



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

Wednesday, September 13, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Remote Meeting via Zoom
For information on how to participate: <http://www.whistler.ca/fwac>

		Mtgs: YTD (7)
PRESENT:	Councilor, A. De Jong	7
	Chair, Member at Large, M. Tardif	6
	Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	5
	Member at Large, D. Raymond	5
	Member at Large, C. Young	6
ABSENT:	WORCA, N. Koshure	2
	Member at Large, V. Cole	0
	Co-Chair, Member at Large, R. Millikin	6
	AWARE, C. Ruddy	1
STAFF	Manager of Climate and Environment, Recording Secretary,	
PRESENT:	Luisa Burhenne	
	RMOW Environmental Coordinator, T. Symko	
	RMOW Climate Action Coordinator, M. Thorlakson	

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 Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By C. Young

Seconded By D. Raymond

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of Wednesday, September 13, 2023, as corrected.

- Agenda date corrected to September 13, 2023 and Meeting Minutes corrected to June 14, 2023.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by C. Young

Seconded By D. Raymond

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of Wednesday, June 14, 2023.

CARRIED

4. VERBAL REPORTS

4.1 Updates

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

WORCA

- Back to in-person Toonie rides
- Cancelled trail night and are shifting to trail mornings because of weather and fire ratings.
- No changes, approvals or new trails at this point. Business as usual with repairs despite dry conditions

RMOW

On track with fuel thinning works:

- Rainbow TU1 3 complete.
- Rainbow TU2 almost complete - waiting for sign off.
- Rainbow TU1 (Howler - Low flow zone) in progress. Work pace will pick up as wildfire activity goes down.
- Kadenwood almost complete.
- Brio (collaboration with MRB on the CRA) will be the last area this year.

De Jong joined meeting at 3:10pm.

CCF

- CCF Board meeting September 14, 2023.
- Lil'wat Nation yet to name two new directors to CCF Board.
- Wedgewoods wildfire fuel thinning project will take place in October and November. Debris will be burned on site. Strata has been notified.
- Road building has begun on P03 along Callaghan road. We'll let the road settle until mid October then do the harvesting. This is the second growth Douglas fir site that used to be predominantly cedar we viewed on the field trip. The plan is to harvest the upper section and most southern piece with uniform distribution, retaining 30%. The middle, wetter area will be converted to more ecologically appropriate cedar. Drier patches will be left with Douglas fir and wetter areas will be harvested and converted back to cedar.
- CCF is working with WORCA to develop a consistent planning process that will be rolled out starting in 2024. The blocks along Cheakamus Lake Road that caused so much concern are being revised.
- CCF is developing a communications strategy which will provide the approach for building understanding of CCF and clarity on its decision-making.
- CCF is developing a harvesting policy and values matrix to more clearly articulate how different values are considered leading up to a decision to harvest (or not).

Council

- Whistler Bear Advisory Committee (WBAC) – Bears are desperate and natural food supply is short. High bear activity.

- Council last night – Whistler accessibility plan was presented. More work to do to improve accessibility such as cobble stones.
- Municipal investment funds – \$1billion of municipal assets – \$100 million in investment funds. Motion last night to be more aggressive in investing.
- Committee of the Whole:
 - discussion on how to improve community engagement
 - Committee review

4.2 Annual GHG Inventory Report (2022) and Big Moves Update

RMOW Climate Coordinator M. Thorlakson and RMOW Environmental Coordinator, T. Symko presented to Committee on the 2022 GHG emissions in Whistler. [The 2022 Whistler Annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Progress Report](#) was presented to Council on August 1, 2023 and can be found online at whistler.ca/bigmoves.

Summary:

- 7% increase compared to last year
- Main takeaway: we are not on track to achieving our 2030 target.
- Passenger vehicle emissions make up over half of the community emissions; natural gas used in residential and commercial buildings make up the next largest portion at 35%.
- 11% increase in total corporate GHG emissions. it is recommended that a corporate GHG reduction plan be adopted. A plan is currently in draft form and will be brought forward for council consideration before the end of this year.
- If we want to move the needle towards our 2030 target, we need to prioritize resources to advance actions that reduce emissions related to these sources. Focus on Big Moves 1, 2, and 5.
- Adaptation Progress:
 - Goal 1 - Education; emergency planning; interagency cooperation; training with BC Wildfire and Whistler Fire Rescue Services; vegetation management/fuel thinning.
 - Goal 2 - Municipal Natural Asset Management Plan; flood hazard plans; climate resilience incorporated for new municipal projects and infrastructure, such as Rainbow Park.
 - Goal 3- Priority Habitat Framework; including environmental considerations into parks planning process (environmental sustainability guidelines); ecosystems monitoring report; managing invasive species; fuel thinning monitoring program.

Committee Questions:

- What high impact actions do we have underway to influence change?
 - Climate Action Implementation Plan (in progress and in place since 2022) – outlines specific actions to be taken in order to get us on track to achieving those targets.
 - Policy actions and collaborating with key stakeholders (the latter takes more time).
 - RMOW direct emissions is what we have the most control over and ability to influence, therefore a need for a corporate plan.
 - Shifting toward electric vehicles – we can heavily influence by installing chargers, providing incentives, etc.

- Natural gas – with new building step code implemented, new buildings will not have natural gas. This will be a slow change but will turn the dial long term.
- What incentives for EV charger installation does RMOW have in place?
 - Some incentives in place – primarily top ups to provincial grants.
 - Can be found on our website at whistler.ca/bigmoves and at CleanBC at goelectricbc.gov.bc.ca.
- Incentives or assistance from RMOW for roof replacement/fireproof materials?
 - This would be handled through Whistler FireSmart Program. Currently there are no incentives in place. It is something they are working on, but not ready for yet.
- Are CCF emissions included in the annual report; and burning of CCF brush?
 - CCF emissions not included other than the equipment driving on our roads. Anything outside of RMOW boundaries is not included in the report.
 - Try to avoid burning as much as possible; only do it only when crews are unable to haul the chips out.
- Regulations on wood-burning fireplaces in Whistler?
 - Current/old homes are not regulated. However, under the new step code, this would be regulated in new homes – primarily allowing for only electrical heating.

M. Thorlakson and T. Symko left meeting at 4:16 PM.

4.3 Field trip discussion

Defer topic to next meeting as R. Millikin was absent from meeting and intended to lead this discussion.

4.4 Goshawks in Wedgewoods

Mel and Bob Brett discussed Bob's findings of northern goshawks. Findings also published in this pique article [Signs of northern goshawks in Whistler a 'good news story' for habitat protection - Pique Newsmagazine](#)

Committee Discussion

- How can we leverage FWAC to further protect goshawk and how can we hold the CCF accountable to protect the habitat?
- Without further details on location FWAC doesn't have sufficient information to act. If it is a fuel thinning area, large trees won't be impacted. For real impact, the federal government would need to be lobbied, not the RMOW or CCF. CCF only follows federal guidance. Talking to the CCF is the best impact we can have. If the birds are outside the CCF we have little influence .
- one inherent problem is that old nests are not protected but these birds do come back to their old nests.
- Priority Habitat Framework will identify most valuable habitats (including goshawks). Actions to protect these areas will be planned once PHF is adopted.

D. Raymond left meeting at 4:35pm.

4.5 Glacial Outflow Hazards from Overlord Glacier

Background is a discussion between Melanie Tardif and Karl Ricker about glaciers above Wedgemount and Overlord Glacier.

It seems we are not fully prepared to such an event. Discussion around Whistler's HRVA, emergency management, and flood protection for these types of threats.

[RMOW Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment \(HRVA\)](http://www.whistler.ca/services/emergency/hazards/) can be found online at www.whistler.ca/services/emergency/hazards/

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Brief discussions over the committee review and anticipated timeline and outcome. Jared speaks in favor of a climate and housing committee. Tina would like to have more interaction with other committees who touch forests. More communication and alignment between various committees

6. TERMINATION

Moved By M. Tardif

Seconded By A. De Jong

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Wednesday, September 13, 2023.

CARRIED

Chair, M. Tardif

Recording Secretary, L. Burhenne