



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 2020, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Zoom Meeting Format

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

#### PRESENT:

| Name                                   | Meetings to Date: 4 |
|--|---------------------|
| <b>Present:</b>                        |                     |
| Member at Large, Melanie Tardif, Chair | 4                   |
| AWARE, Claire Ruddy                    | 2                   |
| Member at Large, Christine Bilodeau    | 4                   |
| Member at Large, Rhonda Millikin       | 4                   |
| Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair | 2                   |
| Member at Large, Dan Raymond           | 3                   |
| Councilor, Arthur DeJong               | 3                   |
| Member at Large, John Hammons          | 3                   |
| Member at Large, Colin Rankin          | 2                   |
|  |                     |
| Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford | 4                   |
|  |                     |
| <b>Regrets:</b>                        |                     |
| WORCA, Seb Kemp/Matt Cooper            | 1                   |
| Member at Large, Trevor Burton         | 0                   |

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by R. Millikin

Seconded by D. Bonin

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of July 8, 2020.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Rankin

Seconded by R. Millikin

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of March 11, 2020.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### Council:

- Council received wildfire presentation by Bruce Blackwell, July 7, 2020 at Committee of the Whole meeting
- Council received draft Climate Strategy at July 7, 2020 regular meeting
- Official Community Plan adopted June 23, 2020
- Mike Furey retired June 30, 2020

#### AWARE:

- Recovery and community resiliency planning
- Online grizzly bear workshop well attended & 700+ views
- Campsite being proposed at Whistler Olympic Park

#### WORCA:

- Trails are receiving significant use but wet conditions causing problems
- Trail crew building Upper Chipmunk after fundraising
- RMOW fee for service significantly reduced

#### RMOW:

- Spruce Grove project nearing completion followed by work on 2 hectares east side of Nesters Hill
- Alpine Ranger program started this week
- Grizzly Bear conflict mitigation strategy initiatives moving forward.

#### Trail Planning Working Group:

- Meeting scheduled for July 22

#### Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Wildfire fuel thinning project nearing completion along Cheakamus Lake Road (C04)
- Basalt valley road connection being discussed by FLNRO and CCF
- FWAC discussed revenue received by CCF for carbon sales and noted that a portion should be distributed for community benefit. FWAC to write letter to CCF Board with request and offer to assist with identifying priority projects.

Moved by J. Hammons

Seconded by D. Bonin

**That** the Cheakamus Community Forest direct a portion of carbon sales revenue toward supporting community benefit initiatives in the three partner communities.

CARRIED

### Wildfire Management

A discussion by FWAC regarding the current municipal wildfire management program.

- Bruce Blackwell of B.A. Blackwell & Associates presented to Council at the July 7 Committee of the Whole meeting. Overview description as well as addressed R. Millikin's questions to council.

FWAC Discussion:

- Blackwell presentation conveyed that there is little in the way of published research on the efficacy of wildfire fuel treatments and that Whistler is still at risk from burning brands even if treatment plan completed. Relying on anecdotal evidence and professional expertise.
- Need a holistic view of forest management by integrating wildfire and CCF forest harvesting with the Ecosystem-based Management Plan, then monitor results. Consider partnering with a university. Use carbon revenue to conduct monitoring program on CCF tenure and RMOW to assign budget for monitoring municipal thinning projects.
- Noted that treated areas lose snow earlier and experience more air flow although Blackwell countered that removing tight second growth removed significant high risk fuel load and accelerates the growth of forest floor vegetation that tends to be less flammable.
- Discussed best use of limited funding. Consider incorporating detection, quick response, equipment needs and forest management as a whole to determine where best to spend funds.
- FWAC sub-group will prepare a draft monitoring program for review at future meeting.

Moved by R. Millikin  
Seconded by C. Bilodeau

**That** FWAC recommends the RMOW and CCF implement wildfire environmental and ecological monitoring programs for wildfire treatment areas.

CARRIED

Old Growth  
Harvesting

Discussion:

- FWAC discussion regarding old growth values and principles for reviewing CCF harvesting plans.
- CCF has documents such as the Ecosystem-Based Management Plan and Integrated Management Plan that address old growth. Targets for old growth are identified but not monitored.
- Documents don't include ecosystem mapping, ecosystem based reserves from Integrated Management Plan, climate change, carbon project, TEM, or use GIS data and should be updated.
- Need to maintain a range of biodiversity, and to keep old growth characteristics in minds when treating second growth stands for wildfire.
- FWAC will form a subgroup (Rhonda, Claire, Colin and Derek) to review the CCF documents and provide recommendations.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- No meeting in August, do field trip with B. Blackwell and Council to view wildfire treatment areas instead. August 19, 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- Annual report to CCF - pivot focus to wildfire, discuss at September meeting.

- Letter to Council re: trials bike use in Emerald trails
  - There are neighbourhood concerns about trials bikes using the non-motorized trails in the area. Noted that skilled riders have little impact on trails but smell and noise still an issue, and the trails are currently designated non-motorized.

Moved by C. Ruddy  
Seconded by C. Rankin

**That** RMOW continue to support non-motorized status of Emerald Trails.

CARRIED

- First Nations Economic Development Committee
  - Committee formed as result of new OCP. Cheakamus Community Forest should also participate.

Moved by C. Rankin  
Seconded by R. Millikin

**That** the Cheakamus Community Forest be invited to participate on the new OCP economic development committee.

CARRIED

## UPCOMING AGENDAS

- September – annual report to FWAC; CCF plan review from subgroup

## MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by C. Rankin  
Seconded by D. Bonin

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of July 8, 2020 be terminated at 5:08 p.m.

CARRIED

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Chair, M. Tardif

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Recording Secretary, H. Beresford