

# MINUTES

## OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

LOCATION: FLUTE ROOM, RMOW  
4325 BLACKCOMB WAY, WHISTLER, BC V0N 1B4

	IN ATTENDANCE	Meetings to date	
<b>Members - Present</b>	Gordon McKeever, Chair		6
	Bryce Leigh, AWARE		6
	Bob Brett		3
	Ken Melamed (WORCA Rep)		5
	Kurt Mueller		4
	Rob Davis		3
	Candace Rose-Taylor (joined in May)		2
<b>Members - Absent</b>	John Hammons		4
	Peter Ackhurst		4
	Johnny Mikes		4
	Jayson Faulkner, Councilor		3
<b>Municipal Staff</b>	Heather Beresford, Environmental Stewardship Mgr.		6

### ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

<b>Recommendation(s) to Council</b>	<b>Recommendation to Council:</b> FWAC recommends that a hiking trail right of way be included in the rezoning for 8340, 8344, 8384 and 8388 Mountainview Drive to protect the existing route.	
<b>1. Approval of Agenda</b>	Approved. Riparian Vegetation – deferred until July meeting.	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>2. Adoption of Minutes</b>	<b>That</b> the minutes of the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee meeting held May 8, 2013 be adopted.	<b>CARRIED.</b>
<b>3. Representative Updates</b>		

<b>COUNCIL Update</b>	N/A
<b>AWARE Update</b>	Nothing to discuss.
<b>WORCA Update</b>	<p>RMOW rebuilding a bridge above 19 Mile on Flank Trail. Noticed a new mountain bike trail (Howler?), on NE side of 19 Mile. Rogue trail building still occurring. It provides a direct route to Screaming Cat lake. Cougar Mountain is expanding its ziptrek lines, and graded road to 50m below start of Gargamel. Expect more shuttling to take place.</p> <p>Discussion: Trails group discussed trail access to Screaming Cat lake with CCF from old forestry roads. CCF doesn't think a bypass could be built, and has no plans to log in there soon, so no road work scheduled.</p> <p>Discussion: Four high lots above Mountainview Drive in Alpine are undergoing rezoning. Good idea to create a hiking trail right of way for the existing route.</p> <p><b>Recommendation to Council:</b> FWAC recommends that a hiking trail right of way be included in the rezoning for 8340, 8344, 8384 and 8388 Mountainview Drive to protect the existing route.</p>
<b>RMOW Update</b>	<p>Trail Planning Working Group – The trails work plan Frank Savage presented to FWAC in May subsequently went to Council and was accepted.</p> <p>Recreation &amp; Leisure Master Plan – Summer trails focus group meeting on Thursday, June 13. RLMP draft will come to FWAC for review, but date not finalized.</p> <p>RMOW Council has replaced Peter Ackhurst with Duane Jackson as the municipal representative, along with Mayor Wilhelm-Morden, on the CCF Board. Peter remains as the forest manager until the CCF Board decides otherwise.</p>
<b>CCF Update</b>	Peter away.
<b>5. BC Parks Update</b>	<p>Katy Chambers, BC Parks, Area Supervisor</p> <p>Katy replaced Chris Platz who is now the Bundle Specialist working with front country park operators and contractors.</p> <p>Area supervisors went from 3 to 2, with 5 seasonal staff. Katy manages Whistler, Garibaldi Park and parks to the south. Operational budget same as previous - \$15,000. A donor contributed \$190,000 to the capital budget to upgrade the Mamquam Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wedge Trail – planning this year, reroute and improve grades. Wedgewood subdivision is moving the Wedge parking lot and re-routing 1.5km of Wedge trail.</li><li>• Diamondhead Campground being upgraded.</li></ul>

- Cheakamus Lake road being graded by MFLNRO (Malcolm Schulz) and BC Parks.
- Conservation Volunteers (Tamwood International) may do a volunteer program in August – yet to be confirmed.
- Callaghan Lake Park – BC Parks has no plans to invest in the road, although aware it is in bad condition. May need a cooperative group to be formed to maintain the road. Reveg and basic maintenance being done by Parks, but no capital work planned.
- Taylor Meadow Trail – Friends of Garibaldi volunteers will upgrade the trail in August.
- Quest University - involved in monitoring Diamondhead weather station and mountain goat research. Looking for funds.
- Garibaldi Park Management Plan - Stakeholders input compiled, some changes made to draft. Still one month away from release.
- Search and Rescue calls increasing
- Clendenning Park – 100 Mile Lake trail bridge crossing the Elaho River needs to be replaced but no budget.
- Brandywine Park – Discussion regarding possibility of opening parking and washrooms in the winter. BC Parks is considering because people parking on the highway in the winter is becoming a public safety hazard. Trail to lakes was created to bring in gravel to the S2S trail. Intention is to carry that trail through to Bungee Bridge to get people off the FSR. There is a private property issue and no budget though.

#### **4. WhistlerBlackcomb Update**

Arthur DeJong, WhistlerBlackcomb, Mountain Planning and Environmental Resource Manager.

- The two new lifts to Harmony and Crystal are underway. Much of Harmony Chair has been moved to Blackcomb. Crystal chair earthworks proved more challenging in order to bring the runs in safely and create a staging area. 70% complete. Working 7 days per week. All top soil retained, will be used for replanting.
- Bike Park will see a couple of new trails only. Need more blue terrain. Use is growing. Future MB bike development into Creekside. Discussed concerns over potential to increase human-bear conflict due to increase bike park footprint. WB recognizes the challenge, but feels that keeping all development on Whistler, leaves Blackcomb available for bears. Lesson learned from previous experience is to not plant species that attract bears (clover, etc.) in places where they don't want bears to gather.
- Top of the World Trail – It was aligned to feed into Khyber Trail. What is WB's responsibility for trail maintenance? Response: Anything in CRA is WB's responsibility. If proves to be a problem, trail could be re-routed. Trail quota is only 120 people per day, but won't stay that low. Trying to determine what is the right number. It was noted that there is already significant erosion on the trail and that WB has budget to fix the erosion. The trail is not systematically monitored but it appears that people are staying on the trail, topography is too rugged to venture off.
- Guest research shows that most don't walk very far and tend not to

return. WB considering how to better facilitate that? Looking at extending lift opening times for visitors who do want to go on longer hikes, but current research doesn't support earlier opening. Maybe later closing hour with more BBQ's which are popular.

- Singing Pass Trail access – no breakthroughs. Sliding centre is a big part of the puzzle. Wildfire concerns.
- Lift or access in Franz's Creek watershed – WB looking for way to solve access problem to alpine, and solution is undetermined. FWAC has concerns over effects on old growth, and that the challenging topography would mean a significant impact on visuals. FWAC suggests WB designate it as a conservation area.
- Climate Change – WB very concerned. Has identified trends over the last 30+ years. Found that winter temperatures have increased 0.5 degrees, much of that in the last 4-5 years. But summer temperatures have increased 2 degrees and causing glaciers to recede. Horstman Glacier particularly vulnerable.
- WB has lots of resilience. UN states that for every 1 degree increase, snowline will move up 120m. Summers will be warmer which creates wildfire concern. But Whistler goes as the global economy goes. We need to do everything we can and encourage others to reduce emissions. WB prepared the Climate Change and Resource Efficiency Strategy to be released in summer.

#### **6. New Business/Next Agenda**

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- Recreation and Leisure Master Plan – when?
- FWAC CCF Report – need to begin drafting. Will the report result in changes on the ground? Template created in 2012 and FWAC already commented on ideas last November, so should be easier to compile this year.
- Trail up from Alpine water tower has been cleared using an ATV (over 1km). Doesn't appear to be for snowmobiles.
- S2S Trail to Squamish is not signed yet. Funding arrived, working in Cheakamus canyon. Trail will be rolled again, compacted and capped. Concern that fines continue to be washed away. Nairn Park trail south to parking lot, Wedgewoods and north will be started. Funds from SLRD going to Friendship Trail connecting Pemberton with Mt. Currie as part of S2S trail.

#### **ADJOURNMENT 4:53 PM**

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee meeting be adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

**CERTIFIED CORRECT:**

Gordon McKeever

Heather Beresford

Chair

Environmental Stewardship Manager, RMOW

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### **Annual Calendar – Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee Annual Calendar – REVISED April 2012**

**February** – Review compartment maps, compartment planning and information sharing summary sheets and master summary sheet (wood volume harvesting summary). Tom Cole to attend and present on the proposed harvesting timelines and outline for that year. FWAC to formally express support or concerns for the annual program as summarized in the wood harvest volume summary.

**March** – Review & provide response to final harvest plan.

**May/June** – Field inspection to review previous year's harvesting and other forest management work not visited in October, plus visit current/proposed harvesting sites.

**July** – present draft report on CCF activities

**September** - Finalize FWAC annual report for the CCF. Review other strategic planning issues such as EBM plans/reports, FSP revisions, and other strategic documents.

**October** – Field trip to view year to date harvesting and other forest management activities for the current year.