

**Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia
34th Annual General Meeting**

Saturday June 11, 2011
Building SE2, BC Institute of Technology, Burnaby

MINUTES

Executive Board of Directors

Robert Gunn, Chair
Gordon Weetman, Past Chair
Jeremy McCall, Secretary/Treasurer
Cal Kaytor
Hugh Martell
Jack Bryceland
Kathy Whittemore

Affiliation

Advisory member, BCIT Fish & Wildlife
UBC Faculty of Forestry
BC Nature
Quad Riders Association of BC
Back Country Horsemen of BC
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Four Wheel Drive Association of BC

Senior Advisor

Ray Pillman

Sea Kayak Association of BC

Provincial Group Members

(one vote per organization)

Back Country Horsemen of BC
BC Lapidary Society
BC Marine Trail Network Association
BC Nature
BC Speleological Federation
Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Horse Council of BC
Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Recreational Canoeing Association
Sea Kayak Association of BC
Trails Society of BC

Delegate(s)

Rose Schroeder
David Hunter
Nick Heath*
Don Guild*
Adrian Duncan, Lorna Duncan
Brian Wood
Ruth Donald
Zan Boyle
Leonard Thor
Nick Heath*
Larri Woodrow

Participating Group Members (non-voting)

Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society
Friends of the South Slope

Don Guild*
Penny Gubbels

Guest

Bill Bourgeois

Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities

Observers

Lorna Duncan, Monica Ferguson, Teresa Brinton

Absent Members of the Executive

Erin Hart
Don Reid

BC Snowmobile Federation
Trails Society of BC

* Acting as a delegate for more than one member organization

Welcome

R. Gunn, Chair, began the proceedings at 10.20 AM, with a welcome to those present. He invited each person present to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

He then invited delegates from member organizations to give a brief report. Delegates or representatives of the following organizations made brief reports: Trails BC, BC Speleological Federation, Back Country Horsemen of BC, Federation of Mountain Clubs, Horse Council of BC, Sea Kayak Association of BC, BC Marine Trail Network Association, Quad Riders ATV Association of BC, Recreational Canoeing Association of BC, BC Nature, Lapidary Society of BC, Friends of the South Slopes Society. Reports from member organizations are summarized in Appendix A.

1. Call to order

The Annual General Meeting was called to order after member updates.

2. Establishment of quorum

J. McCall, Executive Director, reported that, in addition to members of the Executive Board of Directors, eight paid-up voting members of the total voting membership of 23 organizations were represented, which met the one third quorum requirement.

3. Adoption of agenda

Motion (A. Duncan/K. Whittemore): That the agenda be adopted. Item 10A - Election of the Chair, was added. **Motion carried**

4. Approval of minutes of 2009 Annual General Meeting

Motion (J. McCall/G. Weetman): That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held June 26, 2010, be approved. **Motion carried**

5. Business arising from the minutes

No reply was received to ORC's letter dated July 13, 2010, to the then Minister of Tourism Culture & the Arts Kevin Krueger urging the BC Government to introduce the BC Recreation Trails Strategy. No reply was received to ORC's letter dated October 21, 2010, to the then Minister of the Environment urging the BC Government to introduce comprehensive cave protection legislation. There was no other business arising from the minutes.

6. Report by the Chair

R. Gunn delivered the Chair's Report. See Appendix A. He emphasized the need to maintain a viable Outdoor Recreation Council so as to continue to emphasize the importance of outdoor recreation. He also stressed the need to support the Foundation's MasterCard Affinity card program by recruiting 100 new cardholders because it is the primary means of financial support for ORC.

7. Executive Director's Report

J. McCall delivered the Executive Director's Report: See Appendix A.

8. Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report

J. McCall, Treasurer, delivered the Treasurer's Report: See Appendix A.

Motion (A. Duncan/C. Kaytor): To approve the Society's financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2011, and adopt the Treasurer's Report. **Motion carried**

9. Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2011 - 01: Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors

WHEREAS the Volunteer Program in BC Parks was effectively terminated in 2002

AND WHEREAS BC Parks now has very limited human and financial resources to undertake basic maintenance in the Parks

AND WHEREAS the state of many of the trails in the Parks has deteriorated to the extent that their continued use is causing damage to adjacent vegetation and could possibly result in falls by trail users which could lead to bodily and property damage claims

AND WHEREAS organized work by volunteers could make a significant contribution to the restoration of trails, including tasks such as brush clearing, rock removal and drainage

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Outdoor Recreation Council urge the Premier and the Minister of Environment to reintroduce the Volunteer Program for BC Parks, and specifically:

1. Issue basic guidelines to all BC Parks staff and interested non-profit organizations to describe how volunteers can get involved, what tasks they can perform and what approvals they are required to obtain.
2. Ensure that the terms of the Public Liability and Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance which the Province now provides for volunteers are widely known.

3. Ensure that a standardized Individual Volunteer Agreement is readily available for prospective volunteers and that approvals can be readily granted by appropriate BC parks staff.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province provide liability insurance coverage to the Directors and Officers of non-profit organizations which organize volunteer work crews in BC Parks similar to that provided under the Forest Recreation Insurance Program to non-profit organizations which organize similar work for the Province's Recreation Sites and Trails.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Province consider the introduction of legislation similar to the Volunteer Protection Act which was enacted in Nova Scotia in 2002, so that volunteers of non-profit organizations will not be liable for damage caused by their acts or omissions when they are engaged in authorized volunteer work.

Motion (A. Duncan/R. Schroeder): That Resolution 2011 - 01 be passed.

Discussion: Some members reported that they had been required by BC Parks to obtain Park Use Permits and indemnify the Province if they wished to do volunteer work in the provincial parks. It was agreed that member organizations could support the Resolution by writing the BC Environment Minister to describe their own experiences.

Motion carried unanimously

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:

Member of the Executive elected for a third two year term in 2009:

Robert Gunn, BC Institute of Technology

Nominees for seven vacant positions in 2011, with affiliations and proposed terms:

Jack Bryceland, Federation of Mountain Clubs, for a second two year term

Erin Hart, BC Snowmobile Federation, nominated for a further two year term

Don Reid, Trails Society of BC, for a further two year term

Kathy Whittemore, Four Wheel Drive Association of BC, for a further two year term.

Rose Schroeder, Back Country Horsemen of BC, for an initial one year term.

Howie Harshaw, Faculty of Forestry, UBC, for an initial term of two years, subject to being appointed as an Advisory member by the Executive Board of Directors.

Jason Walters, Quad Riders ATV Association of BC, for an initial term of one year.

Motion (A. Duncan, H. Martell): That that the seven nominees be elected to fill the seven vacancies. **Motion carried**

12. Adjournment

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at approximately 12.30 PM.

After the lunch break Bill Bourgeois gave a presentation on his "Healthy Forests - Healthy Communities" initiative.

APPENDIX A - EXECUTIVE REPORTS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – JUNE 11, 2011
REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings and welcome to the 2011 AGM for the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC. It's great to see the diversity of representation from our member organizations – thank you all for coming today. Once again, I am pleased with the ability of this organization to stay involved in the diversity and volume of initiatives and challenges outdoor recreational users and organizations continue to confront in BC. I will keep my report short, as many of the specific activities accomplished by ORC this year will be presented in the report by our Executive Director, Jeremy McCall

It is through the dedication of our Board of Directors that we are able to continue to meet the mandate of the ORCBC. So, I want to thank our Directors for their time and commitment over the past year. The diversity of experience, insights and knowledge about outdoor recreation and the various recreational interest and organizations they represent is critical to the success of ORC and our ability to respond to plethora of issues, initiatives and requests ORC deals with each year.

I especially want to thank Jeremy McCall who continues to act as ORC's Executive Director on a volunteer basis. We are extremely grateful for the commitment and experience Jeremy brings to the organization. Jeremy's continues to do an incredible job running the daily needs of the office and representing ORC at various meetings and initiatives at a local, provincial and national level, all on a very limited budget.

I will say that the past year has been another busy one and I am pleased with the achievements of the ORC, some of which include:

- Monthly meetings of the Executive were held throughout the past year with good representation and active participation from our directors.
- ORC's newsletter - The Outdoor Recreation Report continues to be published
- BC Rivers Day and the Endangered Rivers list, both of which continue to get significant media attention thanks to the efforts of Mark Angelo.
- Participation in various advisory committees, programs, conferences and workshops
- Hosting of the Trails workshop "Working Together: Finding Solutions to Regional and Community Trail Issues" last fall at BCIT
- Ongoing distribution of various government notification and information on impending projects on crown land to our member groups.

And many other activities delivered out of the ORC office. Once again thank you to our Directors and advisors for their participation and support with many of these activities and initiatives.

It remains apparent to ORC that outdoor recreation continues to remain important to British Columbian's. It is also apparent that protecting our natural resources, ensuring access for all types of outdoor recreation and adequately resourcing the various agencies and organizations that contribute to the stewardship and management of

outdoor recreation in BC (which also includes ORC) will continue to be a challenge in the years ahead. I believe that the role for a provincial organization like ORC continues to be relevant and is more important than ever.

So thank you to each of you for your commitment to outdoor recreation. ORC and our Board of Directors will endeavour to represent the interest of our member organization and those of outdoor recreational user and provide a voice for outdoor recreation in British Columbia.

Robert Gunn, Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2010 - 2011

MEMBERSHIP

We now have 40 member organizations, including 22 Provincial Groups (voting), 2 Regional Committees (voting) and 16 Participating Groups (non-voting). We were pleased that the Shuswap Trail Alliance recently decided to join ORC.

RECENT INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

2010 Workshop - "Finding Solutions to Regional and Community Trail Issues"

This very successful October workshop attracted over 60 participants and resulted in a healthy discussion about trail conflicts and ways to resolve them. For a full report see *The Outdoor Recreation Report*.

Campaign to reintroduce a volunteer program in BC Provincial Parks

Details of this campaign were e-mailed to member organizations and are described in *The Outdoor Recreation Report*. Resolution 2011 - 1 also explains the problem and the proposed solution.

ONGOING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Endangered Rivers List

The 2011 Endangered River list is posted on ORC's website and is reprinted in *The Outdoor Recreation Report*. Authored by Mark Angelo, ORC's Rivers Chair, it gives a lot of detail about the threats to the most endangered rivers in BC.

Notification of Crown Land tenure applications by adventure tourism operators

ORC continues to notify its member organizations about FrontCounter BC Referrals for Crown Land tenure applications submitted by adventure tourism operators. We send an e-mail to 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 they can look up the management plans and the maps on the FCBC website.

Notification of Environmental Assessments

ORC notifies member organizations about public open houses and public comment periods for projects such as run-of-the-river, wind power and mines when they begin the environmental assessment process. These projects are assessed by the BC Environmental Assessment Office or the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

BC Parks Management Plans

We notify members when BC Parks are seeking public input for new or updated park management plans.

Off Road Vehicle Management Framework

ORC continues to represent outdoor recreation in the Joint Advisory Group of the ORV Management Framework, now being sponsored by the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations. This initiative is described in a handout being distributed today which contains website references, etc.

Rivers Day

ORC continues to sponsor BC Rivers Day on the last Sunday of September each year (September 25 in 2011). Members are invited to organize events on their local rivers and register the events on the Rivers Day website accessible through the ORC website. The Great Shoreline Cleanup also occurs in September so there is a choice of ways to celebrate the day.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION BY ORC

Ministry of Environment

ORC will again participate in the regular NGO Forums hosted by the BC Ministry of Environment when and if they are reintroduced. These Forums have been useful for ORC and other NGOs to express concerns about the Ministry's mandate while allowing us to keep up to date with what other NGOs are involved in.

Environmental Assessment Office Advisory Committee

ORC has been an active member of the Environmental Assessment Advisory Committee. This Committee is chaired jointly by the BC Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. Membership in the Committee is predominantly from industry but some progress is being made towards including cumulative effects during assessments and the BC EAO's methods of conveying current information have been improved. Recently we are concerned that this Committee has become less of a priority due to senior staff changes at the EAO.

Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO)

The Recreation Sites and Trails Branch is now housed in this recently reorganized ministry and ORC continues to work closely with the Branch on trail issues.

Special Event Permits

MFLNRO has advised that it intends to introduce a requirement for NGOs to obtain Special Event Permits in situations where they plan to organize significant events on Crown land which might have an impact on public safety, the environment or other stakeholders. These permits would be similar to those required by adventure tourism operators in certain situations. We are working with MFLNRO to develop reasonable and useful criteria for when they would be required,. We do not expect cost to be a major factor but there could be bureaucratic delays in obtaining permits which might add

to the challenge of organizing such events so we are advocating that they be limited to exceptional situations.

OTHER MATTERS

Canadian Trails Federation (CTF)

ORC joined the CTF in June 2009 and we participate in regular physical and conference call CTF Board meetings. The CTF Vision Statement, Mission Statement and Goals can be viewed on the CTF website at www.ctf-fcs.ca. The CTF membership presently includes a trails-related organization from every Province and most Territories. We are beginning to implement the programs necessary to achieve the Goals. We are inviting a number of other national trails organizations, such as TransCanada Trail, to join so as to expand the membership base. The CTF is playing an active role in the National Trails Roundtable process which began in Banff in November 2010.

Jeremy McCall, Executive Director

Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2011

Operating Fund

The Operating Fund receives a regular grant, when required, from the Outdoor Recreation Foundation (ORF) to supplement other revenues and cover operating expenses. Those grants are currently authorized by ORF's Board of Directors at a rate of \$3,000 per quarter. During the year ended March 31, 2011, total grants from ORF were \$12,000 (2010 - \$9,000). The grants from ORF are funded by the Mosaik MasterCard Affinity Program. ORF and ORC very much appreciate the contributions made by approximately 2,000 members of the public who continue to use this MasterCard. ORC is dependent on those funds if it is to continue as a going concern.

Total operating revenues were \$21,302 during the year, compared with \$16,309 in the previous year. Apart from the grants from ORF, the principal sources included:

- Membership dues \$3,813 (2010 - \$4,859). Most local government members which joined in the 2010 fiscal year for the National Trails Coalition (NTC) trail funding program did not renew their memberships.
- Workshop fees \$3,210. There was no similar event in 2010.
- Newsletter advertising \$450 (2010 - \$900)
- Administration fees increased to \$1,191 (2010 - \$774). ORC receives a fee of 5% of expenditures for administering funds for specific projects and an amount equivalent to the interest income on the Project Account. An additional fee of \$500 was earned for administering the NTC program in the 2010 year.
- Donations declined to \$594 from \$1,074

Total operating expenses were \$21,801 (2010 - 14,217). Principal operating expenses in the 2011 year were:

- Office & storage rents \$6,415 (2010 - \$6,575)

- Workshop costs \$4,488 (2010 – Nil)
- Newsletter printing and mailing costs \$3,059 (2010 - \$1,114) This increase was due to delayed receipt of the third installment of a Direct Access Grant.
- Travel & Accommodation \$2,058 (2010 - \$1,549)

Projects Fund

Project grants are set up as Unexpended Grants in ORC's Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet) and revenues are only recognized when the funds are expended. projects expenditures were minimal in the 2011 year.

Funds Held in Trust for the Sea to Sky Back Country Forum amounting to \$30,000 were also deposited in the Projects Fund. A total of \$2,833, including non-refundable HST, was expended in 2011.

Gaming Fund

Until calendar 2010 the Council received a Direct Access grant each year to assist with the publication of *The Outdoor Recreation Report*, ORC's newsletter.

Jeremy McCall, Treasurer

Reports from Member Organizations

Trails Association of BC - Larri Woodrow

There was a record attendance of 60 members at the Trails BC AGM in Duncan on June 10. They celebrated the completion of the nearby Kinsol Trestle on the Vancouver Island section of the TransCanada Trail which will be opened to the public in July. Some funding has also been arranged for the bridge over the Coquihalla River. The Chilliwack River Valley Trails Association is making progress with Jack Bryceland as its chair.

BC Speleological Federation - Adrian Duncan

The BCSF regrets the failure of the BC Minister of the Environment to respond to the 2010 resolution recommending comprehensive cave protection legislation. Destruction and vandalism continue to damage many BC caves so this type of legislation is urgently required. Several significant caves in the Chilliwack River have been repeatedly damaged but the known offenders cannot be held to account because the cave resources are not protected from vandalism in the absence of formally designated Recreation Site status. Adrian also expressed BCSF concern that at Cody Caves Provincial Park near Ainsworth Hot Springs by Kootenay Lake, public interpretive tours that have been offered every summer since 1984 ceased in 2009 and the cave is now unprotected by the presence of a Park operator. This is entirely due to Ministry inaction in dealing with pressing issues relating to access and operational agreements. Finally, he warned of the possible spread of a fungus in bats called white nose syndrome (*Geomyces destructans*) which has come from Europe but which has so far not spread west of the Rocky Mountains. The fungus disrupts the bats' behavior so they no longer feed effectively and ultimately die. Although the Ministry of Environment is aware of the issue and has produced a useful brochure on it, general public awareness of this threat

remains dangerously low. Because of the key role bats play in insect control relative to the food chain upon which we all depend, government should give WNS awareness the same sort of publicity it affords noxious weeds, and Adrian requested ORC support for a stronger public education campaign.

Chilliwack Valley Trails Association - Jack Bryceland

The new association now has nine user groups and is about to hold its 4th meeting. Gates are an issue with the loss of Department of National Defence gates. The Chilliwack Forest District also has a say in the location of gates.

Back Country Horsemen of BC - Rose Schroeder

There is a lack of funding for trail maintenance. The BCHBC believes strongly in partnerships. A new horse camp with six "back-ins" will be established behind Manning Park Lodge by July 30. The BCHBC is participating in a "certified weed-free forage" program.

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC - Brian Wood

FMCBC is an umbrella organization of over 20 outdoor recreation clubs with about 3,500 individual members and is currently developing a strategic plan to improve its effectiveness. It is heavily involved with many land-use issues, some of which relate to access across the Whistler Olympic Park in the Callaghan Valley and some backcountry access issues which were not resolved in the Sea-to-Sky LRMP. It is also monitoring the proposal to build a string of huts along the classic Spearhead Traverse in Garibaldi Provincial Park. Five NGO's, including local sections of the Alpine Club of Canada and the BC Mountaineering Club, are on the Spearhead Huts Committee to negotiate this proposal with BC Parks and local Aboriginal groups as this is a contentious issue. Due to insufficient information, at this time the FMCBC has not taken an official position with respect to this project, but it has always recommended that heli-skiing be phased out in this area.

Horse Council of BC - Ruth Donald

Ruth reported on the successful BC Equestrian Trails Round Table held in Kelowna in January. The HCBC also provides funding for its clubs for initiatives such as the horse camp in Manning Park and a trail on Vancouver Island.

BC Marine Trails Network Association - Nick Heath

The Association now has nine paddling clubs and works with the Recreation Sites and Trails branch. Two marine trails are now established: Port Hardy to Tofino, on which the campsites are designated as Recreation Sites, and Sidney to Nanaimo, on which most of the campsites are in Provincial Parks. Nick also referred to his report on the Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area, which was published in the Spring/Summer issue of The Outdoor Recreation Report.

ORC Senior Advisor - Ray Pillman

Ray reported on his due diligence work on the Kokish River small hydro project (49 MW). His extensive analysis is posted on the public comments section of the BC Environmental Assessment Office website. One probable impact will be the loss of the summer steelhead run. He also commented on the National Park Reserve proposal for Bowen Island and suggested that the island community may be against the proposal.

Quad Riders ATV Association of BC - Zan Boyle

Zan reported that the Association has developed environmental guidelines and a youth riding program with an emphasis on safety. It also promotes ATV tourism. He went on to say that a trail system in BC is a great benefit to not only the local residents, but also to tourists who want to share in the experience of the vast wilderness we have here in BC. However the abandoned rail lines that have been used by everyone for close to three decades have had countless trail systems piggy-backing off these main corridors and when the Provincial Government decided that the main corridor was to become non-motorized, it cut off access to these secondary trails for the summer motorized user groups. The volunteers that have worked untold hours to make these trails viable are now faced with the reality that their hard work over the past thirty years has been wiped out by this action of the government. Access to these secondary trails is now virtually impossible due in part to the nature of the terrain and the prohibitive cost of replacing these access corridors. ATV/BC does not have sufficient funding to resolve this problem.

The government along with Regional Districts and Municipalities have chosen to make the "rails to trails" program a non-motorized trail system without, in most part, any consultation with all the user groups that have enjoyed the rail/trail system for nearly thirty years.

In some areas there are new trails being constructed that will be used by hikers, bicyclists and joggers, and which are designed specifically for non-motorized use. These trails will not impact the motorized community as they are opening up new areas for recreation. Zan looks forward to trying his bicycle on this portion of the trail because it was designed and built specifically for hiking, bicycling, and jogging etc. These new trails will be of benefit to all non-motorized user groups and will not deprive the summer motorized community of previously established trails.

Recreational Canoeing Association of BC - Leonard Thor

The Association now has 18 instructors and instruction is their primary objective. He questioned the safety of Voyageur canoes. The Association does not consider run-of-river hydro projects to be "green". Members have been saddened by the death of Brian Creer, the "grandfather" of kayaking and canoeing in BC.

Four Wheel Drive Association of BC - Kathy Whittemore

The Association has just completed its 9th annual clean up at Stave Lake and altogether it has hauled 100,000 lbs of garbage out of the area.

BC Nature - Don Guild

BC Nature laments the lack of funding for BC's provincial parks and continues to advocate and support the return of interpretation programs into the parks.

BC Lapidary Society

The Society has 3,500 members in 34 clubs which hold weekly events. The 2011 annual rendezvous will be in Princeton. Members are covered by a \$5 million liability insurance policy through the Gem and Mineral Federation of Canada at a cost of \$3.50 per member.
