

MEETING SUMMARY

Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee

Meeting #8

May 15th – 16th, 2018 – Ainsworth Hot Springs Resort, Ainsworth, BC

INTRODUCTION

The Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee (CBRAC) held its eighth meeting on May 15th and 16th in Ainsworth Hot Springs, B.C. Approximately 23 members attended, along with representatives from the B.C. Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, the Columbia River Treaty Local Governments' Committee, BC Hydro, FortisBC, Columbia Power Corporation and the Government of Canada.

Meeting presentations, agenda and list of attendees can be found on the [Columbia Basin Regional Advisory Committee website](#).

The morning of May 14th, BC Hydro hosted a tour of the Duncan Dam which was attended by 20 members.

The meeting began on May 15th with opening remarks from Sylvain Fabi, Lead Negotiator for the Canadian Columbia River Treaty negotiating team. Mr. Fabi provided an update on Columbia River Treaty negotiations with the United States. He was joined by Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director of the B.C. Columbia River Treaty Team and B.C.'s representative on the Canadian negotiating team.

The next two days were filled with informative presentations and rich discussion. The Local Governments Committee provided an update on their recent work to ensure Columbia Basin residents' interests are heard and understood by the Canadian negotiating team. BC Hydro provided an update on 2018 Columbia River hydro operations. Kindy Gosal, Director of Special Initiatives at the Columbia Basin Trust (the Trust) told the creation story of the Trust, and shared information on past and present work the Trust is involved in.

Key discussions during this meeting focused on public engagement during negotiations, CBRAC's role during negotiations, and key principles that CBRAC feels should guide negotiations.

The following summary is based on notes taken during the meeting, as well as written comments from participants. Though not everything was captured verbatim, these notes are meant to reflect the spirit of the discussion.

SESSIONS

May 15th, 2018

OPENING REMARKS

The facilitator reviewed CBRAC's priority topics, as voted on in October 2016. The CBRAC Steering Committee has worked to address most of these priorities at past CBRAC meetings. Though there is more potential for discussion on these topics, this May 2018 meeting would focus on topics related to negotiations between Canada and the U.S.

CBRAC Priorities as voted on at the October 2016 meeting

1. Climate change projections and what this means
2. Water use plans
3. Alternative renewable energy sources
4. 1-2 page break down per reservoir with key information
5. Bringing salmon back to the Columbia River
6. Comprehensive list of environmental issues related to management of reservoirs and dams
7. Continued engagement of First Nations

Meeting Objectives for May 14 and 15, 2018

1. Understand the current state of Columbia River Treaty negotiations with the U.S.
2. Understand CBRAC's role during negotiations
3. Brainstorm 5 ideal principles to guide negotiations between Canada and the U.S.
4. Receive an update from the Local Governments' Committee
5. Receive an update from BC Hydro on Columbia Basin operations
6. Understand the Columbia Basin Trust's history and past public engagement on the Columbia River Treaty
7. Discuss and provide feedback on public engagement leading up to and during negotiations
8. Review and provide feedback on the Reservoir Summary documents

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY UPDATE

Sylvain Fabi, Executive Director, U.S. Transboundary Affairs Division, Global Affairs Canada and Lead Negotiator for the Canadian Columbia River Treaty negotiating team

- Negotiations between Canada and the U.S. on the Columbia River Treaty will start before the end of spring 2018. Canada and the U.S. held a preliminary discussion in January 2018, to prepare for these negotiations.
- Canada's key goals for negotiations include: no new environmental impacts, meaningful engagement with First Nations, and maximizing benefits for Canada.

- Canada and B.C. are working very closely together to prepare for these negotiations.
- The [BC Decision](#) informs Canada/B.C.'s negotiating positions
- We are committed to ensuring Columbia Basin communities are consulted and see their input reflected in a modernized Treaty.
- Canada and B.C. have been working closely with Columbia Basin First Nations to ensure that our common interests are addressed.

Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Columbia River Treaty Team

- B.C. has been working with Global affairs Canada since 2011.
- Canada is in the process of forming the Canadian negotiating team.
- The Province of B.C. is on the Canadian negotiating team.
- The Canada-B.C. Agreement (1963) allocated most Treaty rights, benefits and obligations to the Province. Although Canada still has constitutional jurisdiction for international treaties, this agreement requires Canada to obtain the agreement of the Province before terminating the Treaty.
- B.C. and Canada have committed to implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
- Canada and B.C. have met with the Columbia Basin First Nations monthly since February and every two weeks in the past several months to co-operate on defining their involvement during the negotiation process and seeking their input into negotiation objectives and positions.
- A key interest for B.C. government is healthy ecosystems. Creating ecosystem objectives and performance measures are a priority.
- B.C. consults with the scientific community on this.
- It has been suggested that 'adaptive management' be included in a modernized Treaty, to account for future unknowns, such as impacts of climate change.
- B.C. will hold a series of community meetings in June to update the public on the negotiations and seek their input on key issues they feel should be included in negotiations.
- Global Affairs Canada representatives will aim to attend as many of these public meetings as possible.

Greg Utzig, Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative

- The Upper Columbia Basin Environmental Collaborative (UCBEC) is a collaborative of environmental groups (local, regional and provincial non-governmental organizations).
- UCBEC has assessed what environmental factors should be considered for a modernized Treaty.
- Increasing flexibility of the Treaty is a key goal to allow for experimentation to help improve ecosystems in Canada and the U.S.

- UCBECC has published a paper on improving ecosystem function in the Canadian Columbia Basin. The discussion paper and summary are posted on the B.C. Treaty website, [Technical Studies page](#).

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' COMMITTEE UPDATE

Deb Kozak, Mayor, City of Nelson and co-chair of LGC

A brief history of the Local Governments' Committee

- The [Local Governments' Committee](#) (LGC) started in 2011. Members are appointed by regional districts.
- Columbia Basin Trust and the LGC started engaging with the public on the Treaty in 2011.
- The Province began its Columbia River Treaty Review shortly after, and conducted 4 phases of public meetings from 2012 – 2013. This extensive public consultation was to seek public input on whether to continue, modify or terminate the Treaty, and to understand the issues and concerns of Basin citizens.
- The LGC worked closely with the Province during the Review to ensure Basin communities were engaged and all interests were heard by the provincial and federal governments.

LGC Update

- The LGC has continued working with the federal government to ensure it understands Columbia Basin interests.
- The LGC is looking at developing a Columbia Basin advisory team.
- The LGC will be updating their Recommendations to government on the Treaty in 2019.
- These recommendations were originally prepared in December 2013, in response to the Columbia River Treaty-related interests and issues raised by Columbia River Basin residents. They were submitted to the provincial and federal governments for incorporation into decisions regarding the future of the Treaty.
- In June the LGC will join the Province at its community meetings and will ask the public for input on updating the LGC Recommendations to government.
- LGC will continue to work closely with CBRAC especially during negotiations.
- Deb Kozak attended the Lake Roosevelt Forum in April 2018 in Spokane, WA and, as part of a panel, presented on the Treaty impacts felt by Canadian Basin communities. The Forum was attended by a wide range of U.S. stakeholders. Mayor Kozak also met with the Washington State Association of Counties at the Forum.

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY OUTREACH AND BASIN ENGAGEMENT PLAN



Brooke McMurchy, B.C. Columbia River Treaty Review Team

Presentation is available [here](#)

Highlights

- Global Affairs Canada and B.C. have developed a joint plan to reach U.S. and Canadian stakeholders.
- We are aiming to engage with Canadian and U.S. elected officials, Canadian Indigenous Nations and U.S. Tribes, Non-Governmental Organizations and key interest groups.
- We have developed a plan for Canadian Basin public engagement, which incorporates CBRAC feedback on what will be most effective.
- Public engagement activities planned for 2018 include community meetings, print and online advertisements, regular updates via the B.C. Treaty website, Facebook and Twitter and regular communication with CBRAC and the LGC.
- The Province has confirmed a series of 9 community meetings taking place throughout the Canadian Basin in June.

COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST INVOLVEMENT IN THE COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY

Kindy Gosal Columbia Basin Trust, Director of Special Initiatives

Learn more about the creation story and the history of the Columbia Basin Trust [here](#).

Highlights

- Columbia Basin Trust (CBT) was created because of the impacts of the dams through the Treaty.
- CBT has a long history with the Treaty.
- CBT has been creating material collaboratively with BC Hydro and the B.C. government to provide a resource on the Treaty (updates are in progress).
- CBT is taking the role of an honest conveyer of factual information.
- CBT is prioritizing public information dissemination.

Discussion Topics

- The Province and Global Affairs Canada wants to make sure that everyone understands the clear distinction between CBT's role and the Province's role on the Treaty, and that CBT is not involved in negotiations.
- People would like to see Kindy record his creation story and share it with Columbia Basin residents via print or video.
- Remote communities feel left out of what CBT is doing according to feedback from RDCK directors.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT DURING NEGOTIATIONS: BREAKOUT SESSION



CBRAC was asked to provide further input on public engagement activities. They were asked for their feedback on which audiences should be engaged on the Treaty, and how.

Audiences

Which key audiences should be engaged?

- Government:
 - Newly elected officials
 - Candidates for election
- Media
- Regions/Communities:
 - Each community requires a unique approach
 - Remote communities
 - CBRAC might be led by an executive to receive/distribute information amongst members then to community
 - Water use associations
- Youth:
 - Elementary/secondary students
 - Young adults 18-30
 - Focus on local college students
 - Local 4-H clubs
 - Teachers/ instructors

- New community members/ disengaged public:
 - The “who cares” people
 - New Basin residents
 - Tourists/ tourism industry
 - Water sport enthusiasts
- Business leaders
 - Engage local businesses/ organizations
 - Academia
 - Union leaders
 - Influencers in the community
 - Business leaders
- Community/ non-profits
 - Social clubs
 - Key community leaders:
 - i. Churches
 - ii. Senior groups
 - Rod & Gun clubs
 - Hunting/ fishing groups
 - Non-profits
 - Conservation organizations
 - Farmers

Activities

How can we reach the Basin public most effectively?

- Themed Columbia Basin culture tours
 - CRT tours coordinated on specific days that showcase the impacts (high or low reservoir level days)
 - Include facilitated presentations on key interests
 - Explain the “science of why” (e.g. how the Treaty impacts ecosystems) through story telling
 - Involve CBRAC spokespeople in delivering key messages
 - Have Treaty ambassadors
- Engage a communications consultant and build a communication plan
- Have performance measures and targets
- Focus on individual benefits and impacts
- The Province’s 2012/2013 Public Consultation meetings did something right, build on that
- Have biweekly or monthly updates available for the public
- Make timely and accurate information easily accessible
- Use local news outlets to advertise
- Value peoples’ time and the time it takes to understand all of the Treaty content
- Use social media (e.g. LinkedIn) with professional content
 - Use Instagram more over Facebook

- Be specific on how people can engage in the negotiation process
- Appeal to other audiences with alternate means
 - i.e.: hold art competitions, shows, photo exhibits
- Work with established community networks
 - Chambers of commerce
 - Trail/recreation groups
 - Economic development groups
- Create a short film(s), include;
 - Brief summary of pre-dam to now
 - Drone footage of the whole Columbia River system in present day
 - Showcase historical ecological and economic functions of reservoirs/ lakes pre-dam (ex. Remake of Wetland series)
 - Story telling scientists on what systems were capable of pre-dam
 - Stories from Elders in communities on how they were affected and how their lives have been changed
 - Stories of Basin citizens who were/are impacted by the Treaty
 - Collaborate with CBT to build on their valuable resources
- Share success stories from improvement projects
 - Share via websites and social media
- Create an elevator pitch for CBRAC members to share with their communities on ‘why negotiations should matter to you’
- Short animated videos explaining history of CRT
- Regular updates for the public
 - Quarterly article updating Columbia Basin resident on negotiations
 - Distribute through organizations’ that have e-newsletters
 - Use community radio to share updates
 - Send out a one-page update to all Regional District residents that gives CRT negotiation key points
 - Give presentations to Chambers of Commerce
 - Quickly inform communities at each stage of CRT negotiations to ensure they gain ownership
- One-on-one engagement with top 10 opinion leaders
- Work with Regional District Communication Officers to broaden communication reach, and to determine the most effective methods of engaging with specific regions
 - Though these Officers are quite busy - do not rely on them but instead seek input if and when they are able to give it
- Determine and target community leaders within each community
- Hold on-line town halls
- Related municipal election debate questions
- Refresh educational resources from CBT, Columbia Power Corporation, BC Hydro, etc. and disseminate
- Have a family movie night at parks to showcase the Treaty

- Have travelling road shows on the CRT that go to schools
- Show comparison photos of high vs low water levels on reservoirs via social media
- Have a reliable constant source for information on the Treaty and negotiations
- Ensure timely and accurate information is disseminated
- Ferry landing info bulletin boards on CRT (everyone goes for a wonder while on or waiting for a ferry)
- An initial news letter sent to all households in the Columbia Basin, then give contact info of constituents if they want so they can share resources on how to access further information about the CRT
- Weekly messages to CBRAC members with key messaging
- Approach school districts on how to educate children
- Engage students/ school groups to develop a communications plan for their fellow students
- Travelling road show for schools (storytelling to keep it exciting)
- Engage youth
 - Have a youth competition on Treaty issues
 - Invite youth representatives to meetings and committees
 - Partner with post-secondary institutes to engage students to do Treaty projects
 - talk to teachers in the Basin about how they think such a program should/ could be implemented
 - Reach youth groups through community youth centers
 - Youth symposium on Treaty
 - Youth to volunteer to get credits for work experience

What should we not do?

- Self-appointed interviews with media
- Not just talking, need to create space to hear from residents
- Don't use cookie-cutter broad stroke approach
- One point of contact and then passing inquiries on to representatives
- Don't rely on CBRAC members to be priority communicators on CRT negotiations

CBRAC'S ROLE IN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT: BREAKOUT SESSION

What role can individual CBRAC members play in public engagement?

- Reach out to newly elected officials to update and educate them on the LGC and CBRAC
- Maintain international connections to stay informed on what is happening in the U.S.
 - (e.g. by attending conference such as the Lake Roosevelt Forum)
- Provide social license and consent to B.C. and Global Affairs Canada
 - A more diverse group could enhance this. Suggested to add a few more CBRAC members from the 'Audiences' list in the previous breakout session.

- Disseminate information to connections/networks
 - e.g. CBRAC could send out quarterly (or more frequent) newsletters/updates
- Send lists of those CBRAC has engaged with to B.C., so B.C. is aware of who is being contacted and can follow up when appropriate
- Share information as a community member with unengaged local government representatives, to increase understanding and awareness

What can be done by B.C. and Canada to support this?

- Give CBRAC members the tools to share key messages
- Issue a press release listing CBRAC members to let communities know who their representatives are
 - CBRAC members would not be responsible for answering public questions on the Treaty, but instead could connect interested community members with where to find information on the Treaty
 - Not all CBRAC members are comfortable being identified publically

What roles should individual CBRAC members not play?

- Giving public presentations (at all, or without enough information)
- Creating and providing up to date information on what Global Affairs Canada and B.C. are doing (this frequent dissemination of information should be shared to CBRAC members by Global Affairs Canada and B.C.)

What channels might CBRAC members share communications through?

- Through local elected officials
- Through their personal and professional networks

Should we expand CBRAC membership?

- Some members think that at least a few new individuals with fresh and diverse perspectives would benefit the committee
- Some feel it would be a lot of work to update new members on the work done so far
- Include more diversity:
 - More youth groups / younger people involved
 - More geographic representation
 - U.S. representative
 - Labour groups
 - Business leaders
 - Working young leaders (new to career, young families) – these groups are busy but important to engage (in between youth and not youth)
 - A delegate from a local high school or college that would represent the student body. It could be an ongoing but changing position to account for youth moving
 - Guest option for high school/college students
 - Teck representative (or invite them to deliver a presentation)

BC HYDRO OPERATIONS UPDATE



Darren Sherbot, Manager, Operations Planning Generation Resource Management, BC Hydro

Presentation is available [here](#)

Highlights

- In Kootenay Lake this month (June 2018), the highest lake levels are being predicted since 1984
- Duncan dam is being incrementally discharged to mitigate high water levels on Kootenay Lake
- 1754 feet is the level at which flooding starts to effect local operations and septic systems etc.
- The Columbia system levels are driven by snow melt and rain events
- BC Hydro is trying to move the most amount of water while causing the least amount of damage

Discussion Topics

- What are the highest and lowest cubic meters per second (cms) units for Duncan confluence?

- 400 cms and 10 cms is lowest at Duncan confluence
- Request for the U.S. sturgeon specialist for flow release come and present at the next CBRAC meeting
- Speculation that if Grohman Narrows had been dredged, Kootenay Lake would have more ability to moderate a raise in lake levels.
- Interest in understanding what engagement BC Hydro, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Bonneville Power Administration doing collaboratively?
 - Inflow forecasts are shared to create a stronger forecast
- FortisBC will be doing daily local government outreach/ communication with staff only (not Directors or other local decision makers)
- BC Hydro took over a lot of the Province’s water gauges in the 1990’s

May 15th, 2018

TOP 5 NEGOTIATING PRINCIPLES: BREAKOUT SESSION

CBRAC was asked what guiding principles they would like to see adhered to by both Canada and the U.S. during negotiations. The following list was generated by CBRAC members and prioritized using dot-stickers.

Principle	Additional Comments	Number of Votes
Equitable sharing of net benefits between U.S. and Canada	Maintain sufficient resources in Canada to match those received in the U.S. Ensure recreation, agriculture and social benefits are included.	11
Consider future generations	They cannot speak for themselves	10
Use a holistic view (“One River” consideration)	Ensure favour isn't given to the U.S.	10
Active adaptive management concept	Ensure this is nested into long-term agreement and framework. Tie this into what we have learnt so far and include this through financial processes.	9
Ecosystem Function	Maintain or enhance ecosystem functions and ensure that both the U.S. and Canada benefit.	9
Maintain, create and increase the flexibility to manage	Without needing to consult the U.S.	7

Principle	Additional Comments	Number of Votes
Canadian dams		
Active dispute resolution		4
Ensure predictability and long-term certainty		3
Use input and values from residents of the Columbia Basin when making adaptive decisions	Highlighting First Nations, all other basin residents and scientists	2
Terms and concepts are defined and agreed upon	By all players	1

RESERVOIR SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Jen Walker-Larson, Stakeholder Engagement Advisor, BC Hydro

Highlights

At past meetings, CBRAC suggested that it would be useful for the public to have a document or communication piece that summarizes key information about each dam and reservoir in the Canadian Columbia Basin. A first draft of a prototype was presented at the June 21, 2017 CBRAC meeting.

At this meeting, Jen Walker-Larson presented a second draft that aimed to incorporate CBRAC's feedback. The goal of this document is to keep it simple, broad and accessible, and to ensure the document is factual, and focuses on information that does not get to out of date quickly.

Discussion Topics

- The context document is good for internal use; keep it high level
- The document should incorporate input from all Basin hydro operators
- This could be developed by a third-party (e.g. Columbia Basin Trust)
- For design, look at examples from Columbia Power Corporation
- Do you agree that the 'context document' is needed? (if not, why?)

- Good for internal use
 - Keep it high level
- Include a broader social, ecological, economic and systems view (relating to the whole system in Canada)
- Include a First Nations perspective/lens
- Highlight impacts and what has been done to address them
- Clarify the Canadian portion of the document
- Define information in layman's terms

MEETING WRAP UP

Action Items

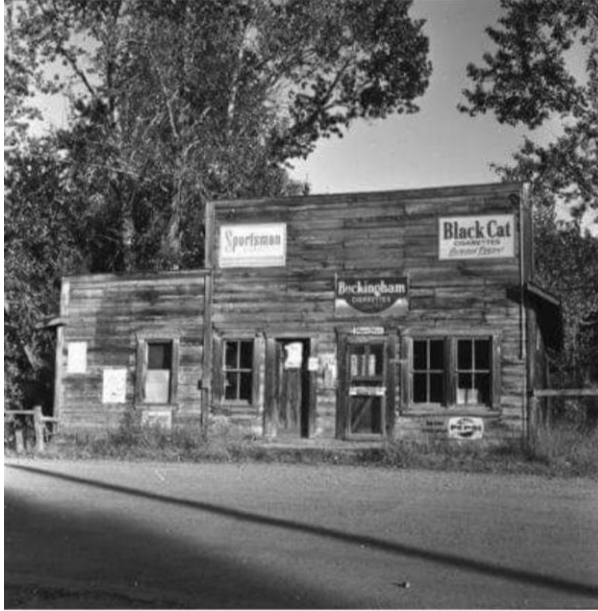
- CBRAC members will be providing Brooke with their contact lists for disseminating information.
- Kathy will be writing a letter with Greg Utzig's support and another one with First Nations support on the state of hydrometric monitoring.
- Brooke will send out the LGC (Deb Kozak's) slides of dam impacts.
- CBRAC members will share more before and after photos, videos and archive material.
- Brooke will share Greg Utzig's report with CBRAC members.
- Darren will update his BC Hydro Power Point presentation and send to Brooke by May 18, 2018.
- Brooke will connect with Kindy Gosal at CBT regarding competing the reservoir context.

Closing Comments By All



- At a conference in Portland, a tribe Chief said “all we have really done is taken the flood waters out of Portland and put them in Canada”.
- It is great to have a listening meeting where everyone feels heard and the meeting is well organized.
- Great to have Sylvain Fabi here to show that there is credibility to the process. That shows that Global Affairs Canada is doing their job to represent the people.
- John Cathro was one of the best facilitators so far in the CBRAC meetings.
- Each subsequent CBRAC meeting proves that messaging is more cohesive (very reassuring).
- Good to have so many areas represented in one room to create a diverse cohesive voice.
- Having Sylvain at the meeting has made it seem real that CBRAC is part of a bigger picture and that they can still feel confident in providing their input.
- It’s good to feel heard in a way that we have never been heard before.
- The amount of content in these meetings is starting to feel manageable.
- We need to empower citizens to feel like their voices will be heard.
- The clarity in how CBRAC relates and is relevant to the LGC was made more solid in this meeting.
- It is great to see how well Kathy and Sylvain work together. There is hope that the rest of the Canadian negotiating team works together in the same way.
- A very productive meeting.
- A huge sense of accomplishment is being felt after this meeting.
- There is confidence that these meetings have an effect.
- A lot of confidence is felt in the Province (and Kathy).

- Great confidence is felt that B.C. and Canada will be leading the negotiations (a sense of great capability for this to be done).
- Each meeting gets more productive.
- Great to feel like Kathy and Sylvain are listening to everyone's ideas.
- The dam tours are a highlight of the meetings and the feeling is strong that this is something we need to share with more people in the Basin.
- Continuing to meet in different geographic areas is important. Valemount next?
- Brooke is great to work with at these meetings, she is very well organized.
- Another discussion close to or after elections needs to happen with this group.
- Good range of topics discussed.
- Good to see negotiators engaging with people in the Basin.
- So great that the meetings have moved to getting more information from CBRAC members.
- It is great to see how committed the group is to attending and being dedicated to the work.
- Great to connect and speak with everyone in the group as something new is always learnt.
- I rarely enjoy meetings, but always these ones. Everyone has a positive, open attitude.
- ***Kathy Eichenberger, Executive Director, Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources, Columbia River Treaty Team:*** the CBRAC group really stepped up on giving input and direction on how to reach out and engage as many people as possible in the Basin. The Province could not do as good of a job without CBRAC feedback and support. The principles will help guide the process moving forward with a diverse perspective. This is a historic time and everyone's role in this is very important. Confidence that we will be able to deliver on the process and be further ahead is very high. CBRAC is the mouse that roared and hopefully this process will inspire other communities to take similar initiatives.
- ***Sylvain Fabi, Lead Negotiator for the Canadian Columbia River Treaty negotiating team:*** I don't know how I could represent people in the Basin without coming to meet them and see the area. This group is great. It is important to approach negotiations with humility as the issues can be very complex and personal. It is good to be surrounded by hard working and dedicated people to make the process smoother. We are capable of reaching an agreement that will take into consideration the concerns of CBRAC members, First Nations and all other groups. In the end we should be proud of the progress made. Whatever agreement is made, I will own up to it and present it to the people of the Basin. We can never meet everyone's hopes and aspirations 100% but hopefully it will be better than before.



Wendy Rosicky Vandeweyer

May 15 at 5:54pm · 🌐

This store belonged to my Uncle Harry and Auntie Jenny Nash. They lived in Waldo B.C. (now under Lake Koochanusa). Every May long weekend my parents Andy and Maureen Rosicky and my sister Karen and I went to Waldo to move them out of their house in the back of the store and into their garage that was on higher ground. Their kitchen wood stove sat permanently on wooden blocks about 2 feet off the floor. This was in preparation of the Kootenay River flooding. In my mind now I hear Johnny Cash singing, "how high's the water momma? Two feet high and risin', we can make it to the road in a homemade boat"..... we parked our car at the Waldo School and Uncle Harry had a row boat to take us to the garage. They did this for many, many years....." how high's the water, papa.....three feet high and risin".....

Figure 1: The above photos were shared by Stan Doehle, Area Director for the Regional District of East Kootenay