



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

Wednesday, October 11, 2023, 3:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting via Zoom

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

		Mtgs: YTD (8)
PRESENT:	Councilor, A. De Jong	8
	Chair, Member at Large, M. Tardif	7
	Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	6
	Member at Large, D. Raymond	6
	Member at Large, C. Young	7
	Member at Large, V. Cole	1
ABSENT:	WORCA, N. Koshure	2
	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	

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**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 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 C. Young

Seconded By D. Raymond

**That** Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

CARRIED

**3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

Moved by D. Raymond

Seconded By A. De Jong

**That** Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of Wednesday, September 13, 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).

#### Council

- Whistler Bear Advisory Committee (WBAC) – pleading for community to lock down on waste. Several bears euthanized recently. Historic drought summer resulting in an almost non-existent berry crop. Grizzly bear wandering the valley.
- Committee of the Whole – Barrett Fisher, President of Tourism Whistler, gave a full tourism update. Not quite back to pre-pandemic visitation level, but still a busy summer. Talked a lot about restorative tourism as well as our carbon footprint in tourism.
- Fortunate this summer in terms of wildfires.
- Community mourns the loss of Ken Pope and Wayne Flann.

#### WORCA

- First very successful women's Enduro race, all contained in the Wedge area.
- Trails crews still very active though some staff have returned to university. Now tackling some of the West Side dirt works – had been waiting for rain.
- Last trail night of the year, totaling 14 trail nights, all devoted to the Flashback trail this summer. Managed to add 1.7km to the flashback trail. Flashback 1 is complete; Flashback 5 is about half a day of work away from completion.
- Still waiting on Province approval on 'Into the Mystic' Function trail.
- Only one new board member joined at the recent AGM. Board retreat set for next weekend.

#### RMOW

- Claire Ruddy stepped down as Executive Director of AWARE. For now, no official replacement. The board has taken over official activities, minimizing other commitments at the moment.
- In the middle of RMOW budget season. Community Budget Open House scheduled November 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Committee Review – nothing is finalized at this time and will provide updates to committee as they come. Likely fewer committees, and something Climate Action related.
- Fuel thinning
  - Kadenwood treatment unit is complete, Rainbow area is almost complete with few sections remaining in TU1. Lil'wat Forestry Ventures is committed to complete Rainbow area fuel thinning including pile burning by end of October.
  - Some controlled burning taking place in Kadenwood currently.

*M. Pardoe and T. Hellinga joined meeting at 3:25pm.*

#### CCF

- Lil'wat Nation has named its 2 new board members: Jordan Gabriel and Helena Edmonds. Postponed September 14 Board meeting is being rescheduled to the last week of October.
- 5 Year Plan Update - CCF has been meeting with WORCA through the summer to develop an annual planning process and to review the proposed CCF 5 year development plan. Blocks proposed along the Cheakamus Lake Road (C02) were of greatest concern to WORCA due to the number of trails in the area. The CCF agreed to remove those blocks from the 5 year plan reinforcing that community input is heard by the CCF and changes can be made to the plans through discussion. Other areas of concern continue to be discussed.
- The CCF sponsored the October 3 WORCA trail night - worked on Flashback
- Wedgewood wildfire thinning project - Lil'wat Forestry Ventures will begin the Wedgewoods thinning project after Thanksgiving. Work is anticipated to take place over approximately 4 weeks with final debris clean up/burning in spring 2024.
- Harvesting - P03 block along Callaghan Road (the second growth Douglas fir site that used to be cedar) has had the road built with harvesting to start in the next couple of weeks. The silviculture replanting plans is to convert it largely back to cedar.
- The CCF engaged Seeds Strategies to develop a communication plan CCF Open House in initial planning stages for early November. Focus will be discussion of a few key issues with harvesting planning information available as well. Likely to be held at SLCC.

#### **4.2 Recreation Trail Strategy (RTS) Update**

Manager of Parks Planning, M. Pardoe introduced the agenda item to the committee as a progress update of the Recreational Trail Strategy (RTS) Project. The project purpose and scope were highlighted to committee as a guide to the future management and development decisions related to trails and their supporting infrastructure. Staff reiterated the distinction between the RTS and a future Trails Master Plan, which would identify specific gaps/needs and prioritize improvements. The project is currently in Phase 3 Engagement which is focused on the suitability/unsuitability and recommendations for 11 trail networks areas.

M. Pardoe introduced T. Hellinga of Cascade Environmental Resource Group who has been contracted by RMOW to draft a guiding document for the RTS. Prior to the meeting, the committee was provided a copy of the draft core content for the Whistler RTS, which consists of a suitability analysis and recommendations on 11 different trail network areas. This 118-page draft document can be found on [whistler.ca/rts](http://whistler.ca/rts).

T. Hellinga introduced the document and its contents and intent, and then reviewed several of the 11 key trail areas and recommendations throughout the document. Emphasis was given to trail areas located within the Whistler Urban Development Containment Area (WUDCA) and higher profile trail areas. The committee were asked to provide comments throughout the document review, as well as to contact staff directly following the meeting with any additional input; and lastly encouraged to participate in the additional public engagement opportunities taking place the week of October 16<sup>th</sup> via pop-up sessions and an online information forum.

Committee Questions/Comments:

- What is being done about closing or decommissioning unsanctioned trails?

- Once an unauthorized trail exists on Crown land, it has no status, but it is not illegal. The only thing that is illegal is the act of constructing the trail, not actually using it, which makes enforcement very difficult.
- Need to have staging areas to trailheads with increased visitation.
- Concept of dogs on/off leash needs to be considered.
- Have you considered what to do about the motorized vehicles that are growing in this community?
  - Education and communication to this user group that these trails are for non-motorized use and worth protecting and valuing. Enforcement is difficult.

*M. Pardoe and T. Hellinga left meeting at 4:32 PM.*

#### **4.3 Field Trip Discussion**

Topic annulled as R. Millikin was absent from meeting and intended to lead this discussion.

#### **4.4 Field Trip Planning**

Check with absent members on preference between October 30<sup>th</sup> or November 8<sup>th</sup>. Suggested areas by CCF as P03 on Callaghan Road and B05 near the Brew Creek Centre. Committee also interested in viewing the area south of Function that are in Year 1 plans.

### **5. OTHER BUSINESS**

*There were no items for Other Business.*

### **6. TERMINATION**

Moved By                      D. Raymond

Seconded By                A. De Jong

**That** the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

CARRIED



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Chair, M. Tardif



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Recording Secretary, L. Burhenne