park – no camping or OHV's.
- Make it a day park and regulate with police enforcement. No camping or OHV's.

- The biggest problem are the OHV's. I'm afraid that they will trespass across land because they see no fences. They feel they can use whatever land is open and not ask landowners for permission.
- More police and public occupancy would make it a less desirable place for the troublemakers to visit.
- Why remove the road. Lock the gates and same tax payers a whole lot of money.
- Day use only. No camping. Closed at 12:00 midnight. ENFORCEMENT!
- Leave road open. This option was not offered in the choices in Question 5. It should have been.
- It seems to be an unnecessary and costly expense to remove the road during times of cutbacks. I think that it won't stop some people from going down to the river to party.
- I don't want the road closed.
- This is a great local area to use. It is close to home on so many levels. It would be a HUGE loss to not be able to access it. Closing the road will not stop certain activities however if the right people keep using it, the wrong ones won't!!
- I would only vote to keep the road open.
- Unfair wording in Question 5.
- More policing.
- Not voting to close the road.
- Closed and fenced a very close second.
- There is a serious concern of fire jumping the river or running along the riverbanks. There has been an increase in break ins on both sides of the river.
- I live on Rge Rd 23. It is very dangerous on weekends and we definitely can't go away then because of risk to us, property and animals.
- The County should complete their obligation of the lease. If they are not taking gravel out of there anymore, close the road and end of discussion!!
- I would like to see the road completely closed due to the fact if people want in they will go in. Day use would have to be strictly enforced but is the County willing to pay for more enforcement and will they be there when needed. They weren't there when we called and it got out of hand with the partying. The speeding up and down the road all evening and all night is also a problem. Having to clean human feces off side of road by our driveway and urine in bottles. What is stopping them from drinking and driving when liquor bottles and cans are found all the way down the road? When does day use end and who would enforce it? Enforcement of speed limits, paving road to dust pollution, security factors, environmental pollution, family safety, animal safety – too many issues to mention.

- It is not just a day in May or a weekend. It is every day, every night, every weekend, from early spring until late in the fall. Non-stop seven months of the year.
- For the safety and quiet enjoyment of the families along Rge Rd 23, the road needs to be closed. Wildfire is also a serious issue.
- Close the road before somebody gets killed or badly hurt.
- If the road to pit is not closed, it will just keep on getting worse year after year.
- The cost to turn into a park would be higher than reclaiming the land back to original.

For further information/inquiries, please contact:

Ken Van Buul, Manager
Community & Protective Services
Telephone: 780-968-8435
Fax: 780-968-8403
Email: kvanbuul@parklandcounty.com

Rob McGowan, General Manager
Infrastructure Services
Telephone: 780-968-8407
Fax: 780-968-8413
Email: rmcgowan@parklandcounty.com