



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 8, 2019, STARTING AT 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 5
Present:	
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	5
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	5
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	4
Member at Large, John Hammons	5
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	4
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif	4
WORCA, Matt Cooper	1
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	5
Regrets:	
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	2
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	1
Member at Large, David Powe	3
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	1

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong

Seconded by M. Tardif

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of May 8, 2019.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Ranking

Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of April 10, 2019.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

Updates

Council:

- Climate change and transportation are priorities.
- Councilor DeJong attended the Columbia Institute disaster planning conference in April
- NOAA 3-month forecast expects lower than average precipitation and higher than average temperatures

AWARE:

- Coast to Cascades GBI engaged Dr. Lana Ciarniello to review the draft grizzly bear conflict mitigation strategy for the alpine trail system.

WORCA:

- WORCA, RMOW and CCF are working to restore trails affected by wildfire fuel thinning along Cheakamus Lake Road

RMOW:

- Developing 10 year wildfire mitigation plan with Blackwell & Associates
- Interviewing Climate Change Coordinator applicants
- Site visit with The Land Conservancy of BC staff to review status of Emerald Forest conservation area.
- FireSmart crews have begun work.
- Recreation Trails Access Management Strategy revised to reflect FWAC comments regarding scope. Now called Recreation Trails Strategy.
- Wildfire thinning project resumed in Kadenwood area
- Will release a 3-year RFP in July for interface fuel thinning projects.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Fuel thinning underway on Cheakamus Lake Road. Viewed on field trip. 39.1 hectares thinned, road will reopen on May 15.
- Carbon audit and verification moving ahead. Complete by autumn.

Trail Planning Work Group:

- Next meeting April 29

CCF Field Trip Debrief

A discussion was held regarding the Cheakamus Community Forest field trip held on May 6, 2019.

- FWAC visited the debris storage site beside the waste water treatment plant, the Cheakamus Lake road wildfire fuel thinning site, and the Loggers Lake parking lot.
- FWAC noted that the Cheakamus Lake Road wildfire fuel thinning project will be a useful demonstration site for the public.
- Landscape fuel break projects are removing more trees than the interface projects. This site is prescribed at ~350 stems per hectare compared to 350-450 sph for interface due largely to better access. The actual densities were quite variable and it's currently unclear if prescription is met until monitoring is done to confirm.
- Tree scarring – some scarring, particularly near the road. Some concern about opening trees to disease. CCF should encourage operators to

upgrade equipment to machines that are more appropriately sized (smaller) for wildfire work. The contractor working on the Kadenwood site has purchased a cable system and a tracked chipper, for example. CCF should consider adding penalties for tree scarring or require pads be placed on trees or leave bumper trees that can be removed later. Spreading borax on stumps reduces disease entry. CCF should take more care because the remaining trees will be around for decades.

- CCF should mark the trees to keep and not leave it to the machine operator to decide, and establish a post-treatment monitoring program to determine effectiveness.
- Thinning densities are variable but meet the prescription terms. Variable density is good for overall forest biodiversity.
- FWAC highlighted need for strong connection/communications with local residents.
- CCF wants to cut additional young second growth to help pay for Basalt Valley road. Forest companies usually finance roads as long term capital investments, and FWAC concerned that CCF is harvesting second growth too early in order to pay for the road in the short term.
- Stumpage rate doesn't account for this type of wildfire forestry work. The extra costs should be included in the appraisal system and would lower project costs.
- Basalt Valley Road discussion: FWAC does not support the creation of a loop road system. Public will not be able to use road through quarry, so no loop created there, but is there potential elsewhere as a result of logging? CCF needs to be mindful of avoiding conflicts with recreationists using the road system while logging trucks are present.
- FWAC recommends an assessment of recreational opportunities in the area which align with the Recreation Trails Strategy.
- FWAC recommends development of access principles for the area:
 - Principle 1: Separate industrial traffic and recreational users on roads
 - Principle 2: Prepare effective access management planning for recreational use
 - Principle 3: Engage area residents in the planning process
- ACTION: FWAC will develop framing and context for the stated principles with the objective to pass a resolution at the June meeting.

WORCA Letter to
Council re: TPWG

A discussion was held regarding the WORCA letter to Council regarding the Trail Planning Working Group.

- WORCA sent a letter to Council for the April 30, 2019 meeting requesting that the Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) be made a committee of Council.
- WORCA representative shared background. TPWG could be a centralized review, planning and monitoring board for all trails as a way to address increasing trail demands.
- Discussion – coordinated planning is important but TPWG doesn't need to be a committee of council to do that. Need to consider carrying capacity. Need to develop a clear vision and plan that considers other values such as habitat, wildlife and land values before the trails are built. RMOW should consider how the existing committees could be

more effective to address these issues. TPWG has many of the current user groups and could add other members such as ecologists to include other perspectives.

- FWAC supports an effective TPWG that acts as a central planning body that derives plans based on landscape values and is not entirely demand driven.
- FWAC recommends that the TPWG use the FWAC access management planning principles.
- Add WORCA letter to April 29 TPWG agenda

Moved by M. Tardif

Seconded by J. Hammons

That FWAC supports long term, coordinated trail planning with a clearly articulated vision that includes multiple user types and values, such as protecting biodiversity and cultural values, while providing recreational opportunities.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

- Dr. Kimberly Dawe, <https://questu.ca/academics/faculty/kimberly-dawe/>
 - Discussion regarding Dr. Dawe's research into land use and effects on wildlife. She seeks to create a broad network of research sites in the S2S corridor.

Moved by J. Hammons

Seconded by C. Rankin

That FWAC recommends the RMOW investigate incorporating Dr. Dawe's research into the alpine trail monitoring program.

CARRIED

- June agenda item – add Basalt Valley Road discussion and resolution.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by D. Bonin

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of May 8, 2019 be terminated at 5:02 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford