



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.
Zoom Meeting Format
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

Name	Meetings to Date: 8
Present:	
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif, Chair	8
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	5
AWARE, Claire Ruddy	5
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	5
Member at Large, Dr. Rhonda Millikin	8
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	7
Member at Large, John Hammons	6
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	8
Regrets:	
Member at Large, Dan Raymond	6
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	3
WORCA, Matt Cooper	2

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Dr. R. Millikin
 Seconded by C. Ruddy

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of December 9, 2020.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by A. DeJong
 Seconded by D. Bonin

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of November 18, 2020.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council:

- Nita Lake housing development moving through the process
- RMOW budgeting \$10M to support 100 units developed in Cheakamus Crossing Parcel A

AWARE:

- Currently doing strategic planning
- Participating in various working groups

WORCA:

- N/A

RMOW:

- Budget process including wildfire program underway
- FWAC ad for new member received no applications

Trail Planning Working Group:

- Meeting notes from October distributed to FWAC

Cheakamus Community Forest:

- CCF Board meeting on December 10
- Cheakamus Lake Road C02 beginning soon

2019 CCF Annual Report

A presentation by H. Beresford, Environmental Stewardship Manager, regarding the 2019 FWAC Annual CCF Report.

FWAC reviewed the draft 2019 annual CCF Report

- Further edits requested
- Noted that CCF is a society that files public financial reports that should be shared with FWAC and the public for improved transparency.
- Request that CCF share harvesting plans with Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) at its autumn meeting. Consider joint presentation to TPWG and FWAC.
- Similarly, Recreational Trail Strategy could also be presented to FWAC, Recreation & Leisure Advisory Committee and TPWG at the same time to improve cross committee awareness and comments.

Moved by D. Bonin

Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the 2019 FWAC Annual CCF Report.

CARRIED

2019 CCF Annual Report

A presentation by Dr. Rhonda Millikin regarding Green Fuel Breaks.

- FWAC viewed a presentation highlighting research showing that thinning forests to reduce wildfire risk and severity does not work equally in all forest types
- Information shared identifying benefits of planting green, or deciduous, fire breaks over the landscape and adjacent to homes. Research

showing that fires can be slowed, have lower long term maintenance costs, maintain forest and soil moisture, and are more biodiverse.

- Plantings need to be multi-layered, perpendicular to the prevailing winds
- Consider identifying an area in Whistler to conduct a pilot green fuel break project, and conduct empirical, field-based analysis

FWAC Comments

- Focus on the wildland urban interface planting deciduous vegetation at the back of private properties and into adjacent forests
- Consider adding as a component to the current wildfire risk reduction strategy
- Green fuel breaks would be complementary to FireSmart program's urban forest alteration
- Clarify which plants/shrubs are best suited to reducing fire risk. Cautioned against planting bear attractants.
- Engage academic research community and other partners in RMOW and CCF wildfire program
- BC green fuel break examples would be more relevant/applicable.
- RMOW hosting a wildfire strategy workshop in spring 2021 to review program as updated Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan is developed
- Request that FireSmart program resources be increased to improve slow assessment turnaround times.

Moved by M. Tardif
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the RMOW include green fuel breaks as an option at the wildfire strategy workshop to be held in spring 2021.

CARRIED

2019 CCF Annual Report

A presentation by H. Beresford, Environmental Stewardship Manager, regarding the provincial Old Growth Strategy Review.

FWAC viewed a presentation sharing a highlight summary of key points from the provincial [Old Growth Strategic Review](#). Considered how the Cheakamus Community Forest could respond to the 14 recommendations.

FWAC Comments:

- The CCF could show leadership by acting on the recommendations before the province implements.
- Forest categorization – improvements could be made by adding more gradations to identify old and ancient forests. Improve mapping to identify priority old growth trees and contiguous old forests. Add AWARE's information from the Old Tree map, and submit that map to the provincial committee identifying individual large trees to protect.
- Review the EBM Reserve Plan against the new recommendations especially the Three Zone forest planning approach (Protected, Converted, Consistent)

- This plan provides opportunity for CCF to move closer to community values by using the recommendations as the framework for updating CCF plans.

Moved by C. Rankin
Seconded by M. Tardif

That FWAC recommends the CCF review and update its EBM strategy and management plans against the Old Growth Review Strategy recommendations plus register the Old Tree map information with the province.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

- No response to the advertisement for a new FWAC member.

UPCOMING AGENDAS

- January: ways to connect the community with the CCF (more public field trips; better information sharing); review FWAC Terms of Reference regarding meeting frequency
- 2021: Craterview Loop tour

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by C. Ruddy

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of December 9, 2020 be terminated at 5:03 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair, M. Tardif

Recording Secretary, H. Beresford