

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

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ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: April 26, 2022
REPORT: 22-059
FROM: Chief Administrative Office
FILE: 0360-20
SUBJECT: PROTOCOL AGREEMENT WORKING COMMITTEE – MEMBER APPOINTMENT

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council appoint Mayor Jack Crompton to the Protocol Agreement Working Committee as the representative for the Resort Municipality of Whistler.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report describes relevant portions of the Protocol Agreement and Framework Agreement, and requests that Council appoint one member of Council to the Protocol Agreement Working Committee (Working Committee).

☐ Information Report ☒ Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Background

The Protocol Agreement, attached as Appendix A, was signed in July 2018 between the Lil'wat Nation, Squamish Nation and the Resort Municipality of Whistler ((RMOW) and together the Parties). The Parties agreed to establish a permanent Working Committee comprised of political representatives and staff members to work together on the following thirteen areas of key interest:

- intergovernmental coordination
- land use planning and management
- culture and heritage protection
- economic development
- environmental protection
- shared and reciprocal services
- capacity building
- sustainable healthy communities

- tourism
- housing initiatives
- transportation initiatives
- appropriate engagement practices/engagement protocol, and
- development and maintenance of good working relationships.

The duties and responsibilities of the Working Committee were set out in the Protocol Agreement as the following: (*Protocol Agreement, Paragraph 6*)

- a) prioritize, develop and recommend specific projects to the respective elected Council;
- b) establish technical committees and/or working groups to undertake specific projects as required;
- c) identify sources of funding and other resources required to undertake specific projects;
- d) share information of mutual interest; and
- e) respect the views and authority of each of the Parties.

The Framework Agreement, attached as Appendix B, was signed June 15, 2020 between the Parties, the Province of British Columbia and Whistler Blackcomb Holdings Inc. It further establishes that the RMOW “use the Protocol Agreement’s Working Committee to enhance dialogue with the Squamish Nation and Lil’wat Nation to help inform initiatives for the protection of the natural environment and to consider the land use policies of the First Nations when planning for Crown lands within the boundaries of the RMOW.” (*Framework Agreement, Article 6.3*)

The Protocol Agreement established that parties meet at least once each calendar year and within sixty (60) days of signing.

Under the Protocol Working Committee’s terms of agreement there is no maximum term for any member of the Working Committee, nor is there a maximum number of appointees

The current appointed members for the other Parties are as follows:

Squamish Nation - Peter Baker, Director, Rights & Title
Lil’wat Nation - Dean Nelson, Chief

To date, the Protocol Working Committee has yet to hold their first meeting since the signing of the Protocol Agreement.

It is anticipated that a future report will be brought to council to update on the membership, activities and other aspects of the Working Committee.

Corporate Plan

The RMOW Corporate Plan is updated annually and articulates strategic direction for the organization. This section identifies how this report links to the plan. While the Working Committee itself does not specifically touch on all the Council Focus Areas and Corporate Goals, the work of the partnership as outlined in the Protocol Agreement and Framework Agreement has the potential to advance most of these areas in some way.

Council Focus Areas

☒ Community Balance

*Effectively **balance resort and community needs** through deliberate planning, partnerships and investment*

☒ Climate Action

*Provide leadership to **accelerate climate action and environmental performance** across the community*

☒ Housing

*Advance strategic and innovative initiatives to enable and **deliver additional employee housing***

☒ Pandemic Recovery

*Leadership and support for **community and tourism recovery and sustainability** – priority focuses are where recovery needs intersect with other Council focus areas*

☐ Not Applicable

Corporate Goals

☒ Community character and mountain culture is reflected in municipal initiatives

☒ Municipal decision-making supports the effective stewardship of natural assets and ecological function

☒ Corporate policies and operations ensure continuous excellence in infrastructure, facility and program management

☒ A high level of accountability, transparency and community engagement is maintained

☐ Corporate financial health is optimized to ensure long-term community success

☒ A vibrant local economy and safe, resilient resort community is effectively reinforced by organizational activities

☐ Pandemic recovery

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

Chapter 3 of the OCP details the importance of reconciliation with the Squamish Nation and Lil'wat Nation. The entire chapter is dedicated to working with *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* (Squamish Nation) and *L'il'wat7úl* (Lil'wat Nation) to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy. Appointing a Working Committee member is necessary for the RMOW to uphold its agreement with the parties and further allows the organization to continue working towards the eight (8) goals, objectives and policies for reconciliation outlined in Chapter 3 of the OCP.

Further, Objectives 4.1.1. and 4.1.2. of the Corporate Plan list several policies which would be supported and reinforced by the commitment to the Protocol Agreement and its Working Committee.

4.1.1.4. Policy: Recognize and reinforce the importance of the history and cultural character of Whistler associated with the authentic place of Whistler, including the rich history, culture and spiritual values of the Lil'wat and Squamish Nations.

4.1.1.5. Policy: Support the goals and policies of the *Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Regional Growth Strategy (RGS)* through the following:

f) Work collaboratively with the Province, Lil'wat Nation and Squamish Nation on provincial Crown land use and management.

4.1.2.3. Policy: Work collaboratively towards both Whistler and the Lil'wat and Squamish Nations benefitting from the local tourism economy and complementary economic development and capacity building opportunities.

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

There are no budget considerations for the Working Committee detailed in the Protocol Agreement.

LIL'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lil'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy. This section identifies areas where RMOW activities intersect with these relationships and collaboration.

The implementation of the Working Committee marks an important milestone in the working relationship and is one step in advancing the Protocol Agreement and Framework Agreement. The Working Committee will help to facilitate regular communication and linkages between the governments and provide a platform to work together in the thirteen key areas and interests outlined in the Protocol Agreement.

REFERENCES

Appendix A – Protocol Agreement
Appendix B – Framework Agreement

SUMMARY

This report provides Council with an overview of the inception and purpose of the Protocol Agreement, and requests that Council appoint Jack Crompton to the Protocol Agreement Working Committee as the RMOW representative.

SIGN-OFFS

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