



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2021, STARTING AT 8:31 A.M.

Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at www.whistler.ca/committees

PRESENTS

Chair, RMOW Mayor, J. Crompton
Councilor, Jen Ford
BC Transit, Colin Hoffmann
RMOW Emergency Program Coordinator, Ryan Donohue
RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, Kerry Hannah
RMOW Fire Chief, John McKearney
RMOW General Manager of Corporate & Community Services, Ted Battiston
RMOW Manager of Protective Services, Lindsay DeBou
RMOW General Manager of Infrastructure Services, James Hallisey
RMOW General Manager of Resort Experience, Jessie Gresley-Jones
Whistler Blackcomb Senior Manager, Mountain Safety, Kira Cailes
School District #48, Ian Currie
RMOW Recording Secretary, Charlotte Burford
RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, Virginia Cullen

REGRETS

Vancouver Coastal Health, Vacant
BC Ambulance Service, Neil Collins
Whistler Search and Rescue Society, Tony DelBosco
Blackcomb Helicopters, Joesphine Poyner
RCMP Staff Sergeant, Sascha Banks

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Hoffmann
Seconded by K. Hannah

That the Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Emergency Planning Committee Agenda of September 27, 2021.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Battiston
Seconded by L. Debou

That the Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Emergency Planning Committee Minutes of February 9, 2021.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

2021 Wildfire season
review

A presentation by R. Donohue, Emergency Program Coordinator, was given regarding an overview of the 2021 Wildfire season.

2021 year had the most amount of fires than any other year - 1617 fires (867,707 Hectors)

Red cross Volunteers were deployed to assist evacuees and Emergency Support Services Surge Team for the remote response. Hilton Whistler registered evacuees from Lyton and Liloett

Take aways from 2021:

- Inter-agency Collaboration needs to be increased for test responses and situational awareness around the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of each agency.
- Emergency Operations Centers staff need more training for an extended state of emergency
- Emergency Support Services requires more online training for evacuations to assist evacuees remotely

The group reviewed and assessed proposed 2021 discussion based training exercises

Chief J. McKearney spoke about Wildfire Deployment

There were two requests to provide certified task force/strike team with type 1 engines. Whistler Fire department shared deployments with Squamish Fire Rescue, where POC's were out for 2 weeks for 12 hours a day in various locations. Positive testimonies of the POC crew were shared.

Logan Lake (Tremont Creek Fire) was given as an example where 1100 properties were effected and 2000 people evacuated. The 10 years of Fire Smart community action proved vital and the pre-determined sprinkling devices, 175 structural and Wildfire firefighters helped.

Lessons to take away from this:

- 10 years of Fire Smart preparedness proved vital
- Capital purchases of water bladders, hoses, sprinklers, external brackets on structures as preventative measures
- Business may have longer shut down procedures to consider

Disaster
Preparedness

A presentation by R. Donohue, Emergency Program Coordinator, was given regarding personal preparedness.

BC's top 10 hazards are:

1. Floods
2. Wildfires
3. Earthquake
4. Tsunami
5. Disease outbreaks

6. Severe weather
7. Power outages
8. Landslides
9. Avalanches
10. Hazardous material spills.

It was shared and discussed that the committee should be prepared for the possibility of a major incident. This means that the committee should be prepared to respond to a major incident. This means that the committee should be prepared to respond to a major incident.

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Various actions were implemented by the EPC:

- 19 staff members from various departments referred into JIBC Emergency Management Courses
- Rainbow tactical evacuation exercise with ESS team
- 3 WFRS POC deployments for structure protection throughout the provinces
- EOC exercise for senior staff
- Personal preparedness workshop on Oct 10th for RMOW staff
- WFRS/WB training with snow making crews. Mapping for snow making equipment was taken (thanks given to K. Cailles for the short notice)
- Framework for training exercises
- Working groups with the EPC to develop training and exercises

A further review in the future of hazards and effects of climate change was suggested, as well as increased emphasis on public education (personal and business) emergency preparedness

G.Cullen joined at 9:03 A.M.

Emergency Planning Committee working groups

A discussion on the endorsement of working group sub-committees to review plans, training and preparedness, and develop exercises to regularly test plans.

T. Battiston questioned if it was just training activities or broader than that. R. Donohue confirmed training one of the aspects at this time and further exercise designs and subgroups were needed to further work towards mitigation.

J. Ford questioned the cost and substantial time involved. L. Debu confirmed there is no budget in the EPC for these groups, but would look at lead analysis first and then grants in the future.

G. Cullen supported the need to get into this planning work, with the change of world, more training with the community is required, which can be supported with grants and opportunities

J. Ford suggested to include Provincial representations (Emergency Management BC) and work with the neighboring regions

J. Crompton recommendation to get this in front of council and public

EPC supports the development of working groups and or subcommittees to facilitate activities that will further mitigate disasters in our community

Moved by J.Crompton

CARRIED

Discussion on for future needs based on Preparedness, Response, Mitigation

Examples shared:

- Impact of awareness
- Being prepared for enough staff and relief for staff in an emergency
- Regional exercise (staffing levels and capacity)
- Comfort levels for meetings and operational centers
- Expand workshop to the community
- Attend pop up events for different demographics
- To engage public while awareness is still high
- E-plan for school district, an iPhone app for key emergency personnel with training on it, to eliminate binder reference.
- Scenario based training.

More round table discussions for planning and brainstorming are needed going forward was suggested by R. Donohue.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Other Business.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by J. Ford

Seconded by V. Cullen

That the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of September 27, 2021 be terminated at 9:57 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Mayor J. Crompton

Recording Secretary, C.Burford