



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at www.whistler.ca/fwac

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (7)
Councilor, A. De Jong	7
Member at Large, M. Tardif, Chair	7
Member at Large, C. Rankin, Co-Chair	7
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	5
Member at Large, J. Hammons	7
Member at Large, T. Burton	5
Member at Large, R. Millikin	6
WORCA, N. Koshure	5
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	7
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	2

REGRETS	
Member at Large, D. Raymond	5
AWARE, C. Ruddy	6
Member at Large, D. Bonin	4

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. De Jong

Seconded by C. Rankin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday September 8, 2021.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by R. Millikin

Seconded by C. Rankin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of Wednesday, July 14 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council

- Council meetings have returned to in person, so people are required to attend in person if they have comments. Feedback is not available via Zoom.
- RCMP have reported a 900% increase in backcountry use. Discussion regarding the shortage of Conservation Officers occurred, and lack of resources to manage the increase.
- A traffic calming bylaw was passed that reduced neighborhood speed limits from 50km to 30km. Discussion occurred regarding electric bikes and the speeds at which they travel. Some Councillors expressed ebikes are imperative in addressing climate change. The RMOW will be initiating education training communications for ebike users.
- This is the third largest fire season in history.
- The WBAC meeting reported that there is lots of berry production on the east side of the valley despite the dry season we had. This is where most bears are right now.
- July and August resort visitation exceeded pre-COVID-19 visitation numbers. The financials are not available yet, however the interior fires led to increased visitation in Whistler.
- The resort is facing large labour shortages.

AWARE

- Launched the “small steps for big moves” campaign in collaboration with the RMOW.
- LIFTing the Community Auction bidding has closed.

WORCA

- WORCA is busy prepping for the bike race scheduled on September 11 from Function to Cougar Mountain.
- There is a contractor working in Cheakamus on the Flashback Project, which is a trail that will get bikers off the road.
- WORCA is hosting volunteer nights again now that the fire danger rating has dropped.
- The Alpine trail network is closed for grizzly bear activity.
- WORCA is looking at a provincial trail rating system for bikes. More information to come.

T. Burton joined the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

RMOW

- A grizzly bear has been spotted around Rainbow Lake, including footprints and scat. At this point it is only one bear. Information has been provided to the COS and the decision to open or keep the trails closed is theirs. There is a tentative opening date of September 11.
- The Big Moves Climate Plan includes community engagement pieces that will be rolled out over the next year. RMOW and AWARE have created a 12 month program where each month will have a different topic to inspire residents to take actions in their daily lives.

- Taluswood fuel thinning has resumed and will continue to work until the weather turns.
- Blackwell is compiling the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan and is working on the monitoring plan. These will come to FWAC for comment in November.

Discussion occurred about the effectiveness of wildfire thinning. Staff advised they are relying on the provincial advice and wildfire experts.

Trail Planning Working Group

- The group will be meeting in October. Updates will be provided after that meeting.

CCF

- There is a CCF Board of Directors meeting September 23, and there will be items reported back to FWAC as decisions are made regarding Old Growth and the future direction of the CCF.
- The RMOW has not budgeted to update the CCF EBM plan. It is a decision for the CCF Board.
- The Forest Practice Board audits results have not been received yet

Fuel Treatment Study Update

A presentation by Dr. Rhonda Milliken was given regarding the preliminary results of the fuel treatment monitoring study and discussion was held. The presentation outlined that the prescriptions for fuel treatment are based on interior forests and are not appropriate for Whistler. When comparing thinned areas to unthinned areas, the study revealed that thinned areas were actually at an increased risk for wildfires. The study also revealed that most moisture of thinned areas remains in the chips, so discussion regarding removal of those chips occurred. Reiterated that forests need to be managed for multiple values and it's important to look at the assumptions used for decision-making. R. Milliken is now passing her information to a statistician to compile the results.

J. Areshenkoff left meeting at 4:20 p.m.

Annual Report Review

The committee discussed the CCF activities annual report draft and made suggestions for the final copy. Committee members were asked to submit feedback by September 17 so a final copy can be edited. An executive summary was requested. The Committee inquired about posting the annual report to the whistler.ca/fwac website and the CCF website.

OTHER BUSINESS

Civic Service Awards 2021

The nomination period for the 2021 Civic Service Awards began Tuesday September 7, and will run through Friday September 24. These annual Awards recognize and support individuals who serve on the Resort Municipality of Whistler

appointed Committees and Boards of Council in volunteer roles. FWAC Committee members were encouraged to nominate their committee members.

MOTION TO TERMINATE


Moved by R. Millikin
Seconded by J. Hammons

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, September 8, 2021 be terminated at 5:02 p.m.

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melanie Tardif", written over a horizontal line.

Chair, M. Tardif

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Wynott", written over a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary, J. Wynott