

WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at www.whistler.ca/fwac

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (7)
Councilor, A. De Jong	7
Member at Large, Chair, M. Tardif	5
Member at Large, C. Rankin,	7
Member at Large, D. Raymond	6
Member at Large, C. Young	6
Member at Large, R. Millikin	5
Member at Large, T. Burton	4
Member at Large, V. Cole	3
AWARE, C. Ruddy	4
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	7
Recording Secretary, J. Wynott	6

REGRETS	
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	5
WORCA, N. Koshure	4

GUESTS	
M. Pardoe, Manager of Parks Planning, RMOW	
S. Gordon, Whistler Centre for Sustainability	
T. Hellinga, Cascade Environmental	

CALL TO ORDER

Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee recognized The Resort Municipality of Whistler is grateful to be on the shared, unceded territory of the Lil'wat People, known in their language as Lil'wat7úl, 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.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by V. Cole

Seconded by A. De Jong

That Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of July 13, 2022.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Raymond
Seconded by C. Rankin

That Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Open Committee Minutes of June 8, 2022 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council

- The transit strike has finished after setting a Provincial record of 138 days. There is now free transit until Labour Day.
- At the July 5 Council meeting, Council voted to cancel the White Gold underground power project after costs escalated to an unreasonable amount.
- The Nita Lake housing project had its third reading at the last Council meeting. There are 21 employee housing units within that project.
- Council has seen the first concepts for the 4500 Northlands development.
- A 2 month EVO bike share project will pilot in August.
- At the WBAC meeting, discussion occurred regarding the euthanization of a bear in Rebagliati Park. The bear had lost fear of people.
- The long term fire forecast could result in a late fire season.

Discussion occurred regarding safe ebike storage, and how increased safe storage could increase bike use in the valley.

AWARE

- The AWARE AGM occurred on June 9.
- AWARE is busy right now with programming. They are in full operations mode with events, Zero Waste Heroes, the farmers market, parks etc.
- The session with WSS was a success. 80 people attended the event at the Rainbow Theatre.
- The July Small Steps for Big Moves campaign is focusing on being water wise.

WORCA

- WORCA is busy participating in the RTS process and have been providing feedback to the consulting team regarding the process.
- No news on the section 57 process for the Mystic Function and D'Arcy Burke trails. RSTBC has informed WORCA that they are possibly changing the process and are very busy. They are hoping to have a meeting with RSTBC soon to discuss. In the interim, WORCA has been

advised to set up a time to walk the trail lines with the Squamish and Lil'wat First Nations to look for possible arch sites.

- WORCA is working on the proposed stages for Enduro races set to run in Whistler this summer/fall.
- The trail crew has been working hard doing some amazing work. WORCA has just brought on two student trail builders for the rest of the summer.

RMOW

- The Wildfire program is progressing. Alpine Axeceleration has almost finished in Taluswood and moved to Rainbow Treatment Unit 6
- The BC Wildfire Service has advised that open burns are prohibited starting July 15.
- The RMOW Wildfire Working Group is reinstated. It consists of RMOW employees and WFRS staff.
- The Priority Habitat Strategy is progressing. There will be staff engagement and community outreach this summer through Bang the Table software where feedback will be requested.
- Heather Beresford is retiring at the end of October. Her position is posted, and the hope is to have a healthy crossover time with the new Manager so knowledge transfer can occur.
- The Natural Assets Management Initiative is going to Council next week.

TPWG

- No updates – committee meets in the Spring and Fall

CCF

- The Board is holding its Strategic Planning Workshop, hosted by Brady Smith, next Wednesday July 20.
- CCF is applying for FESBC funding to do wildfire thinning around the Wedge area adjacent to where the retention logging is happening in Wedge 08.

Discussion occurred regarding a bridge nearing its end of life that leads to Parkhurst, and who is responsible for that bridge. Staff to investigate.

R. Millikin, S. Gordon, T. Hellinga and M. Pardoe entered at 3:26 p.m.

RTS Workshop

A presentation and workshop was given by M. Pardoe, S. Gordon and T. Hellinga regarding the Recreation Trails Strategy (RTS) and discussion was held.

M. Pardoe, Manager of Parks Planning, RMOW, introduced the workshop and identified T. Hellinga and S. Gordon as the successful RFP winners for the RTS bid. He provided an overview of the purpose and scope, and asked the committee to help generate content and recommendations.

T. Hellinga reviewed the main content sections where FWAC feedback was most requested. This included the draft *Environmental Suitability Guidelines*,

the draft *Vehicle Parking Suitability Guidelines* and the draft *Limits of Acceptable Change*. The format for the workshop included a content overview, then a comments/questions period.

Environmental Sustainability Guidelines

Discussion points included if this strategy would increase turnaround time for Section 57 applications, reframing from an ecosystem value priority vs trail priority, how to integrate invasive species, goat territory and guidelines, and the use of winter routes.

Vehicle Parking Sustainability Guidelines.

Discussion points included designated staging areas, informal staging areas and municipal roadside parking.

Limits of Acceptable Change

The Committee discussed how you determine what overuse is, and what the carrying capacity is of the trails.

The project's next steps include;

- An updated draft shared for input in late July
- Draft SWOT and recommendations: July – September
 - Staff and TPWG meetings: late August
 - Other stakeholders (RLAC, FWAC, WBAC): September
 - Community engagement: September
 - Online session
 - Engagement platform
- Draft RTS: October
 - Staff and TPWG meetings: October
 - Other stakeholders (RLAC, FWAC, WBAC): Late October
 - Community engagement: Late October
 - Online session
 - Engagement platform

The committee was encouraged to submit feedback through the submission form distributed. Feedback will be received until end of day July 17.

The committee commented that it is great to see local consultants working on this with local knowledge of Whistler.

T. Hellinga, S. Gordon and M. Pardoe left at 4:23 p.m.

2022 Wildfire Program

A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding the 2022 Wildfire Program and a discussion was held.

H. Beresford reviewed the 2021 Wildfire Communications Survey key takeaways.

The 2022 Wildfire thinning projects were reviewed. Taluswood is now complete. Rainbow (TU6 and TUB5) is next, then Riverside, TU-01D and TU-01A. Maps of the locations were displayed to the Committee.

Potential Future projects were discussed including Kadenwood, Rainbow and Brio.

Discussion was held regarding the Draft 2022 RMOW Fire and Fuels Strategic Plan prepared by Frontera Forest Solutions. The plan breaks down the priorities from High to Low, and reviews two types of wildfires that could occur in Whistler: (1) *Moderate Condition Events* - typical wildfire type for Whistler. Preparation for such events includes continuing promoting and building on historical work and (2) *Extreme Condition Events – occur under specific weather conditions (E.g. Elaho/Boulder Creek wildfire): exceptional summer drought, ignition source and synoptic wind event. Extra steps are required to prepare for these types of wildfires: hazard mapping, synoptic wind event prediction, prompt wildfire detection & alert systems; aggressive & early suppression; emergency preparedness for community and critical infrastructure (wetting, foam and retardant), and community evacuation.*

The wildfire treatment monitoring plan will;

- Incorporate work done by FWAC subcommittee and R. Millikin
- Collaboration underway with BCIT and UBC Forestry staff
- Discussion with Lil'wat and Squamish Nation re: incorporating traditional knowledge and ecological values
- FP Innovations placed a monitoring site above the cemetery as part of its research into this topic
- A draft will be brought to FWAC later in the summer, with a finalized plan in September
- Permanent plots placed in 2023, prepare annual report

The committee felt the document was strong and appreciated the comprehensive work that has been done.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee recognized Committee member T. Burton for his service and commitment to FWAC and to the community. T. Burton has completed the maximum 6 year FWAC term and will be stepping down.

Add [National Healing Forest](#) initiative to August agenda. Discussion led by C. Rankin. Goal is to create dedicated green spaces as a place for healing, learning, sharing and reflection about Canada's history and the legacy of Indian residential schools.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

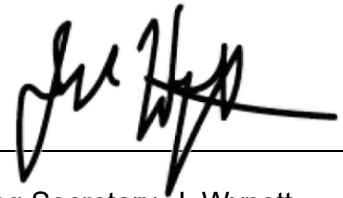
Moved by T. Burton
Seconded by C. Young

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, July 13, 2022 be terminated at 4:58 p.m.

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Melanie Tardif", written above a horizontal line.

Chair, M. Tardif

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Wynott", written above a horizontal line.

Recording Secretary, J. Wynott