



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018 STARTING AT
3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

File: 8221.03

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

Adoption of Agenda

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by C. Rose-Taylor

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee agenda for January 10, 2018.

CARRIED

Adoption of Minutes

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Hellinga

Seconded by D. Bonin

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

CARRIED

Elect Chair & Alternate

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

That Derek Bonin serve as FWAC chair for 2018, and Claire Ruddy serve as alternate.

CARRIED

FWAC Members' Terms

Johnny Mikes – option to request one year term renewal set to expire November 2018. J. Mikes will make decision before February meeting.

Candace Rose-Taylor – accepted option to request one year term renewal set to expire November 2018.

Arthur DeJong – accepted option to request one year term renewal set to expire April 2019.

Derek Bonin – accepted option to request one year term renewal set to expire July 2019.

ACTION: H. Beresford present administrative report to Council requesting extensions as per FWAC Terms of Reference.

Verbal Reports

Council

- Welcome to new Council representative, Cathy Jewett
- Council adopted Guidelines for Evaluating Private Sector Employee Housing Proposals
- Garibaldi Way housing proposal being reviewed by staff
- Official Community Plan – refresh underway. Public meetings planned for spring. Whistler2020 status and inclusion discussed.

AWARE

- Destination BC is conducting a “destination development” survey for the Sea to Sky corridor. Deadline for input is January 19. Invitation only, not open to public. Discussion regarding disconnect

between successful marketing of S2S recreation and lack of agency resources to monitor and manage.

WORCA

- Still looking for two Board directors (race and youth programs)
- Working on 2018 planning, work program
- Discussion regarding pressure on volunteer bike clubs to manage trails while commercial interests benefit. Number of trail users also increasing significantly.

RMOW:

- Callaghan FSR, Alpine Meadows and CCF#5 fuel thinning projects underway
- 2018 Fuel Thinning Program: Cheakamus Lake Road with CCF, Kadenwood/Big Timber
- FireSmart program for private properties will be increased
- Official Community Plan update revived in 2018. Wildfire policies will be added.

Trail Planning Working Group

- Autumn 2017 newsletter on agenda

CCF

- 2018 harvesting plan comments on agenda

Cheakamus Community Forest 2018 Harvesting Plans

FWAC reviewed draft CCF harvesting plan comments.

- Discussing recommending that CCF work with local stakeholders to identify and map areas of ancient trees and to develop policies to protect them from harvesting
- Discussion on pros and cons of heli-logging: large carbon footprint but no roads need to be built. Makes sense in specific situations.
- Comments attached to minutes as Appendix A

ACTION: Send FWAC comments on 2018 harvesting plans to CCF Board and forester.

Trail Planning Working Group Newsletter

FWAC reviewed the autumn 2017 Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) newsletter.

- AWARE now sits on the TPWG and reports out to FWAC and Whistler Bear Advisory Committee
- Discussion regarding potential changes to Recreation Sites and Trails BC referral process. Review draft changes at February FWAC meeting if available.

- Discussed WORCA's new LOTS exit to create consistent blue trail down to Alta Lake Road. Also new trail to create shorter LOTS loop.
- TPWG discussing trail access, camping in alpine, etc.
- FWAC recommends that newsletter be made public by providing to Council and posting on whistler.ca
- Add TPWG newsletter and referral process to February agenda for further discussion.

FWAC Field Trip Report

FWAC reviewed the draft autumn CCF field trip report.

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by T. Hellinga

That FWAC accept the autumn 2017 Field Trip Report.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

- N/A

Future Agenda Items:

- February: TPWG project referral system (flow chart); WIF management; Review draft OCP Natural Areas chapter

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by T. Hellinga

That the Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee adjourn the December 13, 2017 meeting at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED

CHAIR: C. Ruddy

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford

APPENDIX A

Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee Comments on 2018 Cheakamus Community Forest Harvesting Plans

Introduction

At the November 8, 2017 Forest & Wildland Advisory Committee (FWAC) meeting, Tom Cole, Forest Manager for Cheakamus Community Forest made a presentation regarding the Cheakamus Community Forest's (CCF) proposed 2018 harvesting plans. FWAC had further discussion of the plans at its December 13, 2017 meeting. The following report summarizes all comments.

The plans can be found on the CCF's website:

<http://www.cheakamuscommunityforest.com/maps-and-harvesting-plans/>

Specific Comments

Cheakamus 15

- Will provide better access to Jane Lakes area
- CCF must monitor harvesting in relation to spotted owl requirements

Cheakamus 10

- Being able to harvest the site is dependent on securing access through the quarry as the old road there provides the preferred alternate route to Loggers Lake Road for transporting logs. CCF is seeking support from FLNRO on maintaining the quarry road's Forest Service Road status over to Basalt Valley Road.
- The site will show different examples of retention levels and provide opportunity for public learning. Meets public education objectives of Whistler Interpretive Forest.
- Harvesting this site provides the possibility of better access to Jane Lakes and Garibaldi Provincial Park if the gate is moved higher on the Loggers Lake road.
- Logging old growth timber may produce minimal value because of high pulp content. But harvesting it provides an opportunity to introduce more diverse tree species into the predominantly hemlock/balsam forest such as yellow cedar and deciduous which will help reduce fire risk.
- This area had been suggested as an EBM Reserve due to environmental values.

Fee01

- CCF plans to build the access road in 2018 and harvest in 2019
- Site has steep slopes with lots of run off. CCF must exercise extreme caution regarding potential for mass wasting and erosion.
- Site needs proper investment in road building, and to use logging equipment that minimizes soil impacts.

- Terrain stability mapping should be used for all logging plans and shared with FWAC
- Ensure that enlarged openings still meet silviculture strategy

Powder07

- FWAC recommends that modifications to openings be adjusted to meet silviculture strategy and does not approve the current plan
- CCF should be transparent on how blocks are developed in relation to the silviculture strategy
- If there is not enough volume available to meet costs, then either adjust costs or develop more small blocks that meet silviculture strategy.

Fee 02

- Cable logging is a good choice because CCF won't need to build skid roads
- Additional volume acceptable if block sizes stay within silviculture strategy
- Road improvements will improve access to Brandywine Meadows but at the risk of increased inappropriate alpine access (e.g. ATVs).

Cheakamus 01

- The initial plan was to upgrade the road, and log using conventional logging and potentially heli-logging on south flank of Whistler Mountain.
- Concerns were expressed by FWAC and public due to proximity to recreational trails and visual impacts. WORCA was not supportive and provided a letter to CCF Board of Directors
- At its November Board meeting, the CCF deferred Cheakamus 01 until more public consultation undertaken with Cheakamus Crossing residents, WORCA and others.
- If harvesting is ultimately approved, CCF should consider alternative logging methods to reduce impacts
- FWAC requests to be consulted further on Cheakamus 01 as planning progresses

Cheakamus Lake Road Wildfire Fuel Management

- CCF and RMOW will partner on thinning approximately 50 hectares in 2018 along far end of Cheakamus Lake Road. Some road closures expected but CCF working with FLNRO and BC Parks to mitigate impacts on public.
- Approximately 120 hectares are under prescription and work will continue in 2019.
- Fuel treatments should avoid disturbing the spacing trials and other treatment areas that are used for interpretation

General Comments

Based on the information provided, FWAC supports the proposed 2018 harvesting plans *except for* Cheakamus 01 and Powder 07, and provides the following general comments:

- Improve maps for ease of reading. Include recreation trails/features.
- Request that CCF data be available on RMOW GIS.
- All CCF harvesting should follow the silviculture strategy especially in relation to the size of openings.

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- Terrain stability mapping should be used for all logging plans and shared with FWAC
- FWAC recommends better integration of communications and planning between harvesting and fuel management projects
- In the steeper sites, water management and minimal ground disturbance will need to be ensured during road construction and logging to minimize erosion and mass wasting
- The carbon footprint of heli-logging seems contrary to community and CCF values. Heli-logging could be appropriate in certain sites and situations.
- FWAC requests that the CCF improve transparency and share more financial information with community
- FWAC recommends that the CCF consider developing policies to protect individual and stands of ancient trees from harvest areas
- FWAC recommends that the CCF work with local partners to develop mapping that identifies ancient trees and forest types beyond 250 years in order to more finely delineate forest types/ages. Integrate the information into harvesting plans to protect ancient trees and share the information with the public.