

**RESORT MUNICIPALITY OF WHISTLER**

4325 Blackcomb Way
Whistler, BC Canada V8E 0X5
whistler.ca

TEL 604 932 5535
TF 1 866 932 5535
FAX 604 935 8109

STAFF REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENTED: October 5, 2021
REPORT: 21-112
FROM: Facility Construction Management
FILE: 0810-00
SUBJECT: WHISTLER SAILING CLUB – ELECTRIFY ALTA LAKE REPORT

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

That the recommendation of the General Manager of Resort Experience be endorsed.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council receive Information Report 21-112 regarding the electrification of the Whistler Sailing Club fleet at Alta Lake.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to share information about The Point infrastructure in response to the Whistler Sailing Club initiative to begin electrifying their motorized boat fleet on Alta Lake.

☒ Information Report ☐ Administrative Report (Decision or Direction)

DISCUSSION

Whistler Sailing Club (WSC) presented on the Electrification of the Lake as a delegation to Council in May. The presentation provided insight into a Sailing Club initiative to replace gas power boat engines with rechargeable electric engines. Council had some questions related to the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) services available to this site and this report seeks to provide an update on these services and to better answer the questions that were not addressed at the time of the delegation presentation.

Based on the presentation, WSC currently has two electric motors in service. Over the next 5 years, WSC is seeking to have their fleet of 8 powered watercraft upgraded to rechargeable electric motors. The pace at which this will occur is unclear, however WSC indicated that they would like to have reliable power on the dock ahead of further implementation.

WSC provided the Facility Construction Management Department (FCM) with specifications on the proposed charging equipment and batteries. The equipment varies in electrical current draw, however the maximum draw for the units proposed is estimated to be 6 amps at 120v. This would suggest a total load of 48amps at 120v to service 8 battery chargers in the future.

The Point, originally constructed around 1955 as Cypress Lodge, is comprised of a number of buildings including a lodge, three small cabins that formerly served as a Hostel, and rental units. Following the

Games in 2010, the land and buildings was acquired by the RMOW and opened to the public with access to Alta Lake Park. The buildings remain very much in their original form and serve as public space for event programming and rentals. Two of the small lake side cabins received modest renovations to accommodate the sailing club.

Staff completed an audit of the electrical service at The Point to understand suitability and available power. It was determined that the small individual cabins have electrical services suitable for their intended use only. However, the Lodge adjacent to the WSC has sufficient power available to service the requested charging needs in the summer months. With moderate upgrades to the building's electrical distribution, this building could facilitate the entire charging needs of WSC as proposed. To extend the power to the dock with the specialized distribution equipment and necessary safety to meet the needs of battery charging will require a capital investment by the WSC of approximately \$25,000.

Coincidentally, BC Hydro is nearing completion of a neighborhood beautification project along Alta Lake Road. The intent of the beautification work is to remove the hydro services from the railroad and relocate the services to Alta Lake Road. The Point is the last property to be updated and this work will provide a new service to The Point. FCM will be working collaboratively with BC Hydro to attempt to upgrade the service to double its current capacity as part of this upgrade. The work is scheduled to be begin soon, however given this is non-essential work the timing remains unclear. In addition, this work removes the maintenance burden for BC Hydro of working from the tracks so it is of no cost to the RMOW.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Council Focus Areas

☐ Community Balance

*Effectively **balance resort and community needs** through deliberate planning, partnerships and investment*

☒ Climate Action

*Provide leadership to **accelerate climate action and environmental performance** across the community*

☐ Housing

*Advance strategic and innovative initiatives to enable and **deliver additional employee housing***

☐ Not Applicable

Community Vision and Official Community Plan

The Official Community Plan (OCP) is the RMOW's most important guiding document that sets the community vision and long-term community direction. This section identifies how this report applies to the OCP.

The information in this report aligns with the Official Community Plan goals and objectives through the following policy statements:

- 9.3.1.1 Policy Recognize the value of the natural environment in contributing to our sense of place and the impacts of incremental change.

- 10.2.3.3 Policy Encourage commercial recreation and leisure operators to minimize the GHG emission associated with their activities

BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

No budget considerations at this time

LIL'WAT NATION & SQUAMISH NATION CONSIDERATIONS

The RMOW is committed to working with the Lil'wat People, known in their language as *L'il'wat7úl* and the Squamish People, known in their language as the *Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw* to: create an enduring relationship; establish collaborative processes for Crown land planning; achieve mutual objectives; and enable participation in Whistler's resort economy. This section identifies areas where RMOW activities intersect with these relationships.

There are no specific considerations to include in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Level of community engagement commitment for this project:

☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☒ Collaborate ☐ Empower

Staff continue to work with WSC and the site residents to understand and further advance opportunities to improve the public assets and the offerings of the facility.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to share information about The Point infrastructure in response to the WSC initiative to electrify their fleet on Alta Lake. The request of the WSC identified the need for additional electrical power in addition to the need for additional infrastructure. At this time there is sufficient power to meet the basic needs, however future needs may trigger additional consideration. Additional infrastructure is required to extend power to the docks as part of tenant improvements to serve their needs.

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Andrew Chalk,
Manager – Facility Construction Management

Reviewed by:

Jessie Gresley-Jones,
General Manager of Resort Experience

Virginia Cullen,
Chief Administrative Officer