

MEETING MINUTES
33rd Annual General Meeting
Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia
Saturday June 27, 2009

Room D, Building SE2, British Columbia Institute of Technology,
Burnaby

In Attendance

Guest

John Hawkings, Provincial Trails Manager, Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts

Executive Board of Directors

Bob Gunn, Chair
Gordon Weetman, Past Chair
Jeremy McCall, Secretary/Treasurer
George Scott, Director
Cal Kaytor, Director
Vince Hilgerdenaar
Hugh Martell

Affiliation

Advisory member, BCIT Fish & Wildlife
Trails Society of BC
BC Nature
BC Snowmobile Federation
Quad Riders Association of BC
Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Back Country Horsemen of BC

Senior Advisor

Ray Pillman

Sea Kayak Association of BC

Nominee for Executive Board of Directors

Nick Heath

Sea Kayak Association of BC

Provincial Group Members

(one vote per organization)

Back Country Horsemen of BC
BC Federation of Drift Fishers
BC Federation of Fly Fishers
BC Nature
BC Snowmobile Association
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Four Wheel Drive Association
Hike BC
Horse Council of BC
Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Sea kayak Association of BC
Trails Society of BC

Delegate(s)

Rose Schroeder
Mel Carrol
Dan Cahill
Larri Woodrow
Les Auston
Pat Harrison
Steve Dillen
(Pat Harrison)
Bill Archibald
Zan Boyle, Terry Wardrop
Nick Heath
Leon Lebrun, Kelly Koome, Don Reid

Participating Group Members (non-voting)

Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society Don Guild, Sheila White
Pacific International Kayak Association Dennis McFadden

Absent

Howie Harshaw, Faculty of Forestry, UBC, Director
Jack Bryceland, Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC, nominee for Executive Board
Erin Hart, BC Snowmobile Federation, nominee for Executive Board

1. Welcome

Bob Gunn, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10.05 AM, welcomed those present and invited each person present to briefly introduce themselves and describe their affiliation. He then invited the delegates from member organizations to give a brief report. Delegates or representatives of the following organizations made brief reports: Federation of Mountain Clubs, Hike BC, Sea Kayak Association, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Back Country Horsemen, Trails BC, BC Nature, BC Snowmobile Federation, Four Wheel Drive Association, and Quad Riders Association of BC. Delegates were invited to e-mail their reports to ORC if they wished them to be added to the minutes. None had been received by the time these minutes were prepared.

2. Establishment of Quorum

Jeremy McCall, Executive Director, reported that 10 paid up voting members of the total voting membership of 22 organizations were represented, which exceeded the quorum requirement for one third to be present.

3. Adoption of agenda

Moved by Pat Harrison, seconded by Leon Lebrun, that the agenda be adopted as distributed. **Motion carried**

4. Approval of minutes of 2008 Annual General Meeting

Moved Bill Archibald, seconded Vince Hilgerdenaar, that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held May 24, 2008, be approved. **Carried**

5. Business arising from the minutes

No questions or issues were raised with respect to the minutes.

6. Report by the Chair

Bob Gunn delivered the Chair's Report: See Appendix A - Executive Reports.

6A. Report from ORC's Senior Advisor

At the invitation of the Chair, Ray Pillman delivered a report on his activities during the past year. See Appendix A - Executive Reports.

7. Executive Director's Report

Jeremy McCall delivered the Executive Director's Report: See Appendix A - Executive Reports.

Les Auston enquired whether the Executive had made the decision to reclassify the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association (VARDA) as a Regional Committee Member, a form of voting membership, Jeremy McCall responded that when VARDA originally became a member of ORC in 2008, it was classified as a Participating Group Member, a non-voting category. However, after VARDA applied for federal trails funding for a mountain bike skills park in the Valemount area it indicated that it was active in at least two forms of outdoor recreation, i.e. snowmobiles and mountain biking, and possibly more, so it appeared to fit the definition of a Regional Committee contained in the Bylaws. Given that so many other non-profit societies, as well as governments, had recently joined ORC to access the federal funding and had to be classified as Participating Group Members, the classification of VARDA as a Regional Committee brought more balance to the

membership structure. Jeremy acknowledged that it would be preferable for the Executive to have been involved in this type of decision but, given that ORC received 31 applications for membership in the two weeks prior to the June 26 deadline, the decision had to be taken very quickly so they could be accepted and invoiced for membership dues. It was not surprising that some steps in the normal process were bypassed. Jeremy expressed the hope that several more of the new non-profit members might be eligible for the Regional Committee membership once we have a better idea of their functions.

With respect to the ORC library report, several members expressed the opinion that it would be important to retain historic maps.

8. Treasurer's Report, Financial Statements and Budget

Jeremy McCall, Treasurer, advised that the Executive Board of Directors had decided not to retain a firm of accountants to conduct a Review Engagement for the 2009 fiscal year because of the disproportionate cost involved. In 2008 the Review cost approximately \$2,500, which was more than 10% of OTC's operating costs. In the year ended March 31, 2009, ORC's operating expenses were less than \$13,000, so the Executive considered that a Review was not justified. When discussing this question at a meeting of the Executive, Directors had been reminded that the Bylaws called for an audit, yet no audit had been conducted for several years. It was for this reason that the Executive was proposing Resolution 01 - 2009 to amend the Bylaws and eliminate the requirement for an audit.

Jeremy explained that the financial statements distributed to members for the AGM represented the precise figures generated by ORC's professional bookkeeper, but, if they are to be as informative as the statements prepared by Reid Hurst Nagy in 2008 they will require minor adjustments, two additional tables and explanatory notes. He plans to complete these additions as soon as possible, following which the full set of statements will be available to members. They are not required to be filed with any authority..

Jeremy McCall then delivered the Treasurer's Report: See Appendix A - Executive Reports.

Motion: To accept the Society's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2009, and to approve the Treasurer's Report, subject to the statements being amended to incorporate the additions listed by the Treasurer.. Moved J. McCall, seconded L. Woodrow. **Carried**

The Treasurer did not prepare a budget for the current fiscal year due to the low level of ORC's operating costs which are essentially limited to the amounts provided by its quarterly grant of \$3,000 from the Outdoor Recreation Foundation plus membership dues.

9. Resolutions

Resolution 2009 - 01: Amendment to the Bylaws of the Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia concerning the requirement for an annual audit.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors. Moved by J. McCall, seconded by L. Lebrun.

WHEREAS Bylaws 1 and 2 of Article IV of the Association's Bylaws require that the financial records of the Association shall be audited by a certified accountant at the end of each fiscal year of operation and that the audited financial statements be presented at the Annual General Meeting; and

WHEREAS the operating budget of the Association has not exceeded \$25,000 during each of the 2007, 2008 and 2009 fiscal years; and

WHEREAS the cost of the Review Engagement conducted by a certified accountant in 2008 was approximately \$2,500, accounting for more than 10% of the operating budget; and

WHEREAS the Association is aware that an audit by a certified accountant would cost more than a review engagement; and

WHEREAS the Association cannot afford to allocate such a significant portion of its operating funds to a procedure which provides a very limited benefit:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bylaws 1 and 2 of Article IV be amended to read:

1. The financial records of the Association shall not be reviewed by a certified accountant at the end of each fiscal year operation unless the operating budget for the fiscal year has exceeded \$50,000.
2. The financial statements shall normally be presented at the Annual general Meeting.

Discussion followed. Steve Dillen suggested that the negative wording of the first part was inappropriate for this type of resolution. Les Auston referred to a procedure employed by some Societies which make provision in their bylaws for the financial statements to be reviewed by two directors. Jeremy McCall agreed that the wording could be improved so that this could be a constructive amendment to the Bylaws. He proposed that it be tabled and reintroduced at the 2010 AGM.

Motion: To table resolution until the 2010 Annual General Meeting. Moved J. McCall, seconded L. Lebrun. No discussion on a motion to table. **Motion carried.**

Motion: To waive the requirement for the 2008 - 2009 financial statements to be audited. Moved by C. Kaytor, seconded by N. Heath. **Motion carried.**

Resolution 2009 - 02: Recommendation that BC's Provincial Parks benefit from a legacy from the Olympics.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors and Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society. Moved J. McCall, seconded L. Woodrow.

WHEREAS the recent reduction in its already inadequate operating budget has reduced BC Parks' capability so it can no longer maintain its infrastructure and its services at even a minimally acceptable standard; and

WHEREAS the BC Parks system has through the years demonstrated that in addition to providing important services to the BC public it is able to contribute to the provincial economy many times what adequate maintenance and services cost; and

WHEREAS BC Parks can provide a post - Olympic draw and economic development for British Columbians and the Province of British Columbia; and

WHEREAS the 100th anniversary of BC Parks will take place in 2011 immediately after the Olympics and will provide opportunities to enhance and support BC's health, wealth, and natural capital; and

WHEREAS British Columbians have been assured that the 2010 Winter Olympics would provide legacies for all British Columbians, and not just in locations where the Olympic events are held:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ORC urge the Provincial Government to ensure that the Olympic legacies include an adequately maintained BC Parks system, including infrastructure and services.

No significant discussion. **Motion carried. Unanimous**

Resolution 2009 - 03: Advocacy re mixed use trails

Proposed by Trails BC. Moved by L. Lebrun, seconded by L. Woodrow.

WHEREAS mixed use trails can be defined as trails which accommodate motorized and non-motorized users on the same track at the same time and which exclude trail routes on active roads; and

WHEREAS the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) has become a member of the Canadian Trails Federation (CTF) in spite of the fact that Trails BC, a member of ORC, withdrew from the CTF due to concerns with the CTF's refusal to advocate for non-motorized users concerning mixed - use trails and the unbalanced structure of the National Trails Coalition (NTC); and

WHEREAS the CTF has been given the role of approving NTC funding proposals for non-motorized trail users; and

WHEREAS ORC joined the CTF for the purpose of accessing this funding for BC's non-motorized trail users:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ORC use its best efforts to advocate on behalf of non-motorized trail users that Federal funding not be used for trails that mix motorized and non-motorized trail users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ORC agree to circulate a petition prepared by Trails BC as one of these actions ; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ORC urge the CTF to advocate for non-motorized trail users by not including mixed-use trails as a viable trail category for funding.

Leon Lebrun gave the reasons for introducing the motion, which began with the reasons why Trails BC resigned from the Canadian Trails Federation (CTF). He said the CTF had adopted the idea of mixed trails use which was incompatible with the philosophy of Trails BC regarding the way trails should be used. He said the New Brunswick trails organization had also resigned from the CTF for the same reason but had rejoined because of the National Trails Coalition(NTC)/federal trails funding. He hoped ORC would be able to advocate against the concept of mixed use trails.

Pat Harrison said the NTC did not want a non-motorized group as a member. Les Auston said the NTC supported shared use, not mixed use and di not support mixed use. Jeremy McCall suggested the resolution would not be effective because the Federal trails funding matter was essentially pre-determined because the deadline for applications had been June 26. Steve Dillen suggested the resolution was not

expressed in cooperative language. Ray Pillman said that in the guidelines for the federal funding mixed use scored higher than shared use. Terry Wardrop said that non-motorized trails were well protected in the NTC structure. Larri Woodrow used the following example: On designated fly fishing only lakes powerboats are banned. On others engine horsepower is restricted. On Okanagan Lake drag boats and jet-skis are permitted.

A consensus developed that the discussion would benefit from the talk by John Hawkings so the resolution was tabled and the general meeting was adjourned at approximately 1210.

John Hawkings began his talk after the lunch break at approximately 1.10 PM and reviewed the following:

- Recreation Sites and Trails marketing plan: MTCA now has a new website for sites and trails at <http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca> and new marketing materials.
- BC Recreational Trails Strategy update: There were 321 public, interagency and First Nations meetings, with more than 1300 participants and 260 submissions by the public. Some guiding principles were : Sound environmental stewardship and management (given higher priority due to the public feedback), respect and recognition of First Nations, interests, existing resource users and existing tenure holders. Respect and recognition of diverse trail interests and secure recreation opportunities for all trail users. The most supported items were to improve legislation, regulations and policy to manage motorized use and enhance opportunities for non-motorized trail users, to collaboratively develop local, regional and provincial trail system plans that secure opportunities for all user groups and to enhance recreation opportunities by reducing liability risk to land owners and groups responsible for managing trails. The least supported item was to undertake development of a provincial trails marketing strategy. The two most common discussion topics were motorized vs. non-motorized use and ORV licensing and registration. Implementation will include the establishment of a provincial trail advisory body, the support of existing local and regional trail advisory committees.
- The issues of motorized vs. non-motorized use of trails: Essentially covered during the discussion of the recreational trails strategy. The acknowledgment by the Trails Strategy Committee that motorized users have an asymmetric impact on non-motorized trail users was mentioned.
- The Spirit of 2010 Trail: Linking 18 communities and 800 km long. It forms 750 km of the overall 1,600 km of the BC portion of the TransCanada Trail. It includes the Kettle Valley Rail Trail, the Cowichan Valley Rail Trail, the Columbia and Western Rail Trail from Grand Forks to Castlegar, the Slocan Valley Rail Trail and the Burlington Northern Rail Trail from Salmo to Creston. The trail is funded by regional districts (RDOS, RDCK, RDKB & Cowichan Valley RD) and by the Slocan Valley Heritage Trails Society.
- Trails funding in BC: Federal funding: NTC - \$3 million; Job Opportunities Program - \$15 million plus; Community Adjustment Fund - \$306 million for four provinces; Recreation Infrastructure Fund - \$500 million. Provincial funding: \$1.2 million capital program.

- Trail authorizations: There has been an increase in Section 57 authorizations.
- Budgetary constraints at MTCA: As with other ministries, MTCA is being required to trim its budgets and justify areas of continued spending.

Following John's presentation the general meeting was reconvened at approximately 1.45 PM..

Before discussion continued Bob Gunn, Chair raised two procedural points which had been brought to his attention during the break. The first was whether, as Chair, he could vote to break a tie and all agreed that the Bylaws were very clear on that point. The Chair is entitled to vote to break a tie.

The second point was whether the Executive Director, who technically has a vote as a Director of the Society, should be entitled to exercise his vote. Following a brief discussion in which Jeremy McCall stated that it was up to the members to decide, it was decided to put a motion was put before the members.

Motion: Moved by Bob Gunn, seconded by L. Woodrow, that the Executive Director be entitled to exercise his vote as a Director. **Motion carried** (unanimous).

Motion: Moved by P. Harrison, seconded by G. Scott, that Resolution 2009 - 03 be taken from the table. **Motion carried**.

Leon Lebrun rebutted the earlier point about it being too late for this motion to be effective and said it was necessary to take the Trails BC argument to the national level. He said he had no concerns with the BC Regional Advisory Committee which is reviewing the present funding allocations in three separate segments. He wants ORC to be an advocate against mixed use trails. Pat Harrison said ORC has not yet had a chance to discuss this issue internally and it should be discussed by the Executive. Terry Wardrup said he was sympathetic but it is early days for the CTF and its philosophy hasn't been tested yet. Larry Woodrow referred to the problems experienced on the TransCanada Trail and with dirt bikes in Bear Creek and said that ORC must support the Resolution. Pat Harrison suggested there are two issues, the question of whether the CTF supports the non-motorized sector and the process at the federal level.. Les Auston said that the motorized groups had supported ORC's representation of the non-motorized sector at the national level in spite of the fact that its membership bridges both sectors and he suggested that ORC can help to get action at the local level.

When the question was put to the meeting the votes were as follows: In favour - 3, against - 11, abstain - 4. **Motion defeated**

10. Should members' e-mail addresses be displayed in ORC's messaging?

Jeremy McCall explained that after the inappropriate use of ORC's e-mail list during the election campaign some individuals complained that this had only been possible because the e-mail address of all key representatives of ORC's member organizations were always displayed when the numerous e-mails concerning environmental assessments and crown land tenures were distributed by ORC. All anyone had to do was take any message and "Reply to All". In response he modified the procedure so that the only e-mail addresses displayed were those of the ORC Executive. All other addressees are now sent the messages on a blind copy basis.

He asked if this modified procedure was satisfactory. When the question was put on an informal basis 11 members voted to approve the present (modified) procedure.

11. Nominations and Election of Executive Board of Directors for 2009 - 2010

A summary of the current and proposed members of the Executive Board of Directors with brief resumes was distributed to the attendees before the meeting. The following nominees were proposed for the six vacancies on the Board:

Jeremy McCall, affiliated with BC Nature, nominated for a third two year term

Cal Kaytor, Quad Riders ATV Association, nominated for a second two year term

Hugh Martell, Back Country Horsemen, nominated for an initial one year term

Jack Bryceland, Federation of Mountain Clubs, nominated for an initial one year term

Nick Heath, Sea Kayak Association of BC, nominated for an initial one year term.

Erin Hart, BC Snowmobile Federation, nominated for an initial one year term

There were no additional nominations from the floor.

Motion: Moved by B. Gunn, seconded by V. Hilgerdenaar, that that the above six candidates be elected to fill the six vacancies. **Motion carried**

12. Adjournment

Before the meeting adjourned, George Scott, a retiring director, expressed thanks for the contribution made by the Executive Director.

Gordon Weetman, also a retiring director, acknowledged that he had been associated with ORC for almost 11 years. He said that given his knowledge of BC's forests land the extent to which the outdoor recreation community depended on the forests for access and recreation, two things continued to amaze him. Firstly, that the BC Government has no recreation policy and secondly, that there are no on the ground recreation managers for the forests.

Ray Pillman voiced two wishes before the meeting ended, firstly that more action be taken on conflict resolution, an issue referenced in the Chair's Report, and secondly that ORC plan and undertake fundraising programs to obtain sustainable long term funding.

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at approximately 230 PM.

APPENDIX A
EXECUTIVE REPORTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 27, 2009
REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings and welcome to the 2009 AGM for the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. It has been another year of growth and learning as the Chair of ORC. I am pleased with the progress and ability of this organization to stay involved with the diversity and volume of challenges outdoor recreational users and organizations continue to confront in BC.

Staff:

Fortunately, we have a small group of dedicated board members and advisors, who contribute to the ability of ORC to stay involved in the many projects and issues engaging our member groups and outdoor recreational users.

In particular, Jeremy McCall continues to act as ORC's manager and Executive Director on a volunteer basis. We are extremely grateful for the commitment and experience Jeremy has brought to the organization to help guide us through another year. ORC continues to operate on a limited budget, thanks to the funding we receive from the Outdoor Recreation Foundation. Jeremy also continues to represent ORC at various meetings and on various committees as well as keeping the office running on a regular basis. However, the time has come for ORC to develop a strategy for the funding requirements for an Executive Director, in my view a priority for the ORC executive to address this year.

Ray Pillman, long time senior advisor to ORC, continues to act as an advisor on many issues directed towards ORC. His long-time involvement and experience in land use planning and outdoor recreation and conservation issues in BC are extremely valuable to the ORC board. Ray continues to be actively involved in many issues and we are extremely grateful for the time, commitment and experience Ray brings to the organization.

I would also like to thank our other Board Members for the commitment and representation they have brought to the ORC board throughout the past year:

George Scott (BC Snowmobile Federation) and Gordon Weetman (Trails Society of BC), both who have served six years on the ORC Board.

Cal Kaytor (Quad Riders of BC), Howie Harshaw (Advisory Member), Vince Hilgerdenaar (four Wheel Drive Association of BC) and Hugh Martell (Back Country Horsemen of BC).

ORC strives to represent the diversity of outdoor recreational interest in BC and, particularly those of our member organizations. However, we can only adequately understand the issues and interest of our membership, if our member organizations get actively involved.

Administration:

Monthly meetings of the Executive were held throughout the past year. It continues to amaze me at the volume and diversity of issues and administrative tasks the Board continues to address during these meetings.

ORC's newsletter - The Outdoor Recreation Report continues to be published, thanks to a grant from Gaming Commission. A grant application will be again submitted in 2009 to assist with the publishing of the newsletter.

Specific Projects and Issues:

BC Rivers Day and the Endangered Rivers list. These initiatives continue to be successful to help profile ORC and bring to attention to waterways and adjacent environments in BC. While BC Rivers Day 2007 was one of the wettest on record, we still had over an estimated 75,000 participants throughout the province. The use of a new event registration and posting system via the ORC website was piloted in 2007. While there were some technical problems, the system simplified the registration and posting/advertising of events throughout BC. With BC Rivers Day fast approaching – **Sunday September 27**, we will be once again using the registration system (with some modification) in 2009. We will be making a greater effort to have groups register and post their events via this system.

Recreational Trails Strategy for BC: Jeremy represented ORC and continues to monitor the progress of the strategy. We are pleased that John Hawkins is here today to provide us with an overview and update on this initiative.

Environmental Assessment Office. Jeremy continues with his involvement with the EAO and efforts to make the EAO information process clearer and more friendly/informative to users of the website.

Independent Power Projects. ORC continues to monitor and be involved in this issue, particularly run-of-the-river projects. Jeremy has attended several meetings of various groups related to the topic and a very informative workshop hosted by Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

Robert Gunn
Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

Membership

We were pleased to welcome the Valemount Area Recreation Development Association as a new member during the year. It is the first Regional Committee Member (voting) which ORC has had for some years.

During the past two weeks we have taken on 32 new member organizations which joined specifically for the National Trails Coalition trail funding program. For the time being all these new member organizations have been classified as Participating Group (non-voting) Members and many of them are either Indian Bands, Regional Districts, School Districts, Cities, Towns or Villages. However ten of those new members are non-profit societies which may well continue as Participating Groups and continue as

members of ORC. Also we may reclassify one or two as Regional Committee Members when we have had time to learn more about them.

We distributed the membership dues invoices by e-mail this year and it seems they did not all reach the treasurers of our member organizations. If any member wishes to have the invoice sent again please let me know.

Meetings of the Executive Board of Directors

The Executive generally meets monthly to discuss issues of current or emerging concern. The meeting minutes are posted on the ORC website as soon as they are approved, generally one month after each meeting and members are encouraged to review these to follow issues of concern to their organizations.

Newsletter - *The Outdoor Recreation Report*

Thanks to the annual Gaming Commission Direct Access Grant we are publishing the newsletter twice a year. We have an ample supply of the Spring 2009 issue. The Fall issue will go to press in September and we always welcome articles of outdoor recreation interest.

ORC Library

The Council's large document library, which includes many land use planning and public recreation studies, has been digitized. It can be accessed via the ORC computer. In due course it will be hosted on a suitable website so the general public can access it

PRINCIPAL INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

Endangered Rivers List

As has so often been the case in recent years ORC's major achievement this past year was undoubtedly the publication of the 2009 Endangered River list. This is posted on ORC's website and it will probably be reprinted in the Fall issue of *The Outdoor Recreation Report*. Authored primarily by Mark Angelo, ORC's Rivers Chair, it contains considerable detail about the status of each of the most endangered rivers in BC and also a description of the threats specific to each.

Notification of Crown Land tenure applications by adventure tourism operators

ORC continues to notify its member organizations about the Ministry of Tourism, Culture & the Arts (MTCA) referrals for public comment of Crown Land tenure applications submitted by adventure tourism operators. We send out an e-mail to the key persons in our member organizations with details of the tenure applied for, the area where they wish to operate, the name of the proponent and the file number so that anyone in our member organizations can look up the details and the maps on the website of the Integrated Land Management Bureau (ILMB) where the applications are posted.

Notification of Environmental Assessments

There are a very large number of projects entering or already in the environmental assessment process at present. ORC notifies its member organizations about opportunities for attending public open houses and submitting the comments on such projects as run-of-the-river and wind power projects and mining projects as they begin the environmental assessment process. The BC Environmental Assessment Office is now notifying the public about new information on its website by way of an RSS feed which ORC requested some time ago and which we now subscribe to. We have

recently added the Canadian Environmental assessment Agency to our RSS feeds and we hope to be able to distribute information about their assessments as well.

BC Parks Management Plans

BC Parks has recently decided to notify the public about opportunities for public consultation when either new Parks management plans are contemplated or existing plans are to be updated. This has been an outstanding ORC request for some time and the introduction of this service is welcomed.

ORV Coalition

The Coalition has had a conference call since the election and we have decided to renew efforts to obtain commitments from the BC Government to introduce off-road vehicle registration and licensing.

Rivers Day

BC Rivers Day continues to be held on the last Sunday of September each year (September 27 in 2009). Our members are invited to consider organizing events on and by their local rivers. Thanks to the efforts of Mark Angelo in promoting this concept it has now been taken overseas to countries as varied as Taiwan and Poland. The Great Shoreline Cleanup also occurs on this date so there is a choice of ways to celebrate the day.

OTHER ISSUES

Follow-up from 2008 Resolutions

Action was also taken on the following resolutions passed at ORC'S 2008 AGM:

- Review of the Provincial Park Boundary Adjustment Policy. We urged the BC Government to review and clarify this policy but it has so far declined to do so.
- Creation of a safe migration corridor for pink salmon smolts in the Broughton Archipelago. We received a positive response from the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and some steps have been taken towards following some fish farms on some routes. We continue to be concerned about the impact of open net fish farms on wild salmon stocks due to the devastating impact of sea lice.
- Development of run-of-the-river hydro projects. This complex resolution was defeated. It was then delegated to the Executive Board of Directors to develop a clearer position with respect to the impact of these projects on outdoor recreation. The Executive was unable to finalize a satisfactory approach.
- That the ORC Executive bring motorized and non-motorized groups together to review conflicts before the recreation Trails Strategy was finalized. The Executive arranged a meeting which was attended by two representatives from each sector and two members of the Executive. The meeting demonstrated the difficulty of having a meaningful discussion on this issue and the initiative was eventually eclipsed by the acknowledgement of the disproportionate impact of different forms of trail use by members of the

Recreation Trails Strategy Committee in March. It is to be hoped that the Strategy document, once finalized will reflect this outcome.

REPRESENTATION BY ORC

Ministry of Environment Quarterly Forum

The Council participates in the regular quarterly Forums hosted either by the Minister or the Deputy Minister and other senior staff of the Ministry of Environment in Vancouver. In addition to being able to monitor developments concerning the Ministry's mandate, it provides the Council with an opportunity to voice concerns about issues affecting its member organizations and to keep in touch with what other NGOs and BC Parks stakeholders are involved in.

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources Forum

The Council participates in the quarterly Forums and workshops of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources. This provides a valuable window on all forms of development related to these industries.

Environmental Assessment Office Advisory Committee

ORC is an active member of the Environmental Assessment Office Advisory Committee. At the last meeting in May 2009 we made several requests. The minutes of this meeting will be distributed during the first week of July.

Jeremy McCall
June 26, 2009

Treasurer's Report for the year ended March 31, 2009

Statement of Operations – Statement 1

Operating Fund

The Operating Fund receives grants from the Outdoor Recreation Foundation in amounts which, when added to other revenues, are sufficient to cover its month-to-month operating expenses. Although these grants are authorized by the Foundation's Board of Directors at a rate of \$3,000 per quarter, during the year ended March 31, 2009, operating expenses were kept to a minimum and it was not necessary to draw down the regular grant in the January to March 2009 quarter. As a result total grants from the Foundation during the year ended March 31 totaled \$9,000 compared with \$16,000 in the previous fiscal year.

Total operating revenues were \$14,878 during the year ended March 31, 2009, compared with \$21,223 in the previous year. Apart from the grants from the Foundation, principal sources included:

- Membership dues \$2,894 (\$2,164 in fiscal 2008)
- Interest income \$1,310 (\$1,861)
- Donations \$1,074 (\$421)

Principal operating expenses for the year were:

- Rent and storage \$6,024 (\$8,323)

- Office expenses \$1,733 (\$2,594)
- Travel \$1,478 (\$761)
- Telephone \$1,453 (\$1,287)

The principal reduction in operating expenses has resulted from the decision not to use a firm of accountants to conduct a review of the Council's financial statements. This will result in a saving of at least \$2,500 each year.

The grants from the Foundation were funded in turn by the Mosaik Master Card Affinity Program. The Foundation and the Council very much appreciate the contributions made by approximately 2,500 members of the public who are using this MasterCard. The Council is very dependent on those funds if it is to continue to continue as a going concern.

Projects Fund

Project grants are set up as deferred revenues on the Council's Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet) and revenues are only recognized when they are expended.

During the year ended March 31, 2009, projects funded through the Projects Fund were as follows:

- BC Rivers Day: \$5,060 was expended to contribute to a full page ad in the Vancouver Sun to promote 2008 Rivers Day and the Centenary of Roderick Haig Brown's birth. This was funded by a generous grant of \$5,000 from Ducks Unlimited.
- Central Coast Plan Implementation and Monitoring Committee: \$1,770 was incurred for travel expenses for the Recreation Sector's representative. These were funded by a grant from the BC Government which was received when the process started. As at March 31 additional funding of \$18,733 remained available but it is unlikely to be required for this purpose.
- Library: \$654 is required each year to store the documents belonging to the ORC Library. These have now been converted to digital format and it is expected that this expense will end when the decision is made to dispose of and recycle these documents.

Gaming Fund

The Council receives a Direct Access grant each year to assist with the publication of The Outdoor Recreation Report, the Council's newsletter, which is published twice a year. \$4,500 was received for this purpose in November 2008 and \$3,664 was spent for one issue during the past fiscal year. The funds were spent on printing and mailing. The design and layout for the most recent issues were contributed.

The Council is receiving \$4,500 per year for three years under the present grant arrangement. Combined with advertising revenue this amount will almost be sufficient to cover the costs of two issues of the newsletter. Any excess costs will be funded by the Operating Fund.

Conclusion

Although the Council has succeeded in keeping its operating costs to a minimum, it is only able to continue as a going concern because it pays no wages or salary. It is not

realistic to expect to be able to continue on this basis. An additional concern is that the Foundation's revenues from the Mosaik MasterCard program are declining slowly as the numbers of contributors enrolled in the program decline. One of the primary tasks for the Executive Board of Directors during the coming year will be to develop a funding program so that the Council will be in a position to hire a part time administrator.

Jeremy McCall
Treasurer

Senior Advisor's Report

Central and North Coast Land Use Planning

I represented ORC and the Outdoor Recreation Sector on the Central Coast LRMP and arranged for representation on the North Coast LRMP. This was a multi-stakeholder consensus seeking government managed process. After 7 years of negotiation we achieved consensus. A great deal was accomplished. These included the creation of over 100 protected areas, called Conservancies, and a substantial number of Biodiversity Areas in which commercial timber harvesting is not permitted. Together these areas plus the existing Parks total nearly one third of the land area of approximately 6 million Ha. The resulting Plans were approved by government and eventually the protected areas were designated.

Following the completion of the LRMPs a Plan Implementation and Monitoring Committee comprised of representatives of the same sectors was appointed for the purpose of ensuring that implementation followed the Land Use Plans. This Committee completed its term of two and a bit years on March 31, 2009. It accomplished far less than expected. There was no significant on-the-ground implementation to monitor. Our efforts were devoted to monitoring the legal aspects of converting the land use plans into legally binding objectives, which the government cleverly riddled with loopholes, such as not prohibiting transmission lines in protected areas in which hydroelectric development was not to be permitted.

A major problem with land use planning has been that except for the Conservation, Tourism and Recreation sectors all others, including government, are mostly concerned with short term rather than long term issues. Planning has to be long term to be effective in providing sustainable results. Short term problems should be taken into account as transition issues.

All in all the Central and North Coast Planning can be considered a substantial success. But government has made it known that, at least for now, there will be no more land use planning as such. Participatory democracy in land use planning has ended.

Run-of-the-River Hydro Projects

RoRs are reserved for the private sector. BC Hydro is not allowed to develop them. RoRs are largely unplanned. More than 600 sites on BC's creeks and rivers have been staked by developers in gold rush style. Nearly all of them have the potential for serious negative environmental impact. Most, especially the larger ones, are based on stream flows from snow pack and glacially fed drainage basins, which means that they would produce much of their power in late spring and in summer, when BC's demand for electricity is low, and produce much less in the winter when the demand is high. The

logical market for these plants would be in far away California where summer air conditioning demand is high. There are some, not many, mostly rain-fed smallish sites that would fit BC's demand curve.

The RoRs will be expensive, because their turbines will operate at partial capacity or sit idle for much of the year. Because they are developed by private investors they would be substantially more expensive than if they were built by BC Hydro, for two reasons: first because BC Hydro, as a Crown corporation, can borrow the massive long term pay back funds at considerably lower interest rates. This difference has always favoured government-owned hydro over privately owned. And second, because the cost of preparing proposals in response to BC Hydro's call for additional generation is high and due to the variety and large number of competitors the proponents chances of success are not high enough to warrant undertaking really adequate, costly subsurface investigations; and so, they have to cover the risk of encountering difficult conditions in the construction phase by adding substantial contingency allowances in their cost determinations. As a developer BC Hydro would not encounter this problem as they would have selected with certainty the project they would build through their normal planning.

While RoRs would provide some local employment much of the labour will consist of mobile experienced trades workers from outside the local area and from other provinces.

A cautionary note: if Independent Power Producers expand substantially and garner a substantial share of the electric generation capacity there will be consolidations and they will have the ability to face BC Hydro with the demand that they be allowed to sell part of their output to the California market, where the rates are three times the BC rates, and, if this is not allowed, to force Hydro to pay similar rates for the energy they supply to BC Hydro. This would be somewhat akin to what ENRON did a few years ago by blacking out California as a strategy in pursuit of their nefarious objectives.

The Kokish and Klinaklini RoRs

These two are examples of the extremes. The **Kokish** is a smallish 45 MW project on the east coast of Vancouver Island based largely on rains which are heaviest in the fall and winter. This matches the V.I. Grid requirement. The project is being proposed by Brookfield Renewable, Power Inc., successor to BrasCan. The Namgis FN is a junior partner. The project appears to have low to modest environmental impact. Brookfield is being very cooperative in taking into account the environmental and recreation sectors' interests. I am meeting Brookfield and their environmental consultant, together with a representative of the Vancouver Island White Water Paddlers Society on July 7 and at a later date, together with a director of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers, to discuss recreational and environmental impacts and ways of accommodating these. This could be a project that ORC could consider acceptable. The transmission line connecting to the BC Hydro grid is only 500 meters long.

The very large **600 to 700 MW Klinaklini RoR** proposed for the Klinaklini River, which flows into the head of Knight Inlet is much less likely to be acceptable to Conservation and Recreation. Its energy production is based heavily on snow and glacial melt peaking in late spring and in summer. From that point of view it would best fit the needs of the far away California market. It could be made to fit the BC market by creating storage by damming the river upstream. This would flood out the environmentally and

recreationally very important Upper Klinaklini Conservancy. This would increase the amount and value of the energy production many fold and would be irresistible. This must not be allowed to happen. The only sure way of ensuring that this does not happen is to deny approval of the RoR. The Klinaklini is an important salmon river. The salmon would be seriously impacted if the project were to be built as presently planned. The long high voltage double-circuit transmission line would have serious impacts on endangered birds and on grizzlies and on visually important areas in Knight inlet and on water crossings, including the crossing of Johnstone Strait, as well as creating a hazard to aircraft flying along Johnstone Strait.

The BC Marine Trail Network

A start on planning a marine trail, consisting of launch sites and camping sites approximately 10 miles apart from BC's border with the State of Washington to its border with Alaska was made in 1996 with the collaboration of the Ministry of Forests. At the time detailed site inspections and surveys on sections of the Trail were done by Peter McGee. The BC Marine Trail Association was formed and became a member of ORC. These plans were dashed when the government went into a state of restraint a short time later. BCMTA tried to continue but languished due to lack of funding and lapsed into non-society status. I had represented BCMTA at ORC AGMs when Peter and chair Chris Ladner were unable to attend. Several years later while, as a volunteer, I was assisting in reviewing and editing a government report on marine planning of Johnstone Strait and Bute Inlet area I was encouraged to take steps to restart the planning process and received some encouragement from the provincial land use planning ministry and its minister, with the result that Charlie Cornfield in the ministry's Campbell River office was assigned to work on planning the project when he could spare the time from his more urgent full time duties.

In late 2007 with the announcement and publication of the Maa Nulth First Nations treaty the paddling community took this as a wake up call because the treaty awarded to that FN, as private fee simple land, many of the best recreation sites within the Maa Nulth traditional lands on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, which kayakers and canoeists had been using for decades. Paddling clubs on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland were galvanized into action. Their concern was that while they might be able to negotiate for continued use of these sites, what if this treaty was to be used as a model for other treaties up and down the coast! Very quickly eight of the major kayaking and canoeing clubs on Vancouver Island and the lower mainland got together, formed a taskforce to plan action. They met with the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts and with their encouragement, and later some modest funding assistance, they proceeded to develop work plans and to form a new society. This has since been registered as the BC Marine Trail Network Association. As the name implies the concept of the marine trail has been changed from a single route to multiple routes. In this stage Charlie Cornfield was able to devote more time to the project and to provide substantial assistance. This continued until November 2008 when Charlie was elected mayor of Campbell River for a three year term. Others in the Ministry have taken over where Charlie left off.

BCMTNA has since, with some welcome funding assistance from government, developed a data base containing more than 800 campsites. Nick Heath, who is currently a candidate for a position on ORC's Executive Board has had a leading role in the development of and managing of the data base for camp and launching sites.

The major task now before the BCMTNA is ground proofing, that is visiting, sites listed within the data base in order to ensure their suitability and ranking as primary or secondary sites. Future tasks include negotiating with government, and First Nations, responsibilities and arrangements for management and maintenance.

Salmon Aquaculture

For several years ORC has passed resolutions at its AGMs urging both the federal and provincial governments, in the interest of saving BC's wild salmon stocks from decimation, to require open cage salmon farms to be moved away from the migration routes of wild salmon and to require salmon farms to convert to closed containment, on land or in the the marine waters, so that wild salmon, especially the tiny fry heading out to sea from their spawning grounds would be protected from the effects of sea lice and diseases that become concentrated in the dense farm populations.

ORC has supported the relentless science-based efforts to save wild salmon from these effects by biologist Alexandra Morton by distributing her appeals for action by governments. This has included distributing her letter writing campaign in support of her recent court action against the federal government for allowing the provincial government to manage the salmon aquaculture industry as an extension of agriculture, which she claimed it was not. She won her case in the supreme court of British Columbia which directed the federal government to take over the management of salmon aquaculture as a fishery and to attend to its responsibility for protecting wild salmon.

Alexandra lives in Echo Bay and has been a leading resident researcher in the Broughton Archipelago for many years. I first met her in 1996 at the Salmon Aquaculture Review process conducted by the Environmental Assessment Office which process, by the way, was carefully orchestrated to ensure that the proponents of salmon aquaculture would be the victors.

Ray Pillman
