



**REGULAR MEETING OF
EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 28, 2025, 11:00 a.m.

Remote Meeting via Teams

For information on how to participate: <https://www.whistler.ca/municipal-gov/committees/emergency-planning-committee>

- PRESENT:**
- School District #48 Representative, I. Currie
 - Mayor, J. Crompton
 - Whistler Blackcomb Representative, D. McPhee
 - Whistler Transit Ltd. Representative, J. C. Gomez
 - RMOW Emergency Program Coordinator, B. Manson
 - RMOW General Manager Community Engagement and Cultural Services, K. Elliott
 - RMOW General Manager Corporate Services and Public Safety, T. Battiston
 - RMOW Chief Administrative Officer, V. Cullen
 - RMOW Manager Protective Services, L. DeBou
 - RMOW Councilor, J. Ford
 - RMOW Fire Chief, T. Doherty
 - RCMP Sargeant SO, N. Miller
- ABSENT:**
- Whistler Search and Rescue Society Representative, T. DelBosco
 - Vancouver Coastal Health Representative, Dr. M Khaketla
 - RCMP Staff Sergeant, S. Banks
 - RMOW Emergency Social Services Coordinator, K. Hannah
 - RMOW General Manager Infrastructure Services, J. Hallisey
 - Blackcomb Helicopters Representative, A. McDowell
 - BC Ambulance Representative, L. Wu
- STAFF PRESENT:**
- RMOW Bylaw and Licencing Coordinator, C. Burford
 - RMOW Special Projects, E. Marriner
- OTHERS:**
- Vancouver Coastal Health Representative - James Whalen
 - RMOW Representative - Chelsey Roberts
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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor J. Crompton 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.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved By RMOW Chief Administrative
Officer, V. Cullen

Seconded By RMOW Manager Protective
Services, L. DeBou

That Emergency Planning Committee adopt the Regular Committee Meeting agenda of January 28th 2025.

CARRIED

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved By RMOW Manager Protective
Services, L. DeBou

Seconded By Mayor, J. Crompton

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

CARRIED

4. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

4.1 Review of the 2024 House Fires

Fire Chief T. Doherty shared a presentation on the 2024 house fires.

Gables Fire:

- The Gables is a 16 unit town home.
- Ariel operations fire truck was used to assist.
- Staging officer present to provide fire fighters with health and safety equipment, rehabilitation and refreshments.
- Traffic was stopped on Blackcomb Way due to hoses put across road.
- Hydro cut off power to the units
- Water run off was managed as catch basins can overflow and can cause water damage if not cleared.
- Building department provided plans of the building.

Crabapple Fire:

- Large single family home.
- Salvage Tarps were used due to size
- Only ground ladders were used to fight the fire.

Eagle Drive Fire:

- Fire was through the roof
- Roof was made of metal cladding, making it dangerous with the snow.
- Adjacent units were affected.
- Had to take into consideration there may be illegal construction which may mean additional occupants.

After each fire:

- ESS might be activated for displaced occupants.
- Equipment is checked and serviced for next deployment.
- Fire Hydrants that were used are serviced.
- Cause and Origin report is conducted.

V. Cullen asked how long does it take to set up/stage?

T. Doherty said it depends on the location and time of day. Whistler uses preconnected lines which are quick, and there is 500 gallons of water on the truck, which allows the fire to be suppressed enough for the team to arrive and have equipment set up.

T. Battiston asked if the WorkSafeBC aspect could be shared.

T. Doherty explained during the initial attack stages of an incident at least one firefighter must remain outside. A suitably equipped rescue team of at least 2 firefighters must be established on the scene before sending in a second entry team and not more than 10 minutes after the initial attack fire fighters are not permitted to enter in the building until the two person Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) has arrived. The purpose of a Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) is to locate and rescue lost, trapped, and injured fire fighters at an emergency scene. When a 2 member RIT team is deployed, it should act as a Rescue Stand-By team, and develop a Rescue Action Plan. There is also a staging area required to provide safety equipment such as oxygen tanks.

4.2 Review of the new Terms of Reference

E. Mariner provided details on the new Terms of Reference for the Emergency Planning committee.

Previously there were 20 committees which were reviewed and this was cut down to 10 committees with 3 of them new committees which council created to align with their priorities.

As each committee was operating differently a review was necessary to make all the committees consistent. An operating guide was established for the recording secretary and a draft Terms of reference was given to each committee to complete.

EPC terms of reference draft was provided to each committee member to review. This includes code of conduct as well as some compensation of members such

as BC ambulance and RCMP who may require more than 1 member to be in attendance.

The expectation for each member to attend 75% of meetings, if a member cannot attend a meeting, then they must notify the recording secretary or chair.

This draft will be going to council to be approved.

4.3 Review of the December 14, 2024 Lions Bay Landslide

L. DeBou provided a presentation on the Lions Bay Landslide on December 14, 2024.

- ~09:45 HWY 99 at Lions Bay Closed due to landslide.
 - This prompted several internal conversations. between 10:30 and 15:30 as it appeared to be a significant closure.
- ~15:30 EOC activated to provide public messaging and provide ESS support to those stranded.
 - Between 15:30 AND 19:00 there was a lot of activity between many partners including TW, WB and several hotel providers.
 - A warming shelter was activated at the Fairmont in a conference room.
- ~19:00 Reception Ctr. and group lodging established at Fairmont hotel.
- ~19:00- 08:00: Red Cross, RMOW and Fairmont worked overnight to secure hotel rooms and cots.
- ~05:21am the following morning on December 15th the HWY reopened.

This was a unique EOC as we were not supporting the HWY 99 incident site but we were supporting the ESS branch.

What worked well:

- Fairmont Staff were supportive to get strandeers into all available rooms, provide extra cots, blankets and pillows as well as water, tea, coffee and donuts.
- Use of CRC Remote Surge Team utilized which helped with registration and referrals.
- ESS Trailer worked well to access supplies and stand up the RC & GL centre and tear down quickly
- 13 responders helped support strandeers into the night from RMOW and CRC volunteers

Challenges:

- Unsure of possible numbers of strandeers (normally we have an idea on numbers of residents being evacuated) so it made it difficult to know how many resources & responders to deploy.

- Delayed action due to unclear approval from EMCR regarding hotels and misinformation on HWY reopening.
- Not enough responders to register people that needed support and unable to connect with EOC as stood down by the time this was apparent.
- DOS did not set up an RC or GL, some strandeers mentioned they drove back up from Squamish
- Technology of operating in new environments (Tablets not set up with email/ trouble shooting printing set up)
- Security was not available which made the schools an unviable option
- ESS branch was open and very busy throughout the night and could have used extra support.

Results:

- Total number of strandeers supported: 121 (77 in 31 hotel rooms and 44 in GL) Total number of strandeers registered: 99

5. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business.

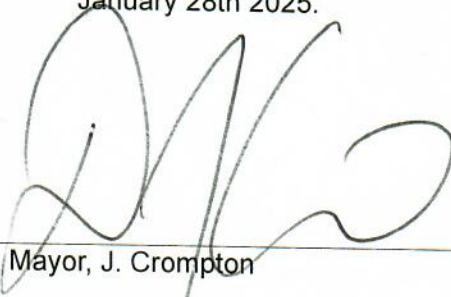
6. TERMINATION

Moved By RMOW General Manager
Corporate Services and Public
Safety, T. Battiston

Seconded By RMOW Chief Administrative
Officer, V. Cullen

That Emergency Planning Committee terminate the Regular Committee Meeting of January 28th 2025.

CARRIED



Mayor, J. Crompton



Recording Secretary, C. Burford