

ROCKY VIEW COUNTY
AGGREGATE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Committee Meeting Summary Notes

August 15, 2023

9:15 am - noon

RVC Council Chamber

Attendance:

- Gerry Bietz, Hazel George, Monty McNair, Dale Soetaert, John Weatherill. Members.
- Barbara McNeil. Chair
- Gerrit Scheffel. Administration
- Regrets: Tom Foss. *(Tom had provided responses to some of the agenda topics)*
- Barbara McNeil. Chair
- Gerrit Scheffel. RVC Administration

Agenda: The meeting was guided by the following agenda:

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Develop the group's guidelines for consensus discussions
3. Contemplate a broad vision for Rocky View County aggregate development
4. Discussion on the general interests of the representatives' constituents.
5. Review the Advisory group mandate
6. Determine a broad goal for this group
7. Set out the process for achieving the mandate
8. Scheduling
9. Next steps

Introductions: Working in pairs, attendees interviewed and introduced each other. Responses to the question, ‘What do you value about Rocky View County?’ were: the wide open spaces; the diversity of the people, geography, and landscapes; being close to nature and urban amenities; the agriculture nature of the County; to live and be employed in the area.

Responses to the question, ‘What do you hope to contribute to this committee?’ were: to demonstrate the balance of need for consumers and needs of the community; to value the needs of the community and the intangibles of the area including the watershed; to increase knowledge and understanding of the aggregate industry; to bring a common sense and data driven approach to find common ground; to find useful information and dialogue that can help inform and shape development and aggregate production and while promoting it, to protect landowners and residents and visitors from the hazards that might accompany these developments.

The Chair informed the Committee of her relationship to John Weatherill, who is married to her niece. The Code of Conduct Bylaw had been reviewed and the relationship is not in the category of a conflict of interest. The Committee members were asked if they had concerns; none were expressed.

Guidelines:

The Chair emphasized that this is a consensus process and not governed by rules of order but by facilitative methods and input from the group. She’ll often use a circle process to ensure understanding by all on topics and to encourage listening. The group was asked to identify appropriate guidelines. These are:

- Cell phones off. Texts and calls can be responded to during breaks. Please request a break if there is an urgent matter that needs your attention.
- Speak one at a time
- Be respectful of others, whether you agree or not.
- Attempt open-mindedness

Additional guidelines can be determined by the group if necessary.

Discussion on the general interests of the representatives' constituents.

This advisory process is intended to be interest-based. Interests are the needs, hopes, and concerns that motivate us. Understanding and acknowledging the key interests of the people around the table is fundamental for an effective process and results. Members were asked to share what they see as the general interests of the constituents they represent on this committee.

Member	Interests of constituents
John Weatherill	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protecting the country residential lifestyle – the peace and quiet of the wildness• Support the societal importance of aggregate and recognition of the impacts.• Have certainty on locations – where and where not. To direct development away from environmentally sensitive areas• Certain repeat applications have taken a lot of residents' time.• How applications are handled – there are no resources available to residents, especially for highly technical matters.• Seems that administration can only review technical documents provided by the applicant; is there space for broader technical input?
Gerry Bietz	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Has a role on the Big Hill Springs preservation society.• Groundwater and groundwater impacts are important.• The Society wants to broaden the conversation across the County about issues like dust and roads.• For the approval process, time and resources is limited by individuals. Many can't hire experts. Need a better balance between industry and residential.• Understand the cost and benefits of aggregate and how to measure societal impacts.

<p>Dale Soetaert</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to show that industry can be sustainable • Aggregate is a temporary land use; extraction occurs and then there is reclamation and subsequent land use. • Hope to reduce misperceptions and bring education about the industry. • Hopes to increase transparency around the business. • Industry wants to work with neighbours. • Values property rights • Certainty is important. Every municipality has a different set of rules for aggregate development. These are challenges.
<p>Monty McNair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaks for the aggregate industry and as a resident. • An interest is to have aggregate available for the demand which can't be changed. • Industry must consider the impacts of what we do, on groundwater and the environment. • Roads and buildings need aggregate, moving extraction further away from demand increases costs. An interest is to reduce time and costs for developing aggregate. • That the committee considers the impacts of recommendations.
<p>Hazel George</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lives on the east side of the County in a very rural area. Pits are all around us. Lives next door to a huge gravel pit. • Has seen industry become more aware of impacts. • End pit lakes from former developments have been very useful to agriculture producers with livestock – providing a source of water which would have previously been unavailable. • Income from pits has been beneficial to producers.
<p>Tom Foss</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone on the committee represents some common constituents. Landowners, homeowners, visitors to RV County, the provincial parks and all the towns and villages. • Heard are concerns of how unchecked gravel pit development, the clustering of gravel pits and a less than well thought out approval process can harm residents. • Hopes to find ways for committee to reduce the risks that mining for gravel brings. • Believes that many residents want to know that developments are best in class. are socially responsible and do not contribute to the climate crisis

Reviewing the Advisory Committee Mandate:

Purpose

- Agree upon principles and approaches to guide the Aggregate Resource Plan (ARP) which reconcile the interests of residents, landowners, aggregate operators, environmental stakeholders, and the County.
- Identify gaps and suggest areas of improvement from the previous ARP draft.
- Propose desired public and stakeholder engagement methods (frequency, type, location, and timing)

Function

- Review the TOR, the previous Aggregate Resource plan and other related documents.
- To debate listen and discuss in a collaborative manner with the goal of reaching consensus on agenda items.
- To provide recommendations on agenda items.
- To establish interest-based working groups for input into the Committee recommendations.
- NOT a detailed technical review of the previous ARP draft.

The committee discussed this mandate. The Terms of Reference will be sent with these summary notes.

Administration pointed out that the 2018 Aggregate Resource Plan (ARP) was not passed by Council as they did not have consensus. Council wants now to be confident with a revised ARP; the purpose of the advisory committee process is to provide consensus approaches to reconcile the various interests.

Determine a process for achieving the mandate:

1. Set dates asap for monthly half-day public meetings for the next six months. If necessary only, the committee will meet between public meetings for briefer online meetings. A summary of the topics discussed, and any outcomes of online meetings will be presented at public meetings.
2. Homework for the next meeting:
 - a. Read the Terms of Reference
 - b. Read the 2018 Aggregate Resource Plan (ARP).
 - c. Identify gaps in the ARP. Bring your list of top ten.
 - d. Read the Aggregate Resource Plan Engagement Summary and Industry Engagement Summary.
3. Discussion on the information required.
 - Understand the common view of supply and demand for the resource. Is it a scarce or abundant resource? Where are aggregate deposits located in the Country?
 - Understand the revenue to the County from aggregate and the costs
 - Understand the locations of the areas of Environmental Concern in the County
 - A map of the active and past pits
4. Define the specific topics this committee will focus on.
5. Set a schedule for addressing and resolving the topics by January 31th, 2024.

Other:

Interest was expressed in seeing an aggregate operation. Monty McNair offered to arrange a tour of an operating pit. Barbara and Monty will work on dates.

Next Meeting:

1. Review summary notes from August 15th
2. Review the committee scope

3. Overview from administration on aggregate resources in the County
4. Review the previous ARP with a brief presentation from administration
5. Discuss and identify gaps in the ARP .
6. Define the specific topics this committee will focus on.
7. Establish schedule for discussion
8. Determine any further information required.
9. Other agenda items as needed.
10. Next steps.

For a following meetings:

1. Discuss public engagement - what works, what doesn't work.