



**REGULAR MEETING OF
EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 11:00 a.m.
Flute Room at Municipal Hall
4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

PRESENT:

School District #48 Representative, I. Currie
BC Ambulance Service Representative, K. Budway
Mayor, J. Crompton
RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou
Whistler Transit Ltd. Representative, C. Gomez
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 & Cultural Services, K. Elliott
RMOW Councilor, J. Ford
RCMP Sargeant SO, N. Miller

ABSENT:

Whistler Search and Rescue Society Representative, T. DelBosco
Whistler Blackcomb Representative, J. Lawther
RMOW General Manager Corporate Services and Public Safety, T. Battiston
RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen
RMOW Fire Chief, T. Doherty
Blackcomb Helicopters Representative, D. Marcoux
Whistler Transit Ltd. Representative, K. Candilaptis

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 Sk̓w̓xwú7mesh. We respect and commit to a deep consideration of their history, culture, stewardship and voice.

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By RMOW General Manager
Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey

Seconded By RCMP Staff Sergeant, S. Banks

That Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of October 29 2024.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By RCMP Staff Sergeant, S. Banks

Seconded By RMOW General Manager
Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey

That Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting minutes of July 30 2024.

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Review of Emergency Events in the Province and Persistent Hazards for the RMOW

B. Manson provided a presentation on the review of emergency events in the Province and persistent hazards for the RMOW as follows:

This summer the closest significant fire was the 67 HA Rutherford Creek fire and another large fire at Birkenhead Lake. The number of fires in 2024 was 1606 which is lower than the 2259 in 2023. The SLRD did some just-in-time FireSmart work for homes in the evacuation alert area at the Birkenhead Lake Fire. Homes are more resilient when they go through the FireSmart process.

The image from the Jasper Skytram shows most of the damage near the west end was likely caused from embers. J. Hallisey asked if there is data on who stayed behind (i.e. utility teams); will be looked into. B. Manson noted that the RCMP completed a second round of door knocking to capture those that did not evacuate. J. Crompton asked if there is an after-action report with this information; not available yet. B. Manson notes that Jasper did an excellent job with their evacuation. S. Banks noted that the RCMP left Jasper and only left Fire Crews.

In the Province, the historical number of annual fires has been decreasing. The area burned by the fires has been going up and in 2024 the fourth largest area was burned and most was in the Prince George region which impacted fewer areas with structures.

EMCR inquired the RMOW capacity of group lodging during the slide.

Over the Summer, the drought conditions did rise to level 3 on the provincial scale, but have returned to 0. The annual precipitation of around 800mm for the year was lower than average.

The recent atmospheric river brought extreme rainfall totals to portions of Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, leading to road washouts and significant flooding.

4.2 ESS Report

K. Hannah gave an update and refresher on the Emergency Support Service (ESS) program. The program is financed by the provincial government and administered by Indigenous communities and local governments. The RMOW contracts out the Canadian Red Cross to provide support and access to CRC volunteers to support the RMOW ESS program. ESS may be offered to an evacuee for a short period of time if they meet the eligibility requirements (i.e. displaced from their primary residence and in evacuation area). Support is provided to those eligible on a case by case basis. ESS level One is generally a single house fire. A level is up to an part

J. Crompton inquired what virtual support includes. K. Hannah informed this is generally only for level one such as a house fire when Group Lodging is not required. The support includes assisting people over the phone as the RMOW contracts the CRC out and they provide after hours support through their Duty Line which generally only offers remote ESS support.

Since last EPC Meeting ESS Presentation in May:

- Three ESS Meetings have been held with the CRC staff and volunteers, DOS, VOP and the SLRD. Focus on Wildfire Season preparation, supply organization & further ERA training updates. With a focus on collaboration throughout the region.
- Support was provided over the summer to SLRD & VOP regarding scale of ESS activations and training. Helped to train VOP's new ESS Coordinator on ESS

Gables Fire on September 25th: ESS provided onsite support to six evacuees at the scene, a small-scale Reception Centre was stood up at Municipal Hall which provided in person support to evacuees.

- In the spring the ESS Coordinator Trained 20 RMOW staff on ESS. Of those staff 11 were interested in becoming responders and were then trained to be RMOW ESS responders. This includes training each staff member individually on ERA (online platform use for registering and referrals for evacuees)
- Preparation for Wildfire Season further organization of ESS supplies in the ESS trailer, Sea Can, Reception Centre Supplies at Myrtle Philip and Group Lodging Supplies at Spring Creek. This involved integrating new Group Lodging and technology supplies ordered through the 2024 ESS Grant.
- Whistler Firefighter ESS Refreshers Training in progress by ESS Coordinator with the goal to do a similar training for RCMP officers next
- In June of 2024 a **new self-service registration pathway for evacuees** was created by EMCR that is accessible on ERA.

- UBCM has increased the ESS grant maximum from \$25,000 to \$40,000 which will include Air Scrubbers & Air Curtains to be used at Reception Centres (RC), Group Lodging (GL)Facilities & the Library. This will allow for safer activation of these resources during times when we are experiencing wildfire smoke.

4.3 EPC Report

The EOC grant the RMOW received included the purchase of Starlink, vests for the EOC, computers and portable displays to support emergency responses. The RMOW was selected to host the JIBC Community Evacuation course and 11 RMOW staff attended. There are plans to host a Mass Casualty Incident table top exercise. The RMOW Sharepoint web portal is in progress to improve digitizing EOC operations.

The next grant deadline for the UMBC EOC grant is due February 2025. The potential items will include print and materials to support Whistler Alert, training and signage.

There are eight EOC priorities and it is being suggested to include cultural values as recognition and to support the new EDMA legislation.

The RMOW training plan includes a list of who is required to complete each training. B. Manson made an inquiry how to encourage more people to take emergency management courses. K. Hannah mentioned that some pre-requests can be a challenge that we could give feedback to the JIBC. There was a group discussion to consider offering EOC Essentials in house to reduce the barrier for staff to take other courses.

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion on the District of Squamish Active Threat exercise that could be of interest to the RMOW to consider a similar training exercise.

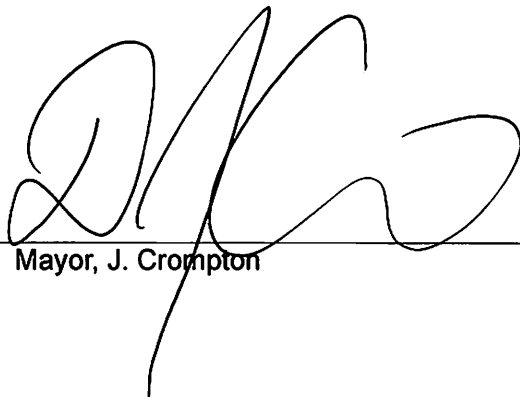
6. TERMINATION

Moved By RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou

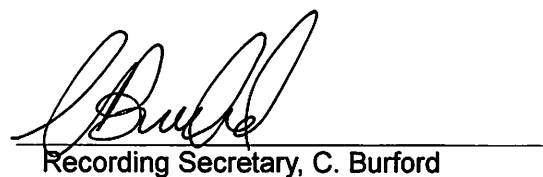
Seconded By RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, K. Hannah

That Emergency Planning Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of October 29 2024.

CARRIED



Mayor, J. Crompton



Recording Secretary, C. Burford