



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF FOREST WILDLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021, STARTING AT 3:00 P.M.

Remote Meeting
Held via Zoom

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (5)
Councilor, A. De Jong	5
Member at Large, M. Tardif, Chair	5
Member at Large, C. Rankin, Co-Chair	5
Member at Large, D. Bonin	4
Member at Large, J. Areshenkoff	3
Member at Large, J. Hammons	5
Member at Large, D. Raymond	4
Member at Large, T. Burton	3
Member at Large, R. Millikin	4
AWARE, C. Ruddy	5
WORCA, N. Koshure	4
RMOW Manager of Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford	5
Recording Secretary, O. Carroll	5
GUESTS	
RMOW Manager of Parks Planning, M. Pardoe	

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by D. Bonin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the amended Regular Committee Agenda of June 9, 2021.

- 'Spring Field Trip Overview' was moved to the third agenda item; and
'Recreational Trails Strategy Update' was moved to the fourth agenda item.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by A. De Jong
Seconded by D. Bonin

That Forest Wildland Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of Wednesday, April 14, 2021 as circulated.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

Council

- Staff working hard to get RMOW systems back up and running following cyber security attack in April.
- Property tax deadline has been extended until July 30, 2021.
- FireSmart chipper days are in progress as well as fire-thinning works on Nesters Hill.
- March – May has seen 40% of average rainfall, so we are expecting a dry and hot June, July, August; fire risk concerns.

J. Gresley-Jones joined meeting at 3:12pm.

AWARE

- Released three-year strategic plan, now available on AWARE website.
- Going through some staffing changes with some people exiting.

WORCA

- RMOW confirmed \$200,000 in fee for service funding which allows WORCA to move forward with maintenance plans and additional trail crew members for summer.
- Great turn out for volunteer trail nights. With PHO changes, more people participating.
- Waiting on more community feedback for Section 57 applications for new trail proposals before submitting to the Province.

RMOW

- Fire-thinning in Nesters Hill and Taluswood areas are under way with Nesters trails remaining closed until work is complete.
- The wildfire workshop that was canceled in April due to the cyber security incident is rescheduled for June 30th, 2021. Information package to come.

CCF

- Quarterly board meeting on June 10th, 2021.
- New representative to replace Jeff Fisher to be determined for Squamish Nation board seat.

TPWG

- RMOW Parks Planning staff sent out the Recreational Trails Strategy community survey summary to TPWG members.
- Next meeting anticipated for late June/early July.

Committee Member Check In

In a roundtable discussion, committee members shared thoughts on provincial forestry policy and Cheakamus Community Forest direction.

- CCF responses to concerns raised by FWAC and public seem disconnected at times.
- CCF basics are in place, but overall objectives need to be revisited and CCF management needs to better align with our community values.
- Staff, Council, and the Mayor are very engaged in the old growth issue and are actively engaging with the First Nations and CCF on this topic.

- Now is the time to make a change in the CCF values regarding old growth harvesting as public support is very strong in light of the Fairy Creek protests.
- Pressure for change needs to be led by the First Nations.
- Member concerns about CCF forest planning and management extend beyond logging of old growth – concern that CCF planned or proposed harvesting blocks are determined more by immediate economic return and equipment assumptions (i.e., “old iron”) than longer-term EBM and forest management objectives (e.g., retention for carbon/climate values and incremental timber volume, thinning for ecosystem and fuel/fire management objectives).
- FWAC would like CCF to be more transparent in responding to FWAC comments.
- Public wants to review CCF financial reports; 2019/2020 report is in progress.

J. Gresley-Jones leaves meeting at 3:57 p.m.

Spring Field
Trip Overview

Committee discussed how to incorporate thoughts and findings from the May field trip as feedback for CCF, specifically regarding comments and recommendations related to community forest planning and fuel management. FWAC has a mandate to communicate directly to CCF board, so there is an opportunity to provide additional memos prior to the annual report.

Various issues to share with CCF via annual report:

- CCF should set and meet forest management objectives in alignment with community values including climate change and wildfire mitigation to clarify what it is trying to achieve over the long term
- Province provides forest management guidance for each biogeoclimatic zone. CCF should use as a foundation and adjust for local issues.

M. Pardoe joined meeting at 4:07 p.m.

Recreational
Trails Strategy
Update

RMOW Parks Planning Manager Martin Pardoe joined committee meeting for discussion and feedback. Prior to the committee meeting, M. Pardoe provided the Committee with the results from the March community engagement survey. The survey received 800 responses, which has been the most engagement seen in any community survey. The results will help guide the recreational trail strategy. M. Pardoe and staff have shared the engagement survey results with Recreation Leisure Advisory Committee, Trails Planning Working Group, and FWAC and are looking for consolidated feedback specifically with regards to demographics; trail related topics; trail projects proposed for 2021; and draft objectives and vision for Whistler trails. All feedback will be used to inform next steps for the Recreational Trails Strategy. FWAC members provided the following feedback for staff consideration:

- Different audiences may need different approaches to encourage behavior change
- Are people aware of how certain priorities may implicate other priorities? For example, the link between environmental concerns and unauthorized trails are intertwined, yet this is not necessarily represented in the results. Perhaps this requires a more holistic analysis.

- Consider monitoring of trails using citizen science. Could be an opportunity to bring awareness to environmental consequences if there is a way to involve users to help with monitoring and see the effects.
- Section Three regarding Mystic/Function trails needs more wildlife assessment, especially impacts on grizzly bear activity.
- The information in the survey regarding the Janes Lake trail is inaccurate as a portion was existing and supported by RMOW fee for service in the past. Staff will look into this further.
- Overall the draft vision is good, but should include wording on respecting natural ecosystems and wildlife.
- Consider a responsibility code similar to skiers' code. Link to Adventure Smart initiatives.
- Concern over funding gap, and need to establish sustainable funding and cost recovery, with particular focus on maintenance funding. More discussion required on how many trails are needed and how to continue funding development and maintenance.
- Conflict resolution between different users and stakeholders needs to be addressed.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other items of business.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by R. Millikin

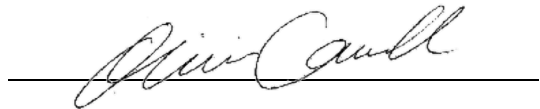
Seconded by C. Ruddy

That the Forest Wildland Advisory Committee meeting of Wednesday, June 9, 2021 be terminated at 5:05 p.m.

CARRIED



Chair, M. Tardif



Recording Secretary, O. Carroll