



REGULAR MEETING OF

FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Teams

For information on how to participate: <http://www.whistler.ca/fwac>

		Mtgs: YTD (5)
PRESENT:	Councilor, A. De Jong	5
	Chair, Member at Large, M. Tardif	4
	Co-Chair, Member at Large, R. Millikin	5
	Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	3
	Member at Large, D. Raymond	3
ABSENT:	Member at Large, C. Young	4
	WORCA, N. Koshure	2
	Member at Large, V. Cole	0
	AWARE, C. Ruddy	1
STAFF	Manager of Climate and Environment, L. Burhenne	
PRESENT:		
OTHERS:	Recording Secretary, O. Carroll	
	Snowline Research, Bob Brett	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Melanie 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 D. Raymond

Seconded By A. De Jong

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By J. Areshenkoff

Seconded By D. Raymond

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

CARRIED

4. VERBAL REPORTS

4.1 Updates

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

Council

- Council approved zoning above Moguls for an employee housing two-bedroom suite.
- Council attended housing summit in Vancouver. Common hurdles include funding, reduction of red tape, and highest density builds possible, and having resources to build.
- At May 2nd Council meeting, gave final reading of 48 unit, 2B Cheakamus Crossing.
- Lower Mainland Municipal Government conference in Harrison Hot Springs which covered many issues such as opioid crisis, social media and elections, and other topics and discussions of protocols and governance.
- Adopted 5 year financial plan. Strong year with high MRDT revenue in 2022.

WORCA

- Dan Raymond started on with the trail crew on April 2nd, concentrating primarily on getting the tools/equipment ready for the season, cleaning out the container and planning for the season.
- Some of returning "senior trail crew" staff returned to work with Dan on April 24th and concentrated their effort on the No Flow Zone, Westside, Nesters, Robin Yer Eggs, Piece of Cake, Beaver Pass, Cut Above and Flashback.
- A large amount of work was also put into repairing BC Hydro damage to Hot Dog Alley which occurred during thinning under the powerlines over the winter. A member of WORCA who is affiliated with BC Hydro reached out regarding this and she has offered to assist in working with BC Hydro in the future with required repairs.
- Work at the end of the month was invested in repairing damage to Delineator Post fire thinning which was assisted by over 25 Whistler Secondary Students who are part of the outdoor leadership program.
- Will be working with the RMOW and its contractor to help inform members regarding trail closures around the Rainbow area due to fire thinning activities.
- The first trail night of the season started on May 2nd. There will be upwards of two paid trail crew staff at each trail night to help manage/train up to 30 volunteers who are investing their energy finishing the Far out/Flashback project.
- Currently hiring for more Trail Builder positions.
- Section 57 Application – hopefully close to receiving notification of application(s) from the province with D'arcy's trail anticipated to be first to receive approval ahead of the Mystic Function Trail.

RMOW

- Wrapping up work in Cheakamus neighborhood. Final area of Riverside. Completed area at the end of Madeley Place and the Interpretive Forest – chip removal scheduled for Friday. Last area behind the neighborhood to begin

following a bird/owl survey by Bob Brett to ensure the work would not be disturbing any birds.

- Then will begin work in Rainbow Estates. Part of the area is being done by RMOW contractor, Alpine Axeleration, and the other two areas by Lil'wat Forestry Ventures which is all being supervised by wildfire consultant, Frontera. Met this morning along with WORCA to see what trails would be affected. Work to begin May 15 with communications going out this week.
- Monitoring plan – Frontera has put in monitoring plots and will be presenting on their progress at the June FWAC meeting.
- Priority Habitat Strategy, final draft is complete. Stakeholder workshop on May 24th. Mike from Diamond Head Consulting will be presenting to FWAC at June meeting.

4.2 Environmental Monitoring Update

Bob Brett of Snowline Research provided a presentation on Whistler Ecosystems and Species Monitoring Program in 2022.

Highlights:

- Most comprehensive beaver survey yet
- Documentation of three additional Goshawk nests
- First use of environmental DNA (eDNA) in analyzing the presence of tailed frogs in valley creeks.
- First year of improvements to benthic invertebrate surveys
- Addition of depth data for Twenty-One Mile Creek.
- First documentation of beaver dams mitigating effects of water flows.
- Addition of trendlines

Noteworthy for FWAC:

- Beavers
 - Almost a 1:1 correspondence from where there are active dams and wetlands that are created or maintained by beavers.
 - We should develop in a way where beavers can be left to do their thing, and we don't have to control them.
 - Beavers maintain water levels and can prevent flooding in some areas by storing water. It was noted in November 2022 survey that the Meadow Park dam was wetter than normal in this area because the beavers had stored the water due to the drought conditions.
- Northern Goshawks
 - Red-listed (at risk of being lost) species in BC. 'Stable with caution' in the corridor with 5 areas where Goshawks were found (between Brandywine and Wedgewoods). We have an active/persisting population, and therefore a responsibility in this area for protecting this species.
 - In 2016, Cheakamus Community Forest (CCF) cut block 30 meters from an active nest. The juveniles had already fled so legally there is no protection for the nests even though they are re-used from year to year. Goshawks require interior habitats for nesting. Therefore, following this cut block, this nest would be abandoned for future use.
 - In comparison, the nests of pileated woodpeckers, which are not a protected species, are protected for two years after juveniles fledge.

- The province needs to reevaluate the protection for goshawk nests; and the CCF need to understand the implications of cutting near an active nest, even if the juveniles have already fledged as the nests are re-used in the future.
- Goshawk habitat is being squeezed into a diminishing strip of habitat from CCF logging.
- Ensure CCF has access to nest sites for goshawks, and that the Province gets RMOW information about goshawk nesting sites in the Callaghan; and to avoid logging in these areas.

Take Home Messages:

1. All vegetated and/or wet land is habitat
2. We can protect against climate change by:
 - a. Protecting our undisturbed habitats; and
 - b. Restoring disturbed habitats.
3. We can't rely on indicators to give us enough information that is early enough to avert disaster.
4. Nonetheless, indicators can help ensure we are going in the right direction.

4.3 Cheakamus Community Forest Resolution

That the Forest Wildland Advisory committee recommend that the CCF renegotiate with the province to decrease the annual allowable cut to reflect the increase of carbon offset value.

Moved by J. Areshenkoff

Seconded by D. Raymond

CARRIED

4.4 Field Trip Planning

Committee will meet in RMOW parking lot at 9am on Thursday, May 25th at 9am and carpool to the CCF sites in Function and Callaghan. CCF will meet committee on site. Email will circulate to organize vehicles.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

6. TERMINATION

Moved By R. Millikin

Seconded By A. De Jong

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

CARRIED

Chair, M. Tardif

Recording Secretary, O. Carroll