

WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

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

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (6)
Councilor, A. DeJong	6
Member at Large, Chair, M. Tardif	4
Member at Large, C. Rankin,	6
Member at Large, D. Raymond	5
Member at Large, C. Young	5
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	5
WORCA, N. Koshure	4
AWARE, C. Ruddy	3
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	6
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	5

REGRETS	
Member at Large, T. Burton	3
Member at Large, R. Millikin	4
Member at Large, V. Cole	2

GUESTS	
BC Parks, Planning Section Head, R. Kohlhardt	

CALL TO ORDER

C. Rankin 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 Líl'wat7úl, 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. DeJong
Seconded by T. Young

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of June 8, 2022.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Raymond
Seconded by C. Rankin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Open Committee Minutes of Wednesday, May 11, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

BC Parks Update

R. Kohlhardt gave an overview of her position and responsibilities with BC Parks. She is the Planning Section Head responsible for the Sea to Sky region and Sunshine Coast.

R. Kohlhardt discussed the Garibaldi Park (Cheakamus Lake and Rubble Creek) day pass use and the increased demand in outdoor recreation and spaces. The Spearhead trail is in preliminary planning phase.

The Committee then had a question and answer period, discussing the Visitor Use Management Framework applied to Joffre Lakes Park, the increased use of the Callaghan Valley and potential for a visitor use management plan for the area, the conservancies that were identified in the Sea to Sky LRMP (Callaghan and Upper Soo), an update to the Sea to Sky LRMP that is being considered and involving the Squamish Nation and BC Government, BC Parks resourcing and the Garibaldi at Squamish development.

M. Tardif joined at 3:24 p.m.

R. Kohlhardt left at 3:26 p.m.

Updates

Council

- The 2030 Olympics is an ongoing discussion. There will be community consultation at the end of June to engage the public.
- Council received a First Nations presentation regarding their view and vision of the games.
- The Transit Strike is ongoing and is the longest in provincial history. A mediator has been assigned under a 10 day framework. Council is hoping to see movement.
- Council is processing a high number of Land Use Contracts.
- Council saw the first 4500 Northlands Development presentation at the June 7 meeting. The Whistler Tennis Association was present for the meeting.
- There were two presentations from Environmental Stewardship with respect to Big Moves, Buildings and the Energy Step Code and the EV Charging Station Strategy.

AWARE

- AWARE has had a full staff turnover, so there has been a lot of training occurring in the background.

- Programming is coming back. The Zero Waste Heroes program has started, and they are working with all of the events they worked with previously.
- There will be a Project Now program showcase with WSS students at the Rainbow Theatre on June 14. Committee members were encouraged to attend.
- AWARE helped to deliver Go By Bike week with the RMOW.
- AWARE attended the Transportation Ideation Session, and made note there was no ideation session relating to Climate or Environment.

WORCA

- The Trail Crew has been busy working through the Fee for Service work.
- WORCA is still working on getting approvals for new trail construction for Into the Mystic and Jane Lakes. Approvals are not expected this summer.
- Toonie rides have started again, with the continuation of the Virtual Toonie.
- Back forty race is this upcoming weekend.
- D. Raymond, N. Koshure and Simon Murray, CCF, visited the proposed Wedge harvest blocks. Simon is working to modify the cut blocks and increase retention of trees that provide potential Spotted Owl habitat. This harvesting will change the trail experience. This will be discussed with the WORCA Board at the next Board of Directors meeting and official feedback will be submitted.

Discussion occurred regarding the impacts of harvesting on recreation and biodiversity values, and the number of large trees to be left/retained in harvest blocks. Shifting “leave trees” to trail corridors can have impacts on wildlife (e.g., Northern goshawk and tree nesting species). While leaving trees by the trail and harvesting further back from the trail, as proposed, may reduce recreation impacts, concern was raised that it could lead to wildlife/human conflicts as species such as bears would use the trail corridor.

RMOW

- Alpine Acceleration is continuing wildfire work at Taluswood and is currently completing controlled brush pile burnings. Smoke may be present.
- There will be a site visit RMOW staff, Frontera and Alpine Axeceleration to a proposed area for thinning behind the Whistler Interpretive Forest parking lot. Its part of the thinning planned around the new Cheakamus development.
- Work adjacent to Rainbow is planned for 2022 and will be shared with FWAC.
- Diamond Head Consulting was the successful RFP applicant and awarded the Priority Habitat Management Strategy Contract.
- September 25 Rivers Day celebration.
- Natural Asset management Program being integrated into municipal planning and operations.

TPWG

- No updates

CCF

- There is an upcoming Board Meeting on June 16, 2022.
- July 20, 2022 will be the Strategic Planning Session with a facilitator.

Field Trip Debrief

The Committee discussed the field trip and consideration to the layout of Block P03 along the Callaghan road.

Discussion included that of patch designation within the CCF and how the various patches work together. The Committee feels there is a disconnect between the modelling and what is on the ground. Strategic planning should link all the values in the CCF and include more detail on old forest and monitoring to understand impacts and connections across the landscape. FWAC questioned if alternatives could be found to replace logging in terms of employment and revenue generation. Increasing carbon offset sales and pricing was suggested, and not “just” harvesting away from the road where it cannot be seen.

FWAC would like to see CCF update the EBM Plan and integrate broader values with timber harvesting when considering where, what, how and how much timber to harvest.

With respect to Callaghan P03, it was commented that this block would be supported over other proposed areas, however, FWAC members stated that they would prefer a selective logging method where 70% of trees are retained (i.e., selective or “commercial” thinning). It would be valuable to explore how to move away from logging for explicit lumber purposes, and discuss ideas of how the CCF can move from a timber extraction/AAC focus to one of climate resiliency and carbon retention/sequestration.

FWAC passed the following motion:

That FWAC encourages the CCF to strongly consider shifting its management approach to more fully deliver the Ecosystem-based Management Plan and manage for climate resiliency, while enhancing Indigenous cultural and economic capacity building.

Moved by M. Tardif
Seconded by C. Rankin

CARRIED

FPB Audit Report

The Forest Practices Board completed a random audit on the CCF last year. While the Audit Report found that “except for the fire hazard abatement... the operational planning, timber harvesting, road maintenance, and silviculture activities carried out by Cheakamus Community Forest Limited Partnership on community forest agreement K3V between August 1, 2019, and August 6, 2021, complied in all significant respects with the requirements of the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, the *Wildfire Act* and related regulations, as of August 2021.”

However the audit found ten slash piles that exceeded the two year maximum for abatement (i.e., removal or burning) and that "failure to abate the hazards is a significant non-compliance with the *Wildfire Act*.

Section 12.1 of the Wildfire Regulation states that a party must abate a fire hazard within two years of the start of harvesting to ensure that the risk of a fire starting on the site does not increase, and fire hazards do not make a fire's behavior worse or suppression efforts more difficult.

Eight of the ten slash piles were located inside the RMOW boundary, where some requirements of the *Wildfire Act* are superseded by the municipal Fire and Life Safety Bylaw 2201.. The audit noted Bylaw 2201 does not address when or how hazard abatement should occur following industrial operations and the Board believes this is a regulatory gap.

The FPB Audit Report recommended that the RMOW amend its bylaw 2201 to create a legal requirement for timely and effective hazard abatement following industrial operations that is equivalent or better than the requirements under the *Wildfire Act*.

In response to the Board's Recommendation the RMOW is upgrading its Fire and Life Safety to be compliant with the Wildfire Act. It will go to Council later this summer.

All piles have now been disposed of to the satisfaction of the CCF Forest Manager in accordance with the Wildfire Regulation.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed moving meetings back to in person. After discussion regarding carbon emissions resulting in travel to meetings and Zoom convenience, meetings will resume on the Zoom platform until further notice.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

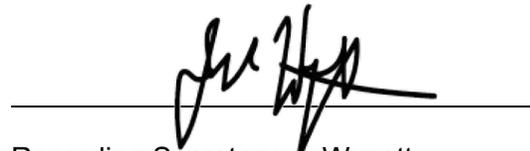
Moved by C. Ruddy
Seconded by A. De Jong

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, June 8, 2022 be terminated at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, M. Tardif



Recording Secretary, J. Wynott