

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

5.05 PM Monday, October 5, 2009  
47 West Broadway, Vancouver

**MINUTES**

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

Guest

Howie Harshaw      Former Director      UBC Faculty of Forestry

1. R. Gunn welcomed those attending and chaired the meeting. Erin Hart was introduced to the other directors. He is active with Canoe/Kayak BC (which has a whitewater kayaking division) and with BC Snowmobile Federation.
2. **Adoption of agenda**  
The agenda was approved with the addition of Items 6(f) ORV Coalition and 7(e) Lighthouses, and the addition of MEMPR Forum Follow-up to Item 8(c).
3. **Minutes of the September 9 meeting of the Executive**
  - (a) **Motion** (J. McCall/H. Martell): That the minutes of the September 9 meeting of the Executive be approved. **Motion carried**
  - (b) Review of September 9 action items: R. Gunn confirmed that he still plans to discuss the hosting of the ORC digitized library with Laurie Stott of Evolve Multimedia. J. McCall has not yet developed changes to ORC's Bylaws as proposed at the AGM. No action has yet been taken on sew-on logos for ORC. "A Tourism Industry Strategy for Forests", published by the Council of Tourism Associations, has not yet been reviewed.
  - (c) Business arising from the minutes:
    - i. Termination of bookkeeper's services: J. McCall reported that after he advised Ms Flood that her services would no longer be required she responded that she was not unhappy with the decision because she has a full time job as well as looking after other NGO's.
    - ii. Dues payment update: J. McCall reported that all outstanding dues have now been paid with the exceptions of the BC Camping Association which has indicated it wishes to remain a member this year after all and the Underwater Council which he will continue to try to contact.

- iii. Placer Lake campsite access: J. McCall said he has received a detailed description of the closures in the area which, while fully supported, have caused the question of access to become a concern, and he is finding out from the Four Wheel Drive Association and BC Snowmobile Federation whether they have previously initiated a Section 57 application for access.

#### 4. **Administration, Membership & General**

- a. Membership review: The BC Camping Association advised it wishes to remain a member of ORC for the current year. Since only a single individual presently gets the ORC e-mails BCCA's members are not familiar with what ORC does for its member organizations so its Board has been provided with a full description of ORC's activities and services and an invitation for more of its members to sign up for e-mails and the newsletter. The Underwater Council has not been in contact and J. McCall will continue to try and reach them. The BC Marine Trails Network Association has been welcomed a Provincial Group Member. J. McCall attended the adjourned AGM of Trails BC in Maillardville on September 12 and gave a brief presentation about ORC which was well received. He also described how ORC had come to take Trails BC's place as the BC member of the Canadian Trails Federation (CTF) and that also was well accepted.
- b. Local government members: J. McCall asked directors for advice on how ORC should treat the various local government organizations, including regional districts, cities, towns and villages, which were required to become Participating Group Members of ORC when they applied for NTC funding in June. He said that during the CTF AGM in Ottawa (see item 6(c) below), organizations such as the Ontario Trails Council were highly supportive of such memberships, suggesting that they could only benefit the provincial trails organizations. There was general agreement when J. McCall suggested that he write to the heads of each member organization thanking them for their support, outlining what ORC does for its NGO members and inviting them to take advantage of any of ORC's services which they consider would be a benefit.

#### 5. **Correspondence**

a. Sent: None

b. Received:

- Copy of letter dated August 6, 2009, from Guide Outfitters Association of BC re Gilpin - Morrissey Wildlife Management Area proposal. ORC has been asked to support the proposal, which was rejected previously. J. McCall is researching the issues involved prior to drafting a support letter.
- Copy of letter dated August 19, 2009, from Watershed Watch Salmon Society to BC Environment Minister Barry Penner re River Diversion Hydrological Concerns, which outlines the trade-off between the requirements of fish and the use of river water for power generation.

#### 6. **Business related to ORC's mission - Current initiatives**

- a. 2009 BC Rivers Day post mortem: A large number of Rivers Day events were registered on the Rivers Day website (Lower Mainland 21, Vancouver Island 3, Okanagan 6, Cariboo 3, Kootenays 4 and Northern BC 5. B. Gunn reported that

there had been good media coverage, 800 people attended the Burnaby event and he and Mark Angelo had estimated that about 75,000 people participated throughout BC. He also said that the Hope to Mission paddle organized by the Hope Mountain Centre was well attended and a success.

- b. NTC Trail Funding follow-up: Terry Norman, Executive Director of the NTC, visited BC on September 28 & 29 to review some of the BC trail projects which received funding. He was guided by Terje Vold, the contracted BC Recreation Trail Coordinator. J. McCall accompanied them on the tour of the Howe Sound Crest Trail in Cypress Provincial Park, where the contractor has made good progress and hopes to finish before the weather closed in.
- c. Report on the CTF AGM in Ottawa: J. McCall reported that he attended the AGM of the Trans Canada Trail on September 25 and the AGM and planning session for the CTF on September 26. Trans Canada Trail is undergoing a rebranding process which should do a lot to revitalize it. It has a very committed and active board of directors. At the CTF he learned that most of the other provincial and territorial members are very similar to ORC in the make-up of their membership, i.e. a majority include all outdoor recreation organizations, so the CTF is far from being a non-motorized organization in spite of its role in the NTC funding process. He also learned that it was originally expected that the CTF would fulfill the role required to handle the Federal trail funding but it was not sufficiently developed at the time so the NTC was formed to assume that role, with board representation from the Canadian Off-Highway Vehicle Distributors Council (COHV) and the Canadian Council of Snowmobile Organizations (CCSO) as well as the CTF. Apparently the COHV was prepared at one point to join the CTF. J. McCall concluded that it would make sense for the two organizations to merge in future to eliminate the confusion over having two layers for organizations to deal with, especially if there are other rounds of federal trails funding. He said he made that point at the CTF meeting. It was also agreed at the meeting that the CTF should provide feedback to the NTC about the 2009 process. One item which was discussed at the meeting was the scoring bonus given to "mixed use trails" for motorized and non-motorized users, as opposed to single use or trails where use is shared by similar groups. This bonus scoring was originally thought to be a way to get political support for program because it gives the appearance of the trail being more heavily used. In fact it is more likely to sow the seeds of conflict between motorized and non-motorized users and that is not politically attractive so there would be merit in doing away with this bonus.
- d. Kokish River Hydro Project: For the benefit of new directors R. Pillman described the key elements of this small hydro project located to the east of Nimpkish Lake in northern Vancouver Island. It is different to a number of the other so-called run-of-river small hydro projects because its major flows come from rain and not summer snow melt, so that its potential power production would occur when needed in BC and not California. For this and other reasons it is being considered as a potential model project by ORC to avoid appearing critical of all IPP run-of-river projects. The Terms of Reference for an application for an environmental assessment certificate for the project were approved in May.
- e. The Outdoor Recreation Report: J. McCall said the Fall issue which will be published in late October. He plans to include an editorial concerning the

deteriorating state of BC's outdoor infrastructure, such as the closure of outhouses in the Garibaldi lake campground and the absence of park rangers in the Lower Mainland region. This suggestion initiated a discussion in which directors lamented the present state of many forest facilities because they are now the responsibility of the Ministry of Tourism Culture & the Arts which relies on the Ministry of Forests to get anything done, and it is perceived that the relationship between the two Ministries is not as effective as it could be. ORC has not yet received confirmation that the second year installment of the three year BC Gaming Grant which was approved in 2008 has been received.

- f. ORV Coalition: J. McCall reported that, subsequent to a recent meeting between Minister of Tourism, Culture & the Arts Kevin Krueger and the co-chairs of the Coalition, the Minister has made a public statement that registration and identification of off-highway vehicles, as well as safety measures and approval of strategic road crossings for ATVs, will be introduced in the legislature by Spring 2010.

## 7. **Business related to ORC's mission – Emerging issues**

- a. ILMB Special Event registration requirements: J. McCall reported that he is having phone discussions with Sean Herbert of ILMB, Vera Vukelich of MTCA, and representatives of the Quad Riders ATV Association and BC Off Road Motorcycle Association, about ILMB's decision to begin requiring organizations to have permits for so-called Special Events on Crown land. Special Events in question have not been adequately defined as yet. It has been suggested that NGOs comply with either the Adventure Tourism Policy or the Community & Institutional Land Use Policy, neither of which are directly applicable to these types of events. ILMB has been requested to develop a clear message to describe this new requirement suitable for sending out to organizations to both warn them about it and obtain their comments so that the policy is suited to the activities of the outdoor recreation sector.
- b. Potential future role for ORC and funding for the employment of a future Executive Director - Formation of a working group: It was agreed that this topic should follow the discussion of Item 7 (d) and will be tabled until November.
- c. Proposed ORC workshop re outdoor recreation issues - Theme, presenters, sponsors: J. McCall said there has been no new thinking on this proposal for a workshop in early 2010, and suggested that it might depend on the outcome of the discussion in Item 7 (d). He requested directors to give it some thought.
- d. Meeting with MTCA to discuss ORC's future relationship with the Ministry: This meeting has been proposed by Bill Marshall and John Hawkings of MTCA and is now scheduled for October 23. J. McCall said the idea for the meeting arose from Gordon Weetman's comments at the June AGM when he said that it continues to amaze him that BC has no recreation policy and that there are now no on-the-ground recreation managers for forests. J. McCall said John Hawkings had said that MTCA sees ORC as a vital organization and that it is important for MTCA to work with ORC. J. McCall said it is unlikely that MTCA would be in a position to provide funding for ORC. He said his major concern is to ensure that ORC remains free to speak freely and not become hostage to the BC Government. B. Gunn said it is not unusual for NGO's to support and advocate for government

departments. E. Hart said it is useful for a department such as Recreation Sites & Trails to have a sounding board in the public sector.

B. Gunn, J. McCall, R. Pillman, H. Harshaw and Gordon Weetman are presently planning to attend. N. Heath and E. Hart said they would also like to attend.

- e. Lighthouses: This was added to the agenda following a recent proposal by the Canadian Coast Guard (a special agency of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans) to ostensibly reduce costs by eliminating the lighthouse keepers at several more lighthouses on the BC coast. After a spirited discussion, in which two members of the sea-kayaking community represented on the Executive took opposing views as to whether ORC should protest the cuts, it was clear that ORC cannot speak with a strong voice for or against the cuts so no action is proposed.

## 8. **Other business and upcoming events**

- a. "Wild Water, Wild Earth" talk by Mark Angelo, October 14: This will be a fund raiser for the Nature Trust of British Columbia.
- b. Northern Gateway Community Advisory Board (CAB) meetings: J. McCall will attend the October 27 Kitimat CAB meeting for the marine elements of the proposed pipeline and marine terminal project. He has requested input from ORC members who attend the CAB meetings on the terrestrial elements in Prince George (October 19) and Smithers (October 28).
- c. November 4/5 Green Energy Symposium: Entitled "Building a Vision for Green Energy in British Columbia", this two day Dialogue responds to concerns surrounding climate change impacts and the polarization of views surrounding run-of-river hydro power. A number of panels will examine the options for renewable energy with a main focus on hydro electric power. J. McCall is scheduled to participate in the panel addressing the public perspective on hydro power. R. Pillman suggested that he could make a vital contribution because of his background in designing and building various types of hydro project as well as his detailed review of several of the proposed small hydro projects presently undergoing environmental assessment. His offer will be forwarded to Pat Gallagher of SFU who is organizing the program.

- 9. Next meeting date: 5 PM Monday November 2

The meeting was adjourned at 7.20 PM

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jm  
Nov. 10/09