

Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia 36th Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 21, 2014
Yarrow Community School, Wilson Road, Yarrow, BC

MINUTES

In attendance

Executive Board of Directors

Dennis Webb (Chair)
Erin Hart
Don Reid
Rose Schroeder
Penney Edwards
Dave Wharton

Affiliation

Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
BC Snowmobile Federation
Trails Society of BC
Back Country Horsemen of BC
BC Nature
Federation of Mountain Clubs

Executive Director

Jeremy McCall, Secretary & Treasurer

BC Nature

Advisory Member

Gordon Weetman

UBC Faculty of Forestry

Provincial Group Members (voting)

BC Federation of Fly Fishers
BC Off Road Motorcycle Association
BC Speleological Federation

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC

Four Wheel Drive Association of BC

Hike BC
Horse Council of BC
Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Recreational Canoeing Association of BC
Trails Society of BC

Delegate(s)

Rob Way
David Lock
Adrian Duncan
Lorna Duncan
Brian Wood
Sam Waddington
Kim Reeves
Leslie Hagen
Pat Harrison
Jennifer Pipe
Jeff Mohr
David Westell
Leon Lebrun

Participating Group Members

Association of BC Snowmobile Clubs

Ron Fowler

Guests

John Hawkings
Jack Bryceland

Recreation Sites & Trails BC
Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group

Absent Members of the Executive

Steve Dillen
Linda Rushlow

Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Sea Kayak Association of BC

Welcome

Dennis Webb, Chair, began proceedings at 9.30 AM, with a welcome to all those present. He invited each person to introduce themselves and their affiliation.

Members' Forum

Delegates from member organizations were invited to give a brief report. Delegates or representatives of the following organizations made verbal reports: BC Speleological Federation, Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group, Federation of

Mountain Clubs, BC Snowmobile Federation, Quad Riders ATV Association of BC, Four Wheel Drive Association, Recreational Canoeing Association, Trails BC, BC Federation of Fly Fishers, Hike BC, Valley Outdoor Association, BC Nature, Horse Council of BC, BC Off Road Motor Cycle Association, Back Country Horsemen, Association of BC Snowmobile Clubs.

1. Call to order

At 1123 AM the Annual General Meeting was called to order.

2. Establishment of quorum

J. McCall, Executive Director, reported that 10 paid-up voting members of the total voting membership of 23 organizations were represented, which exceeded the one third quorum requirement.

3. Adoption of agenda

Motion: Moved & seconded (R.Schroeder/P.Harrison): That the agenda be adopted.

Motion carried

4. Approval of minutes of 2013 Annual General Meeting

Motion: Moved & seconded (P.Edwards/D.Reid): That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held June 22, 2013, be considered as read and approved. Copies of the draft minutes were made available to members attending the meeting and they were posted on the ORC website in July 2013. **Motion carried**

5. Business arising from the minutes

Nil.

6. Chair's Report

D. Webb delivered the Chair's Report. See Appendix A.

7. Executive Director's Report

J. McCall reviewed the key points in his Executive Director's Report: See Appendix A.

8. Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report

J. McCall, Treasurer, reviewed the financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2014.

In addition to revenue of \$11,475 from a grant for the Healthy Forests Healthy Communities (HFHC) project, ORC received revenues in 2013 – 2014 totaling \$32,059 from the following sources: \$3,000 grant from the Outdoor Recreation Foundation (ORF), \$19,514 taken into revenue from grants from previous years, \$5,098 membership dues, \$2,210 workshop fees of and \$2,237 in miscellaneous revenues. The usual grant of \$12,000 per annum from ORF was reduced to \$3,000 because of the availability of other funds.

Expenses, excluding HFHC project of \$13,952, totaled \$27,757, including \$5,995 for rent, \$4,748 for workshops and \$3,920 for publishing the newsletter. Net income was \$1,825.

Motion (P. Harrison/P. Edwards): To approve the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2014, and the Treasurer's report. **Motion carried.**

9. Resolution

RESOLUTION 2014 - 01

Amendments to the Bylaws of the Council to increase the number of directors serving on the Executive Board of Directors and the categories of member organization from which they may be recruited.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors

The Resolution was read out in full by the Chair.

Preamble

In recent years it has been a constant challenge to recruit the full number of eight directors to serve on the Executive Board of Directors (the Executive). Since there are usually some directors who are unable to attend every meeting, this has frequently led to meetings being held with only a few directors present. As a result there have been occasions when serious issues have not been adequately addressed. With the anticipated increase in the responsibilities of the Council with respect to the Provincial Trail Advisory Board, the Executive recommends that the categories of member from which Directors can be recruited be expanded and that the limit on the number of Directors on the Executive be raised from eight to ten. The Executive considers that individual members of any of the Council's member organizations could be satisfactory candidates to serve on the Executive.

Resolution

Whereas Article III Section A – Officers, paragraph 2, states that the Executive shall consist of a minimum of six and no more than eight officers, including two to four members at large; and

Whereas Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 2, states that candidates for officer of the Council must be a member of a Provincial Group Member or an Advisory Member; and

Whereas the requirements set out in Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 10, have effectively been replaced by the requirement set out in paragraph 3;

Now therefore be it resolved that Article III Section A – Officers, paragraph 2, be amended to state that the Executive shall consist of a minimum of six and no more than ten officers, including two to six members at large; and

Be it further resolved that Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 2, be amended to state that candidates for officer of the Council must be a member of a Provincial Group Member, a Participating Group Member, a Regional Committee or an Advisory Member; and

Be it further resolved that Article I, Section A, paragraph b (ii) be amended to delete the words “or be eligible for election to the Executive Board of Directors”; and

Be it further resolved that Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 10, be deleted.

Motion: Moved/seconded (P. Edwards/K. Reeves) That Resolution 2014 - 01 be approved.

Discussion

Leon Lebrun raised a question about the role of Advisory Members with respect to the Executive Board of Directors. It was explained that Advisory Members can bring specific expertise to the Board which it may not otherwise have access to. Jeff Mohr suggested that it made no sense for Advisory Members to be on the Board. He advocated that members of the Executive be recruited from Provincial Group members only. Jeremy McCall explained that members of the Executive are nominated and elected as individuals, that they are required to consider the interests of ORC as a whole and they are not on the Executive to represent their affiliated organizations. In response to a question from Kim Reeves members were advised that there are no Advisory Members on the Executive at present though there have been in the past. In fact three recent chairpersons were Advisory Members. The time of Executive meetings was discussed and David Lock suggested they be held at a time when they can be attended by people who are working during the day. He also suggested that physical meetings were not practical.

David Lock went on to question whether the Resolution was distributed to member organizations prior to the meeting. Jeremy McCall said he distributed the Notice of Meeting on June 6, or 15 days prior to the Annual General Meeting, thus meeting the 14 day notice requirement for General Meetings but not the 30 day requirement for Annual General Meetings. The Notice contained the following information with respect to the Resolution:

- o **Resolutions**
 Proposed changes to ORC Bylaws to increase the size of the Executive and permit members of non-voting members to serve on the Executive

He acknowledged that this did not meet the requirement in Article V of the By-laws which requires the Executive to place a notice to amend the By-laws at least 30 days in advance of a meeting. The Resolution was discussed at several meetings of the Executive and the wording was finalized on May 5.

Motion: Moved/seconded (D. Lock/A. Duncan) To table Resolution 2014 – 01.

Motion carried (11 to 4).

10. Election of Executive Board of Directors for 2014 - 2015

A summary of the current and proposed members of the Executive Board of Directors with brief resumes was distributed to the attendees at the meeting.

Incumbents

Don Reid. Director from June 2010. Affiliation: Trails Society of BC (Director).

Dennis K. Webb. Director from June 2012. Affiliation: Quad Riders ATV Association of BC (Director).

Steve Dillen. Appointed to fill a vacancy in March 2013. Affiliation: Four Wheel Drive Association of BC.

Erin Hart. Previously served on the Executive from 2009 to 2012. Appointed to fill a vacancy in May 2013. Affiliation: BC Snowmobile Federation (President).

Nominees for the 2014 - 2015 Executive Board of Directors

Four nominees for four positions to be filled

Rose Schroeder. Director from June 2011. Affiliation: Back Country Horsemen of British Columbia and Horse Council of BC. Nominated for a third term of two years (years 4 & 5).

Dave Wharton. Director from June 2013. Affiliation: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. Nominated for a second term of two years (years 2 & 3).

Penelope (Penney) Edwards. Director from June 2013. Affiliation: BC Nature (Communications Director). Nominated for a second term of two years (years 2 & 3).

Linda Rushlow. Appointed to fill a vacancy in November 2013. Affiliation Sea Kayak Association of BC. Nominated for an initial term of one year.

Motion (P. Harrison/A. Duncan): That that the slate of four nominees be elected to fill the vacancies. **Motion carried**

10. **Adjournment**

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at 1237.

As approved

Jun. 20/15

jm

APPENDIX A

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2013 - 2014

Thank you all for attending and greetings and welcome.

I'm glad to see the turnout from our member organizations. I am pleased with the ability of the members of this organization to work together on outdoor recreational issues that continue to challenge us all in B.C. My report will be short, as many of the specific activities I am sure will be covered by other ORC Directors or by the report by our Executive Director, Jeremy McCall

The commitment of our Board of Directors in this last year has been uplifting and their hard work on holding our common values is how we are able to continue to meet and exceed the mandate of the ORCBC. I want to personally thank our Directors for their time and commitment over the past year. The few directors whose expertise and knowledge about outdoor recreation in all their diverse recreational interests they represent are crucial to the achievements of the ORC. We deal with a glut of issues, on a myriad of varied topics year round. ORC deals with each and every one, I hope, with success.

This year we are attempting to carry the ORC to the next level with small changes to our constitution and aligning our by-laws to better serve our members. These changes are needed to let us grow along with our proposed role in the Provincial Trails Advisory Board. We will be making great strides toward the new view I see for the future.

I want to thank Jeremy McCall our Executive Director. We continue to be appreciative of the dedication and skill that he brings to the organization. Jeremy continues to carry on with the daily office work and never ending meetings at all levels - local, provincial and national, all on a limited budget. We all owe him a round of applause and hearty thank you.

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 most directors.
- ORC's Bi-Annual 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.
- Participation in various advisory committees, programs, conferences and workshops
- Co-Hosting of the Trails workshop with The Horse Council of B.C.
- Ongoing distribution of various government notification and information on impending projects on crown land to our member groups.

I quote from Bob Gunn’s report from last year.

“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.”

How can we improve on that?

I would like it if we were more provincially represented. The large majority of our organization seems to be located in the lower mainland and if we want to be the “provincial voice” then a wider perspective is crucial. Now is the time to mention this and to actively work on making this happen for the betterment of this wonderful organization.

To each of you who worked hard for your commitment to outdoor recreation, I thank you!

Sincerely

Dennis K. Webb, Chair

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT 2013 - 2014

MEMBERSHIP

Assuming all membership dues are paid ORC will have 41 member organizations, including 21 Provincial Groups (voting), 2 Regional Committees (voting) and 18 Participating Groups (non-voting). This year the Powell River Parks & Recreation Society has joined and the Pacific International Kayak Association elected to let its membership lapse. We currently have two Regional Districts as members (Central Okanagan, Peace River) and Metro Vancouver Parks has expressed an interest in membership. Copies of an information sheet – ***All about ORC – Membership in the Outdoor Recreation Council*** - is available at this meeting and members are requested to inform the office if they have ideas for new members.

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Executive meets monthly in most months of the year to discuss issues of current interest or concern to ORC's member organizations. Out-of-town members participate by telephone.

RECENT INITIATIVES AND PROJECTS

Volunteer programs in BC’s Provincial Parks, etc.

After the volunteer program was initiated by BC Parks ORC became concerned at the indemnification clause included in the agreement. It did not seem appropriate or fair for

volunteer groups to be required to indemnify the province against any claims made by third parties which arose from work completed by the volunteers. Although volunteer groups were capable of taking out insurance in addition to that provided by the province against such claims, insurance has a cost and might not be sufficient to cover the claim. ORC retained legal counsel who reviewed the standard documents and made suggestions for reducing volunteer liability. The Risk Management Department of the Province reviewed his suggestions and agreed to modify the agreements to limit any volunteer group exposure to the amount of any insurance carried, whether supplied by the Province or privately arranged.

This amendment had the effect of modifying agreements with the Recreation Sites & Trails Branch (RSTBC) as well because the BC Parks agreement was based on an updated version of the RSTBC agreement.

ORC Workshops

ORC's *Trail Development Workshop* held in Burnaby on June 2, 2013, was a great success. About 65 people took in some excellent presentations on this topic. Those attending included many ORC members as well as members of the Canadian Trails Federation, which held its 2013 AGM on the same day as ORC.

On March 7 ORC was pleased to partner the Horse Council of BC in its highly successful *Sharing the Trail* workshop, the second of a series, which was held in Richmond.

Endangered Rivers

ORC's Endangered Rivers mandate has resulted in a number of significant initiatives since the start of 2014. In March and April the annual Endangered Rivers campaign was conducted. Using the on-line survey form on the ORC website more than 670 respondents completed the detailed questionnaire when they named rivers, creeks and streams under threat. This terrific response demonstrated the effectiveness of the tool we had designed but the responses were heavily skewed towards the Peace River. For 2015 we plan to simplify the questionnaire to encourage even more people to complete it and we shall take steps to publicize the campaign more widely to obtain a more balanced survey of rivers where outdoor recreation is threatened.

In the case of the Fraser, for which the Hope to Mission reach invariably appears on the annual Endangered Rivers List, ORC belatedly learned that the City of Chilliwack had rezoned an industrial site on a flood plain adjacent to the river west of Chilliwack for the development of a toxic waste handling facility. ORC has retained legal counsel, with the financial support of West Coast Environmental Law, and we are seeking a judicial review of the City's decision on the grounds that, among other things, the notice of the rezoning hearing did not adequately describe the nature of the industrial activity which Aevitas, the proponent for the facility, plans to undertake on the site.

Among the 2014 Endangered Rivers, the Similkameen is of special concern. Fortis, a utility company, is investigating the possibility of constructing a 165 metre high dam in the canyon south of Princeton which would create a 20 km long reservoir and provide for a power plant and flood control which would benefit parts of the state of Washington as well as BC. This canyon is valuable for white water kayaking, as well as providing fish habitat. ORC is fortunate to be receiving advice from Ken Farquharson, one of its advisory members and an engineer, who is extremely knowledgeable about

development proposals on the Similkameen, so we will be taking a close interest in this situation.

ONGOING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Off Road Vehicle Management Framework

ORC continues to be one of the outdoor recreation representatives in the Joint Advisory Group (JAG) of the BC Government's ORV Management Framework, sponsored by the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO). We are pleased that Bill 13, the Off Road Vehicle Act, was passed and the JAG is now involved in reviewing material in preparation for the Regulations which are expected to be published this fall.

Notification of Crown Land tenure applications by adventure tourism operators

ORC continues to notify its member organizations about FrontCounter BC's Referrals for Crown Land tenure applications submitted by adventure tourism operators.

Notification of Environmental Assessments

ORC continues to notify member organizations about public open houses and public comment periods for the assessment of projects such as run-of-the-river, wind power and mines. We publish information which we obtain from the BC Environmental Assessment Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency.

BC Parks Management Plans

ORC notifies members when BC Parks is seeking public input for new or updated park management plans or other parks policies. BC Parks is currently seeking input on its proposed policy for the three Lower Mainland ski hills in provincial parks, namely Cypress, Seymour and Manning.

Rivers Day

ORC continues to sponsor BC Rivers Day on the last Sunday of September each year (September 28 in 2014). 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.

The Outdoor Recreation Report

We continue to publish the newsletter twice a year so long as resources are available. We always welcome fresh ideas for articles of interest to the outdoor recreation community as well as material from our members about their organizations, their members and their activities. And interesting images are always welcome.

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION BY ORC

Recreation Sites and Trails Branch - Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO)

ORC works closely with the Recreation Sites & Trails Branch on trail issues. In recent months the ORC Executive conducted an extensive review and provided input for RSTBC's *Recommendations for a Provincial Trail Advisory Body* (PTAB) which is to be discussed later during the AGM. ORC welcomes the role it is to be asked to play in the PTAB.

Ministry of Environment

Now that the amendments to the Volunteer Agreement have been agreed, ORC will continue to liaise with BC Parks when appropriate, especially for Park Management Plans and BC Parks policies.

REPRESENTATION BY ORC

Canadian Trails Federation (CTF)

ORC is the designated BC member of the CTF and participates in its regular Board meetings, whether physical or by conference call. ORC has been a strong advocate for the CTF to move faster with implementing its Mission Statement and Goals, which can be viewed on the CTF website at www.ctf-fcs.ca ORC has also been responsible for preparing the CTF for transition to the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, which has required a new set of by-laws.

The new bylaws will make it more attractive for organizations having an interest in trails, whether non-profit, corporate or government, and whether national, provincial or regional, to become members with a vote. The CTF will complete its transition prior to October.

ORC will once again be the designated organization for processing applications by non-motorized groups for the 2014 – 2016 federal trail funding program to be administered by the National Trails Coalition.

Campaign for BC Parks

ORC is represented on the steering committee for the Campaign for BC Parks. This campaign is planned to take place over five years and is expected to move into high gear with a launch in early 2015. The objective will be engagement with the recreating public to increase public awareness of the incredible legacy of parks in this Province and the need to greatly increase the level of financial support required to maintain the system in a sustainable way.

Healthy Forests Healthy Communities

ORC was the administrative sponsor of this initiative which was conducted by Bill Bourgeois. The program was designed to build capacity within communities to influence local, regional and provincial forest lands decisions. The program included workshops and reports to decision-makers, communities, municipal politicians, influential groups and the media. The active program ended in mid - 2013 but information continues to be available at www.bcforestconversation.com

ORC'S FUTURE ROLE

The Executive continued to consider changes which might be necessary when ORC is no longer able to rely on volunteers for its day to day functions and has to become self-sufficient. This role will undoubtedly be affected by ORC's role in the Provincial Trail Advisory Body and once that is finally settled it will provide a firmer basis for developing a strategic and business plan. A survey of ORC's member organizations is also being considered.

Jeremy McCall