



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 11, 2018, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

#### PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 4
<b>Present:</b>	
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Chair	4
Council, Cathy Jewett	3
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	2
AWARE, Claire Ruddy	3
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	3
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	4
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	2
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	4
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	4
<b>Regrets:</b>	
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	1
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	2
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	2

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Rankin

Seconded by T. Burton

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of April 11, 2018.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Hellinga

Seconded by J. Mikes

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of March 14, 2018.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### Council:

- Budget received 3<sup>rd</sup> reading
- Edgewater access road reviewed
- Community Visioning input closed March 31. Further community input opportunities in future.

#### AWARE:

- Engaging in Vision and OCP, stakeholder session
- Grizzly bear signs going up at trailheads

#### WORCA:

- Hiring operations manager, race director in place
- Fee for service trail maintenance begins May 1

#### RMOW:

- Wildfire thinning projects at Alpine Meadows, above cemetery, along Kadenwood Road and Callaghan FSR to resume when snow melt allows
- FireSmart crew (3 people) will be active in community this year

#### Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Road-based access management plan in a final draft
- Open house planned for May

#### Trail Planning Working Group:

- Meeting in 2 weeks
- FWAC suggested that alpine camping and CCF road-based access management plan be added to TPWG agenda
- FWAC concerned that it may be reviewing alpine trailhead signs too late in the process

### CCF Road-based Access Management Plan

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding the Cheakamus Community Forest's Road-based Access Management Plan and a discussion was held.

FWAC reviewed draft CCF Road-based access management plan. Commented that improvements had been made. Ensure road names are consistent between different documents and maps. Fix incorrect links to maps.

- Decision matrix provides consistency regarding roads.
- Traffic counter results in Table 2: FWAC suggested adding a strategy to Table 4 regarding how to use the traffic count data.
- Table 3: suggestion to add a column showing existing or potential road partners; and add a column describing what to do with the roads.
- Table 4:
  - FWAC should not be lead in item 8-5.

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- Identify priority roads for future maintenance
- Item 9-2 – report out on costs for road maintenance
- Item 6-3 – priorities identified by AMP should be collected, tracked and reported
- Item 5-3: add community and stakeholder engagement when considering access and sensitive ecosystems
- Item 6-2: Province doesn't have the resources for planning. FWAC suggests RMOW lead.
- references on pages 11 and 17 to “mountain bike trails” and hiking trails” (and associated mapping) be revised to reflect “multi-use trails” (including mountain biking and/or hiking) consistent with WORCA, RMOW and related naming conventions.

### Whistler Interpretive Forest

A presentation by D. Bonin was given regarding the Whistler Interpretive Forest (WIF) and a discussion was held.

FWAC reviewed D. Bonin's discussion document with WIF history and options (Appendix 1)

*C. Jewett left at 4:32 p.m.*

Concern that WIF interpretation/education aspect neglected. Rotary volunteers have been updating signs over the last few years but future is uncertain.

WIF is within the Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) tenure and within RMOW boundaries.

Options discussed are that either CCF or RMOW could assume management of WIF. WIF objectives are aligned with CCF mandate. Public perceives the area as a municipal park. Discussed how future logging will be received by public. Discussed RMOW's current interpretive sign initiative and recommended that WIF signs be included.

Moved by C. Rankin  
Seconded by T. Burton

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee recommends the RMOW include the WIF signs in its 5-year interpretive sign project and consider a more proactive role in managing the WIF.

CARRIED

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Spring field trip date – H. Beresford to send out doodle poll
- May agenda - Whistler Blackcomb update

### MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by T. Hellinga

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**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of April 11, 2018 be terminated at 5:04 p.m.

CARRIED

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Chair, Derek Bonin

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Recording Secretary, Heather  
Beresford

## Appendix 1

### **Whistler Interpretive Forest**

#### **Background**

The Whistler Interpretive Forest (WIF) was established in 1999 under an order pursuant to the Forest Practices Code of BC Act. The objective of the WIF is to provide forest interpretation and education opportunities while demonstrating integrated resource management. (Attached).

The WIF was a joint project of the BC Ministry of Forests (MOF), RMOW and Western Forest Products. Western Forest Products conducted timber harvesting under a volume-based tenure within the Squamish Forest District. The MOF is responsible to manage the area for biodiversity, recreation, timber, and fish and wildlife values.

The WIF partners worked collectively to find a satisfactory balance between the many forest activities and sustainable forestry practices. RMOW's consulting Forester, the late Mr. Don MacLaurin, was instrumental in finding this balance between resource values and providing the interpretation and education opportunities. The current forest stands and trails were greatly influenced by Don MacLaurin's vision. Funding from the Forest Renewal Forest Program facilitated many of the initiatives during the late 1990s.

Since the Olympic era and development of the Cheakamus Crossing neighbourhood, the WIF and surrounding areas experienced a significant increase in recreation users. Unfortunately, the forest interpretation and education initiatives have not been maintained. The original partners of the WIF have evolved to where Western Forest Products forfeited the timber volume-based tenure and was replaced in 2009 with the area-based, Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) tenure.

#### **Discussion**

Community forestry involves the three pillars of sustainable development: social, ecological and economic sustainability. Community forestry is about local control and enjoyment of the monetary and non-monetary benefits offered by the local forest resource. An area-based tenure such as the Cheakamus Community Forest encourages a higher degree of land stewardship by ensuring investments into silviculture and roads are realized as community benefits in the future.

The WIF has experienced an increase in public use by cyclists, hikers and vehicles accessing Garibaldi Provincial Park and using the WIF trails. The coastal climate and forest dynamics has deteriorated the previously established interpretation and education initiatives in the absence of maintenance. Volunteer efforts from the community and funding from the Community Foundation of Whistler's Environmental Legacy Fund via the Whistler Rotary Club over the past few years have improved and maintained some of the interpretive signage. The RMOW is currently upgrading the signage at the entrance to the WIF.

The CCF is currently planning and implementing the Ecosystem Based Management Plan within the WIF. The CCF operations will include timber harvesting, fuel hazard treatments and limited road maintenance. New trails are being constructed by WORCA in collaboration with the CCF to avoid user conflicts and find synergies for accessing trailheads. These operations will provide new education and interpretation opportunities within the WIF.

The Province has demonstrated there are limited resources available to maintain the road to the Cheakamus Lake parking lot or fulfill the interpretation and education objectives that were outlined in 1999. Recreation Sites and Trails BC is the primary branch responsible for the recreation aspects of the WIF but has been restricted to conducting basic safety audits due to limited resources.

## **Options**

Currently there appears to be a lack of funds and responsibility by the existing partners to fulfill the original mandate of the WIF. An organization needs to take a lead role and facilitate funding to retain the past efforts in the interpretation and education, and to utilize new opportunities from upcoming initiatives. The options can include:

### **Option A:**

“That the CCF take a lead role and facilitate funding for forest education and interpretation initiatives while demonstrating ecosystem based management within the WIF.”

The rationale for this option is that the CCF can demonstrate to the public the value of operating the community forest tenure by investing revenue from log sales into interpretation and education initiatives. The risk of not undertaking this option is that public support for the CCF will be eroded unless some value is demonstrated.

### **Option B:**

“That the RMOW take a lead role and facilitate funding for forest education and interpretation initiatives above and beyond its partnership with the CCF within the WIF.”

The rationale for this option is that the RMOW has a vested interest in providing a world-class tourist destination with diverse opportunities that exist in the WIF. The risk is that without leadership and funding by the RMOW the WIF experience may not be realized to its fullest potential.

## **Recommendation**

We can use this as a discussion document and the recommended option from FWAC should be discussed and voted on before advancing.

### **Attachment:**

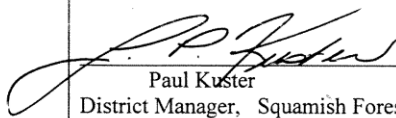
Order to Establish Objectives for the Whistler Interpretive Forest in the Squamish Forest District

**Order to Establish Objectives  
for the Whistler Interpretive Forest  
in the Squamish Forest District**

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to Section 6(3) of the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, objectives for the following Ministry of Forest's interpretive forest site are to be established effective *November 20, 1999*:

Whistler Interpretive Forest Site, Project 16660-20-6264

The objective of the Whistler Interpretive Forest Site is *to provide forest interpretation and education opportunities*, while demonstrating integrated resource management. Forest resources, including public recreation, fish, wildlife, timber, forage, water, soil and landscape aesthetics will be managed using a comprehensive planning process. Ecosystem biodiversity will be managed at the landscape level with particular attention given to the conservation of riparian and meadow areas. Forest recreation will be managed for non-motorized and rural recreation experiences. Seasonal two wheel drive access, on designated roads, will be permitted. Opportunities for a wide variety of recreational activities will be available. Roads and day use facilities will be maintained. Forest stands will be managed for harvesting, utilizing various silvicultural systems. Forest interpretation activities and education on local ecosystems and forest practices will be provided through brochures, self guided interpretive trails and signage.

  
Paul Kuster  
District Manager, Squamish Forest District

Dated November 25, 1999