



**CARIBOO REGIONAL DISTRICT
ESLER RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION
Esler Sports Complex – Soccer Clubhouse**

MINUTES

Tuesday – April 30, 2024, 5:00 pm

Attending: Darron Campbell (CRD staff), Kathleen MacDonald (CRD staff), Melynda Neufeld (Area E Director), Stacey Miranda (City of Williams Lake), Linda Barbondy (WL Slo-Pitch), Brian Hansen (WL Soccer), Mark Savard (Cariboo Disc Golf), Matt LeBourdais (Cariboo Disc Golf), Lee Stokes (Cariboo Disc Golf), Bill Goglin (Cariboo Disc Golf), and Pierre Mayette (Esler Community Association).

Absent: Bruce Newberry and Nick Surette

5:00 pm **Director Melynda Neufeld (commission chair)**

Items for discussion

1. Introductions and registration updates

The groups reported the following registration numbers for 2024:

- Slo-Pitch has 31 teams with approximately 750 participants.
- Soccer has approximately 700 participating youth as well as 94 women and 80 men in the adult leagues.
- Minor Fastball was not present to report
- Disc Golf has about 130 members.

2. Minutes from May 17, 2023 ERAC meeting

- The minutes and action items from the May 17, 2023 meeting were reviewed.
- CRD staff will include a provision for a caretaker residence in the Minor Fastball occupancy agreement renewal (2026). The soccer occupancy agreement already includes this provision.
- City of WL performed dust control on the complex entrance road. Grading of the road needs to be performed in 2024 before dust control.
- Soccer and Slo-pitch both submitted annual activities reports, which is a condition for receiving field maintenance funding.

3. Reports on 2023 capital projects (User Groups/CRD staff)

- Slo-Pitch: Completed fencing.
- Soccer: Completed fencing.
- Minor Fastball: was not in attendance to report.

4. 2024 projects proposed and funding available (User Groups/CRD staff)

2024 planned capital projects:

- Slo-Pitch: apply topsoil and infield rock.
- Soccer: perform well equipment improvements.

CRD staff advised that \$5,000 each to the above-mentioned groups for approved capital projects is available in the Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services (CCRLS) budget and business plan for 2024.

- Minor Fastball: was not in attendance to report capital goals.
- Cariboo Disc Golf: in addition to its business plan goal to install tee boxes and signage, the group plans to construct a small storage shed.

Res A

“That the proposed 2024 capital projects for the Williams Lake Slo-Pitch League, and Williams Lake Soccer Associations be approved, including:

- the Williams Lake Slo-Pitch League will apply topsoil and infield rock.
- the Williams Lake Soccer Associations will perform well equipment improvements.

And that \$5,000 to the above-mentioned two groups for the capital projects be approved as allocated in the Central Cariboo Recreation and Leisure Services (CCRLS) budget and business plan for 2024. And further that, in addition to its business plan goal to install tee boxes and signage, the Cariboo Disc Golf Club be approved to construct a small storage shed.”

By Consensus

5. 2024 business plan goal (CRD staff)

- CRD staff updated the Commission on the 2024 goals:
 - **Complete the wheelchair accessible low mobility trail at the Esler Sports Complex:** installation of outhouses and signage is the final steps to complete the wheelchair accessible trail; an official trail opening is planned for June.
 - **Support the development of the disc golf course:** the CRD will provide leveraging funding to support the disc golf club’s NDIT grant application to aid development of the course.
 - **Review the field maintenance funding contribution agreements with groups at the Esler Sports Complex:** renewal agreements will be proposed at the 2025 ERAC spring meeting.

6. 2028 business plan goal (CRD staff)

- CRD staff updated the Commission on the 2028 goal to build a new access road to the sports complex. Melynda and Darron will be meeting with MLA Lorne Doerkson to seek his support for the road access construction.

7. 2023 Water Report review (CRD staff)

The overall annual water use at the complex can be a maximum of 2.5 million USG. The annual allocations for each user group are as follows:

- Soccer: 2,000,000 US Gallons
- Minor Fastball: 150,000 US Gallons
- Slo-Pitch: 350,000 US Gallons

According to the Water Report, the following amounts were used in 2023:

- Soccer: 1,507,280 US Gallons
- Minor Fastball: No readings in gallons provided. Static head levels were provided with each reading being around 48.
- Slo-Pitch: 142,700 US Gallons

The groups – not including Cariboo Disc Golf- will continue to report water use and static well levels monthly throughout the irrigation season. Current water allocations should remain fine and field improvements continue to aid in water retention.

8. ERAC appointments (User Groups)

Res B

“That the Esler Recreation Advisory Commission members for 2024 be appointed as follows: Linda Barbondy for the Williams Lake Slo-Pitch League, Brian Hansen for the Williams Lake Soccer Associations, Nick Surette for the Williams Lake Minor Fastball Association, Mark Savard for the Cariboo Disc Golf Club, and Bruce Newbery and Pierre Mayette for the Esler Community Association.”

By Consensus

9. Other business

- No other business was brought forward at the meeting.

10. Next meeting (*as required, planned for spring 2025*)