



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2017, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

File: 8221.03

Name	Meetings to Date: 2
Present:	
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	1
Member at Large, Derek Bonin	2
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	2
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	2
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	2
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	1
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	1
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	1
Regrets:	
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	1
Councillor Andree Janyk	0
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	1
Recording Secretary	
Heather Beresford	2

Adoption of Agenda

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by T. Hellinga
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for February 8, 2017.

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by K. Bridge

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for January 11, 2017.

CARRIED

Verbal Reports

Council:

- N/A

AWARE:

- Planning mode
- AGM March 1

WORCA:

- Planning, applications
- Open house March 2 at Forlise

M. Lowry arrived at 3:13 p.m.

RMOW:

- H. Beresford will be managing Wildfire Protection Program
- Wildfire Protection Strategy received by Council January 24.
- UBCM funding application being prepared for Alpine Meadows area.
- RMOW and CCF to begin developing a Memorandum of Understanding for conducting fuel thinning on CCF tenure.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Board of Directors meeting February 28
- Access Management Plan – 2017 action plan will be confirmed at BOD meeting

RMOW Wildfire Protection Strategy

Presentation by Heather Beresford, RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager.

Council received the Wildfire Protection Strategy prepared by B.A. Blackwell & Associates at its January 24, 2017 meeting.

H. Beresford presented the Council powerpoint presentation. See Appendix A.

Budget option being proposed delivers 30 hectares of Wildland Urban Interface area (within 500 m of structures, funded by UBCM) and 40 hectares of fuel breaks. Would treat 25% of high priority areas over 10 years.

Discussion

- Need to update RMOW emergency response plans to include wildfire scenario. Share with public.
- Link CCF harvesting with wildfire management thinning

MINUTES

Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting

February 8, 2017

Page 3

- Discussion regarding helicopter availability. Concern that there may not be enough resources available if provincial crews busy fighting fires in other parts of the province. Consider advocating for a provincial fire response team with ground crew and helicopter to be on standby in Whistler during high hazard times.
- Ensure that tree protection covenants allow for thinning for wildfire risk reduction purposes
- Managing fuels is one aspect, but also need to plan for and implement initial response teams, training, treating around critical infrastructure. Critical to have an effective response in place if a fire starts.
- Consider hiring an initial response team who could also do other work on the ground when not fighting fires
- RMOW Park Rangers could give out fire risk information and be trained to fight small fires.
- Discussion regarding wildfire fuel thinning prescriptions. Recommendation to thin more heavily so that treatment is more effective and lasts longer, but doesn't negatively affect habitat.
- Suggest holding a wildfire open house to help get message out to public.
- FWAC will follow CCF/RMOW MOU. Members could attend the RMOW budget open house and ask questions.

FWAC Priorities 2017

Access Management Plan Subcommittee was unable to prepare draft comments on the plan for this meeting. Move to March agenda.

At December meeting, FWAC members discussed possibility of meeting with Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee (RLAC) and Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) to discuss priorities. Staff from the committees and working group met to discuss.

Staff comments:

- Staff appointed to these committees and working group discuss the minutes and recommendations, advise senior staff and take actions.
- We agree that the groups have some overlapping interests, particularly around trails and access. Staff will ensure that any new trail proposals will come to all three committees for review and comments.
- M. Pardoe provided the following as RLAC's 2017 priorities: artificial turf, water access (seeking improved boat access to Whistler's lakes), an integrated comprehensive dog management strategy, ongoing reinvestment in MPSC.
- The TPWG only meets twice a year and provides FWAC with its newsletter each time.
- M. Pardoe sits on both RLAC and TPWG and offered to do an annual spring presentation to FWAC to share RLAC and TPWG news.
- Given that the main overlap is about trails and access, and that trying to get approximately 30 people together for a meeting could be

challenging and would need a strong focus/reason for being there, suggestion to invite Steve Rochetta, MOE biologist, to come and do a presentation on grizzly bear research, and then the attendees could hold a discussion to share thoughts/recommendations on grizzly bears and recreation trails & access, and to discuss other general topics of shared interest.

Other Business

OTHER BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items:

- March: Visual Quality Objectives
- TBD: Presentation by Bob Cunneyworth, FLNRO Compliance and Enforcement Officer
- April: M. Pardoe, RMOW Parks Planner – RLAC & TPWG update

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by K. Bridge

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the February 8, 2017 meeting at 5:01 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford

APPENDIX A – Wildfire Protection Strategy presentation slidedeck points

Wildfire Protection Strategy Information Report to Council January 24, 2017

- B.A. Blackwell & Associates prepared the Wildfire Protection Strategy in 2016
- Combines Community Wildfire Protection Strategy and Landscape Level Fire Behaviour model report.
- The Wildfire Protection Strategy is a comprehensive plan with recommendations

Background

- Presentation to Senior Management Team September 9, 2016
- Presented draft plan to Committee of the Whole October 18, 2016
- Final draft delivered December 2016
- Senior Management Team briefed

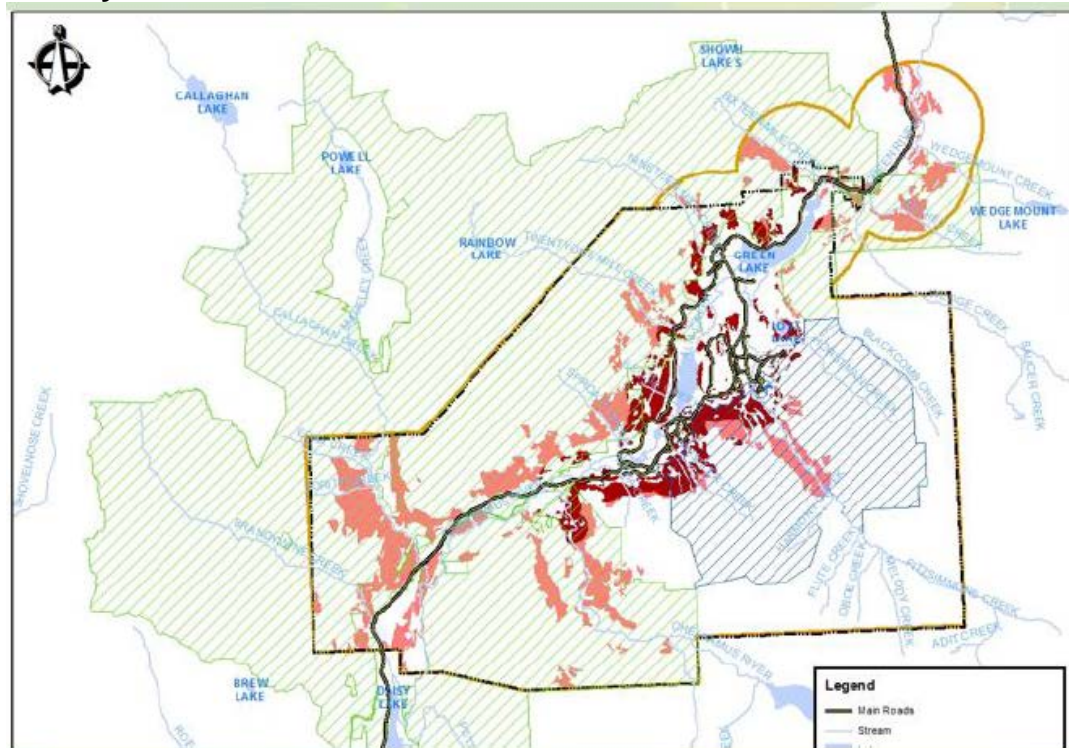
Policy Support

- Community Energy & Climate Action Plan
 - Climate model predicts longer, hotter, drier summers
 - CECAP identifies wildfire as a top risk, and includes Adaptation Objective 1:

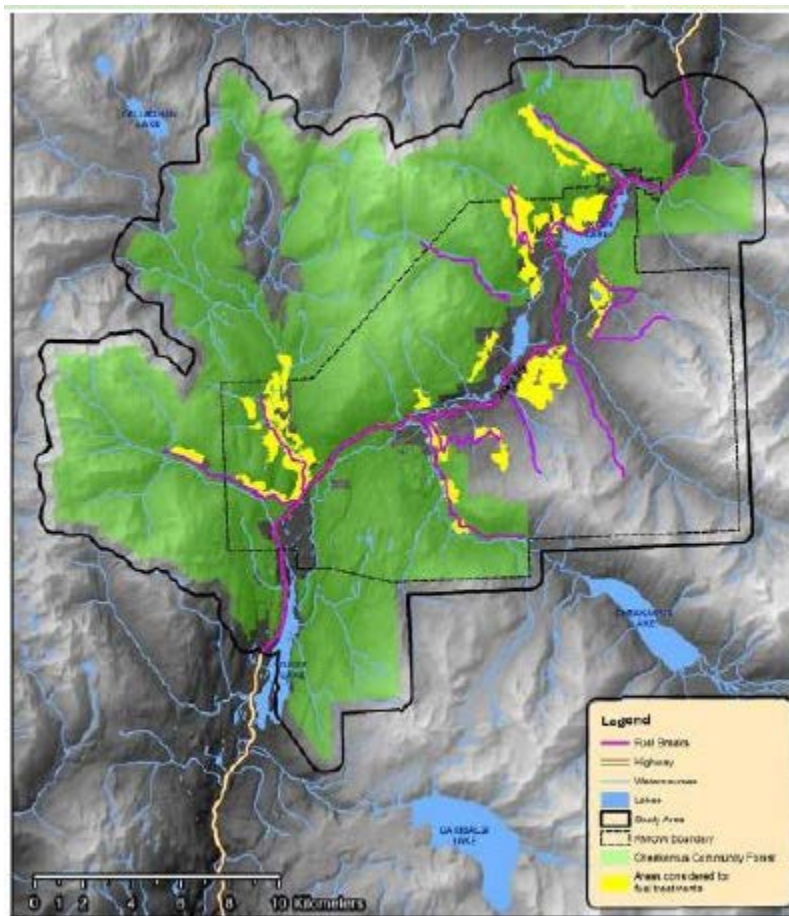
Minimize the threats posed by wildfire and interface fire to human health and safety, private property, infrastructure, wildlife, habitat and biodiversity.

- Council 2016 Retreat priority to “Expand wildfire protection activities.”
- Wildfire Protection Plan identifies 4,000 hectares of high hazard Crown land within RMOW boundary
 - 1,200 hectares within 500m of structures
- 1,500 hectares of high priority areas identified for fuel breaks

Priority 1 & 2 Treatment Areas



Proposed Fuel Breaks



Wildfire Protection Strategy Recommendations

17 Recommendations in total

2017 focus

Planning aspects:

- Finalize strategic planning, including information gathering, phasing, funding and personnel resources
- MOU with Cheakamus Community Forest
- Develop multi-year plan

On the Ground Operations:

- Continue fuel thinning projects
- Continue FireSmart public outreach and assessments

2018 focus

Planning aspects:

- Establish 3-5 year fuel thinning contract
- Begin developing 10 year action plan of fuel thinning prescriptions
- Implement a web-based tool for homeowners
- Create a Wildfire Development Permit Area

On the Ground Operations:

- Continue fuel thinning projects
- Continue FireSmart public outreach and assessments