



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST & WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WED., JANUARY 8, 2020, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

In the Flute Room

4325 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, BC V8E 0X5

#### PRESENT:

Name	Meetings to Date: 1
<b>Present:</b>	
Member at Large, Melanie Tardif, Acting Chair	1
Councilor, Arthur DeJong	1
Member at Large, John Hammons	1
Member at Large, Dan Raymond	1
Member at Large, Christine Bilodeau	1
Member at Large, Rhonda Millikin	1
WORCA, Seb Kemp	1
Recording Secretary, Heather Beresford	1
<b>Regrets:</b>	
Member at Large, Colin Rankin	0
Member at Large, Derek Bonin, Co-Chair	0
AWARE, Claire Ruddy	0
Member at Large, Trevor Burton	0

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong

Seconded by R. Millikin

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Agenda of January 8, 2020.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by D. Raymond

Seconded by R. Millikin

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Minutes of December 11, 2019.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### Updates

#### Council:

- Housing update at recent Council meeting – over 200 beds created in 3 year period with 200 more at Glacier 8 WB staff housing in the planning stage
- Cheakamus Crossing master plan under review
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Finance update provided to Council
- Strategic Planning Committee met in December; 20 year view

#### AWARE:

- 30 for 30 fundraising campaign; goal to raise \$60K

#### WORCA:

- Executive Director position now official and filled by Trevor Ferrao
- Fee for service with RMOW is for existing trails under WORCA's management
- WORCA is creating an inventory of all trails; recommends a multi-stakeholder approach to trails and supports the RMOW's recreation trails strategy

#### RMOW:

- Provided Old Growth Strategy submission to review panel in December
- Applied to Community Resiliency Investment program and preparing priority projects to provide to new Wildfire Risk Reduction funding. Province will choose successful projects.
- Solid Waste Technician will be hired shortly

#### Trail Planning Working Group:

- Last met in October, nothing new.

#### Cheakamus Community Forest:

- CCF reviewed draft 2020 harvesting plans at November meeting, requested additional information from CCF forest manager for February meeting
- Wildfire fuel thinning project underway along Cheakamus Lake Road (C04)
- Callaghan FSR needs grading below the wildfire thinning area out to highway connection. Raise with CCF forest manager.

Moved by J. Hammons  
Seconded by M. Tardif

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee encourages the CCF to undertake road maintenance as financing allows on priority roads outside harvesting activities that provide benefit to the community.

CARRIED

Elect FWAC Chair  
and Alternate

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by R. Millikin

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee elect Melanie Tardif as chair and Derek Bonin as alternate for 2020.

CARRIED

Old Growth  
Discussion

FWAC discussed various aspects related to harvesting old growth forests. FWAC developed a list of guiding principles and general recommendations for the CCF.

General discussion:

- FWAC to define terms, objectives, principles and targets for reviewing old growth harvesting plans
- Climate change impacts – old growth sequesters carbon in a steady state but younger trees are actively growing and are absorbing more carbon.
- Harvesting any forest releases carbon, but harvested trees can also replace greenhouse gas intensive materials such as steel and concrete and can sequester carbon in long-term products such as lumber.
- Biodiversity – not normal forest structure to have old growth everywhere. Biodiversity better served by having a full range of forest stages.
- Forestry still very important economic driver for BC. 34% of all provincial exports and Province is most interested in multiple land uses where they do not conflict. Whistler tourism economy much more significant locally than forestry.
- Whistler Landscape Unit has significant amounts of old growth especially at elevation
- Restricting logging affects First Nations' partners by curtailing economic activity and job opportunities

Guiding Principles for consideration when reviewing CCF harvesting plans:

- Consider the purpose of harvesting. Harvesting old growth for purely commercial purposes is not supported but exemptions can be considered for certain types of harvesting that serve a broader purpose like wildfire risk reduction, maintaining a range of forest age stages, disease control or recreation enhancement.
- Consider the uniqueness of the area
- Consider where the logs going and how will they be used
- Consider the impacts on recreation, trails, tourism, visual quality, biodiversity and wildlife corridors
- Prefer not to harvest ancient forest (i.e. older than 500 years)
- Prefer to avoid harvesting low elevation old growth (not much low elevation old growth left)

Recommendations for Cheakamus Community Forest:

- Determine what areas contain ancient forests. Ancient forests deserve more protection.
- CCF should improve monitoring on harvested stands and on impacts to biodiversity, wildlife and corridors.
- CCF should include all recreation trails on its maps
- CCF should update the Ecosystem-based Management Plan

## OTHER BUSINESS

*There were no items of Other Business.*

## UPCOMING AGENDAS

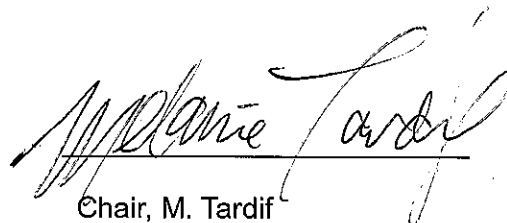
- February – BC Parks representative to discuss parks plans
- Consolidate comments on proposed CCF 2020 harvesting plans.

## MOTION TO TERMINATE

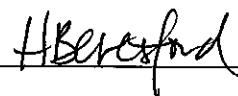
Moved by R. Millikin  
Seconded by A. DeJong

**That** the Forest and Wildland Advisory Committee Meeting of January 8, 2020 be terminated at 4:55 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, M. Tardif



Recording Secretary, H. Beresford