

# Outdoor Recreation Council of BC

## Meeting of Board of Directors

5.30 PM Monday, February, 6 2017  
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
Natalia Pisarek	ORC Communications & Administration	
<u>By phone</u>		
Penny Cartwright	Director	BC Snowmobile Federation
Penney Edwards	Director	BC Nature
Kim Reeves	Director	Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Ciel Sander	Director	Trails Society of BC
Roxanne Rousseau	Director	Vice Chair Sea Kayak Association of BC
<u>Absent</u>		
Rose Schroeder	Director	Back Country Horsemen of BC
Dennis Webb	Director, Past Chair	Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Gordon Weetman	Director	Advisory Member, UBC Faculty of Forestry

1. Natalia requested everyone to state their name before speaking as this was her first time taking meeting minutes. Penny commented that this courtesy is one element of the “conference call code of ethics”, which also includes muting your end of the line when not speaking to avoid disrupting others with background noise. 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 (JM/PE). That the agenda be approved. **Motion carried.** The following items were added: 8(a) request to review start time of monthly board meetings. The agenda was approved as amended.

### 3. January 9 Board meeting minutes

- a. Approval, errors & omissions: Moved & seconded (PC/JM). That the minutes of the January 9 Board meeting be approved. **Motion carried.**
- b. Action items in January meeting minutes: Item 4(c) was not completed because Penny did not hear back from her contact regarding Directors & Officer Errors & Omissions (D & O E & O) insurance. Item 4(d) completed, date of AGM is Saturday, June 17. Item 5 completed re: motorized access in park boundaries spread sheet was sent to ORC member organizations on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Action item:** Penny to develop a case and/or make a proposal with respect to carrying D & O E & O insurance for next Board meeting.

**Action item:** Send reminder to member organizations re: allowable terrestrial motorized access in provincial parks spreadsheet. Request the following from ORC members:

- Variations from the list as presented by BC Parks

- Provincial parks where access is permitted but which are not on the list; &
- Provincial parks where there are user agreements providing for regular ORV or snowmobile access.

c. Business arising from the minutes: None

#### 4. Administration, membership & general

a. General Liability insurance report

Jeremy confirmed that ORC's new policy took effect January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The policy cost \$550 and has been paid in full. The policy includes \$2 million coverage however there are many exclusions. For example, any and all activities on trails are not covered. Jeremy expressed uncertainty about the usefulness of this insurance given the many exclusions.

b. Restructuring of membership categories – progress report

In January, Natalia sent each member organization notice of the bylaw change and she has started collecting names of confirmed Designated Representatives. She will follow-up with any members who have not confirmed their Designated Representative ahead of the 2017 AGM.

c. Annual General Meeting – significant factors

The AGM will once again take place in Yarrow, BC. The date is Saturday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Rose booked Yarrow Community School and booking has been paid for. Jeremy and Dave aren't available on June 17<sup>th</sup> and will not attend the AGM. Dennis may also not be available. Natalia will be handling administrative functions of the event. One resolution that Jeremy wants addressed is a modest increase in membership dues. Jeremy will draft a resolution. Jeremy also suggested that a resolution might arise from the Share the Trails workshop. Roxanne agreed to chair the AGM in Dave's absence. Jeremy pointed out that no one has been confirmed to present after lunch and asked the directors for ideas. Roxanne suggested someone from BC Marine Trails because of their involvement with the Salish Sea Trail. Penny suggested Dave Norona who is a skier, cyclist, runner and inspirational speaker from Squamish. Penny volunteered to contact him but the board preferred to sit on the decision a while longer.

**Action item:** Jeremy will draft a resolution to increase membership dues.

**Action item:** Roxanne will connect with Dave regarding chairing the AGM.

d. Natalia's workdays and vacation (Feb. 11 – 25)

Natalia's workdays are 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday to Thursday. She will be in India from February 11<sup>th</sup> to February 25<sup>th</sup>. Natalia booked this trip before applying to ORC and told Jeremy about the trip before hire.

#### 5. Correspondence None

#### 6. Business related to ORC's mission – ongoing initiatives, projects & reports

a. BC Parks' Future Strategy – CPAWS letter dated December 7, February 2 media release <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2017ENV0009-000231>,

continuing of concerns: Jeremy reminded the directors that members of the Elders Council asked ORC not to comment negatively on the Future Strategy because they wanted to "wait and see" what the provincial government would do before offering a critique. However, FMCBC and CPAWS made a public statement about the Future Strategy, particularly around the issue of funding commitments. Last week the provincial government made a second phase

announcement regarding increased funding for BC Parks. A significant proportion of added funds would be used to hire additional BC Parks staff and seasonal rangers. Environment Minister Mary Polak made the announcement in front of the BC Parks office in Mount Seymour Provincial Park. Dave believes that the provincial government is moving in the right direction on this issue. Jeremy believes the situation will be clearer once the new provincial budget is released. Dave has a meeting with Assistant Deputy Minister Jim Standen on March 15<sup>th</sup> in Victoria. Dave intends to speak on behalf of FMCBC at this meeting since the invite was sent to FMCBC however he offered to represent ORC as well and asked the directors to send him suggestions, ideas, questions or concerns to address at the meeting.

**Action item:** Directors to let Dave know of any “burning issues” they’d like him to discuss with Jim Standen.

b. ORC Access Committee – Kim

Kim updated the board about the ORC Access Committee. There have been two recent resignations followed by two requests to join the committee. Troy Halliday (BCWF’s Access Committee Chair) and Terrance Martin (Victoria Fish and Game Protection Committee Chair) will join the ORC Access Committee. Terrance has a lot of experience negotiating with the private sector around access issues, such as his involvement with Timber West. Kim told the board that at the next Access Committee meeting they intend to discuss access issues pertaining to the private forest lands act. Jeremy asked Kim about the extent to which the Access Committee’s meeting minutes will be available to the ORC Board. Kim said that the Access Committee is operating under the understanding that committee minutes will be available “on request” and that a verbal report will be presented by Kim to ORC directors at monthly Board meetings. Kim also mentioned that the provincial government has removed public access through service roads to Douglas Lake and that some public users experienced harassment from Douglas Lake Ranch when they accessed the lake by float plane. Kim referred to a local newspaper article on this issue and said he’d send it to the directors.

**Action item:** Kim to send directors newspaper article link about Douglas Lake access issues.

c. 2017 Share the Trails Workshop with Horse Council

- Location & date – Penticton – May 12, with possible outdoor events on May 13 (Note: FMCBC AGM is in Penticton May 27)
- Proposed objective, theme and structure of Friday workshop
- Trails BC e-mail

The 2017 Share the Trails Workshop will take place at the Penticton Convention Centre. This venue was booked by Nancy Spratt of the Horse Council. Natalia and Jeremy have a meeting with Nancy and Terre O’Brennan on Thursday to finalize the workshop structure. The proposed objective of the workshop is to look at the broader picture and encourage the provincial government to provide additional non-motorized sections of the rail trail. This issue became prominent in August 2014 when FLRNO issued a letter advising of its revised management plan for the rail trails. FLNRO stated that that it will not exclude motorized use except along a few short stretches due to the complexity and high cost of enforcing non-motorized use, particularly along remote sections. Jeremy

reminded the Board that maps of the rail trail and use designations can be found in the appendix of the September PTAB minutes that are posted on the ORC website. Jeremy explained that initially he wanted to hire a facilitator for this event but was not leaning toward moving ahead without the facilitator.

The following organizations have been asked to present:

- The Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association (TOTA), to present its study and vision for the rail trails.
- The Regional District of Okanagan Similkameen (RDOS) which is currently responsible for a section of rail trail in the region and is keen to do more, particularly between Osoyoos and Penticton. Jeremy pointed out that there are significant wildlife and conservation considerations in that section as well.
- ATV BC is confirmed
- RSTBC has been asked to present.
- Trails BC has been informed about the above presenters and asked if it also wishes to make a presentation, given that its position is already very well known.

Grand Forks Community Trail Society was asked to present but declined. They are already engaged that weekend opening a new section of paved mixed-use trail. Jeremy has not yet asked South Okanagan Trail Alliance (SOTA) to present but he could send them an invitation. Jeremy pointed out that it has to be RSTBC to push FLNRO to make these designations and to manage these trails which is why we need their support. The directors discussed potential tensions that may arise at the meeting between representatives of the different user groups and made a case for hiring the facilitator after all.

Penny believes that it's important to be fair and allow everyone to come to the table. Dave thinks it's important to ensure that the people invited agree with the vision of the workshop and that all speakers assist in fostering a positive atmosphere. Ciel thinks that creating "access loops" along the rail trail for ATVs might have merit and help resolve this problem. Penny pointed to an existing mixed-use trail system near Table Mountain that has successfully implemented "access loops" for motorized and non-motorized users to accommodate several user groups including equestrian. Penny suggested that ORC ask RSTBC for documents pertaining to this trail system. Dave said that Tennessee Trent would be well aware of this trail system already.

Jeremy also asked the directors whether they thought inviting Rick Hansen Foundation to present on universal access and wheelchair access is a good idea. The idea came about when Jeremy discovered that Rick Hansen Foundation will be participating in the national trails conference in November. The board thought it was a commendable idea but that there is already enough on the table and therefore it might not be wise to include this issue too.

Ciel asked whether it would be possible to receive ORC's 1992 report about trail access. Kim said he has it and can forward to the directors. Ciel also pointed out that logging is currently allowed on sections of rail trail which sets a precedent for ATVs. Jeremy was surprised to learn that logging trucks are allowed and thinks a good objective is to kick them off. Ciel doesn't think it's possible to exclude logging trucks in the current climate because of

overlapping jurisdictions and economic incentives for logging trucks to be allowed passage.

**Action item:** Kim to send directors ORC's 1992 trail access report.

**Action item:** Ciel to speak with her colleagues at Trails BC re: May Share the Trails workshop.

- d. PTAB – year-end bulletin, proposed new website, February conference call  
Jeremy confirmed that the next PTAB meeting is a conference call on February 16<sup>th</sup>. Jeremy is still working on a summary report to highlight 2016 outcomes, which would ideally be turned into a media release. At the next meeting, PTAB will be looking at the relationship between BC Parks and RSTBC in the context of the “Future Strategy” document. Jeremy will provide an update report to the Board at the next monthly meeting.
- e. Canadian Trails Federation – proposal for Parks Canada to take responsibility for Trans Canada Trail  
This suggestion came out of an email from the president of the Canadian Trails Federation. Dave said that allowing Parks Canada to take responsibility for BC's section of the Trans Canada Trail would be contentious in BC. Jeremy agreed but pointed out that Parks Canada has a large budget. Dave gave a brief summary of the Let's Talk Parks Canada meeting that he and Jeremy attended in January. Dave said that there was a heavy focus on ecological conservation and First Nations engagement within the parks system. He said that the idea of Parks Canada taking responsibility for TCT in BC was not raised at the January workshop.
- f. Planning for Trailhead Canada Conference – Jeremy  
Jeremy provided a brief update. He said that there isn't very much to report at this time but that planning is ongoing. Some ideas for the conference have been lifted from past American Trails Symposium conferences. Dave pointed out that this agenda item is the same as 8(b). Jeremy said that he isn't sure whether the Canada 150 grant has been approved. The planning committee is also requesting RSTBC to provide a \$5,000 contribution toward the conference, which would increase funding and also set a precedent to ask other provinces for financial contributions. Jeremy confirmed that Parks Canada is providing \$45,000 in funding for the conference. Dave pointed out that Dennis intends to attend this conference.

## 7. Business related to ORC's mission – emerging and deferred issues

- a. Reprint of “Trail User's Code of Ethics” – deferred
- b. Completion of Policy Manual – deferred  
Jeremy has created a first draft of the Policy Manual. Natalia has reviewed it and discussed the most urgent items with Jeremy.

## 8. Upcoming events, meetings, etc.

- a. Next board meeting – 5:30 PM Monday, March 6 (tentative): Jeremy would like to change the board meeting start time to 4:00 PM. Penny, Dave, Roxanne, Kim and Ciel agreed to a 4:00 PM start. Jeremy said that Rose, Gordon and Dennis still need to be consulted. Dave confirmed that he won't be attending the next board meeting scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Action item:** Jeremy to send a message requesting confirmation from all directors to approve 4:00 PM start time.

- b. Trailhead Canada – National Trails Conference to celebrate Canada's Sesquicentennial – Ottawa – November 13/16, 2017: See item 6(f).

**9. Adjournment**

Motion: Moved & seconded (KM/PC). The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM.  
Motion carried.

draft 1

np

Feb. 9/17