

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
Meeting of Executive Board of Directors

5 pm Monday, July 6, 2009
47 West Broadway, Vancouver

MINUTES

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bob Gunn	Chair	Advisory member/BCIT Fish & Wildlife program
Jeremy McCall	Executive Director/Treasurer	BC Nature
Cal Kaytor	Director	Quad Riders ATV Association
Vince Hilgerdenaar	Director	Four Wheel Drive Association
Hugh Martell	Director	Back Country Horsemen of BC
Nick Heath	Director	Sea Kayak Association
Ray Pillman	Senior Advisor	Sea Kayak Association of BC

Regrets

Jack Bryceland	Director	Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Erin Hart	Director	BC Snowmobile Federation

1. Bob Gunn welcomed those attending and chaired the meeting. He gave a brief description of his experience and interests as they relate to the work of the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC) and invited others to do the same.
2. **Adoption of agenda**
The agenda was approved as circulated with the addition of Fundraising under Item 4(h) and Placer Lake issues under Item 7(d).
3. **Minutes of the June 1 meeting of the Executive**
 - (a) **Motion** (J. McCall/C. Kaytor): That the minutes of the June 1 meeting be approved. **Motion carried**
 - (b) Review of action items: The outstanding action items were reviewed. B. Gunn agreed that the development of a resource package for schools to participate in Rivers Day events should be removed from the list for the time being because no progress is being made due to pressure of other commitments. He confirmed that a meeting needs to be arranged with the potential host for the ORC digitized library. Following the tabling of the resolution regarding a change in the Bylaws at the AGM, J. McCall agreed to take a fresh approach to the Bylaw amendments so that the requirement for an audit could be changed to a less rigorous review requirement in time for the 2010 AGM. The other AGM related tasks were completed. The sew-on logo is still a work in progress. He will retrieve the office copy of the Council of Tourism Association's "Tourism Policy for Forests" from Howie Harshaw who has been unable to comment on it.
 - (c) Business arising from the minutes: Covered by the agenda.
4. **Administration & General**
 - a. AGM Post Mortem: All agreed that it was a good turnout and a productive meeting. R. Pillman suggested the following:

- ORC's Executive needs to persuade and lead its members to be more fully involved and working together on important issues and opportunities confronting outdoor recreation e.g. conflicts and fundraising.
 - On a point of order he referred to the Bylaw which requires the Chair to be elected each year for a one year term. At the meeting it was assumed that B. Gunn would continue as Chair for one more year as he is in the middle of a two year term as a director.
- b. Financial statements follow-up commitments: J. McCall stated that he will need to meet with Kathy Flood the bookkeeper before completing the additional statements and notes for the Annual Report and he will have these ready for the September meeting of the Executive.
- c. Action re AGM Resolutions: Resolution 2009 - 01 re Audit - Tabled. Resolution 2009 - 02 re BC Parks - J. McCall will draft a letter for sending to Premier Campbell along with the Resolution and to circulate it to the Executive for review. Directors decided that copies should be sent to BC ministers responsible for the environment or healthy life styles. Resolution 2009 - 03 - Defeated.
- d. Membership in Canadian Trails Federation (CTF) - costs, implications, responsibilities: J. McCall reported that ORC was accepted as the BC member of the CTF at its directors' meeting in Belleville, Ontario, on June 20. He was not able to attend due to the demands of the NTC funding program. ORC's dues will be \$500/year. J. McCall becomes the BC Director and will participate in the next Directors' conference call meeting on July 15. The CTF AGM will be in Ottawa on September 26. In light of concerns raised by Trails BC when it decided to resign from the CTF in March, J. McCall read out the CTF's objectives as set out in its 2004 application for incorporation under the Canada Corporations Act. Its objectives are to enhance the recreational trails network in Canada by:
- Promoting the development and use of recreational trails
 - Sharing information
 - Providing leadership and coordination
 - Building a consensus within the trails community, both nationally and internationally.

J. McCall suggested it would be appropriate for ORC to come to its own conclusions about the CTF's attitudes regarding trails and there may also be opportunities to learn how other provinces deal with trail issues.

B. Gunn circulated an undated letter from Trails BC over the name of Al Skucas, President. In the letter, Trails BC, an ORC member organization, requested ORC to define its position on mixed-use trails given that the NTC funding guidelines which refer to mixed-use trails do not rule out the possibility of motorized and non-motorized users being compatible on the same trail at the same time. Trails BC also requested ORC, if it supports the Trails BC's "known position" on the incompatibility of mixed motorized and non-motorized trail use, to advocate its views on the incompatibility of simultaneous mixed use trails. Finally Trails BC requested ORC to support the convening of a national trails forum with broad based representation from trails groups across Canada with a view to

establishing a National Trails Association. J. McCall recommended against taking the position requested by Trails BC immediately for several reasons. Firstly, Trails BC voiced similar concerns at length at the ORC AGM and Resolution 2009 - 03, which it had sponsored and which had a similar thrust, was defeated by the members present. Secondly he suggested it would be appropriate to await the publication of the final version of the BC Recreation Trails Strategy which is expected in the Fall. It would be premature to be taking a firm position on a contentious trail issue until we can see what is stated in the final Strategy document. Finally J. McCall said there is growing support for local groups of outdoor recreationists to get together and find local solutions and now is the wrong time to be dictating a position which might preempt such initiatives. He proposed that ORC take no position at this time. N. Heath drew attention to the muddled definitions of shared use and mixed use and suggested that firmer definitions are required. Following the discussion it was decided to take no immediate action on the letter.

- e. Review of new members - non-profits, governments, agencies: J. McCall reported that during the last two weeks of June ORC accepted a total of 29 new members, of which 13 were non-profit societies, 13 were regional districts, cities, towns or villages, and another 3 were a school district (Powell River), an Indian Band (Skidegate) and Vancouver Island University. Membership in ORC was a requirement of the National Trails Coalition (NTC) to be eligible to apply for the federal funding of non-motorized trail projects. He said that because of the June 26 deadline for applications he developed an application package which would apply to the broad range of applicants and ensured that each new applicant was signed up as a member and invoiced for dues before accepting its project for review prior to issuing a support letter, also a requirement of the NTC. The question of which type of member the municipal applicants should be designated was resolved early in the process when it was decided they should be Participating Group (non-voting) members like the new non-profit members, rather than Regional Committees, a form of voting membership. The Valemount Area Recreation Development Association, an existing member, became the only Regional Committee Member after it applied for funds for a bike skills park in addition to its snowmobile activities.
- f. ORC'S e-mail distribution procedures: As decided by members at the AGM, ORC will continue its current practice of sending its regular e-mails to key people in its member organizations on a "blind copy" (bcc) basis, while displaying the e-mail address of the ORC Executive so that members could respond to any one of these if they wished.
- g. Executive Director - Request for honorarium: J. McCall said that in addition to signing up 29 new members he reviewed 35 trail projects, including those submitted by existing member organizations, to the extent necessary to issue a support letter for each of them by the June 26 deadline. Due to the limited time between receiving the applications, and supplying the support letter, sometimes the same day, he decided to write a letter in support of every project, even though some were for a significant proportion of the \$1 million available for non-motorized trail projects. As a result the BC Regional Advisory Committee for the NTC funding program, which included two members designated by ORC, was

able to make the decisions on the most deserving projects. Given the extensive documentation which had to be prepared and e-mailed in a very short time period, in addition to preparing for the AGM on June 27, J. McCall said he worked full days and some overtime during the two week period leading up to the June 26 deadline,. He said that this was not what he had expected when he agreed to be Executive Director on a volunteer (unpaid) basis. He requested an honorarium of \$1,000. Members of the Executive agreed that an honorarium of that magnitude was not unreasonable. However a concern was raised that a payment to him as a director might affect ORC's charitable status so a way should be found for him to either invoice ORC for his expenses or his services without jeopardizing ORC's status.

Motion: Moved H. Martell, seconded C. Kaytor. That ORC pay Jeremy McCall \$1,000 for expenses incurred or for overtime services to the Society for the period prior to June 27, subject to the payment being structured so as to satisfy the requirements of the Canada Revenue Agency. **Motion carried.**

- h. Fundraising: This item was proposed by R. Pillman. It was one of two topics he raised immediately before the Annual General Meeting was adjourned. ORC does not have a formal budget for the current year. J. McCall suggested that before seeking funding it would be important to define the benefits ORC provides to its members and the outdoor recreation community, including its services. It was suggested that ORC is in some ways doing the BC Government's job for it. It was agreed that a strategy is needed which should include development of an effective "ask" for taking to potential funders, including corporations, agencies and others having an interest in healthy outdoor recreation. It was agreed that the BC Government ought to provide a portion of ORC's core funding. Both the newsletter and the website should be employed in a campaign to develop support for funding.

5. Correspondence

a. Sent: None sent.

b. Received: (i) The undated letter from Trails BC, discussed under Item 4(d) above.

(ii) ORC also received a draft letter from a coalition of NGOs in Squamish with a request that ORC support it. It contained a statement expressing strong concerns about the proposed Garibaldi at Squamish project, which is currently undergoing an environmental assessment. The letter was initially brought to ORC's attention by Erin Hart, an ORC director who was unable to attend this meeting. Catherine Jackson of the Squamish Environmental Conservation Society had also requested support. The letter was distributed prior to the meeting. There was general support among those directors present for signing on to the statement, and the interests of each of ORC's member organizations were assessed by those present with respect to the concerns raised and it was considered that most if not all ORC's members would be agreeable to the statement.

Motion: Moved, J. McCall, seconded, V. Hilgerdenaar. That the Outdoor Recreation Council support the Squamish coalition statement expressing concern at the environmental impact of the Garibaldi at Squamish project. **Motion carried.**

6. Business related to ORC's mission - Current initiatives and reports

- a. NTC Funding for trails - Status of applications: Applications for non-motorized trail funding were submitted to Terje Vold, Regional Trail Coordinator for the NTC funding program in BC, by the June 26 deadline. ORC provided a support letter for each of the 35 applications for funding in the sector, for which \$1 million was allocated. Terje Vold advised that he expects to be in a position to report results after the NTC has made its final decisions on or about July 20.
 - b. Navigable Waters Protection Act Amendments: The Senate Energy, Environment & Natural Resources Committee has concluded its hearings and issued a final report. The Canadian Rivers Network has also come to some conclusions about the impact of the NWPA amendments. J. McCall agreed to give a complete report at the next meeting of the Executive.
 - c. BC Rivers Day 2009: Rivers Day events can now be registered on the Rivers day website via the ORC website. Besides events on Sunday September 27, some related events will be scheduled on other days, such as the Pacific Salmon Foundation's Pink Salmon Festival at Vanier Park on August 26. Also in the week leading up to Rivers Day there is the Great Shoreline Cleanup, sponsored by Vancouver Aquarium and others.
- 7. Business related to ORC's mission – Emerging issues**
- a. Northern Gateway Project: J. McCall reported on the June 19 meeting he attended in Kitimat of the public advisory committee formed by Enbridge for the marine elements of its Northern Gateway pipeline project to carry condensate from Kitimat to Edmonton and heavy oil from Edmonton to Kitimat. This consultation process is preceding the environmental assessment. This committee got off to a difficult start because it was for all practical purposes boycotted by the First Nations involved and because some NGOs decided to make statements but not participate fully in the meeting. The facilitators had a difficult time because they were perceived to be favouring the proponent in the discussion rather than ensuring there was full and fair discussion of some of the issues. On a positive note, key members of the marine industry present were able to provide assurances about the risk management capabilities of the industry and the very low probability of marine accidents. C. Kaytor reported on his association's attendance at the meeting of the public advisory committee for the terrestrial elements of the project. He said that a potential bonus of the project was that a recreation corridor would be opened up.
 - b. Possible panel to discuss issues surrounding Independent Power Producers (IPPs): B. Gunn reviewed the origins of this proposal which originated with a suggestion by Mark Angelo following his discussions with certain proponents of small hydro projects. The names of those proponents were listed. No definitive action was agreed on at this time.
 - c. Kokish River Hydro Project: R. Pillman reported that he would be meeting representatives of the Vancouver Island White Water Kayak Association in Nanaimo which has had extensive discussions with the proponent Brookfield Power. He has also had a discussion with Perry Wilson of the BC Federation of Fly Fishers in Port Hardy. R. Pillman continues to believe that ORC may be able to support the Kokish project as a model small hydro IPP.

- d. Placer Lake: V. Hilgerdenaar reported on issues concerning access to a rec site outside the east entrance of Manning Park, the primary users of which are motorized. He said there are some restrictions in an area which they have to cross to get there which prevent vehicles from crossing. He was asked to obtain more detail on the issue, perhaps with a map of the area in question, so that ORC could decide what needs to be done to resolve the access problem.

8. Other business and upcoming events

- a. Council of Tourism Associations (COTA) - "A Tourism Strategy for Forests": H. Harshaw will be returning the document so that it can be discussed. This item continues to be tabled.
- b. Ministry of Energy Mines & Petroleum Resources Forum: J. McCall attended the meeting at the SFU Downtown Campus on June 10, which was attended by fewer ministry staff than usual because MEMPR is reducing the level of its involvement in this process due to current budgetary constraints, though staff acknowledged that MEMPR is better placed than some other ministries. The following topics were addressed:
- 2009/10 Priorities: Review of BC Energy Plan, coal mining, fugitive emissions, Northern Gateway pipeline, BC Green Building Code, Extension of electricity grid, Biofuels. The next three workshops will be on Coal Bed Gas, the Renewable Energy Regime and Shale Gas.
 - Ministry updates
 - Western Renewable Energy Zones: presentation by Nick Heap of David Suzuki Foundation
 - To review the detailed notes from the Forum meetings go to:
<http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/MACR/communities/ProvincialForum/Pages/default.aspx>
- c. Ministry of Environment NGO Forum: J. McCall attended the June 26 Forum in Vancouver which was also attended by fewer ministry staff than on previous occasions. During the meeting he requested Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, to provide information on MoE budgets relative to overall government for a period so that the NGOs could make a case for increased spending on the Ministry and for BC Parks in particular. This proposal was not supported by Mr Konkin, who said that it was up to the Ministry staff to justify their funding needs, rather than seeking public support.
- d. Outdoor Recreation Foundation (ORF) AGM: J. McCall proposed that the ORF AGM be held at the beginning of the next meeting of the ORC Executive early in September. He said that additional directors are needed for ORF and N. Heath suggested that Peter McLaren of the Sea Kayak Association would be a good choice. J. McCall agreed to invite him to become a director.

9. Next meeting date: 5 PM Wednesday September 9

The meeting was adjourned at 7.30 PM

jm

Jul. 22/09