



**REGULAR MEETING OF
FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Wednesday, February, 15, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom
For information on how to participate: <http://www.whistler.ca/fwac>

		Mtgs: YTD (1)
PRESENT:	Councillor, A. De Jong	2
	Chair, Member at Large, M. Tardif	2
	Co-Chair, Member at Large, R. Millikin	2
	Member at Large, C. Young	2
	Member at Large, D. Raymond	1
	WORCA, N. Koshure	1
ABSENT:	Member at Large, V. Cole	2
	Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	1
	AWARE, C. Ruddy	1
STAFF PRESENT:	Manager of Climate and Environment, L. Burhenne	
	Recording Secretary, O. Carroll	
OTHERS:	WORCA, Ben Hryciw	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair 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.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By Member at Large, C. Young

Seconded By Member at Large, Co-Chair, R. Millikin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By Member at Large, D. Raymond

Seconded By Councilor, A. De Jong

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of Wednesday, February 15, 2023 as amended to include the addition of “fuel” to clarify the 2023 thinning plans in RMOW updates under Section 4.1.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Updates

Updates were given by Council, WORCA, and RMOW. There were no new updates from Trail Planning Working Group (TPWG) or Cheakamus Community Forest. AWARE Representative, C. Ruddy was not present in meeting to provide new updates.

Council

- Municipal parking rates will be increasing as of April 2, 2023 which will likely include rates for Day Lots 4 and 5. A lot of the parking pass revenue goes back into transit.
- Whistler 2020 Development Corporation (WDC) gave Council update on Cheakamus Housing Project. Phase 1 is nearly complete; and Phase 2 is anticipated to begin this Spring which will consist of two rental unit buildings.
- Whistler Transit scaling back winter service due to driver shortage.
- Council received progress report from Community Wildlife Resiliency Plan at January 24th Council meeting.
- Phase 2 of Rainbow Park upgrades will be going to tender shortly with plans for construction beginning summer 2023. There has been lots of public pushback for proposed changes; and Council are listening to this feedback.
- Council passed resolution on February 7th to fully finance our summer concert series with fourteen performances scheduled this summer at Whistler Olympic Plaza.

WORCA

- Have received full funding request from RMOW which allows us to make a good plan for summer and hire a strong full time Trail Crew.
- Have received full support from the Lil'wat and Squamish Nations regarding our Section 57 applications and are engaging with Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC) to move ahead with our approvals from the province.
- Making plans to improve/enhance 'Far Out' and 'Flash Back' (Cheakamus trails) to have them meet the standards for adaptive riders and have applied for an accessibility grant to help do so.
- In the process of determining which trail crew members will be returning and planning for the summer.
- Looking at ways to engage with local First Nations and have some involvement with them through job creation and training opportunities.

RMOW

- RMOW is undergoing organizational restructuring and is in the process of hiring a General Manager of the newly created RMOW division, Community Engagement & Cultural Services. February 23, 2023 is Jessie Gresley-Jones' last day as GM of Climate Action & Developmental Services. Martin Pardoe will be acting GM until a successful candidate is hired.

- L. Burhenne presented report to Council on progress towards delivering the Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. Working in increased alignment and collaboration between FireSmart and Whistler Fire Services.
- Summer fuel thinning plans include Rainbow 1, Riverside, and Kadenwood. Treatment units 1 and 2 will be done manually by Lil'wat Nation. Treatment 3 will be executed by Alpine Axeceleration, fuel thinning contractor. RMOW wildfire consultant, Frontera Solutions, will be taking measurements this week and begin securing permits for work beginning when the snow melts in April.
- Climate Action Coordinator, Maria Thorlakson, will be bringing first report to Council in February 21 meeting.

N. Koshure joined meeting at 3:22 p.m.

4.2 Terms of Reference

L. Burhenne reviewed the FWAC Terms of Reference to refresh and clarify guiding principles with the committee. L. Burhenne clarified that all committee's means of communicating with Council is through committee minutes. Committee stressed the importance of being strategic with the wording of meeting minutes in order to correctly emphasize FWAC's priorities and critical feedback for Council.

Committee asked for clarification on the urban development containment area; and the language used in the TOR to define committee's scope of input with relation to this area. L. Burhenne proposed adding this definition along with a detailed map of the area onto the next meeting's agenda. Committee also requested more information on the Sea to Sky Land & Resource Management plan which is referred to in the Terms of Reference. Committee members expressed the need to include this information as well as a concrete clarification of FWAC's scope and boundaries in a FWAC 'onboarding package' for new committee members. Member at Large, C. Young has started drafting an onboarding package with the aim to share a draft for the next meeting.

4.3 Annual Report

A discussion was had regarding staff's feedback on the FWAC Annual Report. L. Burhenne clarified that the report is intended to be directed to CCF and does not go directly to Council. The Committee expressed frustration with the lack of impact the minutes seem to have in expressing FWAC's key priorities and concerns to Council, which is one of the reasons why so much time and effort was put into the Annual Report. R. Millikin asked if Councilor A. De Jong would bring forward the Annual Report to Council on behalf of FWAC. Councilor A. De Jong agreed consider if it was within the scope of FWAC's Terms of Reference.

The Committee is frustrated and discouraged by the current level of efficacy it has in the community. The committee would like to see FWAC's comments affect more change in how forest and wildlands are affected in our areas.

L. Burhenne noted the main outcome of the RMOW Committee review should hopefully provide additional clarity on the committee's role and purpose.

M. Tardif will make changes to the Annual Report and circulate to committee members with the intention of accepting the Annual Report at the next meeting.

4.4 FWAC Annual Calendar

L. Burhenne shared updated annual calendar that covers the key priorities of the committee as defined by the Terms of Reference. The intention is that different members choose a meeting topic to assist in finding guest speakers or presentations, as well as a brief overview on historical FWAC discussions related to each focus area. Committee was in favour of the proposed calendar. Suggestions included a TOR overview and onboarding package for new members including relevant maps and documents for January. February would also include a follow up with new members and providing any additional support for understanding FWAC responsibilities. R. Millikin proposed hearing from other RMOW staff for challenges or opportunities that FWAC could be addressing. Committee recognized it could be beneficial to coordinate with other RMOW committees that may have overlapping priorities and invite feedback to FWAC meetings.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Chair, M. Tardif will be absent from March 8, 2023 meeting so R. Millikin, Co-Chair will be chairing the meeting.

6. TERMINATION

Moved By Member at Large, C. Young

Seconded By Councilor, A. De Jong

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

CARRIED

Chair, M, Tardif

Recording Secretary, O, Carroll