



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2021, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

#### Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at [www.whistler.ca/fwac](http://www.whistler.ca/fwac)

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (9)
Councilor, A. De Jong	9
Member at Large, M. Tardif, Chair	9
Member at Large, C. Rankin, Co-Chair	9
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	7
Member at Large, J. Hammons	9
Member at Large, T. Burton	7
Member at Large, R. Millikin	8
Member at Large, D. Raymond	7
Member at Large, D. Bonin	6
AWARE, C. Ruddy	8
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	9
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	4

REGRETS	
WORCA, N. Koshure	5

GUESTS	
CCF, S. Murray	1
BLACKWELL, B. Blackwell	1
BLACKWELL, D. Zemanek	1

### CALL TO ORDER

*Forest Wildland Advisory Committee recognized The Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as Liłwat7úl, and the Squamish People, known in their language as Skwxwú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.*

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. De Jong

Seconded by D. Bonin

**That** Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of Wednesday, November 10, 2021.

CARRIED

## **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by C. Rankin  
Seconded by A. De Jong

**That** Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the amended Committee Minutes of Wednesday October 13, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

## **PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS**

Updates

Council

- Currently working on 2022 budget.
- The Community Budget Open House is scheduled for November 18.
- The Cheakamus housing project units should be available by mid-summer.
- Remembrance Day in person event at the cenotaph tomorrow.
- WB wildfire project debris burning is not currently happening.

AWARE

- The community underground Creekside garage sale took place.

WORCA

- The trail crew is wrapping up for the season in approximately one week.
- WORCA continued to participate in the RSTBC provincial trail standards and has been testing the new criteria against trails in the Cheakamus area.
- WORCA will submit a 2022 Fee For Service application to the RMOW.

RMOW

- Deep into budget right now including the wildfire budget for 2022.
- The draft CWRP will be presented in today's FWAC meeting. There is work being completed on the monitoring plan as well.
- High School site fuel thinning completed and Taluswood site half completed with remainder done in spring 2022.
- Funding application to federal Disaster Mitigation & Adaptation Fund being prepared for November 15 deadline.
- The alpine trails did not reopen after the grizzly bear closure.
- The wildfire program communications survey received approximately 190 responses. These responses will help develop a communications plan for 2022.
- An update on the private land clearing adjacent to Highway 99 near McGuire FSR was given. The issue is now with the RMOW legal team.

Trail Planning Working Group

- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday December 2, 2021.

Cheakamus Community Forest

- The CCF is waiting for the Squamish Nation to appoint 2 new directors to the board so it can hold its strategic planning workshop.

## ADOPTION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

Moved by C. Rankin  
Seconded by M. Tardif

**That** Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the FWAC Annual Report with the revised resolution as circulated.

CARRIED

The Annual Report will now go to the CCF board, then to Council.

### 2022 CCF Harvesting Plans

A presentation by Simon Murray, CCF Forestry Manager, was given regarding the proposed 2022 CCF harvesting plans: Brew B04; 16 Mile: Jane Lakes; Wedge. Brew 04, blocks A-G map was shared and input requested from the Committee. Plan is to heli-log the blocks in one week by staging from the Brandywine snowmobile parking lot area. The blocks are mature timber (100-249 years of age) and are of economic value. Discussion was held regarding a watershed assessment, economic viability of the project, potential heli disruptions to the RV Park and Brandywine Provincial Park, impacts of heli logging vs. road creation, and First Nations support and employment. The committee also discussed that heli logging goes against the objectives of FWAC (burning excess carbon and no First Nation's employment).

*C. Ruddy joined the meeting at 3:48 p.m.*

Block F was recommended by AWARE to be included in CCF's EBM Reserves because of mature forest values and old growth recruitment. Brew Creek runs through the block and will have setbacks.

Simon displayed the 16 Mile Area map and identified the areas that were proposed for a fuel break and S05, a series of small openings for retention harvesting in 40-50 year old plantations. Discussion was held about the size of logging areas and amount of removal. FWAC suggested high retention, thinning with appropriate equipment like a yarding tower to minimize impacts. Encourage First Nation contractors to purchase such equipment or hire contractor that owns such equipment. The fuel break would require supplemental funding for debris clean up, the same as Cheakamus Lake Road.

The committee identified that the province recently released new bio geo climatic (BEC) zone boundary mapping and old growth deferral areas. CCF maps need to be updated to match. All locations need to be ground truthed.

FWAC has reviewed Fee, Wedge and Jane Lakes plans previously.

### Draft Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan

A presentation by Bruce Blackwell was given regarding the draft Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

The plan discussed updating the 2011 Wildfire Protection Plan into a resiliency plan that has interagency integration between Fire and Environmental Stewardship. The presentation covered the CWRP development, implementation and draft recommendations, which included the following:

- Interagency collaboration
- Fire Smart and education
- Fuel treatments
- Emergency response
- Assess and improve

Discussion occurred including the importance of merging all of the stakeholders and fire plans, funding sources, effects of thinning on fires and if the prescriptions are based on coastal forests or drier forests.

Monitoring plan: plot based; monitor vegetation growth and response; wildlife/bird use. Size of budget drives size of program (\$1500 – 2,000/plot site). FWAC commented that it should also test assumptions used to develop wildfire behavior modeling pre/post thinning. Determine if prescribed burning is appropriate in Whistler. Blackwell responded that site densities vary significantly making it hard to test assumptions.

Add draft monitoring plan to January 2022 FWAC agenda.

Discussion re: effects of thinning on forests and wildfire behavior. Concern that it won't improve wildfire outcomes and cause ecological damage in the meantime. Response is that treatments are shown to move fires from crowns to ground, buy time and create defensible space but won't stop ember showers. Emphasize need to also Fire Smart Whistler properties to complement forest thinning work. They work together to change wildfire outcomes.

The plan will enter its second draft in January when FWAC will have time to review.

*T. Burton left meeting at 4:17 p.m.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

*There were no items of Other Business.*

## **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

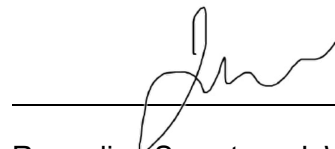
Moved by C. Ruddy  
Seconded by R. Millikin

**That** the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, November 10, 2021 be terminated at 5:10 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, M. Tardif

  
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott