

Outdoor Recreation Council of British Columbia 37th Annual General Meeting

Saturday June 20, 2015
Yarrow Community School, Wilson Road, Yarrow, BC

MINUTES

In attendance

Executive Board of Directors

Dennis Webb (Chair)
Don Reid
Rose Schroeder
Penney Edwards
Gordon Weetman

Affiliation

Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Trails Society of BC
Back Country Horsemen of BC
BC Nature
UBC Faculty of Forestry

Executive Director

Jeremy McCall, Secretary & Treasurer

BC Nature

Provincial Group Members (voting)

BC Federation of Fly Fishers
BC Marine Trails Network Association
BC Nature
BC Off Road Motorcycle Association
BC Snowmobile Federation
BC Speleological Federation

Delegate(s)

Don Grimway
Mick Allen
Kees Visser
David Lock
Tyler Kraushar
Adrian Duncan
Lorna Duncan
Brian Wood
Kim Reeves
Jennifer Pipe
Roxanne Rousseau
Leon Lebrun
Serge Touchette

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Horse Council of BC
Sea Kayak Association of BC
Trails Society of BC

Guest

Evan Loveless

Wilderness Tourism Association

Absent Members of the Executive

Dave Wharton
Erin Hart
Linda Rushlow

Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
BC Snowmobile Federation
Sea Kayak Association of BC

Welcome

Dennis Webb, Chair, began the proceedings at 9.35 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 Marine Trail Network Association; Sea Kayak Association of BC; Horse Council of BC; Back Country Horsemen of BC; Federation off Mountain Clubs of BC; Four Wheel Drive Association of BC; BC Snowmobile Federation; BC Off Road Motor Cycle Association; BC Speleological Society; BC Federation of Fly Fishers; Trails Society of BC; Quad Riders ATV Association of BC.

These reports were followed by a question and answer session in which representatives asked each other questions about their respective organizations. Some of the reports are included as Appendix C of these minutes.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1. Call to order

At 1117 AM the Chair called the Annual General Meeting to order.

2. Establishment of quorum

J. McCall, Executive Director, reported that 11 paid-up voting members of the total voting membership of 24 organizations were represented, which exceeded the one third quorum requirement.

3. Adoption of agenda

Motion: Moved & seconded (T. Kraushar/L. Lebrun): That the agenda be adopted.

Motion carried

4. Approval of minutes of 2014 Annual General Meeting

Motion: Moved & seconded (R. Schroeder/K. Reeves): That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held June 21, 2014, 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 2014. **Motion carried with two abstentions.**

5. Business arising from the minutes

None.

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 B.

8. Financial Statements & Treasurer's Report

J. McCall reviewed the financial statements for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2015.

During the year ORC received dues from members of \$6,445 (2014 - \$5,098). These increased dues came from members who joined to take advantage of the NTC federal trail funding program. ORC drew down \$9,000 of its \$12,000 annual operating grant from the Outdoor Recreation Foundation. Total donations amounted to \$4,094 and were all directed to the recovery of the City of Chilliwack's court costs which were awarded against ORC in the case of the rezoning for the Aevitas hazardous waste plant. \$1,448 was taken into revenue from unexpended grants held by ORC. Total revenues were \$22,686.

Exceptional expenses included \$5,530 for total legal costs associated with the City of Chilliwack court case and \$3,531 for the Spring 2014 issue of *The Outdoor Recreation Report*. Publication of this newsletter has been discontinued for the immediate future due to a lack of financial and physical resources. Total expenses were \$26,834, resulting in a loss of \$4,148 for the year (2014 - \$1,825 surplus).

This loss could have been reduced by drawing down the remaining \$3,000 of the Foundation's quarterly grant for the year. At year end ORC held unexpended grants

of approximately \$25,000 which can be applied against future expenditures when appropriate. Of that amount \$10,000 was received from the Recreation Sites & Trails Branch to assist with ORC's role with the Provincial Trails Advisory Body and the balance represents miscellaneous grants received from the BC Government in the past and not yet expended.

Discussion: R. Rousseau requested that an acronym chart be prepared and made available due to the extensive use of acronyms by ORC and its member organizations. K. Visser mentioned that the comment period for the environmental assessment of the latest version of the Garibaldi at Squamish project would expire on June 22. B. Wood referred to the concerns expressed by Whistler Blackcomb about the proposal to add another ski hill in the Sea to Sky corridor and suggested that there had been inadequate consultation with NGOs which the proponents had been directed to carry out.

Motion (P. Edwards/R. Schroeder): To accept the Treasurer's report and approve the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2015. **Motion carried.**

9. Resolutions

RESOLUTION 2015 - 01

Amendment to the Bylaws of the Council to increase the number of directors serving on the Executive Board of Directors.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors

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 increase in the responsibilities of the Council with respect to the Provincial Trail Advisory Board, the Executive recommends that the limit on the number of Directors on the Executive be raised from eight to ten.

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 the requirements set out in Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraphs 1 and 9 will require consequential amendment; and

Whereas Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraphs 6 and 10 will no longer apply and so should be deleted;

Now therefore be it resolved that Article III Section A – Officers, paragraph 2, be amended to read as follows:

2. The Executive shall consist of a minimum of six and no more than ten officers, namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, and two to six members at large.

And be it further resolved that Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 1 be amended to read as follows:

1. Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. *The resulting Executive should, to the extent possible, consist of equal numbers of officers elected for one year and two year terms.*

And be it further resolved that Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 6 be deleted and that paragraphs 7 to 9 be renumbered from 6 to 8.

And be it further resolved that Article III Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 9 (renumbered to paragraph 8) be amended to read as follows:

8. Immediately following the Annual General Meeting, the Executive shall elect the following Executive Officers from amongst their number to serve for the ensuing year: Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The remaining officers will be members at large.

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

Motion: Moved/seconded (R. Schroeder/P. Edwards) That Resolution 2015 - 01 be approved.

Discussion: Since this was the second year this motion, or one substantially similar, had been proposed there was minimal discussion

Motion carried. Unanimous.

RESOLUTION 2015 - 02

Amendment to the Bylaws of the Council to amend the categories of member organization from which members of the Executive Board of Directors may be recruited.

Proposed by the Executive Board of Directors

Preamble

As noted in the preamble to Resolution 2015-01, in recent years it has been a challenge to recruit the full number of directors to serve on the Executive Board of Directors (the Executive). This has undoubtedly contributed to the occasional failure to attain a quorum at the Executive's monthly meetings. Increasing the number of directors from eight to ten, as proposed in Resolution 2015 -01, is unlikely to improve this situation unless more candidates are nominated for election. In the recent past comparatively few Provincial Group Members have shown interest in the administration of the Council and the nomination of directors. The Executive considers that enthusiastic and dedicated individual members of any of the Council's member organizations could be satisfactory candidates to serve on the Executive. Resolution 2015 - 02 therefore proposes that the eligibility for candidates for officer of the Council be expanded to include a limited number of members of Regional Committees and Participating Group Members.

Resolution

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 Article I Section A - Definitions, paragraph (b) (ii) presently excludes representatives of Participating Group Members from being eligible for election to the Executive;

Now therefore be it resolved that Article I Section A - Definitions, paragraph (b) (ii) be amended to read:

(ii) Participating Group Member: A group with an interest in outdoor recreation subscribing to the objectives of the Council which does not wish to be, or which is not eligible to be, a provincial group member or regional committee, may participate in the work of the Council by applying for participating group membership. Organizations accepted by the Executive Board of Directors for participating group membership may be represented by a delegate at the general meetings of the Council, but such delegate shall not be accorded a vote.

And be it further resolved that Article III, Section B – Election of Officers, paragraph 2, be amended to read as follows:

2. Candidates must be a member of a Provincial Group Member, a Participating Group Member, a Regional Committee Member or be an Advisory Member.

And be it further resolved that in Article III, Section B - Election of Officers, the following new paragraph 9 be added:

9. There may not be more than two officers from Regional Committees and Participating Group Members serving on the Executive at any one time.

Motion: Moved/seconded (D. Reid/L. Lebrun) That Resolution 2015 - 02 be approved.

Discussion: This was also the second year for this motion to be considered, with the exception that there would be a limit of two directors from non-voting member organizations. There was minimal discussion.

Motion carried: Sixteen in favour. One opposed (Quad Riders ATV Association).

10. Election of Executive Board of Directors for 2015 - 2016

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. P. Edwards proposed the following:

Incumbents with one year to run

Rose Schroeder. Director from June 2011. Affiliation: Back Country Horsemen of British Columbia and Horse Council of BC. Elected for a third term of two years in 2014 (years 4 & 5).

Dave Wharton. Director from June 2013. Affiliation: Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC. Elected for a second term of two years in 2014 (years 2 & 3).

Penelope (Penney) Edwards. Director from June 2013. Affiliation: BC Nature. Elected for a second term of two years in 2014 (years 2 & 3).

Nominees for the 2014 - 2015 Executive Board of Directors

Four nominees for five positions to be filled:

Don Reid. Director from June 2010. Affiliation: Trails Society of BC. Nominated for a final term of one year.

Dennis K. Webb. Director from June 2012. Affiliation: Quad Riders ATV Association of BC. Nominated for a two year term (years 4 & 5)

Erin Hart. Previously served on the Executive from 2009 to 2012. Appointed to fill a vacancy in May 2013 and elected for a one year term in 2014. Affiliation: BC Snowmobile Federation. Nominated for a two year term (years 2 & 3).

Motion: Moved/seconded (R. Schroeder/B.Wood) That that the slate of four nominees be elected. **Motion carried**

Article III, Section B, Paragraph 8 of the By-laws states that additional candidates may be nominated from the floor. Following the election of the slate above, additional nominees were proposed as follows:

Kim Reeves, Four Wheel Drive Association of BC. Nominated by D. Webb, seconded by D. Reid.

David Lock, BC Off Road Motorcycle Association. Nominated by R. Schroeder, seconded by B. Wood.

Roxanne Rousseau, Sea Kayak Association of BC. Nominated by M. Allen, seconded by J. Pipe.

The three additional nominees agreed to be nominated.

Motion: Moved/seconded (R. Schroeder/B.Wood) That the three additional nominees be elected to serve as directors for the 2015 – 2016 year. **Motion carried.**

10. **Other business**

None

11. **Adjournment**

The Annual General Meeting was adjourned at approximately 1230.

Draft - To be approved by members at 2016 AGM

Jul. 20/15

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Appendix A

Chairman's Report

Thank you all for attending and greetings and welcome.

I'm glad to see the continuing involvement by our member organizations. This pleases me and makes the job of keeping the pace of mutual cooperation by all groups towards the end goal of keeping our Provincial Back-country safe and environmentally sustainable. Working together on outdoor recreational issues ensures we shall overcome all challenges big or small. My report as is my way will be short. No need for specifics as I am sure all will be covered by other ORC Directors or by the report by our Executive Director, Jeremy McCall

I want to personally thank all our Directors past and present and future for their time and commitment and dedication. ORC achievements are made from their expertise and knowledge applied year round. ORC deals with so many varied issues and we try together to win all the battles, with success.

This year, again, we are attempting to carry the ORC to the next level. We are proposing a few changes to our by-laws to better serve our members. These changes are needed to let us mature

along with our role in the up and running Provincial Trails Advisory Board. This is my view of how I see ORC in the future.

I know that without the endless dedication and tireless job ethic of **Jeremy McCall** we would not be where we are and want to thank our Executive Director on behalf of the entire BOD and member organizations. 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 can only offer him our tremendous gratitude by way of a round of applause and from the heart our 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.
- 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.
- Formation of the PTAB
- Court battle to keep our Fraser River clean. We lost the case but still were instrumental in having the project cancelled due in large part I think to our efforts.
- We needed to relocate the office and we now have a new office space. Thanks to all who helped with the move.

Last year I quoted from our former esteemed Chair, Bob Gunn, from his 2013 AGM Report. I can't think how I could possibly improve on his words as they are as true now as they will be, I'm sure, in the future

“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.”

As I said how can we improve on that!

Last year I said “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”. Working on this statement with the new PTAB we have accomplished this as members were picked from all over the province to better represent our outdoor recreational voice at the government table.

My heartfelt thanks to all for your commitment to betterment of outdoor recreation in BC, I thank you!

Sincerely
Dennis K. Webb

Appendix B
Executive Director's Report 2014 - 2015
THE YEAR AS A WHOLE

It was a remarkable year for ORC which was faced with a number of significant demands as the year went on! Very shortly after the 2014 Annual General Meeting was held in June last year the National Trails Coalition trail funding program was initiated and ORC was responsible for processing and scoring all non-motorized applications for the funding. That took up almost the entire summer and fall. Then in September ORC went to court to challenge the City of Chilliwack's rezoning decision for the proposed Aevitas hazardous waste recycling plant adjacent to the Fraser River west of Chilliwack. That was followed by ORC's participation in the Protect the Fraser campaign. And throughout the past year ORC has played a major role in the formation of the Provincial Trails Advisory Body.

THE NATIONAL TRAILS COALITION TRAIL FUNDING PROGRAM

As a member of the Canadian Trails Federation, which is one of four members of the National Trail Coalition, ORC is responsible for processing applications for non-motorized trails in the Province. For this \$10 million round of the federal funding BC was allocated \$400,000 each for non-motorized, summer motorized and winter motorized trails. ORC received 33 applications for non-motorized trail funding from members and non-members during July and August. We immediately signed up the non-members so they could qualify for the funding. We reviewed each of the 33 detailed applications so that we were in a position to give the letter of support which was required as a condition of applying to the NTC. We also checked that each applicant organization had the matching funds for the grant they applied for and also that they had approval from Recreation Sites and Trails BC (RSTBC). In a number of cases RSTBC was also providing the matching funding. Once the applications had been submitted to the NTC ORC was required to form the Regional Advisory Committee (RAC) for the non-motorized sector and work with our opposite numbers in the summer and winter motorized RACs. For the non-motorized RAC, which had to function during the summer holiday period, I was assisted by Andrew Drouin, a member of the Federation of Mountain Clubs resident in Penticton. We scored each of the 33 applications based on the criteria set out on the NTC website and using the information contained in the applications. That was a very useful and effective process but it was heavily dependent on the quality of information provided by the applicant organizations. At a certain point the non-motorized RAC compared notes with the summer and winter motorized RACs. Regrettably we did not manage to work as closely together as we would have liked, partly due to time constraints.

The final result was that the 13 organizations with the highest scores used up the \$400,000 available for non-motorized trails and received funding approval, and 17 organizations were unsuccessful. Another three applicants were not scored for various reasons. The successful applicants are now in the process of completing the necessary paperwork, which is extremely demanding, and hopefully spending the funds on their trail projects.

MEMBERSHIP

The NTC program brought ORC a number of new members from many different parts of BC and that was a definite benefit to us. We have 16 new members as a result of the

program and we hope that they decide to continue with ORC even if they did not receive funding, which a number of them did not.

ORC now has 21 Provincial Group Members, which are essentially unchanged from earlier years, 5 Regional Committees, including 2 regional districts, and 34 Participating Group Members. Not everyone has paid their dues for the new membership year yet so it remains to be seen how many of our new members we are able to retain.

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. One of the Executive's main preoccupations during the past year has been the formation of the Provincial Trails Advisory Committee (PTAB), and the selection and appointment of five members for the PTAB.

THE PROVINCIAL TRAILS ADVISORY BODY (PTAB)

The Provincial Trails Advisory Body (PTAB) was formed to implement the *Trails Strategy for British Columbia*. ORC is Recreation Sites & Trails BC's partner in the PTAB and so plays a significant role because the ORC Executive appoints the five persons who represent public outdoor recreation. Also, as ORC's Executive Director, I act as one of its two co-chairs. A key event leading up to the appointment of the five representatives by the ORC Executive was a meeting of ORC's Trails Committee, which discussed the requirements for the appointees and decided that they should be members of ORC's Provincial Group Members and that there should be five of them to ensure adequate coverage of the public recreation sector. Those recommendations were then adopted by the Executive and accepted by Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

The PTAB first met in March and a second meeting was held this week. The Terms of Reference have been approved and sub-committees have been formed to move ahead with achieving some of the more urgent action items identified in the *Trails Strategy for British Columbia*. They are posted on the ORC website together with a Background, relevant media releases as they are issued and the minutes of meetings. The ORC website is being used to convey information to the public about the PTAB's progress because it is easier to post fresh information there than it is on the BC Government websites.

ORC WORKSHOPS

On March 7 ORC was pleased to be able to partner with the Horse Council of BC in its highly successful *Sharing the Trail* workshop in Richmond. A full report of the workshop is posted on the ORC website as well as that of the Horse Council. This was the third of the series in which ORC has participated and we are planning another workshop in Lillooet for the Spring of 2016 to deal with trail issues in the South Chilcotin Mountains Provincial Park and the Bridge River Valley.

ENDANGERED RIVERS AND THE PROTECT THE FRASER CAMPAIGN

ORC's Rivers Chair Mark Angelo and I decided that ORC's annual Endangered Rivers campaign should, take second place to the Protect the Fraser campaign in 2015. We were also concerned that the Peace River would almost certainly have been ranked as the most endangered river in the Province for the third year in a row. While that is a matter of great concern the 2015 campaign was likely to be a re-run of the 2013 and 2014 campaigns and would have been unlikely to provide much new information.

The Protect the Fraser campaign involved First Nations from the Fraser Valley and a number of NGOs, including several ORC members, as well as individuals. It involved many meetings with cabinet ministers and other decision makers and other media events. The campaign had a very successful outcome because it became evident to Aevitas, the proponent, that it would have to undergo a full environmental assessment due to the public pressure and, on May 6, it announced that it was abandoning the project.

The legal role played by ORC was significant. We lost the court case and the cost of the City of Chilliwack's court costs amounting to about \$4,000 were awarded against ORC. However other members of the Protect the Fraser campaign organized a number of generous donations from individuals and NGOs and we successfully recovered the full amount of the costs. We were also supported by the Dispute Resolution Centre of West Coast Environmental Law which provided most of the costs of our legal counsel.

ONGOING SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Off Road Vehicle Management Framework

ORC continues to be a member of 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 in 2013 and that a large number of voluntary registrations have been made since then. It is likely that registration will become mandatory after November 1. There are still some questions to be resolved about such matters as highway insurance requirements and plates or decals on off-road motor cycles.

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 significant projects 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. Recently ORC was successful in arranging for a meeting between several of its members and BC Parks regarding the proposed Ski Resort Policy for Cypress, Seymour and Manning Provincial Parks..

Rivers Day

ORC continues to sponsor BC Rivers Day on the last Sunday of September each year (September 27 in 2015). Members are invited to organize events by or on their local rivers and register the events on the Rivers Day listings 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 regret to report that the newsletter which we formerly published about twice each year has become a casualty of the NTC trail funding program and other urgent matters. We plan to develop a different method of getting information out to our members and the outdoor recreation public.

ORC`s GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIPS

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 especially with respect to the PTAB.

Ministry of Environment & BC Parks

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 a 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 Vision, Mission Statement and Goals, which can be viewed on the CTF website at www.ctf-fcs.ca . ORC was the major contributor to the restructuring of the CTF so it could transition to the new Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act in 2014. The CTF`s new by-laws provide for a more flexible membership structure and 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.

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 which is likely to provide a firmer basis for developing a strategic and business plan. A survey of ORC`s member organizations is also being considered.

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.

Jeremy McCall

Jun. 19/15