



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, February 11, 2015, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.
In the Piccolo Room
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

File: 8221.03

PRESENT: Meetings to Date: 2

Gordon McKeever, Chair	2
John Hammons, M-A-L	2
Rob Davis, M-A-L	2
Candace Rose-Taylor, M-A-L	2
Peter Ackhurst, M-A-L	1
Kurt Mueller, M-A-L	1

REGRETS:

Steve Anderson, Councilor	0
Bob Brett, M-A-L	0
Ken Melamed, WORCA	0
Johnny Mikes, M-A-L	1
Bryce Leigh, AWARE	1

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	2
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Guests:

Tom Cole, Richmond Plywood
Claire Ruddy, AWARE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Candace Rose-Taylor
Seconded by John Hammons

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda of February 11, 2015 with the addition of:

- CCF Open House article in Whistler Question.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Candace Rose-Taylor
Seconded by John Hammons

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of November 12, 2014.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

3. Updates

Council:

- N/A

AWARE:

- N/A

WORCA:

- K. Melamed stepping down, WORCA will assign new representative. Thanks to Ken for his participation.

RMOW:

- Kurt Mueller has advised that he will be stepping down from FWAC. Thanks to Kurt for his efforts particularly around alpine hiking. He wanted to share that he is still concerned about the process and the proportion of funds that went toward multi-purpose rather than hiking trails.
- Wildfire Management:
 - Millar's Pond fuel thinning scheduled for 2015. Contract to be awarded by end of February.
- WB tenure renewal – discussion re: opportunity for public input.
- FWAC annual report distributed to CCF Board and Tom Cole.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- CCF Board meeting January 26
- Open house at Whistler library Feb. 5, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Carbon project – agreement with province is close.
- Powder Mountain Snow Cat tenure expansion calls for new snowcat road from RV Park to Brew alpine with cooperation of CCF. CCF submitted comments to province suggesting snowcat road could use existing bridge/road, and that layout goes through draft Old Growth Management Area. Also that gladed skiing proposal needs more information provided. Sounds like logging. Haven't heard back from province or proponent.

4. CCF Proposed 2015 Harvesting

Presentation by Tom Cole, Richmond Plywood

No new compartments on 2015 plan, same areas as 2014. Harvested 21,872.4m3 in 2014.

Discussion re: CCF's ability to supervise contractors on the ground for quality control. Responsibility is shared between RichPly and Jeff Fisher.

2015 Proposed Harvesting

A01, Units A, E, G

No problems noted by FWAC. Good riparian corridor. Coarse visual assessment from WOP with Lindsay Dourno indicates blocks will not be visible.

A01, Units Q, R

Unit 5 is 4.5 ha. Larger than silviculture plan recommends because creek constraints leave a shape that if reduced in size would abandon wood. Compensated by moving to higher retention. These units are the last sites in A01 until the Cultural Management Area plan is completed by Squamish Nation.

Brew01, Units J, K, L

Check that opening K doesn't overlap OGMA. Lower units were broken up as requested but K is still too big. RichPly replied that too expensive to open road and make K smaller. Cutting off part of K effectively abandons the wood, it won't be harvested at a later time. Logging will attempt to leave more understory.

Rainbow04

First proposed in 2014. Needs BC Hydro to participate in re-opening road. Area cut in 1968-69, then broadcast burned. RichPly suggesting fuel thinning combined with natural rocky openings to form a fuel break. CCF asked Blackwell & Associates to give a price to re-run the model to validate Forest Stewardship Plan's interface units.

Wedge02, Units B, C, D

Unit A logged in 2013. Unit C is high retention to meet spotted owl objectives. Road system layout and development is in discussion with Lil'wat as the run-of-river project proponents. A Northern Goshawk nest was identified and set aside at edge of block. Road building and harvesting are restricted until after August 15 for nesting window. CCF needs confirmation that run-of-river project going ahead, otherwise it will be 2016. An OGMA combined with EBM reserve was placed over more of the trail system to protect the recreation values. Culverts on Rethel Creek were washed out in the December deluge and CCF is gathering partners to share in a more permanent crossing solution.

Wedge08, Units Cii-vii

Wedgemount IPP already upgraded the roads. Goal is to meet spotted owl management. Moderate retention. Trees are 45 year old range. FWAC expressed concern that this proposal is contrary to silviculture strategy which states trees must be at least 100 years old to maximize volume. Cutting at younger age means volume recovered is lower resulting in a larger area needing to be cut to achieve volume.

Wedgemount subdivision owners are considering fuel management in beetle killed forest next to their property.

Discussion re: how the Cheakamus Valley logging moratorium is placing pressure on CCF to harvest in areas like Wedge08 C. RMOW is requesting

a longer term harvesting & land management plan to be developed before the moratorium is lifted. RichPly identified that a barrier is being able to quantify intensity and duration of each logging proposal, as well as identifying spatial and temporal harvesting options.

Discussion re: difficulty with balancing public pressure to harvest in areas that aren't old growth, need to meet AAC, biodiversity impacts. RichPly suggested that harvesting Wedge08 C isn't detrimental because the effects are reduced when blended into overall harvesting plan.

MOTION: FWAC encourages the quick development of a long-term plan because the Cheakamus Valley moratorium places pressure on rest of CCF in contravention of the EBM and silviculture plans.

Moved by Peter Ackhurst
Seconded by John Hammons

Discussion: Suggestion to not support harvesting in Wedge08 C units. A further suggestion to allow it as a pilot project for one year was not supported. RichPly noted that biodiversity doesn't play a strong role until after trees are 100 years old and that trees left behind here will stay forever to meet spotted owl objectives.

MOTION: FWAC does not support Wedge08 Cvii-vii proposal because it contravenes the silviculture strategy.

Vote:
4 support the motion
2 oppose the motion
MOTION passed.

Powder07 – 2015 Road Construction

One kilometer of new road construction from Dority Creek to end of P07 Unit H. FWAC expressed no concerns.

Rainbow05 – Callaghan Fuel Management

Work started in December 2014. Propose 6 ha for 2015.

Conclusion: FWAC supports the proposed 2015 CCF harvesting plan as presented except for Wedge 08 Cii-vii.

Discussion re: FWAC 2014 Annual Report. RichPly wants to identify which issues are still outstanding and will create a list.

Issues:

- Low retention comments – RichPly reminds FWAC to consider need for not abandoning wood and hopes FWAC saw improvement in 2014. FWAC notes that some initial assessments of 2014 logging have found adherence to retention goals is inconsistent. E.g. B02.
- Inconsistencies with planned vs. as-built polygons submitted to Results database. This has been resolved by GPS traversing all openings.

- Road management – RichPly recommended to the CCF Board that a road policy be developed that includes commercial operators. Would provide guidance for long term access.

OTHER BUSINESS

CCF open house article in Whistler Question

- Article was unbalanced and focused on old growth harvesting. Failed to include that CCF substantially exceeds OG retention prescribed by MOF regulations. Suggestion that CCF BOD could respond with a letter to editor, increase public education and communications, and/or prepare an access management plan.

Future Agenda Items:

- Approve final harvest plan and forward to CCF Board (March)
- Develop list of priorities from Hiking Trails Task Force memo (April)
- Committee administration (TOR, goals/priorities) (April)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Peter Ackhurst

Seconded by Rob Davis

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the February 11, 2015 meeting at 4:58 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Gordon McKeever