



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 13, 2019, STARTING AT 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 3
Present:	
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	3
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	3
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	3
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	2
Member at Large, John Hammons	3
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	1
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif	2
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	3
Regrets:	
WORCA, Matt Cooper	0
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	1
Member at Large, David Powe	2
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	2

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by M. Lowry

Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of March 13, 2019.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by M. Lowry

Seconded by J. Howe

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of February 13, 2019.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

D. Bonin arrived at 3:09 p.m.

Updates

Council:

- OCP received second reading March 12, 2019
- RMOW budget guidelines approved
- Councilor DeJong met with Minister Heywood to discuss regional transit, wildfire funding and adapting legislation to allow municipalities to enact waste reduction/climate change focused bylaws.

AWARE:

- Destination BC holding discussion re: draft S2S plan on March 14
- AWARE is raising awareness around recent wildlife disturbances by drones, etc.

WORCA:

- N/A

RMOW:

- Climate Change Coordinator funding approved in municipal budget
- RMOW, Conservation Officer Service and Recreation Sites & Trails BC are collaborating on a grizzly bear conflict mitigation plan for Whistler alpine trails. Ready for 2019 summer season.
- Parks Planning will develop a Recreation Trail Access Management Plan and e-Bike policy in 2019.
- Trail Planning Working Group scheduled to meet next in April

M. Tardif arrived 3:20 p.m.

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Fuel thinning underway on Cheakamus Lake Road which will be closed until spring 2019.
- Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) application submitted to fund project above Rainbow subdivision.

Crown Land Referral

A presentation by Tracy Napier, RMOW Planning Analyst, was given regarding the Arbutus Routes' commercial recreation tenure application and a discussion was held.

- Arbutus Routes (AR) seeks a Licence of Occupation over most trails in the Whistler valley
- Discussion and comments:
 - Suggest voluntary funding to WORCA be included in any agreement with province
 - FWAC doesn't support commercial mountain biking tours on Jane Lakes trail or the alpine trails on Sproatt and Rainbow
 - Recommend that AR provide an annual report to province
 - Discussion re: how to determine the "right" amount of use. AR will not be the only company seeking tenure on the trails.

- FWAC suggests a shorter tenure so that impacts can be re-assessed sooner.
- Request AR adhere to upcoming grizzly bear conflict mitigation plan and e-bike policy.
- Investigate opportunities for RMOW oversight through the business licence application process.

Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Plan

A presentation by Liz Scroggins, Grey Owl Consulting, was given regarding the alpine trails grizzly bear conflict mitigation plan and a discussion was held.

FWAC reviewed the draft report outline including vision, objectives, suggested mitigation strategy areas.

Vision comments: Discussion re: inherent difficulty in defining and balancing grizzly bear recovery, co-existence and alpine recreation. Point made to expand vision to include compliance with all the rules for the alpine trails, not just closures.

Discussion regarding excluding Callaghan Valley from project area. Focus in on municipal trails, not those within commercial recreation operators' tenure. Province can choose to extend grizzly bear plan recommendations to commercial rec operators.

FWAC mitigation strategy comments:

- Messages need to be consistent across platforms. Public education and information sharing will be important.
- Add distribution of bear information and updates to bike shops
- Recommend that RMOW Park Rangers have digital tablets for recording information. Provides efficient tool for data analysis later.
- Need clarity on triggers for closing an area to public
- Consider not allowing commercial tours/users or events on alpine trails.
- Suggest that the plan apply throughout entire RMOW
- Monitor effectiveness of strategies and adapt as needed
- Consider having way for public to provide comments on experiences (comment cards or on-line portal)
- Suggest public workshops/talks be held to share information

FWAC commends RMOW for preparing this plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

- N/A

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by D. Bonin

Seconded by M. Lowry

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of March 13, 2019 be terminated at 5:02 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Heather
Beresford