



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST AND WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 13, 2019, STARTING AT 3:00 – 5:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

#### PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 10
<b>Present:</b>	
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	10
Member at Large, John Hammons	10
WORCA, Seb Kemp	4
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif	9
Member at Large, Mac Lowry	4
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	7
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	10
<b>Regrets:</b>	
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	2
AWARE, Claire Ruddy, Chair	9
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	8

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by C. Rankin

Seconded by M. Tardif

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of November 13, 2019.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by M. Tardif

Seconded by J. Hammons

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of October 9, 2019.

CARRIED

#### PRESENTATIONS

Updates

AWARE:

- Eco-Citizen video complete
- Grant writing season

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*Seb Kemp arrived at 3:05 p.m.*

- AWARE participating in provincial Old Growth Strategic Review

### RMOW:

- RMOW also submitting to Old Growth Strategic Review; draft will be circulated for comments; meeting with OGSR panel in mid-December
- Wildland Urban Interface wildfire fuel treatment project underway in Lost Lake Park adjacent to Spruce Grove. Will continue in spring south to Passive House.

### Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Fuel thinning on Cheakamus Lake Road will continue over winter 2019/20.
- No other harvesting taking place in 2019
- CCF recruiting for a new forest manager to replace Tom Cole.

### Trail Planning Work Group:

- Meeting held November 12, newsletter distributed to FWAC.

### WORCA:

- Far Out/Flashback trail discussed (trail from MacLaurin's Crossing out to Cheakamus Lake parking lot along river and back on other side of FSR) – RMOW encouraged WORCA to wait until wildfire fuel thinning and Recreation Trails Strategy completed. Working together to determine how to proceed.
- Wildfire thinning project resulted in realignment of portion of HiHi outside work zone. WORCA and RMOW also communicating on future project in Cut Yer Bars area.

### CCF 2020 Harvesting Plan

A presentation by Stirling Angus and Simon Murray, Cheakamus Community Forest, was held regarding the CCF's 2020 Harvesting Plans and a discussion was held.

- Not much has changes from the 2019 harvesting plans. Coastal forest industry in economic downturn so no harvesting besides wildfire fuel thinning projects in 2019.
- Logging trucks seen on highway this fall are coming from Meagher area which was reopened this year after a long closure due to the landslide a number of years ago. Squamish Mills receiving the trucks. Other licensees are harvesting under different objectives than CCF which gives more leeway to be profitable.
- CCF 2020 plans are on hold until market improves. There is a desire to keep people working but can't harvest at a loss. Fuel thinning is keeping people working but is funded externally.
- FWAC is supportive of the fuel thinning treatments but recommend the use of logging methods that result in less ground disturbance and reduced tree scars. CCF is planning on using the same contractor and methods, skid trails will be designed by Blackwell and Associates, largely reusing old skid trails but some new landings and processing areas. 350 stems per hectare. Snow on ground helps minimize soil and root damage.
- CCF is discussing the details of C04 prescription with Blackwell & Associates, e.g. density, fine debris, old growth treatment, terrain stability

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- Currently C02 (near highway 99) has no permit and the CCF needs to get the Forest Stewardship Plan approved before any new permits can be issued by FLNRO. Probably don't have enough funding from Forest Enhancement Society anyway.
- WORCA shared information on proposed Farside/FarOut trails. Will make further contact with new CCF forest manager.
- Proposed 2020 CCF Harvesting Plans:
  - C09, C10, C12 – Basalt Valley. Access is difficult because of Cheakamus Crossing Phase II. Exploring alternate access through quarry. C09 shows openings but it's not engineered. These are mainly hemlock/balsam stands, majority would become pulp. Pulp is a significant value-added product but the benefit doesn't accrue to the CCF. Clear understanding by CCF foresters of the need to incorporate other values such as carbon sequestration, tourism, recreation, etc.
- ACTION: Add discussion on old growth to a future FWAC agenda to determine FWAC position (wait until new members start in 2020).
- CCF to consider how fuel management projects and a focus on harvesting second growth could change the harvesting regime.

A presentation by Martin Pardoe, REX Parks Planning Manager, was held regarding the Recreational Trails Strategy and 2019 e-bike observations, and a discussion was held.

### Recreational Trails Strategy

- Recreational Trails Strategy (RTS) will have community engagement in 2020
  - Will include overall trail vision, how trailheads are accessed, environmental considerations, consumer demands, optimizing existing assets, consideration of new amenities, event and commercial uses, economic reality, etc.
  - Not a detailed trail master plan but sets parameters; will lead to trail master plan in future; provides better understanding of options.
  - RTS will include WORCA and ACC plans. Multiple discussions held with stakeholder groups.
  - Project area: Cheakamus Community Forest, Whistler Interpretive Forest, excluding provincial parks and WB CRA. Valley Trail included because it provides access but not the focus.
  - Trail inventory near complete, trailhead parking study complete.
- Discussion:
  - Mountainview Drive neighbourhood parking issues – held neighbourhood meeting in spring; made improvements to parking signs, etc.; removed it from social media as a trailhead
  - Officially relocated trailhead to Meadow Park parking lot accessed off of Camino Drive.
  - Reached out to over 100 independent clubs, websites, blogs that mention Skywalk and Mountainview Drive parking requesting all to update content to reflect changes. Also used outreach as an opportunity to communicate about new alpine rules and reminders regarding adventure smart, bears and how to access current closure information.
  - FWAC suggested that carrying capacity be addressed.

E-Bike  
Observations 2019

- Rogue builders discussed and agreed that WORCA doing good job to educate but virtually impossible to eradicate.
- Consider broadening project area to include Screaming Cat trail access from 16 Mile Valley to north
- E-Bike Observations 2019:
  - Monitoring results will be made available when compiled and analyzed
  - RMOW Parks Bylaw needs to be amended to enforce the bylaw. Expected in early 2020.
  - Local observations revealed no new issues, ongoing monitoring will continue.
- Discussion: FWAC Observations on e-bikes
  - More e-bikes in Whistler Interpretive Forest
  - More tourist rental use on Valley Trail and Lost Lake trails; tend to be less skilled
  - WORCA has not seen more e-mountain bikes on technical terrain. Softening of opinions here in Whistler and elsewhere. Whistler considerably behind other areas in e-bike adoption. Increases the length of riding season and broadens the mountain bike demographic.

*M. Lowry and M. Pardoe left at 5:00 p.m.*

**New Business:**

Moved by M. Tardif  
Seconded by J. Hammons

**That** the RMOW should explore opportunities for making CCF carbon offsets more easily available for the public to purchase.

CARRIED

**OTHER BUSINESS/FUTURE AGENDAS**

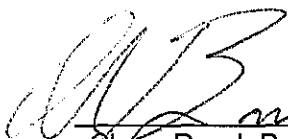
- **January** – choose chair/alternate
- **February Meeting** - BC Parks update; old growth discussion to develop FWAC opinion

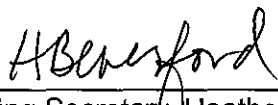
**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by M. Tardif

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of November 13, 2019 be terminated at 5:05 p.m.

CARRIED

  
Chair, Derek Bonin

  
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford