



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, May 14, 2014, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

PRESENT: Meetings to Date: 5

Rob Davis, M-A-L	4
Candace Rose-Taylor, M-A-L	4
Gordon McKeever, Chair	4
John Hammons, M-A-L	4
Peter Ackhurst, M-A-L	4
Ken Melamed, WORCA	4
Bryce Leigh, AWARE	4

REGRETS:

Bob Brett, M-A-L	0
Johnny Mikes, M-A-L	0
Kurt Mueller, M-A-L	2
Councillor Jayson Faulkner	2

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	5
--	---

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted as amended:

New Business: Powder Mountain Cat-Skiing Tenure amendment

Moved by Rob Davis

Seconded by Ken Melamed

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda of May 14, 2014.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by John Hammons

Seconded by Candace Rose-Taylor

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of March 12, 2014 as amended.

CARRIED

Moved by Candace Rose-Taylor

Seconded by Ken Melamed

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of April 9, 2014.

VERBAL REPORTS

3. Updates

Council:

- N/A. Sea to Sky Gondola opening this weekend.

AWARE:

- Nothing new to report.

WORCA:

- Nothing new to report.

RMOW:

- Wildfire Management:
 - Horstman Thinning – work started early May.
 - UBCM applications for Millars Pond (thinning) and Alpine Meadows (prescriptions) locations submitted for April 25 intake.
 - Blackwell preparing prescription for fuel break along old Callaghan FSR. Work scheduled for fall 2014.

ACTION: Add Landscape Scale Fire Behaviour Modeling report to future FWAC agenda.

Peter Ackhurst arrived at 3:15 p.m.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- OGMA maps in final draft form and reviewed at April 30 open house.
- Carbon project moving forward. Agreement with province on carbon credit split; needs to go to Treasury Board for approval. Need to develop sales plan.
- Logging in Brew
- Ancient Cedars project – more work to be done this year with WB EnviroFund funding.

Sea to Sky Trail update – 3.5km completed at north end of Wedgewood to train track crossing. Also working on 1km from Nairn Falls to train crossing to its south. Only 11km of trail left to be completed.

FWAC Field Trip – Monday, June 9 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Wedge and IPP. Meet 12:45 at muni hall parking lot.

4. Alpine Trail Program Presentation by Martin Pardoe, RMOW Manager Resorts Parks Planning

Reviewed background including Hiking Trails Task Force Report. Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) is lead for trail planning activities.

2013-17 budget = \$250,000 per year.

First priority area chosen was Sproatt/Rainbow. No additional trails in watershed. Rainbow trail rebuilt over last two years. Trail plan submitted to province for approval and authorization.

Sproatt ascent trail will be mixed use with signs. Similar to WIF trails but no gravel. Network includes ridge trail on Sproatt, over to Rainbow Lake and Hanging Lake, and over to CWA tenure. Skywalk hiking trail to be built on Rainbow from Screaming Cat lake to heli-drop. Downhill trail scheduled to be reworked. Looking into reducing downhill bike use on this trail. Network assumed to be a 3-5 year build depending on weather and snow conditions.

Connector trail from Rainbow/Madely section provides equal and fair access to both CWA and WOP tenures. Access through WOP for a fee or free through North Aire mines road on CWA tenure.

RMOW is the lead, most of the lands are Crown. Rec Sites & Trails BC is the decision-maker.

Future initiatives: Trail signs, watershed issues resolved, FSR access to trailheads.

2013 Work:

- All routes gps'd and flagged
- Trail rebuilds, 19 Mile Creek bridge built
- Flank Trail improvements
- Far Side & Crater Rim trails, Rainbow Lake trail improved
- Some trail signs installed

Discussion re: road grading. FSR maintenance is not an RMOW responsibility. Discussions with MOF and CCF taking place.

Discussion re: baseline user counts along Flank Trail. Will remeasure again in future after alpine trails established.

Discussion re: two Cheakamus River bridges slated for construction this summer. S2S Trail bridge to Train Wreck and S2S trail bridge at lower Cheakamus river location. Bridge being built downstream of FSR alignment.

5. Recurring CCF Issues

Discussion of CCF issues that keep recurring but haven't been resolved:

- AAC determination
- CCF accommodation of commercial rec interests
- Road planning and development

AAC: FWAC doesn't have control over AAC; FWAC's role is to advise Council and Council can't change AAC unilaterally. CCF reps already working on keeping AAC low. AAC can be reduced by increasing old forest retention through EBM approach.

Accommodating commercial interests: FWAC suggests CCF develop road policy/guidelines to make decision process transparent. Suggest better communication between RichPly, CCF Board and FWAC. Concern that some of the road decisions to assist commercial rec tenures are outside their tenure areas and in conflict with provincial policy (LRMP and Section 58). CCF board may not be fully aware of these consequences.

Road Network: Discussed need for overall road plan including new roads, deactivations, and roads maintained for ongoing recreational use.

ACTION: FWAC develop a list of CCF issues to be reviewed at June meeting. Once finalized, request RMOW Council forward list to CCF Board.

6. Coarse Woody Debris

Discussion re: draft Coarse Woody Debris recommendations for CCF Silviculture Strategy.

Clarify that 23 pieces of CWD/hectare is the minimum. Recommend CCF monitors the forest to better understand the amount of naturally occurring down wood for this area.

Add John Hammons' two biodiversity points re: monitoring wildlife trees and retaining as much understory vegetation as possible.

MOTION: Make revisions and deliver to Council and CCF Board.

Moved by Peter Ackhurst
Seconded by Candace Rose-Taylor

OTHER BUSINESS

New/Other Business

Presentation by Melissa Laidlaw, Senior Planner regarding Powder Mountain Cat-Skiing's tenure amendment application.

- Existing tenure is outside RMOW, part of expansion within RMOW boundary and within CCF. Expansion is 1580 hectares for guided snowcat skiing, heli-skiing in existing and proposed area, extend northern road, and add heli-hiking and heli-biking.
- Discussion re: downhill biker access to trails (by heli or shuttle?). Is Powder Mountain using existing trails or building new trails?
- Discussion that proposed expansion is not consistent with LRMP. Original motorized tenure grandfathered because it existed prior to LRMP, but amendment is requesting motorized use in a non-motorized area and suggests LRMP can be amended. Need clarity on LRMP amendment process.
- Concern over increased carbon footprint.

- Concern about increased negative effects on wildlife and habitat
- Discussion re: letter provided to Federation of Mountain Clubs in 2003 by previous owner where Point (iii) states that "Powder Mountain Cat-Skiing would not expand into any area zoned non-motorized use". Bryce Leigh to provide copy of letter to Melissa Laidlaw.

MOTION: FWAC strongly does not support the application to expand the Powder Mountain Cat-Skiing tenure for the following reasons:

- Inconsistent with LRMP
- Increased carbon footprint
- Increased disruption to wildlife and wildlife habitat
- No support for increased heli-based activities, and
- Previous owners promised not to expand tenure any further.

Moved by Ken Melamed
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

Future Agenda Items:

- Field Trip: Monday, June 9 from 1:00 – 4:00. Meet at Muni Hall. Focus on Wedge and IPP areas. Discuss at meeting on June 11.
- CCF Issues (June)
- WB Update (June)
- BC Parks Updates (July)
- Landscape Scale Fire Behaviour Modeling report (July)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Peter Ackhurst
Seconded by Ken Melamed

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the May 14, 2014 meeting at 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Gordon McKeever