



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, May 13, 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: 5

Gordon McKeever, Chair	5
John Hammons, M-A-L	5
Steve Anderson, Councilor	3
Johnny Mikes, M-A-L	4
Arthur DeJong, M-A-L (joined in April)	1
Rob Davis, M-A-L	3
Bryce Leigh, AWARE	3
Peter Ackhurst, M-A-L	2

REGRETS:

Bob Brett, M-A-L	0
Craig Mackenzie, WORCA (joined in March)	2
Candace Rose-Taylor, M-A-L	3

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	4
--	---

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Johnny Mikes
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda of May 13, 2015.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by John Hammons
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes of April 8, 2015.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

Welcome to new member, Arthur DeJong.

Bob Brett submitted his resignation. FWAC thanks Bob for his many years on the committee and the perspective he brought.

3. Updates

Council:

At the April 28 council meeting, Councillor Anderson commented on the FWAC hiking trail recommendations. He stated that the recommendations were accepted for consideration except the recommendation to do a feasibility study on the 19 Mile Creek access from Alpine Meadows and the east end of the Flank trail.

AWARE:

AWARE concerned that the motorcycle event was allowed at the WSSF given climate change concerns. Given that greenhouse gas emissions largely due to burning fossil fuels are a significant source of climate change, for Whistler to promote and condone pollution for pleasure activities such as moto-cross and snowmobiling is extremely disturbing. Recommend WSSF stay non-motorized as it has been in previous years.

WORCA:

Although there was no WORCA report, FWAC did discuss the letter that WORCA submitted to the May 12 Council Meeting: Consolidated Hiking Trails Brief Resolutions File No. 8221.03 Correspondence from Emily Mann, Whistler Off Road Cycling Association (WORCA) Planning Director, dated April 24, 2015, regarding opposition to one of the seven recommendations made to Council as part of the Consolidated Hiking Trails Brief Resolutions passed at the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee meeting in April 2015.

FWAC wants to clarify the resolution. It suggested upgrading the two forest access roads mentioned to a standard similar to the present Ancient Cedars access road. Based on road construction costs experienced on the CCF, it is suggested that the order of magnitude cost should be significantly less than suggested in the WORCA letter.

RMOW:

Wildfire Management:

Millar's Pond fuel thinning started on April 7. Burning piles in place. Callaghan landscape fuel breaks – clean up work completed. Will continue further up the road in the fall.

4. FWAC 2015 Goals and Terms of Reference

Cheakamus Community Forest:

Carbon project – Offset Purchase Agreement signed and information released to public. Project based on pre- and post-CCF harvest volumes.

Integrated Mapping Project continuing with goal to have a multi-year (3-5 years) plan completed by autumn.
Tom Cole hired on contract by CCF to manage harvesting operations.
FWAC field trip set for May 25 – site visits to Wedge08 and Millar’s Pond fuel thinning project.

Review Terms of Reference and goals for 2015.

Recommended changes to Terms of Reference:
Clarify that Councilor can vote.
Term wording revised.
Staff to check if FWAC can make presentations directly to Council.
MOTION: FWAC accepts suggested changes to TOR (attached).

Moved by Rob Davis
Seconded by Peter Ackhurst

ACTION: H. Beresford to prepare administration report for Council decision on changes to Terms of Reference.

2015 FWAC Goals

Goals discussed at April meeting. J. Hammons submitted a further goal by follow-up email:

EBM Reserves: Identification of EBM reserves represents a major, long-term strategic undertaking for the CCF. As Whistler’s CCF community advisory group, FWAC should allocate significant time to reviewing and if necessary, suggesting appropriate improvements to any proposed set of reserves. Additional suggested goal: “FWAC will become engaged in the CCF EBM reserve initiative”.

Discussion: FWAC will form a subcommittee to review development of EBM reserves as part of the integrated resource management planning project. The overall goal of the project is to identify areas available for harvest, areas requiring additional public involvement and planning (EBM Reserves), and old growth management areas (OGMA). John Hammons, Johnny Mikes and Rob Davis will form the subcommittee. CCF will be able to provide draft in late June. Add subcommittee report to September agenda.

5. Access Management Planning

MOTION: FWAC approves the 2015 FWAC Goals as stated earlier with the above suggested amendment and the formation of a subcommittee to review the proposed EBM reserves.

Moved by Johnny Mikes
Seconded by John Hammons

Chairman McKeever noted time at 4:00 p.m. Advised FWAC to choose between discussion of 2015 priorities or access management planning due to lack of time. FWAC chose access management planning.

Discussion re: past attempts of FWAC to complete an access management plan. Issues with time required, ability to coordinate with multiple stakeholders, FWAC over-reaching its mandate and resources, agency cooperation on implementation. What is FWAC trying to achieve? Who will use such a plan? Noted that CCF completed a road atlas map identifying road, status, and who is responsible.

FWAC will focus on guidelines, process, and principles for determining appropriate access.

Phase I: to create a list of criteria by end of 2015. Next step will be to share it with other agencies if appropriate.

ACTION: Staff send out email requesting ideas for principles and criteria before June meeting.

FWAC Annual Calendar reviewed. Suggested changes from April accepted.

CCF Annual report scheduled for July. H. Beresford will provide draft for review.

OTHER BUSINESS

G. McKeever led presentation regarding Sea to Sky Marine Trail.

Future Agenda Items:

- June: Access Management Planning Principles; Field Trip Review; Whistler Blackcomb update
- July – CCF Annual Report
- September - CCF Integrated Resource Mapping project (FWAC subcommittee report & discussion)
- October - CCF Integrated Resource Mapping project & multi-year plan (CCF representative)
- Spearhead Traverse Project Update
- MOF Visual Quality Objectives (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- MOF Fire Management Plan (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)

ADJOURNMENT

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the May 13, 2015 meeting at 5:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Appendix 1

DRAFT FWAC Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference

To advise Council proactively on matters related to sustainable land use of forests, waters, and wildlands in the previous Soo, Whistler and Callaghan landscape units, such as:

- (a) Issues related to wildfire risk management and forest health;
- (b) Issues related to wildlife and its habitat;
- (c) Issues related to the implementation of the Sea to Sky Land and Resource Management Plan;
- (d) Issues related to other regional land management plans, land use plans and regional growth strategies;
- (e) Issues related to public and commercial recreation in Whistler-area forests and wildlands;
- (f) Cheakamus Community Forest activities.

Authorized and Appointed by Council.

Comprised Of

Voting members: Eleven community representatives, including at least one Councillor, representing a wide range of community interests including forestry, back country recreation, environment, horticulture/landscape, natural resource management, biology/ecology, and fisheries. One seat is assigned to a representative of the Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE) and one seat is assigned to a representative of the Whistler Off-Road Cycling Association (WORCA). A maximum of two non-voting staff representatives: one representative from Environmental Stewardship department; and an Administrative Assistant for minute-taking.

Sub-Committees

The Committee may convene sub-committees to deal with specific issues and invited participants are not required to be members of the Committee.

Term

Membership will be reviewed each year in October. Available positions will be advertised by the RMOW in November. If a position becomes available during the year, an advertisement will be placed. Council will review the application(s) and choose the required new member(s) for the earliest meeting start date.

Chair

A chair and an alternate are chosen from among the community representatives at the first meeting of each calendar year. Both remain full voting members.

Recording Secretary

To be arranged by the RMOW staff representative. Minutes submitted monthly to Council.

Meetings

Once monthly, on the second Wednesday, with additional meetings as required.

Quorum

Consists of three community representatives.

MINUTES

Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting

May 13, 2015

Page 6

Communications

FWAC typically communicates with Council through its monthly meeting minutes except when it has specific recommendations that it wants to make that would be best done in a presentation format. In this circumstance, a request will be made to Legislative Services for a meeting. In addition, due to FWAC's role as the public input body for the CCF, comments will be communicated directly to the CCF and CCF operating contractor with the knowledge of the CCF RMOW board member to facilitate timely resolution of forest harvesting issues. A summary record of such communications will be included in the FWAC meeting minutes.

Expectations

All members are expected to:

- to attend a minimum of 50% of regular monthly meetings each year to maintain membership eligibility;
- to review distributed material before the meeting and to keep up to date on issues;
- RSVP to RMOW staff if they are not able to attend the meeting.