

WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

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

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (3)
Councilor, A. DeJong	3
Member at Large, C. Rankin, Co-Chair	3
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	3
Member at Large, R. Millikin	3
WORCA, N. Koshure	1
Member at Large, M. Tardif, Chair	2
Member at Large, D. Raymond	2
Member at Large, C. Young	2
Member at Large, T. Burton	2
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	3
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	3

REGRETS	
AWARE, C. Ruddy	2
Member at Large, V. Cole	1

CALL TO ORDER

Forest Wildland Advisory Committee recognized The Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as Liíwat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by R. Millikin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of March 9, 2022.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Areshenkoff
Seconded by R. Millikin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Open Committee Minutes of Wednesday, February 9, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council

- Transit strike is ongoing.
- Council is discussing what they can accomplish in the next 7 months, and prioritizing items.
- Continuing to build the 2030 Olympic Bid and incorporate a legacy that could take the resort to build out.
- With increasing tourism and population, Council is looking at how we can improve infrastructure in a way that can be managed.

N. Koshure joined at 3:05 p.m.

C. Young joined at 3:05 p.m.

AWARE

- No updates

WORCA

- WORCA has received confirmation for 2022 RMOW funding which will allow them to hire earlier.
- They have formalized a Trails Committee which will provide guidance to the Board of Directors. The committee has an approved TOR and a Special Events Policy.
- There is no update on the Provincial Trails Standard.
- WORCA is waiting to formalize a date with Simon Murray, CCF, to review the Wedge harvesting plans. This is expected to happen in May. The spotted owl habitat is planned to be focused around the trails.

RMOW

- FWAC TOR went to Council on Feb 22, and was adopted with the exception of allowing FWAC to present directly to Council. FWAC will continue to communicate with Council through meeting minutes. The new TOR will be uploaded to the whistler.ca website once Legislative Services has provided the document.
- The Wildfire Consultant RFP closed March 1, and a number of proposals were received.
- The Ecosystem Monitoring RFP is also closed. Information can be found at <https://www.whistler.ca/services/environmental-stewardship/ecosystem-monitoring> including past Monitoring Reports.
- Martin Pardoe, Manager of Resort Parks Planning is in the final stages of drafting the RFP for the Recreation Trails Strategy.

- The application for the Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund was submitted and we are waiting to see if funding is approved.
- 2022 will see the completion of Taluswood thinning, 6.6 hectares around Cheakamus Crossing Phase 2 and areas adjacent to Rainbow subdivision.

Trail Planning Working Group

- No updates.

Cheakamus Community Forest

- Hosted the Open House on February 28.
- There is a Board Meeting on April 7.
- The BCCFA Annual Report template was received last week. The CCF will complete it and then build its annual report based on that template.

CCF Open House

A discussion occurred regarding the CCF Open House on February 28, 2022.

Three FWAC members participated in the Open House. Comments on the format and presentation materials of the Open House included: the purpose and objectives of the session were not clear; the format (Zoom call with no participants visible and only typed Questions) did not support understanding and discussion; the presentation maps (although improved from previous Open Houses) still would not be understandable to a general audience; disappointment in the low number of attendees (it was noted that more than 50 people registered but fewer than 20 attended the session); the delay between questions and responses made for difficulties in understanding and limited comment and discussion; while the willingness of the CCF forest manager (Simon Murray) to respond to questions and frankness of responses was evident, the format was unsatisfying; and hope that efforts to support communication, discussion and community understanding of CCF objectives and activities can be improved.

Feedback for the Open House is welcome and can be submitted through a survey found at: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022CCFOpenHouse. It was noted that the survey cannot be circulated to registrants who did not participate in the Open House due to RMOW privacy policies, and that the survey is dependent on a technical understanding of the material and proposed harvest areas (i.e., it is not “general public friendly.”)

CWRP

A presentation by Heather Beresford was given regarding the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and a discussion was held.

The CWRP provides:

- An assessment of wildfire risk to the community
- An assessment of values at risk and potential consequences from wildfire
- Maps of fuel types and recommended areas for fuel treatments
- An assessment of emergency response capacity
- Options and strategies to reduce wildfire risk in seven FireSmart disciplines: education, legislation and planning, development

considerations, interagency cooperation, cross-training, emergency planning, and vegetation management

Comments included:

- Discussion on the value of rooftop, as well as portable neighbourhood, sprinkler systems;
- Support for neighborhood FireSmart and related initiatives such as response systems and Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) vegetation management;
- Concern that Recommendation 22 (road upgrades to the Flank Trail to provide vehicle access) would have negative impacts on recreation and environmental values relative to cost and fire risk reduction value and that reference to the Flank Trail should be removed;
- Vegetation Management (section 5.8, recommendations 24-32) – this section is particularly relevant to FWAC comments and recommendations regarding fuel thinning, effectiveness monitoring and assessment of treatment alternatives – comments related to this section included support for development of “post-fire rehabilitation planning” (low priority Rec # 23) which could be a higher priority and incorporate post-fire planning and assessment of intentional or natural low-intensity fires; support for Rec’s 24-27 while noting the importance of previous FWAC comments on the need to review fuel management prescriptions to account for multiple ecological values as well as effectiveness (Rec # 27 – a Med priority in the draft plan); support for Rec #29 as a High priority (to conduct trials and undertake research including incorporation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge to test the assumptions that underpin the wildfire thinning rationale); revising Rec #30 to the following wording – “Conduct analysis to determine validity of assumptions and return on investment (ROI) of fuel management prescriptions (i.e., forest floor, ladder fuel and crown closure (forest thinning) components of prescriptions complementary to FireSmart program activities” (i.e., the analysis should not be a comparison of fuel management against FireSmart – but rather of the cost and effectiveness of fuel management prescriptions on non-private lands); and Rec #31 (Ensure prescription templates more explicitly incorporate consideration of other forest and natural area values). should be a High and not a Med priority.

FWAC members commented that this plan is substantive, high quality and contains information likely to be of considerable use to the intended audiences. FWAC commended staff for their hard work in overseeing development of the plan.

Subcommittee Findings

A discussion occurred regarding the results from the FWAC Subcommittee and an alternative Wildfire Monitoring Plan.

The subcommittee is asking the question *are we doing the right thing?* The plan is to involve community experts and use citizen science. Discussion included fire ignition behavior, green fuel breaks, the health of the forests and the moisture retained, ultra violet rays, soil carbon content and if we can model the data.

The next step is Staff to review and recommend back what can be included and how to proceed.

M. Tardif arrived at 4:30 p.m.

FWAC Priorities

A discussion was held regarding FWAC Priorities.

Committee members suggested an initial list of items for consideration as priorities for FWAC in the upcoming year (2022-2023):

- watershed planning, rivers and lakes (current provincial priority and potential funding source), reconciliation and collaboration, recreation infrastructure (i.e., trails, access, public and private user groups);
- land base and recreation use – including maintenance and decommissioning of FSRs, access management;
- Soil carbon and carbon accounting in the CCF, climate change resilience, importance of forests in mitigating flooding and extreme weather, heat management;
- Valuing and appreciation of nature(i.e., “nature etiquette”);
- Use and volumes of people visiting and recreating in the region (“people dispersion”);
- Links with BC Parks planning and use the need for a Callaghan master plan.

Chair and staff to review the list and bring some concise priorities to the next meeting.

N. Koshure left at 4:40 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Other Business.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

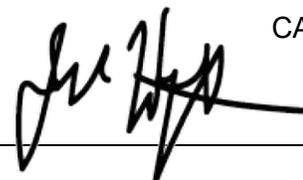
Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by D. Raymond

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, March 9, 2022 be terminated at 5:01 p.m.

CARRIED

Colin Rankin

Chair, C. Rankin



Recording Secretary, J. Wynott