



MEETING MINUTES – January 26, 2026

Meeting: Woodlands County Council Chambers & Microsoft Teams

Present: Dave Berry – Councilor - MD of Greenview
 Candyce Jones – Executive Assistant – The Golden Triangle
 Teigan Hille – EDO Administrative Assistant - Woodlands County
 Brent Cmoc – President – Swan Hills Snow-Goers
 Don Kelm – Executive Director - Swan Hills Snow Goers Club
 Craig Wilson – Mayor – Town of Swan Hills
 Cindy Brooks – Executive Director – Whitecourt Trailblazers Club
 Bert Roach – Economic Development Officer – Woodlands County

Microsoft Teams: Alan Deane – Councilor - Woodlands County
 Leo Forseille – Councilor – Big Lakes County
 Sheila Bellwood - President – Fox Creek Northland Sno-Goers Club

Absent: Eric Doran – Councilor – Town of Fox Creek
 Mike Braun – Councilor – Town of Whitecourt

Minutes: Candyce Jones – The Golden Triangle Executive Assistant

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION/DECISION
1.Meeting called to order	MAYOR WILSON chaired meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.	
2. Introductions	Greetings and introductions were all made.	
3. Approval of Agenda	CMOC, Brent made a motion to accept the January 26, 2026 agenda as presented. <u>GT-15-1-26</u> <i>MOTION – CMOC, Brent moved to accept the January 26, 2026 agenda as presented. All in favour. Carried.</i>	<u>GT-15-1-26</u> <i>MOTION – CMOC, Brent moved to accept the January 26, 2026 agenda as presented. All in favour. Carried.</i>
4. Approval of Minutes	BROOKS, Cindy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from November 27, 2025 as presented. <u>GT-15-2-26</u> <i>MOTION – BROOKS, Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of November 27, 2026 as presented. All in favour. Carried.</i>	<u>GT-15-2-26</u> <i>MOTION – BROOKS, Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of November 27, 2026 as presented. All in favour. Carried.</i>
5. OLD BUSINESS <u>5.1</u> <u>REVENUE/EXPENSE – 2025/2026 (Budget, Statement of Operations, Invoice A/P)</u>	5.1 JONES, Candyce presented the updated statement of operations and budget as per the most recent transaction report from January 21, 2026. JONES indicated that as per our discussions at the November 2026 meeting, the Golden Triangle Consortia would like to see reserves earmarked on the budget to help keep a balanced budget. Starting with a new 2026 budget; all funds in the account totaling \$64,797.64 have been put into an Operating Reserve at the bottom of the budget sheet. JONES presented a 2026 Budget for review and approval. Expected revenue coming in - \$90,000; with \$15,000 from each municipality. JONES shows an incoming transfer from the	

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	operating reserve of \$33,000 to balance the budget of \$123,000 in expected budgeted expenses in the 2026 year. 5.1.2 – JONES reviewed the invoices that have been submitted and paid or submitted and not yet posted since our last meeting in November. Invoices Approved, Submitted and Payments Posted: a. Swan Hills Snow Goers – Annual Trail Maintenance - \$21,000.00 b. Whitecourt Trailblazers – Annual Trail Maintenance - \$21,000.00 c. Fox Creek Northland Sno-Goers – Annual Trail Maintenance - \$21,000.00 d. Whitecourt Stationery – QR Check-In/Printer Paper - \$60.49 e. Case + Point Media – 2026 File Edits (Iron Sledder & QR Check-In) - \$496.65 f. C. Jones Contracting Services – November Admin Services - \$737.00 g. C. Jones Contracting Services – December Admin Services - \$290.00 COUNCILOR DEANE inquired about the \$64,797.64 amount showing at the top of the 2026 budget as presented. And if any of that is earmarked for operating reserves; or if that amount is considered our operating reserve. JONES confirmed that this is our current opening amount for January 2026; and it is all currently earmarked as operating reserves. COUNCILOR BERRY asked for clarification on the \$21,000 amounts being paid out to each of the clubs already on the expenditures. JONES confirmed that yes, each club has received their funding already. Showing on the Budget under 2025/2026 Season actuals; as well as 2025 Actuals since they were paid out last year technically. Our budget runs on a calendar year, but we do still need to show the season actuals as our snowmobile seasons run differently. KELM, Don asks Woodlands County EDO ROACH about the simplicity of this new process and if it is better for the county. EDO ROACH indicates that we are proceeding with the financial department's recommendations, although processes may still change down the road, yes, we are ultimately on the right track. <u>GT-15-3-26</u> <i>MOTION – KELM, Don moved to approve the 2026 Budget as presented. All in favour. Carried</i> <u>GT-15-4-26</u> <i>MOTION – BROOKS, Cindy moved to approve the statement of operations, accounts payable invoices presented as information. All in favour. Carried.</i>	<u>GT-15-3-26</u> <i>MOTION – KELM, Don moved to approve the 2026 Budget as presented. All in favour. Carried</i> <u>GT-15-4-26</u> <i>MOTION – BROOKS, Cindy moved to approve the statement of operations, accounts payable invoices presented as information. All in favour. Carried.</i>
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<u>5.2 TRAIL SIGNAGE & MAINTENANCE, GROOMING & CLUB UPDATES – 2025/2026 SEASON</u>	<u>5.2 CLUB UPDATES & SIGNAGE:</u> <u>Whitecourt:</u> BROOKS, Cindy reported that their club has completely cleaned their trail system 3-5 times already. Whitecourt hired an arborist this past week to assess as well. Eagle River Staging Area update – it has not been released to the club yet. Whitecourt is hosting their guided fun ride this Saturday and the Government will come to open and close the gate for them. They have been waiting for close to 4 months for an airflow vent replacement. The contractor cannot allow anyone access to the facility until they are completely done and then Woodlands County will need to go in and inspect it first. Riders are currently staging at the casino and BROOKS stated they are just lucky to have a place for people to stage and access their north trail system right now. Whitecourt will be hosting their Guided Fun Ride and are expecting 50-70 people. Lots of invitations have been sent out to different municipalities, MLA's and other government representatives. The Whitecourt rally is currently still moving forward and BROOKS thanked the Town of Whitecourt & Woodlands County who are both hosting check points at their rally this year. Whitecourt is also hosting a GT Ride on the Sunday following their rally; Eagle River Casino is their sponsor and the ride will start from there. It will be similar to their guided fun ride with a short loop, a long loop and a lunch provided. Whitecourt has completed their inventory study of their entire trail system. BROOKS did invite Ray Hilts, the Trailblazers industry liaison to give a presentation on that project, but with some representatives not in attendance, BROOKS would like to invite him to our next GT meeting. BROOKS explained the trail inventory project and why the Trailblazers completed it. It cost the Whitecourt Trailblazers approximately \$12,000 for this project, with Ray Hilts being on the club executive board and helping with all of th reports; this has been a cost cut to the club as well. Originally, they were quoted around \$15,000. BROOKS explained that they also attend a monthly zone meeting with Swan Hills, Fox Creek, Whitecourt and Edson. CMOC, Brent believes that these zone meetings are extremely helpful with keeping all of the clubs in a tighter loop and united on dealing with any ongoing issues. <u>Fox Creek:</u> GILMOUR, Sheila reported that Fox Creek had a very rough start to their season. They received a lot of snow, but their groomer wasn't able to get out; although they received lots of complaints, people have really started stepping up to help and defend the clubs and the volunteers. GILMOUR reported that they also had a major trail issue on their Golden Triangle trail section (eagle run towards Swan Hills). An oilfield company decided to activate their winter road on an LOC. The club also has an LOC and the trails act is supposed to protect the clubs from these types of issues. The club was forced to close one of their trail loops off of the triangle. The club was able to get a portion of the trail mulched and widened. As part of the trails act; clubs are allowed to widen a trail 20m off center without going through the AER.	
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Oilfield company Paramount has been very difficult to deal with and had told GILMOUR that their LOC trumped the clubs LOC. GILMOUR offered the widening as a solution based on the trails act. There is still lots of work to do with them, but they are working through it.

Fox Creek has been out, cleared and groomed the Golden Triangle. Harold was just out grooming to Harolds Hut yesterday; GILMOUR is pretty sure that Fox Creek has spent their full \$21,000 already getting the trails opened and groomed and ready for the season.

Fox Creek is ready for their rally next weekend; they are hosting the ASA Jamboree this season. All the planning is going well and they have great sponsorships.

MAYOR WILSON inquires on how many registrants so far. GILMOUR states that they have well over 100 pre-registered for riding and 80 so far for their dinner.

KELM, Don inquired on Fox Creeks stance on their Capital Reserve plans and if they've used it yet

GILMOUR, Sheila indicated that the club is still in talks on their plans and decisions for those funds. No decision has been made yet. Sheila will let the GT and Swan Hills know their plans when they have them and if any of the funds will be left available.

Swan Hills:

CMOC, Brent stated that Swan Hills had a fantastic start to the season with tons of snow. The club started their snowcat work the first week of December. They finished their first pass on their full trail system the 1st week of January (clearing trees and filling creeks) and have just started their 2nd round of grooming. This past Saturday they groomed up to Letter O. The Golden Triangle in Swan Hills is completely groomed from one end to the other. Swan Hills \$21,000 trail maintenance funds is all pretty much spent as well already.

CMOC indicated that some concerns have come up in their club regarding the long winter coming this season and the early start.

Swan Hills inquired about the emergency capital reserve because they have approximately 5km of trail from the Branch Road Cabin and out that needs attention; issues with trees hitting their snowcat on both sides.

They have their rally route picked and will be going to do some signage.

KELM, Don reiterated the fact that Swan Hills (as well as Fox Creek) have already used all of their allotted maintenance funds and we're only ½ way through the season. Showing the major need for additional funds to the clubs; none of the clubs will have any funding left to do any further grooming later in the season. There are ongoing issues with logging companies; issues with constant trees down on the trails; currently between Swan and Whitecourt. \$21,000 basically just isn't enough money to maintain the trails for a full season. It opens the trail and gives one pass with the groomer. BROOKS, Cindy added that Whitecourt has also always had their funds spent by the end of January as well.

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Discussion Held on the trails, trail conditions we want to maintain for the season and how we want to promote the trails on our website. Maintained or groomed.

EDO ROACH reviewed the golden triangle website and opened the discussion of developing a GIS layer of our golden triangle trail system to have on our website, Woodlands County is currently developing a new GIS system.

GILMOUR, Sheila indicated that the ASA has already developed that for the club trails. Clubs are required to report to the ASA weekly with a trail report; the ASA requires this for our government funding and they update the app with grooming maintenance colours.

EDO ROACH added that perhaps we can link this ASA mapping information on to the Golden Triangle website for easy access their as well.

GILMOUR, Sheila also stated that she will only ever refer to the Golden Triangle trail system as maintained. She will never state it as a groomed trail; She is sure that all of the clubs use that same philosophy.

COUNCILOR BERRY would like to further understand the cost to maintain these trails for the season. The first pass would most likely cost more, because you're opening up the trail and perhaps pushing trees; and then the second pass would be less costly as it is usually a grooming. COUNCILOR BERRY inquires on how much more it would cost to add one or two more grooms during the season.

KELM, Don states that each grooming leg pass costs approximately \$3-4000 (example between Swan and Whitecourt).

Discussion held on the clubs various grooming schedules and patterns. Whitecourt prioritizes the most used sections and the new trail counters will help with that. Some trails get groomed weekly in Whitecourt. GILMOUR indicated that Fox sometimes will send two cats out at the same time; one clearing and filling creeks and another following and grooming. By January 7th Fox Creek had already spent \$25,000.

COUNCILOR DEANE added a suggestion referring back to our website discussion and the language to be used on it; we need to have a look at the website, provide some consistency to it and confirm that it is phrased in the best way.

EDO ROACH reviewed the ASA trail map, APP and the colours associated with grooming. The Golden Triangle should consider what the service level is that they want to maintain throughout the season and create a funding idea from it. This is a good way to put together a future budget model with a request to submit going forward; based on the maintenance level you want to maintain on the Golden Triangle Trail System.

MAYOR WILSON added that if you were to go to an ASA meeting, all of the ASA clubs will have a different definition of what a groomed trail is. What exactly does the word "groomed" mean when some clubs will just pull a piece of wood behind them and consider it groomed.

EDO ROACH added that perhaps our website and or trail updates can actually state snowcat; instead of just groomer. Since stating groomer/grooming is so different across the

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Whitecourt Trailblazers Industry Liaison RAY HILTS	province. ROACH again reiterated the service level that we want to provide; whether that's every 10 days of grooming or every 30 days of grooming; it will help with a future funding model. COUNCILOR DEANE concurred with the discussion and the feedback going back to EDO ROACH. That type of budget model does make sense; a service level-based budget model is a conversation in itself and this type of conversations could continue into next year's budget. <u>GT-15-5-26</u> <i>MOTION – CMOC, Brent moved to accept updates on signs, club reports, grooming, maintenance, any other concerns and discussions presented as information. All in favor. Carried.</i> <i>RAY HILTS – Industry Liaison for the Whitecourt Trailblazers arrived as a special invited guest and board director on behalf of the Whitecourt Trailblazers to give a presentation on the Trailblazers trail inventory project. Introductions were all made for the consortia.</i>	<u>GT-15-5-26</u> <i>MOTION – CMOC, Brent moved to accept updates on signs, club reports, grooming, maintenance, any other concerns and discussions presented as information. All in favor. Carried.</i>
<u>5.3 GOLDEN TRIANGLE PROMOTIONS AND ADVERTISING</u>	<u>5.3 PROMOTIONS AND ADVERTISING:</u> JONES, Candyce reported that the new QR Check-In contest google doc is up and ready to go; entries have already started coming in and it seems to be working well. JONES reminds all of the clubs to please make sure they have their posted up at all sites on the GT trails. JONES will continue to work on website updates; seekers media images. JONES asks if all clubs have gotten their trail counters installed. CMOC, Brent states that Swan Hills have 5/6 installed. BROOKS, Cindy states that Whitecourt has 4/6 installed. GILMOUR, Sheila indicated that Fox Creeks have gone up and down twice and they can't figure them out fully. Fox Creek will phone Swan Hills for help if they need. <u>GT-15-6-26</u> <i>MOTION – BERRY, Dave moved to accept any updates on promotions and advertising as information. All in favour. Carried</i>	<u>GT-15-6-26</u> <i>MOTION – BERRY, Dave moved to accept any updates on promotions and advertising as information. All in favour. Carried</i>
<u>5.4 GOLDEN TRIANGLE EVENTS – 2025/2026 SEASON</u>	<u>5.4 The Golden Triangle Events – GT Club Rallies & Iron Sledder Challenge</u> JONES, Candyce reported that she has began all advertising campaigns; including Facebook, Instagram and Google ads. The ads are already showing some great impressions already. JONES also explained that she was forced to create the Golden Triangle their own Ad Account on Facebook; and with no advertising history it has a low spending cap. Therefore, she	

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	has placed these charges on her own credit card to avoid the logistical nightmare for woodlands county having charges everyday; possibly multiple times a day. She just wanted to let the group know; as she will be submitting invoices for these charges. JONES did not order any new medals for this season; she will use up what is left and order what is needed above for this season. JONES would like to look into an alternative for the group to look at for the next seasons to follow. With it being the same people, every year doing this challenge and receiving the exact same medal. JONES would like to consider ordering plaques with space at the bottom to add just a YEAR label on. JONES will bring some ideas to our next meeting in April or September. JONES reminds all clubs that if they haven't done so already; to please submit their \$250 rally draw invoices. Discussion held about Iron Sledder Challenge presentation and the possibility of medal presentations and cash prize draws occurring at the Swan Hills rally. <u>GT-15-7-26</u> <i>MOTION – CMOC, Brent moved to accept any updates on the Iron Sledder Challenge as information. All in favour. Carried.</i> <i>CHAIR MAYOR WILSON calls a 5-minute break while Woodlands County sets up Ray Hiltz's presentation.</i> <i>CHAIR MAYOR WILSON calls the meeting back to order at 11:26 am.</i>	
<u>6. NEW BUSINESS</u> <u>6.1 SPECIAL GUEST RAY HILTS – WHITECOURT TRAILBLAZERS INDUSTRY LIAISON PRESENTATION</u>	<u>6.1 SPECIAL GUEST RAY HILTS – WHITECOURT TRAILBLAZERS INDUSTRY LIAISON PRESENTATION</u> HILTS, Ray explained the trail inventory project that the Whitecourt Trailblazers decided to completed. Relative to their maintenance and capital infrastructure requirements. The Whitecourt Trailblazers hired a local consultant to go out and assess much of their trail system. It was assessed against capital upgrades for crossings and ongoing maintenance requirements. This was all then turned into a GIS Layer. This project was supported by CANFOR through a FRIAA grant. This project was ultimately completed to give the Trailblazers a better understanding of their trail system; also giving the club finger tip project ideas for grants that may become available. Showing specific locations that may require regular mulching and maintenance. Also opening the door to future multi-use talks and trail sections that could be suitable to encourage a different demographic and others that may only be suitable for winter use. HILTS also added that he is working towards creating a web map that anyone can download onto their phone for the Whitecourt trail system; similar to the one the ASA has already.	<u>GT-15-7-26</u> <i>MOTION – CMOC, Brent moved to accept any updates on the Iron Sledder Challenge as information. All in favour. Carried.</i>

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	COUNCILLOR DEANE asks HILTS, Ray if he has heard the conversation surrounding the benefits of an in-town staging area for the Whitecourt Trailblazers. HILTS hasn't been made aware of this conversation yet; although he is keenly interested in how we can further develop user experiences in the snowmobile community; HILTS believes in finger-tip tourism and the town already has the ability to get to a trail from any hotel in-town, but an in-town staging area would just further benefit the tourism access. Discussion Held regarding the time-span of the trail inventory project. HILTS states that it took more time to plan it than actual do the project. Only a few months to actually complete it. <u>GT-15-8-26</u> <i>MOTION – COUNCILOR BERRY moved to accept Whitecourt Trailblazers Industry Liaison Ray Hilts' presentation as information. All in favour. Carried.</i>	<u>GT-15-8-26</u> <i>MOTION – COUNCILOR BERRY moved to accept Whitecourt Trailblazers Industry Liaison Ray Hilts' presentation as information. All in favour. Carried.</i>
<u>6.2 REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CONTRACT</u>	<u>6.2 APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT CONTRACT</u> JONES states that the draft review of the Executive Assistant contract was completed at our previous meeting in November. The Consortia had made one change suggestion in the contract. As per our last meeting minutes "The contract is to be reviewed annually to accommodate any necessary changes and the contract is to be signed by the Consortia Chair or Vice-Chair. JONES has made that change and presents the contract again for motion approval. With our Chair Mayor Wilson in attendance today; the contract can also be signed by all parties following the meeting. <u>GT-15-9-26</u> <i>MOTION – BROOKS, Cindy moved to accept the executive assistant contract as presented with changes. All in favour. Carried.</i>	<u>GT-15-9-26</u> <i>MOTION – BROOKS, Cindy moved to accept the executive assistant contract as presented with changes. All in favour. Carried.</i>
<u>6.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE – 2 YEAR REVIEW</u>	<u>6.3 TERMS OF REFERENCE – 2 YEAR REVIEW</u> JONES states that the Terms of Reference was presented at our last meeting in November. The Consortia had reviewed it and made an amendment regarding the wording behind club maintenance funding. Therefore, it is being presented again today for approval with the change made. BROOKS, Cindy asks the consortia's stance on adding our motion requirements via email/zoom/microsoft teams and quorum requirements directly into the Terms of Reference. Discussion Held. Additions and edits will be made to the TOR as followed and approved today. EDO ROACH indicates the wording to be changed/added to the TOR as per consortia discussion. Under Frequency of Meetings: Consortia members agree that motions can be passed electronically by majority as needed; and then ratified at the next consortia meeting.	

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6.4 ROUND TABLE	Minimum quorum requirements shall be 4 elected officials and 2/3 club representatives present. Quorum being 6/9 representatives. Board and club members may attend virtually or in-person. Minimum Three (3) times a year. Spring, Fall, Winter and/or as required. <u>GT-15-10-26</u> <i>MOTION – BELLWOOD, Sheila moved to approve the Terms of Reference with all amendments made as per discussion. All in Favour. Carried.</i> <u>6.4 ROUND TABLE</u> Discussion held between Fox Creek and Swan Hills possibly sharing the capital reserve funds if needed. COUNCILOR BERRY asks if this consortium is funding the Golden Tringle trail system or are they funding the three individual clubs; he is unsure the answer if he was ever asked this from his council. MAYOR WILSON states that the consortium is funding the golden triangle system; and the clubs have been very diligent at spending the funding they receive on their GT trail section only and they do well at making sure GT funds are not spent on projects not related to the golden triangle. EDO ROACH indicates that the golden triangle in essence helps to leverage the local trail systems because it ties them together to something bigger. BELLWOOD, Sheila adds that the Fox Creek Snowmobile Club will actually be coming to the MD of Greenview council for a presentation; requesting support and possible funding to support them and a new staging area.	<u>GT-15-10-26</u> <i>MOTION – BELLWOOD, Sheila moved to approve the Terms of Reference with all amendments made as per discussion. All in Favour. Carried.</i>
7.NEXT MEETING DATE	<u>GT-15-11-26</u> <i>MOTION - BROOKS, Cindy moved to make our next meeting date on Monday April 27th, 2026 in the Woodlands County Council Chambers.</i>	<u>GT-15-11-26</u> <i>MOTION - BROOKS, Cindy moved to make our next meeting date on Monday April 27th, 2026 in the Woodlands County Council Chambers.</i> JONES to send out email RE: next meeting date and forward package information.
8. ADJOURNMENT	<u>GT-15-12-26</u> MOTION - CMOC, Brent moved to the ADJOURNMENT of the meeting at 12:13 PM	<u>GT-15-12-26</u> MOTION - CMOC, Brent moved to the ADJOURNMENT of the meeting at 12:13 PM