



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JULY 14, 2021, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting
Held via Zoom

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (6)
Councilor, A. De Jong	6
Member at Large, M. Tardif, Chair	6
Member at Large, C. Rankin, Co-Chair	6
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	4
Member at Large, J. Hammons	6
Member at Large, D. Raymond	5
Member at Large, T. Burton	4
Member at Large, R. Millikin	5
AWARE, C. Ruddy	6
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	6
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	1
GUESTS	
RMOW General Manager of Resort Experience, J. Gresley-Jones	

REGRETS	
WORCA, N. Koshure	4
Member at Large, D. Bonin	4

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by D. Raymond
Seconded by A. De Jong

That Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of July 14, 2021.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Rankin
Seconded by R. Millikin

That Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of June 9, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council

- We are in step 3 of the restart plan.
- The fire rating is extreme, so council is asking the community to be extremely vigilant.
- The water quality advisory was lifted July 5, 2021.
- Vail has most of their summer experience open and most trails on the mountain are in operation.
- Discussion regarding the SLRD requesting the province to close the backcountry in response to fire danger rating and potential RMOW actions.

AWARE

- There has been a lot of transition with front line staff within the community. AWARE will be focusing on ensuring the environmental messaging is clear with new community members.
- Experiencing some staffing challenges, although core projects are still moving ahead.

WORCA

- *Emailed report:*
- Trail Crew has finished work up on Lord of the Squirrels (LOTS) and have moved into the Yummy Numby zone.
- Cut yer Bars zone has been reopened since the fire thinning project has been completed in that area.
- Trail nights have also been put on hold due to the current fire hazard.

RMOW

- Fire thinning in Nesters is complete. The crew has some small piles to burn in the fall. Fuel thinning is now active in Taluswood. That work will continue throughout the fall.
- The Whistler Wildfire Workshop held on June 30 was successful. Input will help shape the upcoming Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF)

- On June 10, CCF announced a deferment in harvesting old growth in 2021.
- CCF partners investigating other employment opportunities and management approaches.
- The committee raised the question if there was funding available for watershed projects, and if that money has been accessed.

J. Gresley-Jones left meeting at 3:45 p.m.

The following update from Whistler Blackcomb was provided by A. De Jong.

MINUTES

Regular Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting

July 14, 2021

Page 3

- There are some capital improvements planned, but nothing significant.
- There is a 20% discount on the Epic Pass for next season.
- WB is working towards staying in balance with the resort in terms of the carrying capacity. The resort is at build out, so congestion items need to be considered such as bed numbers and highway traffic before terrain is expanded.
- Improving beginner terrain needs to happen which requires some investment.
- To meet the Big Moves climate targets, traffic congestion needs to be reduced.
- Climate change needs to be considered in the master planning process, and what that looks like in the next 30 years.
- Upload capacity needs to be improved, focus is on Creekside.
- Comments are accepted through Guest Services and through the website.

Whistler Blackcomb Update

WB Wildfire program

- Debris left from the program will be chipped and shipped, not burned.
- The treatments (thinning) can serve skiing by glading and wildfire risk reduction.

The following discussion from the committee occurred:

- There was concern that the ecological lens is not central to planning.
- There was discussion about the use of Helicopter buckets and if they can be used to fight fires in residential zones. The committee was assured that if a fire broke out, WB and Blackcomb Aviation would use all means available.

CCF Annual Report

FWAC discussed the format and information to include in its annual report to the CCF.

- The wildfire workshop and May 2021 field trip notes should be combined.
- The link between the RMOW and CCF is critical and needs to be addressed.
- The committee discussed the importance of planning now for climate change, and what that could look like in Whistler in the future. Discussion included a Whistler specific vegetation guideline. Species that will survive need to be planted with diversity being the main strategy. The implications need to be considered including ecological impacts and micro-climate effects.
- Concern was raised that CCF harvesting second growth is financially driven.
- RMOW and CCF are heavily dependent on consultants which is quite expensive. The committee wants to explore how to get multiple opinions through different approaches.
- Thinned areas are leading to more unauthorized trails as access is easier.

OTHER BUSINESS

The committee was asked to review the one page CCF Annual report found on the CCF website.

Annual Report

C. Rankin will lead a subcommittee to assist with compiling a timeline and assigning duties for completion of the CCF Annual Report. The group will meet in August as a working group to discuss and work on the Annual report, with a goal of having a first draft completed for the August working group. The next official meeting will occur September 8, 2021.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

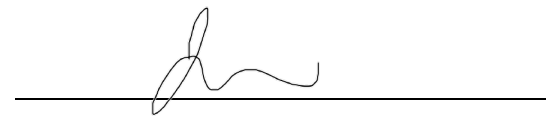
Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by R. Millikin

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of July 14, 2021 be terminated at 5:04 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, M. Tardif



Recording Secretary, J. Wynott