



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 13, 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: 6 |
|--|---------------------|
| Present: | |
| Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Chair | 6 |
| Council, Cathy Jewett | 5 |
| AWARE, Claire Ruddy | 5 |
| Member at Large, Arthur DeJong | 5 |
| Member at Large, Colin Rankin | 4 |
| Member at Large, Kathi Bridge | 3 |
| Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford | 6 |
| | |
| Regrets: | |
| Member at Large, Johnny Mikes | 4 |
| Member at Large, Candace Rose-Taylor | 2 |
| Member at Large, Trevor Burton | 3 |
| WORCA, Todd Hellinga | 5 |
| Member at Large, Mac Lowry | 3 |

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Bonin
Seconded by C. Jewett

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of June 13, 2018.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Jewett
Seconded by C. Rankin

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

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council:

- OCP is a priority project. Next open house is June 25.

K. Bridge arrived at 3:11 p.m.

AWARE:

- Reviewing various OCP chapters
- Connecting with Conservation Officer Service regarding apparent increase in social media postings of drones harassing wildlife
- Trail Planning Working Group met to discuss new Recreation Sites & Trails BC e-bike policy and how to manage e-bikes.

RMOW:

- Fuel thinning projects occurring at CCF5 (above cemetery); Alpine Meadows; Kadenwood
- CCF/RMOW joint fuel thinning project along Callaghan Road underway and Cheakamus Lake Road scheduled for winter 2018-2019.
- Firesmart program; 6 chipper days in spring. Overwhelming response.
- FWAC reviewed the revised draft OCP chapter 7, Natural Environment. Discussion focused on need for proactive planning of priority and sensitive habitats connected network, and possibility of including a policy to stop old growth harvesting.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Held open house June 7 at HI Whistler, Cheakamus Crossing.

Trail Planning Working Group:

- E-bike policy meeting held recently

FWAC Field Trip Report

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding the May 2018 FWAC CCF field trip report and a discussion was held.

The fall 2017 and May 2018 field trip reports will be combined to create the annual 2017 FWAC Annual Report for distribution to the CCF Board. Draft to be reviewed at July FWAC meeting.

FWAC discussed damage to trees along skid roads in Callaghan due to working in spring and the use of large harvesting equipment.

FWAC discussed the trees in Kadenwood site are susceptible to fungus rot, and that trees and soil on the steep site would be less impacted using a cable system rather than ground based equipment.

Suggestion to replant with more deciduous trees including cottonwood.

ACTION: Revise draft field trip report and recirculate to FWAC for final comments.

Alpine Trail Program Update

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding the Alpine Trail program and a discussion was held.

Trailhead Improvements

- New trailhead info panel for kiosks
 - Mountainview Drive, Alpine Way, Rainbow Trail, Function Junction, Whistler Interpretive Forest
 - Input from RMOW, RSTBC, WSAR, ACC-W, WORCA, WBAC, FWAC, BC Parks.
- New Trails Maps
 - Whistler Interpretive Forest, Mt Sproatt, Rainbow Mtn, Cougar Mtn, Lost Lake Park, overall regional trail map
- Construction planned for a new parking lot off Alta Lake Road under hydro lines to alleviate parking congestion on Stonebridge access.

Wildlife Knowledge

- February 2018 – RMOW staff met with provincial bear biologist, Steve Rochetta, and other ministry staff to better understand bear habitat use patterns.
- Wind River Bear Institute retained to undertake a bear assessment of trails on Mt Sproatt. Outcomes will inform future decisions and management of trails and related amenities. As part of the bear assessment, RMOW will explore 4 potential campsite and outhouse locations. The assessment will determine which sites have the least environmental impact.

Watershed Protection

- Additional trail construction approvals within the 21 Mile watershed are on hold pending monitoring of trail use and impacts to watershed as per RMOW Surface Water Protection Plan.
- New signage at trailheads and en-route. New contained outhouse at Rainbow Lake and half way up Rainbow Trail.
- Boardwalk with low rail and educational signage installed at Rainbow Lake to educate hikers about watershed issues and no swimming.
- Trail Ranger Program - 2018 is second year of program
- Annual observation hike with Vancouver Coastal Health
- Other monitoring for trail erosion, wildlife, visitor experience, fire activity, motorized activity

Trail Development

- Trails built to date were approved through the RMOW's 2014 application to RSTBC
- New trail applications from ACC-W, WORCA and RMOW in progress

Cheakamus Community Forest 2018 Plans

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding Cheakamus Community Forest 2018 plans and a discussion was held.

FWAC viewed the presentation given at the CCF's June 7 open house.

Key discussion points:

- Cheakamus Lake Road wildfire fuel thinning project scheduled for winter 2018-2019:
 - Concern that thinning will only be done along the road and not thin all the identified high priority forest. Recognize that costs increase further away from the road access.
 - Questioned if CCF does terrain analysis for all sites.
 - Discussed need for subsidies to assist with removing slash even though some merchantable wood is recovered.
- Basalt Valley Road:
 - Opening up new access will allow more motorized use to occur, and disturbs more natural areas.
 - Discussed risks and benefits of opening new road rather than using Loggers Lake Road past Cheakamus Crossing as main access. CCF has made commitment to not use Loggers Lake Road but it may not be the best economic or environmental choice.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by K. Bridge

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of June 13, 2018 be terminated at 5:07 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Derek Bonin

Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford