



Elk River Alliance 2024 Annual General Meeting DRAFT Minutes

Date: June 19th, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:01 PM

Location: The Arts Station (Online: Zoom)

Chair: Kevin Atherton, Vice Chair (on behalf of George Greene, Chair – attending online)

Executive Director: Chad Hughes

Minute Taker: Erin Webber

4 Online Participants: Janet and Roger Dickhout (M), Mac Dressler (M), George Greene (M)

41 In Person Participants (M indicates member):

Evgeni Matveev (M)	Fynley Kuijt (M)	Marsha Clarke (M)
Randal Macnair (M)	Alex McClymont	Lynn Mueller (M)
Mike Wigglesworth (M)	Vince Mo	Blair Craig (M)
Matt Coombs (M)	Lee-Anne Walker (M)	Riviere Thiebault (M)
Jess Norman	Gary Walker (M)	Liv Steven (M)
Ian Davidson (M)	Stella Swanson (M)	Ben Mann
Janice Kron (M)	Nich Godri (M)	Caitlin Henneker
Lily Feedback	Linden Mazzei	Jason Hall
Kevin Atherton (M)	Casey Brennan	Chad Hughes (M)
Marie Wilfong (M)	Ben Ingle (M)	Allie Ferguson (M)
Sheena Pate	Hamish Kingma (M)	Mike Henty
Beth Davies	Jikke Gyorki (M)	Anne-Caroline Kroeger (M)
Paul Dore (M)	Jessica Eberts	
Dean Runzer	Gabriel (M)	Erin Webber

1. Welcome and Opening (7:02 PM)

- **Chair:** Kevin Atherton, Vice Chair

- **Land Acknowledgement** (7:05 PM): Kevin acknowledged the traditional territory and emphasized the value, gratitude, and power of the organization's relationship with the land.
- **Housekeeping:**
 - Emergency exits explained
 - Thanks to The Arts Station for hosting
 - Introduction of Kevin (Vice Chair), Chad (Executive Director), and George (Chair, attending online)

2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

- **Approval of Agenda** (7:07 PM)
Motion: To approve the agenda as presented
Moved by: Mike Wigglesworth
Seconded by: Jessica Norman
Result: Carried unanimously
- **Approval of 2024 AGM Minutes**
Motion: To approve the minutes of the 2024 AGM
Moved by: Lee-Anne Walker
Seconded by: Marsha Clarke
Result: Carried unanimously

3. Annual Report on Activities (7:09 PM)

Presented by: Chad Hughes, Executive Director

- **Staff Transitions**
 - Thank you to 2024 staff and departing team members: Sarai, Finlay Thomson, Chris Bush
 - Welcome to new staff: Thalia (replacing Sarai), Tadgh, and Alex McLymont
- **2024 Program Highlights**
 - **Scientific Monitoring:**
 - Water quality, flow, and temperature monitoring
 - Focus on contaminants: selenium, sediment, and whirling disease
 - **Habitat Restoration:**
 - Cottonwood and wetland restoration

- Stormwater management and streambank stabilization
- **Education & Outreach:**
 - Youth river camps, school programs
 - Interpretive signage and shoreline cleanups
 - Community workshops and events
- **Collaborative Initiatives:**
 - Elk River Monitoring Collaborative
 - "Knowing Water" symposium
 - Launch of "Without Water 2025" campaign

4. Supporter Recognition (7:17 PM)

Presented by: Chad Hughes

- Special thanks to donors and supporters:
 - EVR, Big Bang Bagels, Dickhout Family Foundation
 - Elk Valley Thrift Society, Cummins Creek Containers
 - Alison Preece, Annie Radish and Patch, Sharon (RE/MAX)
- Raised over **\$70,000** to purchase a new work truck

5. 2025–26 Workplan & Budget (7:25 PM)

Presented by: Chad Hughes

- **Key Initiatives:**
 - Monitoring network: 11 CABIN sites, 5 hydrometric, 19 temperature loggers
 - School programs, summer camps, community outreach
 - New interpretive signage
 - Strengthening partnerships
- **Member Comments (7:29 PM):**
 - Comment on "sweet swag"
 - Discussion on low member numbers despite affordability

- Mike Wigglesworth raised concern
- Chad and Evgeni responded: ERA is not service-based, lifetime memberships retired, but agreed outreach could be improved

6. Strategic Plan Update (7:34 PM)

Presented by: Lee-Anne Walker

- In progress with member and partner guidance
- Emerging themes:
 - Concerns about environmental degradation
 - Priority on water quality and health
 - Calls for stronger advocacy and clearer communication
 - Interest in growing the organization's scale and storytelling

7. Financial Report (7:40 PM)

Presented by: Kevin Atherton on behalf of George Greene

- **2025 Audited Financials (YE Jan 31, 2025)**
 - Income: \$602,000
 - Expenses: \$589,000
 - Overview of sources, allocations, and reserve strategy
- **Member Questions:**
 - Clarifications on staff compensation, reporting periods, and projected budgets
 - 2025 budget just under \$1 million; grants provide most program funding; operational funding a mix of local businesses, events and merchandise, and foundation support
 - Anticipated rise in expenses due to the purchase of a field truck
 - Quarterly budget assessments planned
- **Office Space:**
 - Potential relocation due to building sale
 - Exploring options; may face increased rent but not urgent

8. AGM Business

a. Appointment of Auditor (7:50 PM)

Motion: To appoint GPI as auditor for the next fiscal year

Moved by: Kevin Atherton

Seconded by: Alison Preece

Result: Carried unanimously

b. Board Nominations & Elections (7:52 PM)

Presented by: Lee-Anne Walker, Chair of Nominations Committee

- **Nominated Directors:** Lynn Mueller, Mac Dressler, Sharon Storm

Motion: To elect the nominated directors as presented

Moved by: Lee-Anne Walker

Seconded by: Jikke Gyorki

Result: Carried unanimously

9. Business from the Floor (7:56 PM)

- **George Greene:**
 - Gratitude to Kevin Atherton and the team
 - Acknowledged Ashlee Jollymore stepping down from the Board to focus on the Monitoring Collaborative
 - George plans to step down as Chair but will remain a director
 - Thanks to staff for their dedication
- **Tourism Fernie Representative:**
 - Expressed thanks to ERA for its ongoing work in environmental stewardship and tourism support
 - Emphasized continued collaboration

10. Adjournment (8:01 PM)

Motion: To adjourn the 2025 AGM

Time: 8:01 PM