



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, April 8, 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: 4

Gordon McKeever, Chair	4
John Hammons, M-A-L	4
Steve Anderson, Councilor	2
Johnny Mikes, M-A-L	3
Craig Mackenzie, WORCA (joined in March)	2
Bryce Leigh, AWARE	2
Candace Rose-Taylor, M-A-L	3

#### REGRETS:

Bob Brett, M-A-L	0
Rob Davis, M-A-L	2
Peter Ackhurst, M-A-L	1
Arthur DeJong, M-A-L (joined in April)	
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	4

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Candace Rose-Taylor

Seconded by Johnny Mikes

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda of April 8, 2015 with the addition to New Business of a motion related to the Hiking Trails Brief.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by John Hammons

Seconded by Craig Mackenzie

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of March 11, 2015.

CARRIED

## **VERBAL REPORTS**

### **3. Updates**

#### **Council:**

- Councillor Anderson spoke with WB re: Singing Pass trail access. FWAC discussed that access is preferred from Blackcomb side and barriers could be overcome. Add topic to future FWAC agenda for further discussion/new recommendation.

#### **AWARE:**

- Callaghan paved road has a lot of litter.  
ACTION: H. Beresford will check with Solid Waste Manager regarding maintenance responsibilities.

#### **WORCA:**

- Nothing to report.

#### **RMOW:**

- Wildfire Management:
  - Millar's Pond fuel thinning started on April 7. Burning piles in place.
  - Callaghan landscape fuel breaks – clean up work taking place. Applying to Federal Gas Tax to do blocks along FSR to RMOW boundary.
  - Arthur DeJong chosen by Council as new Member at Large to replace Kurt Mueller.
  - Trail Planning Working Group meeting on April 16. RMOW recently learning about grizzly bear activity in area. Will be including in planning process and communications.

#### **Cheakamus Community Forest:**

- Carbon project – Offset Purchase Agreement drafted. Final step in project approval.
- Integrated Mapping Project continuing with goal to have a multi-year (3-5 years) plan completed by autumn.
- Board meeting April 15, 2015
- Richmond Plywood has reorganized and no longer harvesting timber. RichPly ended its relationship with CCF and let Tom Cole (and others) go.

**MOTION:** FWAC thanks Tom Cole for his cooperation and responsiveness to FWAC's feedback over the years.

- AWARE rep will install Edna Creek no motorized access signs.

### **4. FWAC 2015 Goals and Terms of Reference**

Review Terms of Reference and goals for 2015.

Reviewed the 2015 goals proposed at January meeting.

Recommended changes to Terms of Reference:

- Annual calendar revisions: review members attendance against TOR in October. Advertise for new members to start in January. Replace mid-year resignations ASAP. Remove Tom Cole's name from calendar and replace with forest manager.
- Term – concern that turning over 3 members each year will disrupt learning and experience level of committee.
- Add "old" in front of Soo, Whistler and Callaghan LUs.
- Move February items to November, and March to January
- October field trip before October meeting
- CCF harvesting plans to FWAC in November

**ACTION:** H. Beresford bring draft TOR revisions and make table showing current members' start dates to May meeting.

#### 2015 Goals

- Work with CCF to move public review of harvesting plans to autumn.
- Consider what kind of forest we're growing. More focus on wildlife habitat and reforestation.
- Of 3 priorities from January meeting, access is important. FWAC should review roads to recommend future status. FWAC attempted access management plan in past but proved to be too big a project. Add to May meeting agenda.

## 5. Callaghan Fuel Management

Discussion lead by Heather Beresford.

CCF completing clean-up of December 2014 units (Pond and C3) by burning. Will be complete in 2 weeks.

RMOW has budget to continue work on Callaghan in fall 2014, but applying to Federal Gas Tax fund to be able to do all 5 identified blocks up to municipal boundary. Met Allan Crawford on site and he has no objections to proposed plans.

See attached map, Appendix 2.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion lead by John Hammons. Final proposed recommendation from Hiking Trails Task Force brief that wasn't resolved at March meeting. Consolidated recommendations attached as Appendix 1.

Discussion: Road priorities. Hiking group feels this is the priority road access to improve. If accepted by RMOW, 2015 may already be allocated. Concern that these recommendations (including March) are premature and FWAC should have bigger access discussion in order to present overall plan and recommendations to Council.

### Recommendation to Council:

**Road Access to Trailhead.** FWAC recommends that the RMOW allocate some of the alpine hiking trail budget to retain the CCF or similar contractor to undertake an investigation into the feasibility, design and cost of

upgrading the existing rough 4WD access road to the 19 Mile Creek Bridge on the Flank Trail to an appropriate forest recreation road standard; establishment of a new trailhead for the Don MacLaurin Skywalk trail in the vicinity of the 19 Mile Creek Bridge; and upgrading the very rough 4WD to the existing trailhead on far East end of the Flank trail from the existing Ancient Cedars parking lot to provide a second access to Don MacLaurin Skywalk trail.

Moved by John Hammons  
Seconded by Craig Mackenzie

Spring Field Trip

- FWAC prefers last week of May. H. Beresford send out Doodle poll to confirm date. Confirm a guide.

**Future Agenda Items:**

- May – Access Management, Singing Pass trail access
- TBD - MOF Visual Quality Objectives (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- TBD -MOF Fire Management Plan (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- May – Field Trip

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Johnny Mikes  
Seconded by Gordon McKeever

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the April 8, 2015 meeting at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED

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CHAIR: Gordon McKeever

## **Appendix 1**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL**

#### **Consolidated Hiking Trails Brief Resolutions (as amended and approved by FWAC at March and April meetings)**

##### **Gates:**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends that an appropriate RMOW staff member be assigned to work with the appropriate RMOW departments and outside agencies to move or remove gates that are limiting access to trailheads. The gate on the Cheakamus Westside Main to The Black Tusk (upper Jane Lakes Trailhead) should be a first priority and should be either removed or relocated above the upper Jane Lakes Trailhead.

##### **Singing Pass Trail Access:**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends that the RMOW formally request that B.C. Parks implement, as soon as possible, the provisions for establishing a new Singing Pass Trailhead (as stipulated in the February 2014 Management plan for Northern Garibaldi Provincial Park), parking lot and bridge on north side of Fitzsimmons Creek through the Innergex site.

##### **Commercial Recreation Tenure Holders**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends that the RMOW request that Rec Sites and Trails BC hold an annual CRT workshop to ensure that the interest of CRT holders and the general recreation community are harmonized. This would involve the major CRT holders, the CCF and other recreation stakeholders including the RMOW.

##### **Stakeholder Meetings**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends a regular, possibly annual, facilitated dialogue with all stakeholders regarding backcountry access to discuss and resolve topics such as access, commercial recreation tenure plans, public recreation, road and trail maintenance.

##### **Access Road Maintenance**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends that RMOW and CCF connect with partners to facilitate establishment of collective funding for backcountry road maintenance to identified trail heads.

##### **Hiking Trail Designations**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends that the RMOW formally request that RSTBC designate the Upper 19 Mile Creek trail, the Skywalk trails and the Rainbow Lake/Madley trails for hiking use only along with appropriate wooden barriers and signage.

##### **Road Access to Trailhead**

**RECOMMENDATION:** FWAC recommends that the RMOW allocate some of the alpine hiking trail budget to retain the CCF or similar contractor to undertake an investigation into the feasibility, design and cost of upgrading the existing rough 4WD access road to the 19 Mile

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Creek Bridge on the Flank Trail to an appropriate forest recreation road standard; establishment of a new trailhead for the Don MacLaurin Skywalk trail in the vicinity of the 19 Mile Creek Bridge; and upgrading the very rough 4WD to the existing trailhead on far East end of the Flank trail from the existing Ancient Cedars parking lot to provide a second access to Don MacLaurin Skywalk trail.

Appendix 2  
Proposed 2015 Callaghan Fuel Thinning Units

