



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 12, 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: 6
Present:	
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	6
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	6
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	5
Member at Large, John Hammons	6
Member at Large, Kathi Bridge	3
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif	5
WORCA, Seb Kemp	1
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	2
Member at Large, David Powe	4
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	5
Regrets:	
WORCA, Matt Cooper	1
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	4
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	1

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by M. Tardif

Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of June 12, 2019.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by K. Bridge

Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of May 8, 2019.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS

Updates

Council:

- May Long weekend/GO Fest successful.
- BioBlitz focused on schools for its 13th year
- May 29 Interagency fire training on WhistlerBlackcomb
- Strategic Planning Committee launched – 5 public seats available
- HIT night starts Tuesday, June 18

AWARE:

- Dr. Lana Ciarniello reviewed draft grizzly bear plans and presented to Council on May 28. View here: <http://csg001-harm01.canadacentral.cloudapp.azure.com/00295/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20190614/-1/13589>
- BioBlitz was a success, sampling in old growth Douglas fir canopy a highlight

WORCA:

- Trail Planning Working Group discussed the letter submitted by WORCA regarding a review of the TPWG mandate
- WORCA has put some trails on hold and will participate in Recreation Trails Strategy planning
- Very hard to maintain trails with a volunteer group and even with the Fee For Service funds due to increasing use and stretched resources.
- Jane Lakes area – WORCA is routing a more sustainable “rustic” trail similar to existing. No new trails added, just working on existing route.

David Powe arrived at 3:32 p.m.

RMOW:

- Developing 10 year wildfire mitigation plan with Blackwell & Associates
- Climate Change Coordinator started on June 10
- Wildfire thinning project resumed in Kadenwood area
- Will release a 3-year RFP in July for interface fuel thinning projects.
- Working on incorporating input to grizzly bear alpine trail plans

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Fuel thinning underway on Cheakamus Lake Road. Viewed on field trip. 39.1 hectares thinned, road will reopen on May 15.
- Carbon audit and verification moving ahead. Complete by autumn.

Trail Planning Work Group:

- Met on April 29. Considering the WORCA letter re: future direction.

E-Bike Policy Direction

A presentation by Martin Pardoe, Manager of Resort Parks Planning, was held regarding the draft E-Bike Policy Direction and Update and a discussion was held.

- More information at whistler.ca/e-bikes
- Community engagement report completed. 584 respondents.
- RSTBC released its revised policy April 2019. Very permissive. Requires trail managers to formally establish trails and place e-bike restrictions with signs.
- Based on results, no significant changes from draft e-bike directions.
- Issues: safety concerns on Valley Trail; e-bikes can go both directions on trails which is a change; monitoring is important
- Enforcement – provincial Recreation Officer can enforce on crown land with trail designation and signs. RMOW Bylaw Officers can enforce on municipally owned lands with Parks Bylaw adjustment and signs. RMOW Alpine Rangers cannot enforce.
- Next steps are policy development, communications plan, signs, trail designations and monitoring

Discussion:

- Granting authority for Alpine Rangers to issue tickets is being discussed but not straightforward, some areas outside RMOW boundary.
- RMOW will reach out to ebike vendors to support becoming compliant
- No stats on wildlife collisions but in 2018, grizzly bear incidents involved hikers with dogs and campers.
- RMOW exploring how to get better grizzly bear habitat mapping
- Recreational Trails Strategy will address future trail locations and types, etc.
- RMOW acknowledges that enforcement is an issue, education will be very important. Concerns over speed on Valley Trail.

Moved by K. Bridge

Seconded by M. Lowry

Whereas Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes are considered motor vehicles as per senior government policies and therefore are not permitted on the Valley Trail or formally established non-motorized recreational trails, the FWAC supports the draft RMOW e-bike policy direction to:

- Allow only Class 1 e-bikes on the Valley Trail and on all formally established off-road recreation trails except:
 - Hiking only trails
 - Above the Flank Trail, and
 - Emerald Forest (other than “Access Road” connecting Lorimer Rd to Alta Lake Rd).
- Subject to:
 - Deployment of emerging plans related to communications, safety and monitoring;
 - Updating of relevant municipal Bylaws; and
 - Committee review at season’s end

CARRIED

Whistler Blackcomb
Annual Plans

A presentation by Arthur DeJong, Mountain Planning and Environmental Resource Manager, was held regarding Whistler Blackcomb annual plans and a discussion was held.

- 2018 was a historic year. \$76M capital projects, 4 new lifts.
- 2019 will see more planning vs construction
- Master Planning underway and includes:
 - improvements for Blackcomb mid-station and gondola barn; summer program assets/trails; Blackcomb top stations and Rendezvous area; Overlord trail widened and washrooms installed; Ascent Trail to be extended to top of Saudan Couloir; Harmony Lake system trail crush and improvements; Whistler beginner area improved to make experience more comfortable for beginner skiers; consideration of Saudan Couloir tram
- WB has discussed Singing Creek to Russet Lake trail in Garibaldi Provincial Park with BC Parks in the past but not currently in active discussions or planning. Spearhead huts will create more use in alpine, Singing Creek trail would be a good connection to Black Tusk. WB created a fund for park infrastructure in the Fitz/Spearhead ranges.
- Horstman Glacier recession is a serious issue and plans being made to improve access from 7th Heaven to north side. Involves flattening the ridge between.

Discussion:

- Singing Creek could experience higher numbers than expected. Be sure to consider impacts on habitat and wildlife.
- Some concerns expressed about impact to the environment of flattening Blackcomb ridge.
- Need to design and sign in a way to keep people in designated zones instead of walking everywhere and trampling vegetation.
- WORCA noted that Blackcomb Mountain MTB trails need maintenance and some requests from people to build more trails. WORCA requests opportunity to meet with WB staff to discuss maintenance, planning and communications. Include in RMOW Recreational Trails Strategy.

OTHER BUSINESS

- RMOW Outside Voice Parks survey available for input until June 17
- RMOW Corporate Plan available for input

C. Ruddy left at 4:48 p.m. D. Bonin took over Chair.

- July FWAC meeting
 - review draft CCF report, finalize at September meeting
 - review AWARE's Ancient Trees map
- Rotary Club Whistler Interpretive Forest Sign Project – Started 5 years ago, completion ceremony on June 19. Rotary also making improvements to the Riparian Trail. Intent of efforts is to keep Don MacLaurin's legacy alive. Would like to see the Cheakamus Community Forest take on the public education role.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of June 12, 2019 be terminated at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Heather
Beresford