



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, July 9, 2014, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

PRESENT: Meetings to Date: 7

Gordon McKeever, Chair	6
John Hammons, M-A-L	6
Peter Ackhurst, M-A-L	6
Ken Melamed, WORCA	6
Bryce Leigh, AWARE	6
Councillor Jayson Faulkner	3
Candace Rose-Taylor, M-A-L	5

REGRETS:

Rob Davis, M-A-L	5
Bob Brett, M-A-L	1
Johnny Mikes, M-A-L	0
Kurt Mueller, M-A-L	2

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	7
--	---

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Ken Melamed
Seconded by John Hammons

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda of July 9, 2014.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Peter Ackhurst
Seconded by Candace Rose-Taylor

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of June 11, 2014.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

3. Updates

Council:

- Nothing specific to FWAC

AWARE:

- Nothing specific to FWAC
- General concern over Whistler not meeting GHG targets

WORCA:

- Sproatt ascent trail work continues
- Spruce Lake trail work days held recently

RMOW:

- Wildfire Management:
 - Horstman Thinning – work wrapping up due to high/extreme fire hazard. Will resume & complete in the fall as expected.
 - Blackwell preparing prescription for fuel break along old Callaghan FSR. Work scheduled for fall 2014.
 - Rotary put forward idea to carry out a commemoration project recognizing Don MacLaurin. RMOW will lead. Currently name change for Whistler Interpretive Forest underway.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- OGMA maps and draft plan submitted to Frank DeGagne, MOF.
- Next step in Integrated Mapping project is to identify EBM reserves, and constraints/opportunities with goal of developing a longer range harvesting plan for the CCF.
- Carbon project moving forward. Sales plan being developed.
- Logging in Brew, A01, Wedge 08
- Brandywine FSR graded
- Next Board meeting on July 10
- Request Tom Cole provide access to CCF Dropbox for all FWAC members.

Presentation and discussion led by Vicki Haberl, BC Parks Section Head

4. BC Parks Update

Update on:

- Annual operational priorities and activities
- Garibaldi Park Management Plan Amendment

Trail work done on Wedgemount Lake trail and parking lot; Helm Creek and Black Tusk; Taylor Meadows boardwalk; Garibaldi Lake trail; Flute Ridge Connector.

Garibaldi Lake 1990 Management Plan amended and approved in spring 2014. Sections amended:

- Access & land management
 - Specific strategies: *establish a new vehicle-accessible trailhead on the north side of Fitzsimmons Creek to provide summer access to the Singing Pass Trail*
- Cultural resources
- Hiking/backpacking
- Mountain biking

- - Objective: *Recognise and protect First Nations' cultural values and traditional uses.*
- Hiking/Backpacking
 - *Develop a loop hiking trail through the Spearhead Area, with an alpine component where feasible.*
 - *Work with Whistler Blackcomb to develop a trail connecting Flute Summit to the Singing Pass Trail.*
 - *Develop a loop trail linking Russet Lake and Adit Lake.*
 - *Delete the following strategy: Develop a trail from Cheakamus Lake to Singing Pass*
- Mountain Biking
 - *Objective: Study the development, use and impacts of high-elevation cross-country mountain biking trails in other areas.*
 - *Assess the feasibility of a cross-country mountain biking opportunity in the Spearhead Area.*
- Winter Recreation (huts)
 - *Alpine huts are acceptable in the Spearhead Area under the following conditions*
- Commercial Recreation (Heli-Skiing)
 - *Consider the future of heli-skiing in the park by monitoring and assessing the effects of heli-skiing on key park values, including public recreation activities, Mountain Goats and other wildlife.*
 - *By no later than 2026, BC Parks will develop a recommendation on the future of heli-skiing that meets the vision of the park, and addresses impacts on key park values. The recommendation could include continuing, adjusting, or eliminating heli-skiing.*
 - *BC Parks will work with the heli-skiing operator to ensure that their permit management plan includes protocols and restrictions to minimise user conflicts and impacts to Mountain Goats.*
 - *No additional areas for heli-skiing within the park will be considered.*

Discussion:

Backcountry fees apply in all designated camping areas of Garibaldi Park. Higher recovery rate at popular areas that are staffed. Enforcement will be increased at more popular locations and more signs will be installed at less used sites to increase awareness of fees.

Garibaldi Park Management Plan: 1990 plan still applies. Amendment focused on certain sections that had compelling reasons to review. BC Parks is working on a formal agreement with WB regarding access to Singing Pass.

Mountain biking section had a strong response from Whistler mountain bike community to increase access. BC Parks objective is to study MB use and determine course of action.

Winter Recreation (Huts): BC Parks put out an RFP for other hut proposals

but only Spearhead Hut Committee responded. Modest facilities with cooking facilities, self-propelled users. Minimal air access even for servicing.

Heli-Skiing: BC Parks will make a decision no later than 2026 (length of two permit time periods) on future of heli-skiing. Resources are available to do the recommended monitoring but it will be a challenge.

5. Landscape Scale Fire Behaviour Modelling Report

Presentation and discussion led by Heather Beresford, RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager

Reviewed Wildfire Management powerpoint presentation (attached).

B.A. Blackwell & Associates have prepared two wildfire management plans for the RMOW: Community Wildfire Protection Plan (for urban areas of Whistler), and Landscape Scale Fire Behaviour Model report (for CCF landbase).

Whistler Fire Rescue Services focusing on community education and preparedness.

Environmental Stewardship (Heather) focusing on urban interface thinning projects (UBCM "Firesmart" program) and the landscape fuel breaks.

Blackwell recommends a series of landscape level fuel breaks (see figure 20, page 43 in report). Callaghan FSR chosen as first area to be managed. Reconnaissance of FSR from highway 99 to RMOW boundary complete. Prescriptions being prepared for polygons identified in first 3-4 kilometres from highway. Budget needs to be finalized. Discuss with Canadian Wilderness Adventures. Thinning work to be done by CCF in fall 2014.

OTHER BUSINESS

Don MacLaurin Memorial

MOTION: FWAC recommends to Council and the Cheakamus Community Forest Board that they support the initiative to rename the Whistler Interpretive Forest to the Don MacLaurin Interpretive Forest.

Moved by Peter Ackhurst
Seconded by John Hammons

CARRIED

MOTION: FWAC recommends that the interpretive signs in the Whistler Interpretive Forest be updated.

Moved by John Hammons
Seconded by Candace Rose-Taylor

CARRIED

New/Other Business

Future Agenda Items:

- CCF Integrated Mapping Project (EBM Reserves & Harvesting Opportunities/Constraints map) (September)
- CCF Annual Report (September)
- Spotted Owl General Wildlife Measures information session (October)
- Field Trip (October)
- Spearhead Hut Project (November)
- Alpine Trail Program (November)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Jayson Faulkner
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the June 11, 2014 meeting at 4:48 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Gordon McKeever