

# Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

## Meeting of Board of Directors

5.30 PM Monday, December 5, 2016

1101 - 207 West Hastings Street, Vancouver

### MINUTES

| <u>Present</u>   | <u>Position</u>      | <u>Affiliation</u>                       |
|------------------|----------------------|--|
| Dave Wharton     | Director, Chair      | Federation of Mountain Clubs of BC       |
| Jeremy McCall    | Executive Director   | Canadian Parks & Wilderness Society      |
| <u>By phone</u>  |                      |  |
| Kim Reeves       | Director             | Four Wheel Drive Association of BC       |
| Roxanne Rousseau | Director, Vice Chair | Sea Kayak Association of BC              |
| Ciel Sander      | Director             | Trails Society of BC                     |
| Dennis Webb      | Director, Past Chair | Quad Riders ATV Association of BC        |
| Gordon Weetman   | Director             | Advisory Member, UBC Faculty of Forestry |
| <u>Absent</u>    |                      |  |
| Penney Edwards   | Director             | BC Nature                                |
| Rose Schroeder   | Director             | Back Country Horsemen of BC              |

1. Dave called the meeting to order at 5.30 PM and welcomed those present and on the phone.

#### 2. Approval of agenda

**Motion:** Moved & seconded (DWe/KR). That the agenda be approved. The following items were added: 6(i) Letter re Kettle Valley Railway from Trails BC; 6(j) Okanagan Rail Trail. **Motion carried.** The agenda was approved as amended.

#### 3. November 7 Board meeting minutes

a. Approval, errors & omissions:

**Motion:** Moved & seconded (KR/DWe). That the minutes of the November 7 Board meeting be approved. **Motion carried.**

b. Action items: Item 6(c) Jeremy contacted Moira Jaatteenmaki to invite ATVBC to make a presentation at the 2017 Share the Trails Workshop. ATVBC responded positively and has agreed to participate.

c. Business arising from the minutes: None.

#### 4. Administration, membership and general

a. Status of new banking arrangements: The VanCity account will be opened on December 6 and the three HSBC accounts will be transferred to the new account as soon as possible.

b. Board vacancy re Penny Cartwright: Penny has missed three Board meetings since she participated in the July meeting. Donegal Wilson, Executive Director of the BC Snowmobile Federation, called to say that Penny was no longer a director of the BCSF and her BCSF e-mail address is no longer valid. Jeremy tried to phone Penny to find out what her intentions are but her phone is no longer in service. After absence from three meetings ORC Bylaw 4.7 applies so it was agreed that a letter should be written to Penny at her home address to request her to explain her circumstances if she wishes to continue as a director or to else to resign.

**Action item:** Jeremy to write Penny Cartwright as indicated above.

A discussion followed regarding the possible replacement of Penny in the event she does not wish to continue

- c. Restructuring of membership changes: Member organizations have not yet been informed about their amended membership status because the new bylaws have not yet been posted on the website for reference.
- d. ORC Administration & Communications Assistant – Draft contract: A draft of the proposed contract offer was circulated before the meeting. Directors approved of the draft. It will be presented to Natalia Pisarek next week.
- e. Revised ORC budget: A revised budget is required because of the need to fund the wages of the new employee. It was not prepared in time for the meeting.

## 5. Correspondence

Letter dated November 15 from Trails BC re Trans Canada Trail. See Item 6(i).

## 6. Business related to ORC's mission – Ongoing initiatives and projects

- a. BC Parks Future Strategy – Impact on budgeting: Jeremy described his involvement in a briefing at the BC Parks office in Victoria on November 24, also the BC Government's news release at the Mt. Seymour office on November 28, which was attended by the Premier and the BC Minister of the Environment. Before the announcement he was also been briefed about the components of the Strategy by Ric Careless, Chair of the Campaign for BC Parks. Although pleased that BC Parks has come to the attention of the Premier, Jeremy is concerned that some elements of the Strategy introduced ways for the private sector to fund BC Parks. This raises a question over the extent to which the BC Government is committed to increasing the funding of the provincial parks in the next provincial budget. Dave said the Federation of Mountain Clubs is considering a motion to dramatically increase the funding for BC Parks.
- b. RSTBC role re BC Parks Future Strategy: Jeremy noted that Recreation Sites & Trails BC was not directly involved in the announcement of the BC Parks Future Strategy even though half of the proposed new campsites will be on Crown land outside the parks. He discussed it afterwards with John Hawkings, Director of RSTBC, who advised him that RSTBC will be responsible for creating 1,062 new camping pads, of the 2,000 referred to in the news release. For the next five years RSTBC will receive an additional \$1.1 million per annum, in addition to its current capital expenditure budget of \$1.4 million per annum, to carry out this program. Gordon pointed out that many members of the public are unaware that they can camp anywhere on Crown land in BC. Roxanne said that most people feel more comfortable camping in formal campsites, with access to toilets.
- c. BC Rivers Coalition: After the announcement of the BC Parks Future Strategy, Mark Angelo recirculated the BC Rivers' Coalition's statement to Coalition members and requested that they continue to promote funding of \$75 million for BC's rivers.

**Action item:** Jeremy agreed to recirculate Mark's memo re funding for BC's rivers.

- d. ORC Access Committee: Kim, as Committee Chair, reported that the ORC Access Committee had met three times. One issue which has emerged is that of access to the Committee's meeting minutes and records. Committee members were concerned that it might tip its hand to private landholders on possible solutions to the access problem if its records were to be made available to the public. Kim also pointed out that the Committee is dealing with matters which involve powerful corporate interests. They were also concerned that too much weight might be given to the early work of the Committee before any decisions have been made.

Dave said that based on his experience it would be highly unusual for the ORC Board not to have access to the work of an ORC committee. Dennis suggested that Kim make reports to the Board on the Committee's work and that the Board's minutes record that such a report was made. In that way the actual work of the Committee could be kept confidential. Dave agreed. Kim reported that after a review of members and their interests, it was decided that the membership of the committee is sufficiently representative, and the members are now involved in a research mode, essentially doing further research into the report prepared by the Environment Law Centre. The record of the Committee's meetings and its files are kept on a website with restricted access operated by Groups.io. A daily message is sent to Committee members with details of new postings. Finally Kim agreed to make the minutes of the Access Committee's meetings available on request and to report monthly to the ORC Board.

- e. 2017 Share the Trails Workshop with Horse Council BC (HCBC): The revised theme will now be "*A trail for everyone. Not everyone on every trail*". Penticton continues to be the desired location because of the decision to include motorized groups to the extent possible. The letter from Trails BC regarding use of the Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) also makes this a relevant location. Nancy Spratt at HCBC has checked availability of meeting rooms and found that the Penticton Lakeside Resort would be available at reasonable cost on Friday April 21 but not for any date in May. It will be necessary to check with ATVBC to see if they can participate on that date. The Federation of Mountain Clubs' AGM will be held in Penticton on May 27

**Action item:** Jeremy to check with Nancy Spratt/ATVBC to see if the April 21 date is acceptable.

- i. Trails BC letter re Kettle Valley Railway (KVR) (related to 6(e)): In the letter, also referred to in Item 5 above, Leon Lebrun, President, prevailed on ORC to declare that, with respect to the rail-trail portions of the TransCanada Trail (TCT), including sections of the KVR, motorized use and non-motorized recreation are "fundamentally incompatible" on the same trail. The letter continued with its arguments as to why Trails BC considers that to be the case. Trails BC also requested ORC to bring its concerns to the attention of the provincial Trails Advisory Body. This was not the first time Trails BC has tried to get ORC to support its position. Dennis said there is a lot of history about this issue. He also suggested that including the use of the KVR in the workshop could be extremely controversial. He said that in September 2008 Gordon Campbell, BC Premier at the time, suddenly announced that the KVR would be restricted to non-motorized use. This decision was taken without any consultation in the local communities, including motorized groups which had been using the KVR for many years. For that reason those groups, including the Summerland ATV club, considered the KVR had been taken away from them unjustly so they have not cooperated with the supposed non-motorized use of the KVR. Ciel said cyclists have been forced off the trail even though the KVR had been part of the TCT since the 1990s and she disagreed with Dennis's analysis. She also said that since it was first conceived as an idea at the Calgary Winter Olympics in 1986, the TCT continues to be developed as a non-motorized recreational trail. The KVR and the Columbia & Western Railway (CWR) are both rail trails that make up the TCT. In 1994, Trails BC was founded to develop BC's portion of the TCT. In 2004, the Spirit of 2010 Trail partnership program was announced by the BC Government for rail trails.

Trestle reconstruction work was initiated for destroyed trestles as a result of the 2003 fires. This was for non-motorized rail trails. In the fall of 2014, MFLNRO announced a new policy that also confused people. They said they lacked the resources to police such corridors and keep out motorized vehicles. The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen has developed a master trails plan and the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary will be implementing a trail master plan soon. Ciel suggested that, in effect, RSTBC has downloaded the problem to the regional districts. Roxanne suggested it is up to ORC to facilitate a solution. Jeremy said that is part of the reason why the 2017 workshop has been proposed for Penticton, as it is the centre of the region where the worst problems exist. Dennis said there has been some progress because parties with different views can at least sit at the same table today, something they could not have done eight years ago. There was general agreement that the 2017 workshop in Penticton could be a useful forum for the various factions to outline their positions and describe their values with respect to sharing trails. It was agreed that Trails BC should be informed that their issues will be addressed.

**Motion:** Moved & seconded (DWe/GW). Write Trails BC to advise that its letter has been considered and that the issues it raised in its letter will be addressed.

- f. PTAB – Bulletin and proposed website: In progress.
- g. Washington State Trails Conference – October 13/15: Kim said it was an excellent conference with excellent sessions mainly about non-motorized recreation. Between 250 and 300 persons attended. There was a water trails workshop. Kim said he found there was not much “linkage” between recreation interests on the US and Canadian sides of the border. Roxanne said the BC Marine Trail Network Association is working with groups in Washington. Kim said data collection has become a big thing with applications (apps) being created by governments and recreation groups. With respect to access, he described the Methow Valley, where some 200 private landowners have agreed to permit recreation on their lands. Gordon suggested that could be because they get a tax deduction, one of the ways Washington gets private landowners to allow recreation on their lands.
- h. Planning for Trailhead Canada 2017: The December 1 conference call was used to conceptualize the program for the conference. This is still at an early stage.
- i. Trails BC letter re Kettle Valley Railway (KVR): See above
- j. Okanagan Rail Trail: Deferred to January meeting.

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

- a. Access to Boat Harbour, Nanaimo: No further action at this time.
- b. Reprint of Trail user’s Code of Ethics: Deferred.
- c. Completion of Policy Manual: Deferred

## **8. Upcoming events & meetings:**

- a. Next Board meeting: 5.30 PM Monday January 2 (later postponed to January 9)
- b. National Trails Conference to celebrate Canada’s Sesquicentennial – Ottawa - November 13/16, 2017

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7.35 PM.

As approved  
Jan. 9/17  
jm