



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 2022 STARTING AT 9:00A.M.

#### Remote Meeting

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

#### PRESENTS

Chair, RMOW Mayor, J. Crompton  
RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, Virginia Cullen  
RMOW Emergency Program Coordinator, Ryan Donohue  
RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, Kerry Hannah  
RMOW General Manager of Corporate & Community Services, Ted Battiston  
RMOW Manager of Protective Services, Lindsay DeBou  
RMOW General Manager of Infrastructure Services, Chris Wike (Acting)  
RMOW General Manager of Resort Experience, Jessie Gresley-Jones  
Whistler Blackcomb Senior Manager, Mountain Safety, Kira Cailles  
RMOW Recording Secretary, Lucy Pocock

#### REGRETS

BC Ambulance Service, Neil Collins  
BC Transit, Colin Hoffmann  
Blackcomb Helicopters, Joesphine Poyner  
Councillor, Jen Ford  
RCMP Staff Sergeant, Sascha Banks  
RMOW Fire Chief, John McKearney  
School District #48, Ian Currie  
Vancouver Coastal Health, Vacant  
Whistler Search and Rescue Society, Tony DelBosco

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

"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 Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice."

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by L. DeBou  
Seconded by V. Cullen  
That the Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Emergency Planning Committee Agenda of March 21, 2022.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by J. Gresley-Jones  
Seconded by V. Cullen  
That the Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Emergency Planning Committee Minutes of September 27, 2021.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Review of Training and Exercises 2022 A presentation by R. Donohue, Emergency Program Coordinator, was given to review both planned and proposed training as well as the development of an inter-agency debris flood exercise in fall 2022.

### Summary

Proposed training options:

1. Incident Command System (ICS) introduction – May 2022.
  - o Internal EOC training for predominantly operations staff, full-day (led by R. Donohue).
  - o Training of five functions – broad, modular approach.
2. ICS 100 – ongoing 7hrs online (through JIBC, funded by EMBC).
3. ICS 200 – September 2022 (through UBCM).
  - o Up to 24 staff/stakeholders; integration of incident site roles and EOC).

Proposed functional exercise:

- Debris flood exercise – October 2022.
  - o Functional exercise as a follow-up to training/applying ICS approach.

### Discussions

Discussion re. proposed options:

- Most individuals within Fire Services have attended ICS 100, as well as some EOC operations support staff.
- Suggestion that the introduction to ICS (by R. Donohue) could be provided annually through the HR internal training program.
- Preference for in-person training (as opposed to online training); K. Cailes highlighted the importance of translation of principles to an exercise/hands-on training.
  - o Cons for in-house training – no accreditation.
  - o Pros for online training – flexibility for staff scheduling.
- Operational aspects of wildfire training (S100) could be beneficial, especially for operations staff, however it is a less broad approach than ICS.
  - o Suggestion to integrate with Whistler Blackcomb S100 training (enabling collaboration and sharing of resources and helping establish roles, responsibilities and capabilities).
  - o **Action:** R. Donohue and K. Cailes to follow up re. collaborative training, including WFRS.
- **Action:** GMs to share rough numbers for training and subsequent numbers for an effective functional exercise; R. Donohue to share numbers that have previously had EOC training (and an indication of the time commitment and resources needed).

Discussion re. Fitz Creek Debris Flood Exercise (proposed for fall 2022).

- Functional exercise following staff training sessions (whether that is in-person with R. Donohue or online ICS 100/200 option).
- The exercise would be managed by RMOW operations staff, first responders and external agencies (with activation of an EOC).
- Initial agreement from the Committee to hold a low-level EOC activation and invite external partners to the exercise. Considerations include:
  - o Management level participation (approx. 10 people) for the duration of the exercise (2-3hrs).

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- Planning and implementation – heavy contribution from the Emergency Program Coordinator and A. Tucker’s team.
- Fire Services commitment – 2-3hrs (minimum).
- EOC members and RCMP.
- Securing Day Lots 1-5 – requiring personnel for the mock exercise.
- An exercise in September could capture more summer operations staff, however an October exercise may have less impact on local businesses and we do not wish to displace tourists (the last day of bike park operations is October 10).
- Recommendation for a hands-on and practical approach as opposed to a tabletop hypothetical exercise; and the longer, more realistic scenario is more beneficial.
- Absorb learnings from other municipalities – could take the opportunity to invite personnel from municipalities that have more recently activated for an incident.
- The plan in the event of a Fitz Creek debris flood would be shared prior to the exercise with all stakeholders and need clear determination of outcomes, who will be in attendance, what we are hoping to achieve, (R. Donohue to gauge appetite and capacity for fall 2022 from stakeholders).

### Overview of the Updated CWRP

A presentation by R. Donohue, Emergency Program Coordinator, was given on behalf of H. Beresford, on the updated Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan.

#### Purpose of the updated CWRP:

- Increase efficiency of fire suppression, assessment of risk and emergency response capacity.
- Strategies and recommendations for Fire Smart include training, planning, preparedness (more structure for mitigation, training and implementation of Community plans), education, resiliency, and vegetation management.
- Formalizing that the Emergency Planning Committee provides oversight on:
  - increasing integrated cooperation,
  - increasing cross-training,
  - enhancing emergency preparedness; through the endorsement of the CWRP and the RMOW Wildfire working group.
- Following the adoption of the updated CWRP, the working group could develop initiatives such as:
  - Firesmart vegetation rebates.
  - Linking/tracking within RMOW GIS to indicate Firesmart areas.
  - Reviewing Wildfire DPA guidelines, e.g. policy for rated shake roofing on review of the structure survival statistics (ranging from 4% with flammable roof with no Firesmarting to 90% survival with non-flammable roof and vegetation management).
- Recommendation to change from the RMOW Wildfire working group to Community Firesmart and Resiliency Committee (CFRC), continuing to work with external partners (and RMOW interdepartmental representation). With the focus on:
  - Education and training for the community with cross-training.
  - Emergency preparedness – e.g. recommendation for roof-top sprinkler program for residential properties; evaluate structural protection equipment (consideration for the average size house in

Whistler – larger than standard); access for first responders through neighbourhoods (suggestion for Valley Trail use); and vegetation management.

Discussion re. the updated CWRP:

- Plan will go to Council on April 5 for adoption, as well as the recommendation to make the change from the RMOW Wildfire working group to CFRC.
- Need to consider whether the name of the committee captures the scope of the previous working group and ensure that it is clear that the purpose is not solely for Firesmart but for Wildfire protection posture (rather than firesmart or resiliency).
  - Consideration for engagement of POC and WFRS – highlighting the importance of framing and naming the committee to engage Fire Services and not just Firesmart.
- Terms of Reference to allow Emergency Planning Committee to have subcommittees of “mitigation” (e.g. CFRC); and other subcommittees such as “preparedness” subcommittee.
- The working group/CFRC should report to the Emergency Planning Committee (as a subcommittee).
  - Decision-making needs to be at the working group level so that decisions are not prohibited or delayed (due to the Emergency Planning Committee meetings occurring on a quarterly basis).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

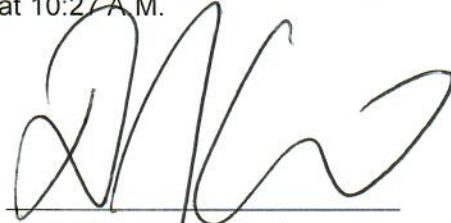
Thank you to R. Donohue for the important work completed since the last meeting. R. Donohue has worked with external partners to implement activations e.g. rapid testing, with short notice and flexibility.

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by V. Cullen  
Seconded by J. Gresley-Jones

That the Emergency Planning Committee Meeting of March 21, 2022 be terminated at 10:27 A.M.

CARRIED



Chair, Mayor J. Crompton



Recording Secretary, L. Pocock