



**REGULAR MEETING OF  
EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

Tuesday, April 25, 2023, 11:00 a.m.

Remote Meeting via Teams

For information on how to participate: <https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/committees/emergency-planning-committee>

- PRESENT:** School District #48 Representative, I. Currie  
BC Ambulance Service Representative, L. Darlington  
Whistler Search and Rescue Society Representative, T. DeBosco  
BC Ambulance Service Representative, R. Larkin  
Whistler Blackcomb Representative, J. Lawther  
Vancouver Coastal Health Representative, Dr. M Khaketla  
RCMP Staff Sergeant, S. Banks  
RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, K. Hannah  
RMOW Emergency Program Coordinator, B. Manson  
RMOW General Manager Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey  
RMOW General Manager Community Engagement and Cultural Services, K. Elliott  
RMOW General Manager Corporate Services and Public Safety, T. Battiston  
RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen  
RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou  
RMOW Councilor, J. Ford  
RMOW Fire Chief, T. Doherty  
Blackcomb Helicopters Representative, D. Marcoux  
RMOW Bylaw and Licencing Coordinator, C. Burford
- ABSENT:** Mayor, J. Crompton  
Whistler Transit Ltd. Representative, C. Selfridge
- OTHERS:** Erin Marriner – RMOW Sr. Communications Officer  
Marc Simpson - BC Wildfire Representative  
Kevin Pederson - School District #48 Representative
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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*Councilor J. Ford recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lílwat People, known in their language as Lilwat7úl, 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 RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen

Seconded By RMOW General Manager Corporate Services and Public Safety,  
T. Battiston

**That** Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of April 25 2023.

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved By RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, K. Hannah

Seconded By RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou

**That** Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of January 31 2023.

CARRIED

**4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**4.1 Introductions**

Introduction to new committee members

Karen Elliott the new RMOW General Manager of Community Engagement & Cultural Services

James Lawther the representative for Whistler Blackcomb

**4.2 BC Wildfire Service Presentation**

A presentation by Marc Simpson from BC Wildfire Services on evacuations, zone and Fire Centers and What BCWS does during a fire emergency.

Key notes included

- Why we do evacuations
- Tactical Evacuations
- Evacuation Alerts
- SOLE (State of Local Emergency)
- Evacuation Orders
- Evacuation Rescinds
- Sheltering in Place
- Coastal Fire Centre Jurisdiction Area
  - 16.9 million Hectare area



- Pemberton Zone
  - 1.1 million Hectare area
  - 3 Municipalities
  - 9 Fire Departments
- Weekly Resource Planning
  - Released Thur-Wed weekly
  - Weather/Fire conditions
  - Number of Fires
  - Request for assistance from other areas
- Spring Outlook
- App for BC Wildfire available for everyone, public included

K. Elliott asked if the province moves as quickly as the EOC during an emergency. M. Simpson confirmed they work in tandem and will react promptly.

T. Battiston asked why we have the Pemberton station as our nearest emergency base. M. Simpson said the geological boundary was set from historical information such as number of fires and amount of forestry. Other Provincial resources will also be available to support if needed.

B. Manson asked if the GIS mapping can be shared with the RMOW. M. Simpson said it is accessible, but he can put the technical team in touch with him to have it set up.

T. Doherty asked is there a notification in place if Pemberton station has to assist elsewhere. M. Simpson said that they will never be completely gone, there will always be help available. The Weekly coordinator at the station is also available to call if information is needed.

#### **4.3 Multimodal Evacuation Plan**

Erin Marriner presented the Multimodal Evacuation Plan which included expectations, role and function of the plan

Key notes included:

- Purpose
  - How the RMOW will safely evacuate
- Steering Committee members
- Phases
  - Research and Data
  - Developing a plan to evacuate
- Demographic Data

- Transportation Capacity for evacuation
- Evacuation Modelling
  - 7 Scenarios were developed and assessed
- Range of Evacuation Times
- Evacuation Times by Scenario
- Transportation of People
  - Ride Sharing/Filling empty car seats
- Traffic Management Strategies
- Evacuation Strategies
  - Zoned areas in Whistler
  - Muster points (will be reviewed with the addition of the new #10 bus)
- Evacuation Clearing Time

J. Hallisey stated that originally this plan was for flooding but has now progressed to accommodate other emergencies such as wildfires

K. Elliott asked what happens when second homeowners want to come up and grab valuable items. E. Marriner confirmed that the modelling didn't allow for this accommodation.

V. Cullen asked if during an evacuation if information about not visiting Whistler would be possible. E. Marriner confirm that communication could be shared, and they have firsthand practice of this from when the COVID restrictions were in place.

T. Battiston asked what the compliance rate would be. E. Marriner said in the modelling it would give a baseline. If there are minors involved, then intervention would be necessary.

#### **4.4 Emergency Program Coordinator Updates**

- Training
  - More people are now or have completed Emergency management courses
  - More capacity for the community to be trained in Emergency
  - Currently accessing free training. Will examine option for grant monies to pay for individual training.
  - Grant applications are being considered if we want to broaden the scope of our management team
- Tabletop Exercise on March 30th
  - Based mainly towards the Fitz debris failure



- 15 attendees
- Grant Purchases for the Emergency Planning Department
  - Water jugs
  - Meals ready to eat packages
  - Water filtration system
- Emergency Program Act
  - The province has delayed it until Fall
- Emergency Preparedness Week
  - Happening May 7th to May 13th
  - Test Alerts will be happening at this time

J. Ford asked who is allowed to take the courses mentioned. B. Manson confirmed at this time he is recommending any member of the Emergency Planning Committee would be allowed, and to contact him directly. Ted also mentioned that they have done an evaluation within the RMOW to determine who should be doing the necessary courses.

J. Ford stated that with the new Emergency Preparedness Act that is pending, there will be significant increased emphasis on cooperation between jurisdictions within the region.

K. Elliott asked after a big emergency event is there any mental health support. B. Manson confirmed there are provincial teams that can come and assist, and there is also a course available that can train an individual to be able to fill that role for our community, but a grant would have to be requested for such course.

V. Cullen recommended contacting the hotel board association to get them educated on Whistler Alert for members of the public

**5. TERMINATION**

Moved By RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen

Seconded By RMOW General Manager Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey

**That** Emergency Planning Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of April 25 2023.

CARRIED

Councilor J. Ford

Recording Secretary C. Burford

