



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2022, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

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

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (2)
Councilor, A. DeJong	2
Member at Large, C. Rankin, Co-Chair	2
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	2
Member at Large, R. Millikin	2
AWARE, C. Ruddy	2
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	2
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	2
Member at Large, V. Cole	1
Member at Large, C. Young	1
Member at Large, T. Burton	1

REGRETS	
WORCA, N. Koshure	0
Member at Large, M. Tardif, Chair	1
Member at Large, D. Raymond	1

CALL TO ORDER

The 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 R. Millikin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of February 9, 2022.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Areshenkoff
Seconded by T. Burton

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Open Committee Minutes of January 12, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Member Intros

The new committee members Victoria Cole and Christine (Tina) Young introduced themselves.

Updates

Council

- There has been no progress on the transit strike.
- The Olympic bid for 2030 is in its initial stages. RMOW and WB are working diligently towards this.
- Units are selling for the Cheakamus Community employee housing project.
- There was a presentation to council on the Lil'wat project in Function Junction. It will include commercial space, restaurant and a gas station.

AWARE

- The new admin role started last week, and an engagement manager is starting soon, so focus can move back to projects and away from admin.
- AWARE is busy submitting grant requests.
- There is information online regarding the Balance Model. It is important to note the indicators are tied to growth.

WORCA

- WORCA is waiting to hear back from the province (RSTBC) regarding the section 57 trail approvals and the provincial trail standards pilot program.).
- WORCA is working towards creating a special events policy that will have requirements for groups organizing events on the Whistler trail network to contribute back to the trails through WORCA and which will hopefully serve to minimize damage to trail networks.
- WORCA has been contacted by the CCF regarding the proposed cutting in around the Wedgemount area as it will impact the climb to Comfortably Numb and part of Out There trail. The CCF Forest Manager is keen to work with WORCA in order to create a cutting plan that will reduce the impact to the trails. WORCA will be coordinating a site visit to discuss in the spring. Any harvesting would not occur until next fall.

RMOW

- The Wildfire Consultant RFP and Ecosystem Monitoring Program RFPs are out. The hope is to award the contracts in March.
- The Priority Habitat Strategy RFP will be released soon. This will cover entire area within the RMOW boundary.
- CWRP is in its final draft, and will be coming to FWAC in the March meeting. It will then go to Council April 5, 2022.

- 16 Mile Forest Service Road prescription is currently being drafted by Blackwell.
- Working to finalize 2022 thinning with Alpine Acceleration. They will finish Taluswood, Cheakamus Crossing phase 2 and a third location.
- RMOW is preparing a Carbon Neutral Operations Plan to determine how it will meet its GHG emissions reduction targets. This will go to Council mid-summer.
- FWAC TOR update proposal as circulated to FWAC prior to this meeting is going to Council Feb 22.

Trail Planning Working Group

- The Recreation Trails Strategy is moving along. There was a survey distributed regarding thoughts about trails and values that need to be safeguarded. Environmental factors was rated as the highest value to be considered among the over 800 respondents.

Cheakamus Community Forest

- CCF Open House is scheduled for February 28, 2022 from 4-6 p.m.

Wildfire Program Survey Results

Staff shared the Wildfire Program Survey Results. The survey was distributed October 2021 and received 187 responses.

The survey identified that most people feel they are at risk of wildfire in Whistler, with Climate Change as the largest risk. Most people who responded are aware of RMOW wildfire programs and have participated in one of the programs. Most people also support fuel thinning in the community and the FireSmart program on private properties. Most people are also aware of the Whistler Evacuation Plan.

Discussion occurred regarding bringing attention to house shingle types, the opportunity to combine FireSmart and Fuel Thinning and the Evacuation Plan.

CCF Harvesting Comments Review

Staff reviewed the CCF Forestry Manager's response to FWAC's 2022 harvesting plan comments.

FWAC would like to see a long term plan from the CCF. Discussion occurred regarding the limited impact that FWAC comments seem to have on CCF plans.

The next opportunity for comments is the CCF Open House on February 28 from 4 – 6 p.m. via Zoom. FWAC members were encouraged to participate.

C. Rankin excused at 4:15 p.m.

C. Rankin re-joined at 4:23 p.m.

Wildfire Monitoring Plan

Staff presented the draft Wildfire Monitoring Plan submitted by Blackwell & Associates.

A discussion occurred regarding the plan. FWAC feels the plan does not answer the question 'why are we doing this?', i.e., the key monitoring questions and associated objectives, prior to detailed consideration of what parameters to monitor and how the monitoring should be undertaken.

FWAC proposed creating a subcommittee to suggest an alternative monitoring plan to address discussed concerns. FWAC will withhold any comments regarding the Blackwell plan until the subcommittee tables a suggested alternative plan for consideration. The subcommittee will be led by R. Millikin. V. Cole, C. Rankin, C. Ruddy and J. Areshenkoff volunteered to join. The subcommittee will present suggestions at the March FWAC meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Other Business.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by T. Burton

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of February 9, 2022 be terminated at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Colin Rankin

Chair, C. Rankin



Recording Secretary, J. Wynott