

**Outdoor Recreation Council of BC**  
**Meeting of Executive Board of Directors**

5 PM Monday, November 7, 2011  
47 West Broadway, Vancouver

**MINUTES**

<u>Present</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Robert Gunn	Chair	Advisory member/BCIT Fish & Wildlife program
Gordon Weetman	Past Chair	UBC Faculty of Forestry
Kathy Whitemore	Director	Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Don Reid	Director	Trails Society of BC
Howie Harshaw	Director	Advisory Member/UBC Faculty of Forestry
Jeremy McCall	Executive Director & Treasurer	BC Nature

By phone

Jack Bryceland	Director	Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Rose Schroeder	Director	Back Country Horsemen of BC
Erin Hart	Director	BC Snowmobile Federation, Canoe/Kayak BC

Regrets/absences

Ray Pillman	Senior Advisor	Former Chair
Steve Butschler	Nominee for Director	Quad Riders ATV Association of BC

1. Robert welcomed those attending.

2. **Approval of agenda**

**Motion:** Moved/seconded (Howie/Rose) That the agenda be approved as distributed. **Motion carried**

3. **Minutes of the October 3 meeting of the Executive**

a. Approval:

**Motion:** Moved/seconded (Gordon/Don): That the minutes of the October 3 meeting be approved. **Motion carried**

b. Action items: An application for a Direct Access Grant, now known as a Community Gaming Grant, was submitted on November 3. ORC has applied for \$5,000.

4. **Appoint a director to fill a vacancy on the Executive Board of Directors**

Mr Butschler was unable to attend the meeting so this matter was deferred.

5. **Review November 2 meeting with Bill Marshall and John Hawkings of MFLNRO**

The topics discussed at the meeting were reviewed item by item.

Spirit of 2010 Trail: It was noted that this title will no longer be used. Directors were not entirely clear about the statements made by the MFLNRO team when they indicated that they plan to select portions of the rail trail, along the KVR section for example, as pilot projects to see if there can be some accommodation between Trans Canada Trail and motorized groups for use of the trail. Don reported that John Hawkings had a conference call with Trails BC representatives two days after the ORC meeting in which he suggested otherwise. Jeremy agreed to call John Hawkings

to clarify this point. Roberts said it will be important to engage stakeholders at the local level.

Trails Strategy for British Columbia: It was confirmed that the Draft Strategy has not been officially announced although it does appear to have the support of cabinet.

The Social and Economic Benefits of Recreation Sites and Trails study: All agreed that this study was worthwhile even though it had to rely on a number of assumptions.

Classification of trails by user type: Don recommended that this should be pursued as soon as possible. Jack cited the example of Kananaskis in Alberta. Jeremy referred to the excellent Alberta Trails Classification Guide published in July 2009. In an e-mail after the meeting Bill Marshall agreed to follow up with information about trail standards, although that was not what was suggested subsequently distributed to Executive)

Trails resources inventory: In his e-mail after the meeting Bill Marshall gave detailed information on how to access this information on the Recreation Sites and Trails website. His e-mail has been forwarded to the Executive.

Proposed grant to ORC: After the meeting Jeremy reviewed the draft Contribution Agreement and forwarded his comments to Bill Marshall.

## **6. Administration**

- a. Gaming grant status: See 3(b) above.
- b. ORC & ORF finances: As a result of the MFLNRO grant announced by Bill Marshall ORC will not need to draw down funds from ORF for about two years which will allow the latter to significantly add to its assets.
- c. Membership: CPAWS has now paid its 2011 - 2012 membership dues so there are now no dues outstanding.

## **7. Correspondence**

- a. Received:
  - Fraser Basin Council invitation to two Collaborative Initiative workshops (Richmond - December 2, Chilliwack - January 20). Jeremy agreed to distribute details.
  - Metro Vancouver Parks invitation to Experience the Fraser workshop (Discovery Centre, New Westminster - November 23). Jeremy plans to attend

## **8. Business related to ORC's mission - Current initiatives & reports**

- a. BC Parks - Funding campaign and volunteers: There has been no new information regarding progress with the funding campaign that was launched on September 20. Jeremy e-mailed Ric Careless, chair of the campaign committee, to offer the front page of ORC's Fall newsletter for an article about the campaign but he has not heard back.

With respect to ORC's campaign to reintroduce a volunteer program in BC Parks, there have been no new developments regarding BC Parks' commitment to address the lack of a program and the inconsistencies in how volunteers are dealt with by BC Parks. Jeremy is considering possible ways for ORC to get BC Parks to give more priority to this issue. Rose said that Back Country Horsemen are experiencing difficulties with volunteer work in Manning Park and she

suggests there is no connection between the Minister and what is happening on the ground. She also referred to the well-known problem of how to authorize volunteers to use power tools. Bob acknowledged that there are often problems with such programs and Metro Vancouver Parks has them as well.

- b. Canadian Trails Federation: Jeremy reported that the CTF has now hired a firm of professional lobbyists to engage the Government of Canada with respect to ongoing trail funding. The All Terrain Quad Council of Canada has now joined the CTF as a Corporate Member.
- c. National Trails Roundtable Survey: As interim chair of the NTR Working Group Jeremy has begun a final effort to get trail enthusiasts across Canada to complete the NTR Survey. On October 25 he e-mailed all who attended the Banff Roundtable to bring them up to date with what had been achieved since the Working Group was formed and to again request them to get people to respond to the Survey. The French version of the Summary Report on which the Survey is based is expected to be available for linking to the Survey on the TCT and Quebec websites shortly. Jeremy will also send out a reminder to BC trail groups and their members to do this if they haven't already.
- d. Off Road Vehicle Management Framework Joint Advisory Group (JAG): The JAG's next meeting has been postponed until the draft legislation has been distributed to the JAG for review, which is expected shortly. Erin suggested that BC is missing an opportunity to include annual ORV licensing. That would provide a source of funds for education, a bigger enforcement budget and species at risk initiatives. He said that ORV OWNERS IN Ontario and Quebec pay about \$250/year for their licenses. There was general agreement with such an approach, which was one of the 47 recommendations made by the ORV Coalition in 2005. Information now available to the public can be found at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/orv>
- e. Rivers Day: Bob said that from his perspective the 2011 Rivers Day had been successful but he would like to introduce changes for 2012, including an improved website allowing for simpler and more informative event registration. He would also like to introduce a program for schools and other educational institutions. Jeremy recommended that BC Rivers Day and World Rivers Day events be segregated.
- f. Northern Gateway Community Advisory Boards (CABs): Jeremy will attend the Round 11 meeting in Kitimat on December 6.
- g. The Outdoor Recreation Report: Jeremy plans to publish the Fall issue by the end of November. He would like to include an article about trail classification with reference to the current dispute between Trails BC and ATV BC. He will also include short pieces about the Natural Resource Roads Act and an update on the ORV Management Framework if available.

## 9. Business related to ORC's mission - Emerging issues

- a. Mountain Caribou closures in Revelstoke: Erin reviewed the BC Government policy of being committed to restoring mountain caribou herds to 1997 levels as a result of which some area closures are necessary. While most closures affect the forest industry many also affect snowmobile riding areas. He said that t one point

FLNRO Minister Thomson had given an assurance that there would be no more closures but two weeks later two additional closures were announced in important riding areas near Revelstoke. He said that about 1,500 letters have been written to the Minister to protest these. He said he has been working with Al Hodgson of Association of BC Snowmobile Clubs, another ORC member, on this issue. They are in agreement that the BC Government is not taking the right approach and it is spending too much money on this initiative. Howie pointed out that the BC Government has to abide by its international commitments for species at risk. Gordon referred to the Boreal Initiative. Bob pointed out that snowmobiles do facilitate access for predators by creating trails for them.

- b. Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Area: This initiative is now expected to continue under the stewardship of Fisheries and Oceans Canada but without the level of funding previously provided it is not certain what level of participation will be practical for NGOs such as ORC. Nick Heath will continue to keep ORC informed.
- c. Crown Land Tenure Applications: Jeremy will continue to see whether it would be possible to distribute referrals of industrial applications for Crown Land tenures.
- d. Liability Workshop: Jeremy plans to organize this workshop in the New Year and would like to invite Robert Kennedy to participate. He has invited the Federation of Mountain Clubs to assist with developing the program but has not yet had a response. Rose suggested that we involve MFLNRO Recreation Sites and Trails as well as BC Parks.
- e. ORC's future role and funding requirements: Jeremy restored this tabled item to the agenda at Jack's suggestion. Jeremy said his thinking has progressed with respect to the amount of time necessary to undertake key functions as outlined in the list of services provided by ORC to its members. These are outlined on a list which he distributes to prospective members. He agreed to distribute this list to the Executive. He considers that ORC can fulfill most of its ongoing commitments on a two or three day-a-week basis. If that is so, then the salary requirement for a part-time employee or Executive Director would be reduced from levels previously contemplated. Howie suggested that the list be posted on the website. Jeremy also suggested that he solicit opinions from ORC's members on what other services they would like to see ORC providing.

#### **10. Upcoming events & meetings**

- Experience the Fraser workshop - Fraser River Discovery Centre. November 23 - 0830 - 1230.
- Mark Angelo retirement celebration - BCIT - November 25 - 1730
- Natural Resource Roads Act - Comment period ends December 15 - see <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/mof/nrra/index.htm> (ORC members will be reminded)

#### **11. Next meeting December 12**

12. The meeting was adjourned at 1900.

jm

Dec. 19/11