



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 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: 6
Present:	
Member at Large, Derek Bonin	6
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	4
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	5
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	5
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	4
Councillor, Sue Maxwell	1
Regrets:	
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	2
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	2
Councillor Andree Janyk	1
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	4
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	4
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	3
Recording Secretary	
Heather Beresford	6

Adoption of Agenda

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by K. Bridge
Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for June 14, 2017.

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by K. Bridge

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee minutes for May 10, 2017.

CARRIED

Whistler Blackcomb
Update

Presentation by A. DeJong regarding Whistler Blackcomb plans and activities.

Key 2017 projects:

1. Whistler peak suspension bridge
 - 130 metre span from patrol hut to West peak
 - Engineering almost complete
2. Creekside mountain bike park development
 - Trail building has begun
 - Goals are to expand bike park system and make Creekside area more dynamic
3. Alpine Trail System
 - Improving alpine trail system particularly within 2km of lodge
 - Building ascent trail, Heartburn, from Blackcomb mid-station to Rendezvous. Scheduled to open in July.

Planning:

4. Lift expansion
 - Replace Emerald chair with 6-pack. Replace Catskiller chair with old Emerald chair and move base station lower
 - Mid-mountain needs more capacity
5. Horstman Glacier
 - Glacier is shrinking rapidly, more snowmaking will be added
 - Ridge line will be recontoured to maintain access
 - 7th Heaven may become a 6-pack chair
 - WB considering how to reposition alpine infrastructure to optimize operations post-glacier.

Discussion:

- Blackcomb Mountain terrain is very challenging to find more beginner training areas. Whistler Olympic bench had improvements recently to improve beginner training opportunities and experience.
- Stream sedimentation has been a problem in original bike park location, but Creekside trails will be bridging all stream crossings to reduce sedimentation and erosion. Trails will be mainly located between Franz's and Peak to Creek.
- WB not seeing a problem with riders going off the alpine trails. Rogue trails have been appearing in some forested areas. WB trail building staff presence may curtail this activity.
- Vail Resorts is still finalizing development decisions and future of 4-season amenities like the Watershed water park is uncertain at this time.

Verbal Reports

Council:

- CCF held open house June 5.
- Jane Lakes planning – MOF is decommissioning the access road in autumn 2017 and CCF will be harvesting nearby in future. Access will be improved as a result. CCF wants to open dialogue with community regarding future of Janes Lakes.
- Jane Lakes situation is another example of the need for the RMOW to facilitate the preparation of an overall access management plan as recommended by FWAC in its March 2017 minutes.
- Discussion regarding CCF's methods for capturing comments at community input events/meetings. Suggestion to record and post online. Attend meetings held by other groups like AWARE.

C. Rose-Taylor arrived at 3:35 p.m.

A. DeJong left at 3:38 p.m.

Moved by J. Mikes

Seconded by D. Bonin

That based on concerns over the future of the Jane Lakes as a result of improved access through road alterations and CCF harvesting, FWAC recommends that the RMOW convene a multi-stakeholder dialogue to determine the management approach for the Jane Lakes.

CARRIED

AWARE

- Step Into Nature program registration underway

Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative

- RMOW plans to erect two emergency shelters on Sproatt alpine trail system. Raises concerns for grizzly bear habitat fragmentation and potential for creating human-bear conflict.

WORCA:

- N/A

RMOW:

- Brio site will be completed by end of month
- Callaghan road and Wedge fuel thinning scheduled for autumn 2017
- RMOW and CCF developed a Memorandum of Understanding for conducting fuel thinning on CCF tenure.
- Firesmart public program progressing.

FWAC Field Trip Debrief Presentation by H. Beresford regarding the FWAC May 31 CCF field trip.

- Reviewed D. Bonin's comments on draft field trip memo. FWAC agreed to include the comments into the next version of the memo and distribute by email for comment
- FWAC requested opportunity to review full wildfire prescription before viewing operational thinning sites
- Discussion regarding importance and value of old growth, questioned reason for cutting old growth
- Discussion regarding fuel thinning densities. Suggestion that trees could be thinned more than was observed in Brio. Commercial thinning would remove three quarters of the trees and all merchantable wood would be sold. Could be a way to reduce costs and fire risk.

FWAC Annual CCF Report

- Combine autumn 2016 and May 31 field trip notes
- Circulate draft before July meeting and finalize at September meeting.

Future field trips

- View a site before harvesting takes place, compare before and after.

Whistler Interpretive
Forest Update

Presentation by D. Bonin regarding the Whistler Interpretive Forest.

- Rotary Club has spearheaded the "Don MacLaurin Whistler Interpretive Forest Sign Project" for a few years. Recognized that signs were in disrepair and needed updating.
- Rotary receives funding from Community Foundation of Whistler Environmental Legacy Fund, some funds/support from RMOW and CCF.
- Rotary views project as an opportunity to bring in other groups like CCF, First Nations and province to work cooperatively on the interpretive signs.

Other Business

OTHER BUSINESS

Schedule presentation by Bob Cunneyworth, FLNRO Compliance and Enforcement Officer for September

Future Agenda Items:

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ADJOURNMENT

Moved by J. Mikes

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the June 14, 2017 meeting at 4:58 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford