

Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
Meeting of Executive Board of Directors

5.00 PM Monday, January 4, 2009
47 West Broadway, Vancouver

MINUTES

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Bob Gunn	Chair	Advisory member/BCIT Fish & Wildlife program
Gordon Weetman	Past Chair	Trails BC/UBC Faculty of Forestry
Jeremy McCall	Executive Director/Treasurer	BC Nature
Nick Heath	Director	Sea Kayak Association of BC
Hugh Martell	Director	Back Country Horsemen of BC
Ray Pillman	Senior Advisor	Sea Kayak Association of BC

Regrets

Cal Kaytor	Director	Quad Riders ATV Association
Vince Hilgerdenaar	Director	Four Wheel Drive Association
Jack Bryceland	Director	Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC
Erin Hart	Director	BC Snowmobile Federation, Canoe/Kayak BC

1. R. Gunn welcomed those attending and chaired the meeting.

2. **Adoption of agenda**

The agenda was approved with the addition of the following: Item 7 (d) Proposed Gilpin-Morrissey Wildlife Management Area.

3. **Minutes of the December 7 meeting of the Executive**

(a) **Motion** (J. McCall/H. Martell): That the minutes of the December 7 meeting of the Executive be approved. It was agreed that the minutes should be amended to include consensus comments regarding the fact that ORC does not support expansion of the tar sands, notwithstanding its decision to participate in the Citizens Advisory Board process for the proposed Northern Gateway Pipeline project. **Motion carried**

(b) Review of action items: R. Gunn will arrange a meeting with J. McCall and Laurie Stott of Evolve Multimedia re the posting of ORC's digitized library on a suitable website and options for searching it, including MS Excel and the Alchemy program in which it was recorded. J. McCall has not yet drafted amendments to ORC's Bylaws as proposed at the 2009 AGM.

(c) Business arising from the minutes: J. McCall expressed concern regarding the difficulty of ensuring that current information is posted on the website. R. Gunn suggested that this could be worked out at the planned meeting with Laurie Stott, the website manager.

4. **Administration, membership & general**

a. Membership review: Re new members which are regional districts or other government agencies, J. McCall will send a letter to the elected representatives or department heads of these organizations with a copy of the newsletter to draw

their attention to the fact that they are members of ORC, with a request that they maintain their membership to support ORC and its objectives and a note in due course about the Symposium. Friends of the South Slope (FOSS), a recreation and environmental organization based in Kelowna which has a mixed membership of individuals and organizations, some of which are members of ORC, has applied to be a Participating Group Member. FOSS's membership was approved.

- b. Directors' responsibilities and potential for Directors to be more involved in ORC's activities: J. McCall requested help with planning the 2010 Symposium. N. Heath agreed to assist.

5. Correspondence

A news release was received from the BC Ministry of Finance advising that the BC Society Act is to be reviewed. Public input is invited, to be submitted by April 1. ORC's members have been informed.

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

- a. Recommendations to the CTF for future trail funding requirements: J. McCall is preparing a spread-sheet to summarize the input from all provinces and territories. He is soliciting feedback from the other provinces so he can prepare a final list of recommendations for the NTC, etc. There will be limited time to discuss this project at the CTF Strategy meeting in Toronto on January 15 so it is likely to be completed later in January. There is no news as yet regarding the hoped for second year of trail funding.
- b. ORC Submissions to Green Energy Task Forces: R. Pillman has prepared a submission on behalf of ORC, which relies on his professional experience in planning, designing and construction management of hydro projects large and small. He states that the current process, which permits Independent Power Producers to develop uncoordinated projects, wastes resources, damages the environment, is unnecessarily expensive and does not respect approved land use plans. He states that BC Hydro is the entity best equipped to plan such projects and could develop these at substantially lower cost, as it has done in the past. He will submit his paper (which was distributed to the Executive) to two of the four BC Task Forces i.e. that concerned with Procurement and Regulatory Reform and that concerned with Resource Development. R. Pillman said he also plans to participate in a Clean Energy Dialogue being organized for January 11 by West Coast Environmental Law. J. McCall expressed concern at the impractical timing of the Task Forces, which were required to gather information over Christmas and submit their findings before the end of January.

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

- a. Imposition of property tax on non-profit campgrounds: R. Gunn said he had been in touch with a representative of the Girl Guides of Canada about the Sechelt Camp's property tax problem. He agreed to put J. McCall in touch with the woman in question so that ORC could follow up to see whether it should be advocating a better outcome to the situation or even recommending appropriate legislation to the BC Government. G. Weetman mentioned that in some

jurisdictions there is a tree farm tax law which prevents forested lands from being taxed as development properties,

- b. Proposed ORC 2010 Symposium or Forum re outdoor recreation issues: Timing, theme and scope, venue, presenters, sponsors and funding:
 - i. Timing: J. McCall said that after considering what will be required and in view of the Olympics he did not think he would be able to organize it for April. It was immediately agreed by all present that it will be more practical to organize it for the Fall.
 - ii. Theme: J. McCall reminded Directors that there was general agreement at the December meeting that "Finding Solutions to Community Trail Issues" would be a topical and manageable theme. G. Weetman expressed concern that even such a focused theme as that requires context, and should answer such questions as "Why are people on the trails?" and "What are the benefits of outdoor recreation?". He also suggested that Crown land factors should be included. These suggestions made it clear that it would be important to identify the target audience for the Forum, i.e. rural or urban or both? It was agreed that the Recreation Trails Strategy document would be a useful basis for organizing the program and that the evolving Management Framework for Off Highway Vehicles should be taken into account. R. Gunn suggested that Metro Vancouver Parks would be an excellent partner for the Forum and it could be tied in with one of their other Fall events such as Park Fest. J. McCall expressed concern that such a partnership might make the Forum less marketable to organizations outside the Lower Mainland.
 - iii. Venue: Not the most immediate decision required. J. McCall suggested BCIT.
 - iv. Presenters, sponsors: Presenters will depend on the theme chosen and the program. J. McCall suggested that funding should be feasible given ORC's existing resources and the likelihood that the theme suggested would appeal to Mountain Equipment Co-op. It might also be possible to convert some unused BC Government funding to the project.
 - v. Responsibilities: Other than J. McCall and N. Heath, to be decided later.
- e. Potential future role for ORC & funding for the employment of a future Executive Director - Formation of a working group: It was agreed that as a starting point the strategic plan prepared about three years ago for Minister Hagen should be resuscitated and distributed to directors for their review.
- d. Gilpin Morrissey Wildlife Management Area: J. McCall advised that Barry Brandow, a member of the Guide Outfitters Association resident in Grand Forks, was pressing ORC to recommend a resumption of the process in which a Wildlife Management Area had been proposed for that part of the Gilpin Grasslands which had not been designated as a Provincial Park. Public meetings were held in 2007 and 2008, after which the proposal was put on the back burner, perhaps in part due to the serious concerns raised by ranchers and off-road vehicle owners. J. McCall is continuing to research the WMA proposal prior to drafting a letter for the Executive to consider. R. Gunn suggested that Brian Bawtinheimer, BC Parks, be contacted to review the current status of the proposal.

8. Upcoming events

a. CTF Strategic Planning Meeting, Toronto - January 15

9. **Next meeting date:** 5 PM Monday February 8

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM

jm
Feb. 10/10