



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FOREST AND WILDLAND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2022, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

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

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (9)
Councilor, A. De Jong	9
Member at Large, Chair, M. Tardif	7
Member at Large, C. Rankin,	9
Member at Large, C. Young	8
Member at Large, R. Millikin	7
AWARE, C. Ruddy	6
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	9
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	8

REGRETS	
Member at Large, D. Raymond	7
Member at Large, V. Cole	4
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	5
WORCA, N. Koshure	4

CALL TO ORDER

M. Tardif recognized The Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lílwat People, known in their language as Lílwat7úl, 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 R. Millikin

Seconded by C. Ruddy

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of September 14, 2022 with the following amendments.

- Removal of J. Areshenkoff's presentation in his absence
- Addition of a brief introduction of the Priority Management Strategy from H. Beresford
- Addition of the Civic Service Awards to Other Business

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by T. Young

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Committee Minutes of Wednesday, August 10, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council

- The UBCM conference is taking place in Whistler this week.
- We have entered election period, with Election Day on October 15. There are multiple all-candidates meetings coming up for public to attend.
- Bears are moving into higher elevations, however we suspect to see them back in the valley soon with dwindling berry supplies.
- The Whistler Transit Future Action Plan was discussed at the last Council meeting.

AWARE

- AWARE is in programming mode with the Zero Waste Hero's and events. It is great to see those revenue streams returning.
- The fall programming is returning to the high school.
- AWARE is hosting an all candidates meeting with WCSS which will focus on environment and community wellbeing.
- AWARE is currently writing grants and ideally seeking secure funds for core programs such as Project Now and GROW'

WORCA

- Have been unable to put shovels in the ground due to the elevated fire hazard for the last few weeks.
- WORCA received "green tool" funding from the Whistler Foundation which will go towards purchasing electric tools, moving away from gas powered machines.
- WORCA is still in the process of getting the Section 57 trail applications approved.
- They have completed the FFS application for next summer and were asked to create a budget and plan for the next 3 years. They will be notified of multi-year funding which may help us to plan for the future.
- The Canadian National Enduro Series will be racing on Sept 24.
- No update on the fire thinning in the CCF work in the Wedgemount area. Simon provided some updated maps with the cutblock locations modified to remove the trail from inside the polygon. It sounds like harvesting has been delayed and now is more likely going to be September/October.

RMOW

- Alpine Axeceleration has been active and working above Rainbow, with a couple weeks off during the extreme fire rating.
- Awarded the RFP for the wildfire thinning contract to Alpine Axeceleration. The RMOW is happy to continue to work with them.
- Frontera Forest Solutions has been working on the Monitoring Plan and working with R. Millikin who has been representing the FWAC subcommittee.
- Luisa Burhenne is the successful candidate and will become the new RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship. Heather and Luisa will attend the October FWAC meeting, with Luisa being the point person starting October 1. Heather's last day with the RMOW will be October 27.

Trail Planning Working Group

- No updates.

Cheakamus Community Forest

- The Board of Directors held their strategic planning workshop. They have received a draft copy of the strategy and the board is reviewing it.
- The next Board meeting is October 6.
- There will be some changes to the Board after the election. Councillor John Grills is not seeking reelection, so will be stepping down.

The Committee requested to view the draft strategy at the November FWAC meeting if it is available.

Priority Habitat Strategy

H. Beresford provided an update on the Priority Management Strategy and discussion was held.

The Committee reviewed the table of contents and discussion occurred regarding the sections of the strategy and what it includes. The Committee complimented staff on the very ambitious project and the legacy this will leave in protecting Whistler's natural spaces. Discussion occurred regarding how much more development Whistler will see with its current bed cap.

Diamondhead Consulting is preparing the strategy and a draft will be provided to FWAC in October for review.

Fuel Thinning Statistics

R. Millikin gave a presentation regarding the statistical outcomes of the 2021 independent wildfire thinning monitoring program.

The Unintended Effects on Microclimate study found that wildfire thinning is increasing the risk of fire due to factors such as reduced humidity, increased wind and solar radiation, and increasing temperatures. Whistler forests are uniquely fire resistant. R. Millikin suggested using green fuel breaks to mitigate fires and protect infrastructure. The recommendation was to pause fuel thinning until we can confirm it is the right prescription.

The research was published in the University of Toronto Medical Journal (UTMJ) • Volume 99, Number 1, January 2022; attached) and is in the process of peer review for the international journal "Fire".

Discussion occurred regarding how the results of this study can be so different from modelling used by wildfire consultants. It was suggested that the province is making prescriptions based on forests that are not the same as Whistler's temperate rain forest, grade and slopes. They agreed that one size does not fit all. The committee also noted that the green fuel breaks suggested could include bear attractant plants which could cause human bear conflict. The committee would like to see integration with Firesmart to include both the forest and infrastructure elements.

A. De Jong left at 4:38 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

October Field Trip

A discussion occurred regarding the October Field Trip. H. Beresford will circulate a doodle poll to pick a date.

Civic Service Awards

The Committee was reminded of the Civic Service awards and to nominate their fellow Committee members should they choose to. The deadline for submissions is September 23.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

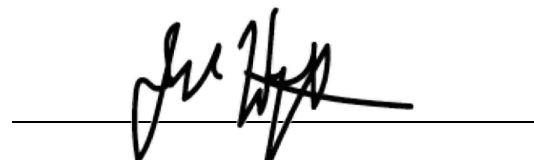
Moved by C. Ruddy
Seconded by T. Young

That the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, September 14, 2022 be terminated at 4:52 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, M. Tardif



Recording Secretary, J. Wynott