



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 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: 3
Present:	
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	2
Member at Large, Derek Bonin	3
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	3
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	3
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	2
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	2
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	2
Regrets:	
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	1
Councillor Andree Janyk	0
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	2
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	1
Recording Secretary	
Heather Beresford	3

Adoption of Agenda

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for March 8, 2017.

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Replace Priority 1 & 2 Treatment Areas map with same map showing entire legend.

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes as amended for January 11, 2017.

CARRIED

Verbal Reports

Council:

- N/A

AWARE:

- AGM March 1. Common themes: old growth protection; impact of trails/roads on habitat; species at risk; Callaghan Valley issues. Results feed into Board's strategic planning.
- Letter to Council from Al Whitney regarding logging in Wedge area. Public questions raised relating to old forest logging at March 7th council meeting.

WORCA:

- Open house March 2 at Forlise. WORCA providing opportunity to comment online.
- Discussion re: FWAC's role in reviewing the plans for unintended consequences against FWAC mandate.

ACTION: Invite T. Hellinga to present WORCA 10-year plan at April FWAC meeting.

RMOW:

- RFP out for Alpine Meadows/CCF5 fuel thinning project
- Brio site will be completed to prescription standard in spring
- RMOW received funding from Forest Enhancement Society for completion of Callaghan road fuel thinning
- RMOW and CCF to begin developing a Memorandum of Understanding for conducting fuel thinning on CCF tenure.
- RMOW Wildfire Protection Action Plan discussed

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by C. Ruddy

That FWAC commends RMOW on its commitment to reducing wildfire risk in t community and encourages it to do more.

K. Bridge arrived at 3:37 p.m.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Board of Directors meeting February 28

Presentation by Heather Beresford, RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager regarding FLNRO's Visual Quality Objectives update project.

Discussion:

- VQO objectives don't take change over time into account well

RMOW Wildfire Protection Strategy

- Originally viewpoints were oriented to highway, but now more viewpoints are considered. Positive change.
- Many polygons are designated for partial retention harvesting, but given the scenic and tourism values in the Whistler area, FLNRO should consider more polygons being designated for conservation or retention harvesting.
- Polygon 145 near Whistler Olympic Park (WOP) should be kept as a retention harvesting polygon to protect WOP values and scenic values of the Hanging Lake trail that passes through it.
- FWAC generally supportive of VQO designations proposed.

ACTION: send VQO comments to FLNRO.

Discussion re: A. Whitney letter

- Some concern that logging near Comfortably Numb trail is not in alignment with Whistler community values
- Acknowledge that CCF did share Wedge 02 plans with FWAC, WORCA and addressed the concerns expressed.
- Bigger issue is cutting old growth.
- Recommend that CCF address at its spring open house. Share the long term maps again.

Presentation by Access Management Plan (AMP) Subcommittee of J. Mikes, C. Rankin, T. Burton, C. Ruddy and D. Bonin.

Access Management
Plan Subcommittee

Discussion re: main areas of focus for FWAC should be the CCF road plan being shared as its access management plan, and development of an access management plan for the entire area.

Noted that RMOW, CCF and FLNRO are currently discussing road responsibilities and changes are forthcoming.

Discussion re: need to plan access to serve nature-based tourism, with accommodation for motorized recreation. Interest in Alpine Club Canada Whistler chapter, WORCA and RMOW trail plans. All need to be integrated.

FWAC recommends that RMOW develop an access management plan and hire a consultant to define project scope, and clarify goals and objectives.

FWAC comments on CCF AMP:

- AMP should be called a road plan given current focus
- CCF should consider other values beyond timber such as views, fish & wildlife and recreation in the plan
- Create separate section in the document for all actions and recommendations.

Other Business

OTHER BUSINESS

Fire Suppression capabilities in Whistler – A. DeJong

- Blackcomb Helicopters will have four helicopters in Whistler during the summer to react quickly to wildfires.

Commercial Thinning – D. Bonin

- The Commercial Thinning Guidebook was published during the Forest Practices Code era. A good reference document for planning and administering commercial thinning operations. Utilizing commercial thinning practices on second growth forests within the RMOW and the CCF will achieve many objectives (AAC, forest fuel reduction) and retain or enhance forest values (visual, biodiversity) that are important to Whistler. To implement such a program will require 3-5 year contracts to encourage contractors to invest in appropriate equipment suited to the stands and prescriptions.
<https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/publications/00007/ct0726.pdf>

Future Agenda Items:

- TBD: Presentation by Bob Cunneyworth, FLNRO Compliance and Enforcement Officer
- April: M. Pardoe, RMOW Parks Planner – RLAC & TPWG update; and T. Cole, FLNRO road review
- May: T. Hellinga, WORCA 10-year Plan; and ACC plans

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Mikes

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the March 8, 2017 meeting at 5:02 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford
