



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, June 8, 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: 5
Present:	
Rob Davis, Chair	3
Arthur DeJong	5
Derek Bonin	4
John Hammons	3
Craig Mackenzie, WORCA	4
Trevor Burton (started in June)	1
Johnny Mikes	4
Regrets:	
Steve Anderson, Councillor	2
Gordon McKeever, Chair	4
Claire Ruddy (AWARE - March)	2
Candace Rose-Taylor	3
Recording Secretary	
Heather Beresford, RMOW	5

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Mackenzie
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for June 8, 2016.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by R. Davis
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for May 11, 2016.

CARRIED

VERBAL REPORTS

3. Updates

Council: N/A

AWARE: N/A

WORCA:

Emerald trails access cut off by private landowner.

WB experiencing unauthorized trail construction. Working with WORCA and RMOW to resolve through information sharing and application process.

RMOW:

Callaghan fuel thinning project wrapping up

Brio fuel thinning underway (May – June)

Blackwell & Associates preparing comprehensive wildfire management strategy

Cheakamus Community Forest:

Cheakamus 16 harvesting underway

Access Management Planning meeting on June 14

4. CR62 Crown Referral

Presentation by Tracy Napier, RMOW Planner

RMOW received crown land referral for access to private land adjacent to Blackcomb Snowmobile (BS) base area.

Discussion: Proposed access is a new driveway that joins the Brandywine FSR 8079. Note that it the Brandywine FSR is unplowed in winter and used by agreement as a maintained snowmobile trail. RMOW planner noted application includes large storage shed for snowmobiles. FWAC discussed the Cheakamus Community Forest's alternate access proposal either through BS base or by re-opening the decommissioned Brandywine road branch. It's a minor loss to THLB and creates further habitat fragmentation.

MOTION: That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee recommends that Council direct staff to provide the following comments to the referral:

- FWAC does not support the primary proposed access because by previous agreement with Recreation Sites & Trails BC, Brandywine FSR 8079 020 is unplowed in the winter to facilitate snowmobile access to the alpine.
- FWAC supports the proponent's alternate access route using Blackcomb Snowmobile base access
- FWAC does not support re-opening the decommissioned Brandywine FSR 8079 010 and spur to public snowmobile parking lot.
- FWAC supports access with the shortest distance/least amount of road in order to minimize habitat destruction, fragmentation, and impacts to Cheakamus Community Forest's Timber Harvesting Land Base.

- The access for the site can only be used for residential purposes, not to provide access to a future commercial venture on the site.
- If Highway 99 access is gained in the future, access from the north side of the property should be extinguished and remediated.

Moved by J. Hammons
Seconded by J. Mikes

CARRIED

Presentation by Arthur DeJong

5. Annual Whistler Blackcomb Update

Renaissance proposal updates and adds amenities that are not currently in the WB master plan, and is not approved yet. Purpose is to provide diversified, family-friendly, weather-proof activities.

Master Plan proposals:

Horstman glacier snowmaking project was not successful. Winds were a problem. WB considering improving access between Horstman Glacier and 7th Heaven.

Lift improvements proposed to increase service in upper elevations

Whistler Mountain – enhanced access from south and west sides.

No timelines attached to any of these proposals.

Renaissance:

Waterpark is the anchor, located between Lots 7 & 8.

WB is cognizant of footprint, traffic and employee housing issues

Mid-Olympic bench improvements for beginners

Improvements to summer on-mountain amenities

Discussion: Request that WB consider snowmaking on lower Crystal Chair. WB has a portion of the necessary bed units and rest to be determined with RMOW.

6. Singing Pass Trail Update

Presentation by John Hammons, Alpine Club Canada, Whistler Chapter

ACC working with other agencies & stakeholders to re-establish Singing Pass Trail access. Ministry has funds to build a new section of bypass trail around slide on existing trail as well as a new, more stable Harmony Creek crossing in 2016 or/or 2017. ACC wants new trailhead with parking at end of Blackcomb access road at IPP, and proposes coming through the sliding centre; this new trailhead would be connected to the existing Singing Pass Trail from there as well as new Spearhead trails. WB not in agreement due to public and fire safety concerns. Decision postponed until Spearhead trails established.

OTHER BUSINESS

Access management principles added to Council minutes and distributed to CCF Board

Cheakamus Lake access road and others need maintenance as they are heavily used by tourists.

MOTION: FWAC recommends the RMOW explore options with partners to improve forestry roads that are important tourism assets.

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by J. Hammons

CARRIED

Future Agenda Items:

- Draft Report on CCF 2015 Activities (July)
- MOF Visual Quality Objectives (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)
- MOF Fire Management Plan (confirm timelines with MoFLNRO)

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Mikes
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the June 8, 2016 meeting at 4:59 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: Rob Davis