



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, March 9, 2016, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

File: 8221.03

Name	Meetings to Date: 3
Present:	
Gordon McKeever, Chair	3
Arthur DeJong	3
Johnny Mikes	3
Craig Mackenzie, WORCA	3
Claire Ruddy (AWARE)	2
Rob Davis	1
Candace Rose-Taylor	2
John Hammons	2
Regrets:	
Peter Ackhurst	1
Steve Anderson, Councillor	2
Derek Bonin	2
Bryce Leigh (AWARE)	1
Recording Secretary	
Heather Beresford, RMOW	3

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by John Hammons
Seconded by Candace Rose-Taylor

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for March 9, 2016

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Johnny Mikes
Seconded by Arthur DeJong

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for February 10, 2016.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

3. Updates

Council:

Chair raised topic of new Terms of Reference passed by Council March 1. Membership term is an initial three year term that becomes renewable annually to a maximum of six years at Council's discretion.

Current membership status:

Name	Start Date	Max End Date (6 years)
Peter Ackhurst	1990s	2016
John Hammons	1990s	2016
Gordon McKeever	2002 November	2016
Bryce Leigh	2008 February	2016
Rob Davis	2009 September	2016
Johnny Mikes	2012 August	2018 August
Steve Anderson	2014 November	2018 November
Candace Rose-Taylor	2013 April	2019 April
Craig Mackenzie	2015 March	2021 March
Arthur DeJong	2015 April	2021 April
Derek Bonin	2015 July	2021 July

Members retiring in 2016:

- John Hammons, Peter Ackhurst (RPFs)
- Bryce Leigh (AWARE) replaced in March 2016 by Claire Ruddy
- Gordon McKeever and Rob Davis at year end

ACTION: H. Beresford to advertise for 2 positions immediately with a preference for people with forestry experience. Advertise other 2 positions in October.

FWAC also discussed benefit of the same person being the CCF Board member and FWAC Council appointee. Opportunity to improve communications and understanding.

AWARE:

AWARE replaced Bryce Leigh with Claire Ruddy.

WORCA:

N/A

RMOW:

- FWAC Terms of Reference amendments passed on March 1 by Council.
- Callaghan fuel thinning project being completed. CCF met with CWA again on March 4 to discuss.
- Brio fuel thinning project scheduled to begin May 1.

- Rotary Club applying to CFOW for WIF sign funds.
- Trail Planning Working Group meeting on April 16.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

Cheakamus 16 logging scheduled to start in late March.

Board of Directors meeting held February 22.

4. Access Management Principles

Reviewed Draft 5 distributed prior to meeting.

- Add WB and BC Parks to preamble paragraph
- Add public safety (wildfire) to goal
- Discussion re: how to define necessary and unnecessary roads. Suggested a strategic plan that prioritizes and balances values, and directs decisions.
- Discussion re: adding quality nature-based tourism experience as an outcome, and potential for conflict with priority roads decisions.
- Access is safe and enjoyable: added carrying capacity and cumulative effects wording
- Plan should capture categories of access, not specifics so that new forms of backcountry use won't be excluded in future.

MOTION: FWAC adopts the Access Management Planning Principles version 5 as revised above.

Moved by Craig Mackenzie

Seconded by Johnny Mikes

3:50 Rob Davis arrived

J. Mikes also drafted a cover letter addressed to Council and intended to accompany access management planning principles.

ACTION: Move the three recommendations to the FWAC March 9, 2016 minutes. Add modified body of letter to access management planning principles document.

ACTION: G. McKeever will revise the principles and letter as per comments today.

Recommendations to Council:

1. The RMOW adopt a set of goal(s) and principles based on FWAC's Access Management Planning Principles (attached). The process should include the RMOW convening conversations with staff and the appropriate "access-related" committees/entities (e.g. Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF), Trail Planning Working Group, Recreation & Leisure Advisory Committee, Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee).

It is recommended the RMOW initially focus on two access projects:

2. Provide input to the CCF's emerging access planning initiative. Implicit in this would be Whistler's input on measures to protect drinking water sources from inappropriate access, prioritizing affordable hiking and biking

trailhead access for residents and visitors, respecting existing access planning, etc.)

3. Develop an access management plan for the areas closest to Whistler's neighbourhoods from Cheakamus Crossing to Emerald Estates and adjacent to the Whistler Urban Containment Development Area (WUDCA).

MOTION: FWAC recommends that the RMOW implement the Access Management Planning Principles and recommendations.

Moved by John Hammons
Seconded by Arthur DeJong

5. CCF Long Term Plans FWAC reviewed the CCF's 1-3 year plan and the 4-10 year conceptual plan.

FWAC wants to review volume data of the 1-3 year plan.

MOTION: FWAC commends CCF on completing the long term operational plan and encourages it to update the plans regularly.

Moved by Johnny Mikes
Seconded by Rob Davis

FWAC will engage with CCF on access planning. Long terms plans clearly link to FWAC's access management planning principles. Add to preamble.

Confirm with T. Cole that CCF accepted changing Cheakamus 16 (e) to moderate retention.

6. Spearhead Traverse Project Update

See February 24, 2016 Pique article
<http://www.piquenewsmagazine.com/whistler/green-lighting-spearhead-huts-many-years-overdue/Content?oid=2749408>

- BC Parks approval received.
- Russet Lake hut opening in 2018
- RMOW providing \$150,000 in 2017 to support Russet Lake cabin construction. See 2016 Budget information:
https://www.whistler.ca/sites/default/files/related/project_list_community_meeting_feb_23_v3.pdf. Project A058, Spearhead Hut Project Support
- FWAC discussed preference for RMOW budget contribution to be directed to specific, nature-based values of the project, e.g. waste management, environmental improvements
- Discussed importance of project managers monitoring for effects on and use of alpine trails. Establish baseline conditions and monitor.

7. MOF Visual Quality Objectives and Wildfire Management Projects

Frank DeGagne, MOF, provided the following update by email:

Visual Quality Objectives:

- The visuals project is waiting on the regional resource staff to fill in the gaps to complete the inventory. Once a draft inventory (VQO polygons and recommended VQOs) for Callaghan is done (this will be new inventory), Frank DeGagne can provide it for the committee's review. Timing is uncertain due to resource constraints.

Fire Management Planning:

- Frank DeGagne is not the lead. He does have a contract to conduct about 20 plots to verify coastal fuel types on Crown land around the small communities in the regional district (excluding municipal areas). Expecting to do some level of public engagement at a later date.

OTHER BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items:

- Landscape Fuel Management model update (April)
- MOF Visual Quality Objectives (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- MOF Fire Management Plan (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- Determine date of spring field trip (April)

ADJOURNMENT

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the March 9, 2016 meeting at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED



CHAIR: Gordon McKeever