



WHISTLER

MINUTES

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

File: 8221.03

| Name | Meetings to Date: 1 |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Present: | |
| Member at Large, Derek Bonin | 1 |
| Member at Large, Arthur DeJong | 1 |
| Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor | 1 |
| WORCA, Todd Hellinga | 1 |
| Member at Large, Johnny Mikes | 1 |
| Member at Large, Trevor Burton | 1 |
| Member at Large, Colin Rankin | 1 |
| Regrets: | |
| AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair | 0 |
| Councillor Andree Janyk | 0 |
| Member at Large, Kathi Bridge | 0 |
| Member at Large, Mac Lowry | 0 |
| Recording Secretary | |
| Heather Beresford | 1 |

Adoption of Agenda

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Rose-Taylor
 Seconded by T. Hellinga

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for January 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 December 14, 2016.

CARRIED

Elect Chair

FWAC members nominated Claire Ruddy to act as Chair through 2017. C. Ruddy accepted the nomination.

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by J. Mikes

That Claire Ruddy serve as FWAC Chair for 2017.

CARRIED

Verbal Reports

Council:

- N/A

AWARE:

- N/A

WORCA:

- Submitted Whistler Interpretive Forest trail development proposal to Cheakamus Community Forest
- Open house scheduled for February

RMOW:

- Brio fuel thinning project proposals received.
- Blackwell & Associates finalizing a draft Wildfire Protection Strategy. Will be presented to Council January 24.
- UBCM funding application being prepared for Alpine Meadows area.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Winter logging in W08.

F. DeGagne arrived at 3:28 p.m.

Sea to Sky Visual Quality Objectives

Presentation by Frank DeGagne, RPF, Land and Resource Specialist, Sea to Sky Natural Resource District, MFLNRO.

MFLNRO currently undertaking Visuals Landscape Inventory update for the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District. The review process is largely a re-inventory of 2006 visual landscape inventory along Highway 99 with addition of 2015 inventory of Callaghan Road.

License owners and the Forest Management Leadership Team were notified to review and comment on the draft update to the scenic area polygons and visual quality objectives (VQO) for the Sea to Sky Natural Resource District by January 31, 2017. A 60 day public comment period will follow.

Maps and GIS data are here:

ftp://ftp.for.gov.bc.ca/DSQ/external!/publish/Visuals/Draft_SeatoSky_ScenicAr

Discussion: VQO only apply to forestry activities, but FLNRO requests other proponents follow VQO but there is no legal obligation to do so. The current update is focusing on design to achieve Partial Retention VQO. Ecosystem-based Management approach by default largely meets the recommended VQO. In general, VQO are more restrictive around Whistler.

Forest & Range Practices Act moves the responsibility to forest professionals and proponents to meet the VQO. FLNRNO conducts random sampling to check for compliance, and will respond to complaints.

Draft VQO maps were reviewed.

Next steps: CCF completing its comments for the January 27 deadline and will share with FWAC. Add to FWAC March agenda for review and comments.

F. DeGagne left at 4:15 p.m.

CCF 2017 Harvesting
Plans

Discussion regarding consolidating comments on CCF 2017 harvesting plans.

FWAC reviewed plans at November and December meeting. Consolidated draft comments circulated by email before January meeting.

Further comments to be added to consolidated comments document:

- Logging 2nd growth stands provide an opportunity to implement commercial thinning that can reduce forest fuels and potential fire hazards. Small cable yarding methods have a minimal environmental footprint.
- Recommend conducting a GIS based terrain stability mapping to guide harvest planning. The mapping can identify where slope stability and erosion concerns exist, and appropriate silviculture systems and logging methods can be implemented.
- One of the key benefits to the Whistler community from the CCF is to provide improved access for recreation.
- Powder 07: Concern expressed regarding unintended consequences that could possibly undermine the intent of any motorized/non-motorized backcountry sharing accords through the creation of new or reopening of old access.
- CCF should prioritize opportunities to harvest using existing roads rather than building new road.
- Terrain mapping information would help FWAC and public better understand proposed harvesting and its effects
- CCF needs to better integrate fuel management plans with harvesting plans.
- Focus on second growth, especially commercial thinning for wildfire management.

- Encourage CCF to provide longer term contracts to encourage operators to make equipment investments that facilitate harvesting smaller diameter second growth trees.

ACTION: Attach consolidated comments as Appendix A to minutes and distribute to CCF Board.

FWAC Priorities & Tasks

Discussion regarding FWAC priorities for 2017

Discussion: concern that FWAC may be discussing topics and providing recommendations that are not Council priorities.

Priorities for review:

- Wildfire management
- Access – need to articulate what FWAC can do to augment CCF and RMOW efforts on access management. FWAC could assist in identifying different types of access.
- Coordinated recreation infrastructure planning

Next steps: meet with RLAC and Trail Planning Working Group to discuss priorities.

ACTION: Subcommittee (J. Mikes, T. Hellinga, C. Rankin, T. Burton) to develop framework identifying FWAC objectives regarding access.

Other Business

OTHER BUSINESS

Future Agenda Items:

- February: review RMOW Wildfire Protection Strategy
- March: Visual Quality Objectives
- TBD: Presentation by Bob Cunneynworth, FLNRO Compliance and Enforcement Officer

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by A. DeJong

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the January 11, 2017 meeting at 5:05 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford

APPENDIX A

Consolidated FWAC Comments on 2017 Harvesting Plans

- Plans presented to FWAC by Tom Cole, Cheakamus Community Forest, at the November 9 and December 14, 2016 FWAC meetings.
- Comments are those recorded in the meeting minutes.

Comments organized to match Logging and Road Development areas shown on 2017 Road and Logging Development Plan Summary.

2017 Logging and Road Development Areas

Powder02:

- No specific comments

Rainbow04:

- No specific comments

Wedge02:

- Contractor will build road shortly at Wedge 02 area. First time attempting winter harvest operations.
- Discussion re: AWARE spotted some flagging tape that appeared to cross the Comfortably Numb trail.
 - ACTION: T. Cole will follow up to ensure harvest area is flagged correctly (i.e. not across trail and respecting specific no harvest zones).
- WORCA requested edges of harvesting be “feathered” to minimize visual impact to Comfortably Numb. T. Cole noted that Forest Stewardship Plan has objective to do modified harvesting near defined recreation elements. Moderate retention is planned and logging will not take place across the trail. Access road will be deactivated later.

Wedge08:

- No specific comments

CMA – A01 (G)

- No specific comments

CMA – A01 (A, E & G)

- No specific comments

CMA – A01 (Q & R)

- No specific comments

Fee01

- No specific comments

Powder07

- Motorized vs. non-motorized zones, commercial vs. public. Concern expressed regarding unintended consequences that could possibly undermine the intent of any

motorized/non-motorized backcountry sharing accords through the creation of new or reopening of old access.

Rainbow13

- Whistler Olympic Park, CWA areas. Harvesting planned for June 2017. Considering alternate access routes. CCF has yet to hear back from Whistler Olympic Park.

Cheakamus15

- Cheak-15 post-harvest access. Concerns about opening up too much access to Jane/Jake Lakes.

2017 Road Construction Plan for 2018 Logging Areas

Cheakamus02

- Cheak-02 "Road Ahead" program. Questions around visible cuts from various sightlines and potential impacts around the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood. T. Cole explained that benched, small openings would limit such potential impacts.
- Concern with plans to harvest Cheakamus 02 (CK02) above Highline trail. Very busy recreation area. T. Cole noted that there are no trails within CK02 and it's in the Timber Harvesting Land Base. CCF needs to do formal referral with WB because CK02 is in the CRA. Will access by opening an old road. CK02 was included in long range plans communicated previously.

Powder 07

- See above

Landscape Level Fuel Reduction Areas

Rainbow 04 & 06

West Interface

Cheakamus 01

- No specific comments

General Comments

- Discussion re: approach to long-term road planning in certain areas and how this relates to recreation access. T. Cole confirmed that harvest plans, timing and related roads are considered in the draft Access Management Plan. The drivers for locations and types of road are primarily industrial (i.e. forestry). Access can be restricted after harvesting if desired.
- Landscape level fuel reduction plans. FWAC members would benefit from overview of how wildfire reduction plans relate to CCF harvest plans.
- No feedback from December 7 open house.
- Suggest CCF update the 1-3 and 4-10 year plans regularly to keep community informed. Recommend putting all polygons on same map.
- CCF is managing visual quality for minimum of partial retention, meaning 5-7% disturbance on the landscape.

MINUTES

Regular Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting

January 11, 2017

Page 7

- Logging 2nd growth stands provide an opportunity to implement commercial thinning that can reduce forest fuels and potential fire hazards. Small cable yarding methods have a minimal environmental footprint.
- Recommend conducting a GIS based terrain stability mapping to guide harvest planning. The mapping can identify where slope stability and erosion concerns exist, and appropriate silviculture systems and logging methods can be implemented.
- One of the key benefits to the Whistler community from the CCF is to provide improved access for recreation.
- CCF should prioritize opportunities to harvest using existing roads rather than building new road.
- Terrain mapping information would help FWAC and public better understand proposed harvesting and its effects
- CCF needs to better integrate fuel management plans with harvesting plans.
- Focus on second growth, especially commercial thinning for wildfire management.
- Encourage CCF to provide longer term contracts to encourage operators to make equipment investments that facilitate harvesting smaller diameter second growth trees.