



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 9, 2018, STARTING AT 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4

PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 5
<b>Present:</b>	
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Chair	5
Council, Cathy Jewett	4
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	3
AWARE, Claire Ruddy	4
Member at Large, Arthur DeJong	4
WORCA, Todd Hellinga	5
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	3
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	2
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	3
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	5
<b>Regrets:</b>	
Member at Large, Johnny Mikes	4
Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor	2

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by K. Bridge  
Seconded by T. Hellinga

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of May 9, 2018.

CARRIED

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Rankin  
Seconded by K. Bridge

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

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### Council:

- Nesters Crossing public hearing
- Attending Local Government Management Association AGM May 16
- Alpine Meadows fuel thinning project – receiving queries regarding trail and site access, plus road conditions

#### WORCA:

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

#### WORCA:

- Lower Sproatt trail volunteer night to re-establish trail after BC Hydro completed road clearing

*M. Lowry arrived at 3:07 p.m.*

- Coordinating trail improvements with Bob Brett for Cat Scratch Fever in Alpine Meadows fuel thinning treatment area
- WORCA hired an operations manager for 9 months to assist with projects, staff, administration

#### AWARE:

- Took part in RMOW Partners OCP session
- Letter sent to RMOW Parks Planning from AWARE and Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative requesting a meeting to discuss alpine trail planning

#### RMOW:

- Fuel thinning projects occurring at CCF5 (above cemetery); Alpine Meadows; Kadenwood
- CCF joint fuel thinning project along Callaghan Road underway and soon to start along Cheakamus Lake Road.
- Firesmart program; 6 chipper days in spring

#### Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Open house planned for June

#### Trail Planning Working Group:

- Meeting held in late April
- Recreation Sites & Trails BC provided draft e-bike policy
- Referral process discussed

*C. Jewett left at 3:26 p.m.*

- Camping at Long Lake was mentioned but not discussed

- Blackcomb Helicopter is seeking a partnership agreement with province to maintain trail used for heli-biking

Crown Land Referral: A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding Signal Systems Crown Land application and a discussion was held.

Signal Systems

Signal Systems held a tenure on Sproatt mountain peak since 2008 but did not develop the site until late summer 2017. Repeater equipment was being installed in front of Sproatt trail benches. RMOW requested tenure site be changed. Signal Systems submitted this application for a new site 400 metres northwest. Original site was dismantled and cleaned up last fall.

FWAC recommends that installation be timed to avoid impacts to wildlife use in the area, and that Signal Systems notify RMOW, WORCA and Alpine Club when the work starts.

Crown Land Referral: A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding the Wedge Campground Crown Land application and a discussion was held.

Wedge Campground

Proponent Daan Murray is proposing a 29.7 acre campground with a maximum of 14 tent platforms installed over 5 years plus two small buildings. Location is on Wedge Forest Service Road.

FWAC reviewed the application at its May 9 meeting and had the following comments that the proponent should address:

- Campground will increase risk of wildfire
- Location may be part of future wildfire thinning area
- Location overlaps Comfortably Numb, an iconic trail in Whistler and will compromise the experience of riding it as well as the camping experience with lack of privacy due to trail proximity
- Development increases impacts to species at risk and may increase wildlife conflicts (e.g. creating more attractants that increase human-bear conflict)
- Whistler is hitting capacity thresholds and this development beyond the municipal boundary takes advantage of Whistler amenities but does not contribute to its operations or respect capacity.
- Development will increase road use and road maintenance but not require proponent to contribute to expense.
- These types of development should be considered within a master plan.

Staff will provide these comments through the provincial referral process.

Whistler Blackcomb Update A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb plans and a discussion was held.

Update

- Lift expansion project is already underway. \$38 million 10 seat gondola replacing Wizard and Solar chairs. Emerald chair goes to Catskinner, Emerald becomes a 6 pack.
- Gondola provides flexibility for alpine access in shoulder seasons. Food service can be loaded on it rather than driven up the mountain. Can download 4,000 people/hour. 35 – 40 year life expectancy.

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- Creekside bike park expansion also planned.
- Whistler peak suspension bridge estimated for July completion.
- Umbrella bar almost complete.
- Emerald chair will balance upload with use in the area. Will use existing maze and skier use patterns will be monitored.
- No parking lot additions.
- Burn Trail will be closed for summer.

### WB Climate Change presentation

- Winters are not a concern yet – receiving more snow each decade since the 1970s. Likely related to increasing La Nina frequency.
- Seasonal temperature increases since 1976: Winter, 0.5 degrees; Summer, 2.3 degrees
- Increased wildfire risk is a concern. WB is adapting planning and operations related to wildfire.
- Horstman Glacier – 70% is less than 20m in depth. Planning to lower ridge to provide easier access from glacier to Seventh Heaven.
- Invasive plant species are moving higher on mountain. Hawkweed being managed with Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council.
- World destination travel is increasing 6-7% per year, and Whistler needs to diversify into a full 4-season resort to remain successful over the long term

### RMOW Alpine Trail Signs

A presentation by H. Beresford regarding RMOW alpine trail signs and a discussion was held.

RMOW Parks Planning is drafting maps and information signs for key trail heads.

FWAC reviewed the kiosk information sign and had the following comments:

- Some messaging is duplicated
- Very dense text but engaging graphics
- Some information needs to be different depending on sign location. E.g. Rainbow Trail doesn't allow dogs.
- RMOW should develop overall strategy for managing people's behavior on the trails. E.g. instructional signs needed at various locations along trails; camping area instruction signs.
- RMOW should develop an overall vision and plan for alpine trails and signs.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- FWAC Spring CCF Field trip – May 15, 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

### **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by T. Hellinga

Seconded by A. DeJong

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of May 9, 2018 be terminated at 5:01 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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Chair, Derek Bonin

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Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford