

# MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2017, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.  
In the Flute Room  
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

File: 8221.03

Name	Meetings to Date: 9
<b>Present:</b>	
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	7
Council, John Grills	2
Member at Large, Derek Bonin	9
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	8
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	7
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	4
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	6
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	5
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	5
<b>Regrets:</b>	
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	5
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	4
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	
Heather Beresford	9

## Adoption of Agenda

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Bonin  
Seconded by J. Mikes

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for October 11, 2017.

CARRIED

## Adoption of Minutes

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Hellinga  
Seconded by J. Mikes

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for September 13, 2017.

CARRIED

## Verbal Reports

### AWARE

- Strategic planning

WORCA:

- Trail building/maintenance wrapping up for season
- Sproatt Mountain alpine trails
  - More signs planned
  - Mid-elevation loop almost complete between Into the Mystic and Lord of the Squirrels.
  - Discussion re: emergency shelters – WORCA/RMOW proposing small structures for emergency use only, not designed to support camping. SARS recommends such shelters.

*T. Burton arrived at 3:10 p.m.*

- 4,000 – 5,000 riders in first 2.5 months

*K. Bridge arrived at 3:13 p.m.*

- Jane Lakes trails: cleared trail to Jane Lake East in 2016; crew worked on west/SW side of Jane Lake in 2017; middle section scheduled for 2018.
- Discussion re: E-Bikes: WORCA considers e-bikes as motorized vehicles and need to be explicitly allowed on trails; province is developing e-bike policy

*M. Lowry arrived at 3:18 p.m.*

RMOW:

- Callaghan FSR, Wedge, Alpine Meadows and CCF#5 fuel thinning projects scheduled for autumn 2017
- Firesmart public program progressing.
- Trail Planning Working Group – meeting date not set yet
- 2018 Program: Cheakamus Lake Road, Kadenwood/Big Timber

Council:

- UBCM Conference: RMOW representatives met with various provincial staff and politicians including the Premier. Wildfire was a priority topic of discussion for attendees. Lessons learned from 2017 will be shared with communities. RMOW reps shared message that multi-year funding would improve delivery and cost-effectiveness of wildfire funding programs.
- Community Forum scheduled for November 2 with focus on housing; By-election on October 28.
- Trail Planning Working Group: both FWAC and WBAC recommended that a member from those committees be appointed to Trail Planning Working Group. Concern is that environmental and wildlife issues may not be adequately addressed. Discussion: RMOW senior staff has discussed the recommendations and feels

that existing TPWG members effectively represent the issues of concern. There is potential to change AWARE role from observer to a member. Staff will ensure that input from FWAC and WBAC is shared with TPWG members.

## Land Management Issues

Presentation by Sean Bickerton, FLNRO Natural Resource Officer (NRO), Compliance and Enforcement Branch regarding land management issues in the Whistler area.

- NRO staff manages 17 pieces of legislation
- Land Act Permission Policy is guiding document. States what's allowed or not allowed. Removes ambiguity. Doesn't apply within municipalities.
- 5 officers from Horseshoe Bay to D'Arcy, Lillooett
- 4 focus areas:
  - Environmental protection
  - Preventing Crown revenue loss
  - Recreation sites enforcement
  - Improving environmental health and safety
- NRO work collaboratively with other municipalities and agencies
- "Illegal camping" - camping is allowed for 14 days on Crown land as long as other legislation is not being violated. Officers will provide information first then monitor site use.
- Note that area north of Wedge informal camping area between highway and river is zoned SLRD Park. Consider developing it as an organized campground.
- Cal-Cheak and Wedge/Green River Crossing – both sites present problems and have been regularly monitored by RMOW Bylaw Services (Cal-Cheak) and NRO (Wedge) since 2016. Trespass notices issued and can be followed by a seizure notice. Campers are discouraged from returning after the 72 hours required absence.

### Discussion:

- Public can "Report a Natural Resource Violation" at <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/> or call the RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277
- Concern expressed regarding the fire risk from camping. NRO can evict people immediately if they are violating other legislation such as the Wildfire Act and campfire bans.
- Environmental Management Act can provide tool for NRO to manage litter but need to catch the person committing the act.
- Challenge of prioritizing number of complaints vs resources available. NRO prioritizes and collaborates with other agencies to increase response and coverage.

## RMOW Wildfire Management Program

A presentation by Heather Beresford, RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager, regarding the Wildfire Management Program.

Three focus areas:

- Wildfire Fuel Reduction Projects
- RMOW Policy and Process Improvements
- FireSmart Public Education and Support Program

### **Wildfire Fuel Reduction Projects:**

2017 Fuel Thinning Projects:

- Brio completed
- Alpine Meadows & CCF5 (Cemetery) scheduled for October
  - \$400,000 UBCM funds & \$290,000 RMOW funds
- Callaghan FRS scheduled for October/November
  - \$388,850 Forest Enhancement Society funds
  - \$130,000 RMOW funds

Future Fuel Thinning Projects:

- Cheakamus Lake Road (2018/19)
- Kadenwood/Big Timber area (2018)
- Rainbow (Block 1, CCF3 & 4) (2019)

### **RMOW Policy and Process Improvements:**

- Wildfire Working Group – cross departmental, meets monthly, coordinates internal projects. E.g. critical infrastructure fuel thinning and GIS mapping to reduce fire risk, improve emergency planning and tactical response

### **FireSmart Public Education and Support Program:**

- FireSmart Assessment (FSA) reports (25 stratas representing over 825 units + 6 private home owners)
- FireSmart Community Chipper Days (3)
- FireSmart Coordinator inclusion in strata property AGMs and work days
- Tax guide inclusion
- Builder's Information package inclusion
- Municipal building and landscape policy draft
- Whistler Secondary School FireSmart classes and project
- Adopt-a-trail campaign
- Strengthening internal partnerships

Fire Prevention/Detection Measures

- Nighttime duty crew patrol 16 different locations
- High-risk construction activity in interface zone restricted for a majority of summer
- Weekly updates from Blackcomb Helicopter

- Public information provided on Forest Fire Hazard Advisory and Air Quality information
- Coordination with internal and external partners to coordinate fire detection and response

#### Other Business

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- October field trip – October 26.
- CCF Open House – October 27, 4:00 – 6:30 p.m. Whistler Library

#### **Future Agenda Items:**

- November – presentation by Tom Cole on CCF 2018 plans
- Whistler Interpretive Forest – discuss who is responsible make recommendation for future management.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by T. Hellinga

**That** the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the September 13, 2017 meeting at 4:59 p.m.

CARRIED

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CHAIR: C. Ruddy

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RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford