



**REGULAR MEETING OF
EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 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. DelBosco
Mayor, J. Crompton
BC Ambulance Service Representative, R. Larkin
Whistler Blackcomb Representative, J. Lawther
Whistler Transit Ltd. Representative, C. Selfridge
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

STAFF PRESENT:

RMOW Bylaw and Licencing Coordinator, C. Burford

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor J. Crompton recognized the Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lilwat 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 Councilor, J. Ford

Seconded By Whistler Blackcomb
Representative, J. Lawther

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

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By RMOW Councilor, J. Ford

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

That Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of April 25 2023

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Initial Notification for the RMOW

- Tasking line
 - A specific phone number that allows an individual to connect to a whole group of people at one time easily.
 - A Tasking Line would include a message initially and then join into a conference call. The initial briefing/ response/public alerts will use 'Connect Rocket' app.
 - Emergency situation group
 - If an emerging situation happens, we need to have a basis/discussion/notification and the people in the group would be on this list, which would create a discussion.
 - If escalation is required, then someone calling the tasking line can get RMOW Senior Management Team on conference call quickly.
- J. Hallisey joined at 11:06pm*
- S. Banks would like the RCMP to be added to the initial call list.
 - EOC will be the support on the site incident demand post.
 - Some emergencies will not have an ICP (Incident Command Post), with any emergencies they require us to be adaptable.

5-minute recess at 11:14pm. Called back to order at 11:19pm

4.2 Presentation on Disaster Psychosocial Services

- Provincial of Psychosocial Services comprised of 4 groups
 - Disaster Psychosocial Support (DPS)
 - Mobile Response Team (MRT) – front line staff and organizations
 - Education & resources
 - Coordination, guidance and support
- Outlines type of support provided
- How to access the services
- Counselling/crisis support – directed to support/resources available

Questions

- T. Battiston asked how big is the staff /volunteers and paid staff?
 - 'MRT' has a staff of 15 people. Volunteers depends on actual availability but normally 10 people on a casual/standby basis.
- B. Manson asked if we make the call, how long would it take for staff to get here?
 - Around 24 hours but could be much quicker to Whistler.
- K. Elliot asked sometimes the need exists after the emergency – is your team ever called back in for post-disaster support?
 - Yes definitely.

M. Lundh left meeting at 11:39pm

- T. Doherty stated they utilized MRT in Campbell River for their members every so often, it is not always needed as a reactive response, but they come from time to time, proactively

4.3 Update from the Emergency Planning Coordinator

A Quick Guide for RMOW Senior Management Team is in process of finalizing, once completed it will be sent out.

- Evacuation Exercise with SMT
 - Two basic formats
 - Tactical evacuation
 - Strategic evacuation (council, mayor involved in declaring local state of emergency which is then forwarded to provincial gov't to be authorized to gain access to 9 specialized powers).
 - The Municipality of Whistler is doing the ordering in a strategic evacuation.
 - EOC Staffing Plan

- Identified 3 different tiers; names to positions.
- A document has been circulated.
- Proposed Exercises
 - A. Tucker from RMOW roads department has proposed a full scale exercise which involves a road disruption, with set up a full EOC, in the fall.
 - Neighbourhood evacuation full exercise proposed, potentially tentatively in April 2024.
 - Do a mock evacuation of a neighbourhood, involving moving people out of their homes, etc. B. Manson working on plan, more details to follow.
- Training
 - B. Manson will identify anyone who requires specific training.
 - Emergency Preparedness Training for Staff
- Template for future large-scale events
 - Discussion with Crankworx staff for their plan if an emergency occurred.
 - Mass casualty plan
 - Location for triage
 - Transportation plan to be set up.
 - Needs to be documented in advance to have the plan.
- Strategic Evacuation
 - Evacuation Alert – written by EOC staff, issued by EOC director, message to public, sent to PREOC
 - Declaration of SOLE – written by EOC staff, Mayor/Council for bylaw or resolution, message to public, sent to PREOC
 - Evacuation Order – written by EOC staff, Mayor/Council for bylaw or resolution, message to public, sent to PREOC
- Two Weeks Ready
 - Research shows 72 hours is not sufficient – ‘two weeks ready’ advocated by US States Washington, Oregon and Wyoming
 - Food availability is the biggest issue.
 - Public education on background, awareness, and preparedness
 - B. Manson would like us to be first community in BC to advocate for being self-reliant for two weeks during an emergency.

- Give some thought on tourist population those who can't be self sufficient for two weeks.
- Vulnerabilities
 - Highway limitations
 - Prolonged loss of power
 - Transportation interruptions
- Convince some of our residents (would only apply to residents) that they can look after themselves as there is very little 'we' can do for them in the immediate aftermath of large scale emergency with regard to food.

T. Battiston stated that all the examples provided are at State versus community scale, curious as to what would this look like.

K. Elliot provided the following feedback:

- Hugely beneficial for education sessions
 - what does a 72-hour kit look like versus 2 weeks.
 - Should be provided in a positive way without prioritizing one message over the other.
- Providing fun ways of doing it – (i.e.. - Restaurants challenge for a 2-week meal kit) the earlier we start to do this, the better. Where we need to prioritize the communication/engagement with our community for example, 2024/2025 we prioritize our emergency management over smaller initiatives. If we don't make a strategic plan, and how we roll it out, then it's just going to be piece-mealed to the public, which is not effective.

J. Hallisey noted that people did see the supply chain issues.

K. Hannah said that during COVID the amount of fresh food we got as donations from restaurants was overwhelming. There is an opportunity to engage restaurants to support the community in some capacity, if it is managed well.

J. Whalen suggested having existing resources on food/water spoilage/access; refrigeration, etc. and reaching out to existing resources/information for this

K. Elliot stated we do need to be strategic about this and put the time and effort into developing an engagement strategic plan for public. This will build a sense of resiliency and have people connect to each other. Any community who have more social cohesion, will have more success in an emergency. Knowing what resources are available and who is responsible for them is critical at the neighborhood level.

4.4 Demonstration on the use of Connect Rocket

- Two systems
 - Connect Rocket Teams

- Connect Rocket Community (Whistler Alert)
- Advantages
 - Independent of existing systems – immune to cyber attacks – reliable, dependable.
 - Can activate remotely – from phone, desktop, even through pay phones. No infrastructure required.
 - Puts key decision-makers together very quickly – quick conference call.
 - Send large volume of notifications quickly and easy – along with the ability to send attachments.
- Demonstration of Connect Rocket website
- Whistler alert – approximately 6,600 – some visitors included. There is also a expiration date for alerts for visitors, for example.
- RCMP would like a police group.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.


6. TERMINATION

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

Seconded By Whistler Blackcomb
Representative, J. Lawther

That Emergency Planning Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of July 25 2023

CARRIED



Mayor, J. Crompton



Recording Secretary, C. Burford