

# PROVINCIAL TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD (PTAB)

## 2016 REVIEW

### *Membership*

*The following individuals are currently members of the PTAB*

**Tennessee Trent**, Provincial Trails Manager, Recreation Sites and Trails (co-chair)

**Jeremy McCall**, Outdoor Recreation Council (co-chair)

**Alan Callander**, Manager, Active Transportation & Climate Action Policy, Ministry of Transportation

**Kirby Villeneuve**, BC Parks

**Brian Farquhar**, Director, Parks & Recreation, Cowichan Valley Regional District

**Daniel Scott**, Trails Specialist, Recreation Sites & Trails BC

**David Oliver**, BC Wildlife Federation

**Scott Benton**, Executive Director, Wilderness Tourism Association

### *Appointed*

*The following individuals have been appointed by the Outdoor Recreation Council*

**Andrew Drouin**, Federation of Mountain Clubs

**Nick Heath**, BC Marine Trail Network Association

**Robert Holland**, ATVBC

**Tyler Kraushar**, BC Snowmobile Federation

**Orville Smith**, Horse Council

### *Contact*

For questions regarding this Review or the PTAB please contact Jeremy McCall, Outdoor Recreation Council at [jeremymccall@orc.bc.ca](mailto:jeremymccall@orc.bc.ca)

### *Meetings*

BC's PTAB held its first "In Person" meeting on March 10, 2015. Since then there have been two other In Person Meetings (the latest was on September 22, 2016) and there have been three conference call meetings.

### *Some comments on the PTAB membership*

The relative stability of the PTAB's membership has been a blessing because it has enabled members to get to know each other, especially important for conference calls, and to feel more comfortable discussing some of the issues which they will have to face.

Although it was originally thought that appointed members might serve for terms as short as two years, it soon became evident that it takes almost two years before a member is familiar enough with the issues raised by the Trails Strategy to make a contribution.

In the words of Robert Holland:

"The maturing of the thinking within the PTAB group has been a significant development – what can we actually achieve as a group of volunteers, should we really try and be doers with respect to the implementation of the trail strategy or should we develop our role as a sounding board (advice givers) to the RSTBC. It may not be very sexy, but I think this has been a significant change in the development of the role of the PTAB group as it reacts and interacts with RSTBC staff."

### *Recent changes to membership*

The original co-chair on the BC Government side was John Hawkings, who was responsible for forming the PTAB to implement the Trails Strategy for British Columbia. In 2016 John relinquished the co-chair's role in favour of Tennessee Trent when he was promoted to Director, Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC). In September 2016 Daniel Scott joined the PTAB as RSTBC's Trail Specialist. Evan Loveless, who represented the Wilderness Tourism Association, was recently replaced by Scott Benton, who was at one time the director of BC Parks.

### *The roles for the PTAB*

- I. To assist government in ensuring the implementation is consistent with the intent of the trails strategy;
- II. To advise government of any recommended improvements to the Trail Strategy; and
- III. To provide a collaborative forum for the many trails organizations and interests to help ensure that the Trail Strategy continues to meet the needs of all trail users.

### *The PTAB website*

In time the PTAB will develop its own website. At present, material related to the PTAB is posted on the PTAB pages of the Outdoor Recreation Council's website which can be found at [www.orcbc.ca/pro\\_pub.htm](http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_pub.htm).

### *The Trail Strategy's "Key Components"*

The Trail Strategy sets out 22 so-called Key Components, each of which describes a major initiative considered necessary for achieving the Strategy. Any one of these initiatives will require considerable time and effort before it can be achieved.

### *Methods adopted by the PTAB to execute Key Components*

At one of its earliest meetings each member of the PTAB agreed to take on one or more of the Key Components outlined in the Trail Strategy. However, it was soon realized that several of these would be major assignments which are not capable of being achieved by the PTAB members acting alone, as they are mostly part-time volunteers. In fact it may be necessary for some of the tasks to be put out to contract. By the time of the September 2016 meeting we had concluded that the PTAB's role should be mainly confined to providing government agencies with advice rather than actually executing Key Components.

### *Notable PTAB achievements*

#### Key Component Nos. 1 & 2 – Environmental stewardship

An Environmental Screening Tool for use when planning new trails has been developed by the Shuswap trail Alliance in conjunction with RSTBC. This document can be viewed on the PTAB pages of the ORC website at [www.orcbc.ca](http://www.orcbc.ca).

### Key Component No. 7 – Use legislative tools to approve trails and identify trail uses

One of the most productive results of research conducted by a PTAB member was Robert Holland's tackling of Key Component No. 7. It has also been described as reducing red tape. Robert concluded that many non-profit organizations are not well equipped to meet the objectives required for applications under Sections 56 & 57 of the Forest & Range Practices Act (FRPA). There is an expectation that non-profits have the same levels of expertise and access to systems that would mirror those of a major organization. The process needs to be simplified or clarified to meet the capability of the non- profits.

In today's linked world, the first source of information is now the internet, or other social media platforms. Robert found this interesting quotation from a Forest Practices Board report.

“Most people will rely on the internet to obtain information. Unfortunately, the information provided on government websites about resource roads is often inconsistent, easily misconstrued, out of date or simply wrong. Given that many people get their information directly from government website, it behooves government to ensure that what little information is provided is at least clear, consistent and correct” (Source: Forest Practices Board SR/49).

Robert went on to provide more information about the forms required to get trails “gazetted” under FRPA. For a full list of forms and procedures associated with that process visit: [www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/TrailsStrategyAction7Red%20TapeBobHolland.pdf](http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/TrailsStrategyAction7Red%20TapeBobHolland.pdf).

### Key Component No. 10 – Reduce liability risk to landowners and groups responsible for managing trails

This was taken on by Tennessee Trent who developed a useful document in the form of FAQs which describe how the Occupiers' Liability Act (OLA) works to reduce a landlord's risks with respect to persons who enter their property for recreational purposes. There are critical factors which affect how the OLA works and the FAQs address those issues. This document can be found at: [http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/OccupiersLiabilityAct\\_FAQs.pdf](http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/OccupiersLiabilityAct_FAQs.pdf).

### Key Component No. 1 – Integrate a framework of environmental considerations, actions and standards into planning of the provincial trail network

Tennessee Trent described the Environmental Screening Tool which was developed by the Shuswap Trail Alliance in conjunction with RSTBC. This document can be found at:

[http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/Trails/Environmental\\_Trail\\_Screening\\_Tool\\_Jan\\_2015.pdf](http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/Trails/Environmental_Trail_Screening_Tool_Jan_2015.pdf).

### Key Component No. 12 – Catalogue of funding sources

Andrew Drouin agreed to initiate the research into this. To date he has developed a basic list of possible funding sources. This list is being further developed into a more detailed listing which could be a useful aid for outdoor recreation clubs and trail user groups when they are seeking funding for trails. Grants become especially necessary when matching funding is required for grants from federal sources such as the National Trails Coalition.

### Key Component No. 13 – Consolidate existing trail standards, guidelines and best practices

This was probably the project which, more than any other, convinced members of the PTAB that they could not possibly complete some of the Key Components themselves. Achieving these highly desirable objectives will require extensive research and collaborative efforts, well beyond the capabilities of PTAB volunteers. It was initially proposed that this assignment be put out to contract but RSTBC decided instead to take on Daniel Scott as its Trails Specialist and it will be part of his ongoing responsibilities.

### Key Component No. 16 – Integrate recreation use into resource roads

Members of the PTSAB were briefed on the progress of the Proposed Natural Resource Roads Act (NRRA) and they expect to be consulted again before the NRRA is finalized.

### Key Component No. 4 – Engage First Nations in collaborative trail planning

At its next In-Person meeting in 2017 the PTAB plans to invite an individual who has had experience with First Nations recreation to discuss how the PTAB could relate to the recreation aspirations of First Nations.

### *Briefings received by PTAB members*

#### RSTBC operating and capital budgets

At the In-Person meeting on September 22 John Hawkings, Director, RSTBC, briefed members on the RSTBC budgets for the current fiscal year ending March 31. RSTBC operates with three budgets: Operating, Land Base Investment Funds and Capital. These budgets are within the budgetary envelope of the Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO). John's briefing can be found in the Appendix to the minutes of the September 22 meeting on the ORC website at: [http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/PTABF2FMtng\\_Sep22.pdf](http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/PTABF2FMtng_Sep22.pdf).

#### Rail Trails

Also on September 22, Tennessee Trent, Provincial Trails Manager, briefed members on the state of the rail trails in southern BC, including the Kettle Valley Railway, the Columbia & Western Railway and the Slocan Valley Railway. These rail trails are shown in a map which is also in the Appendix to the September 22 meeting minutes at: [http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/PTABF2FMtng\\_Sep22.pdf](http://www.orcbc.ca/documents/PTAB/PTABF2FMtng_Sep22.pdf).

### *Abbreviated summary of Trail Strategy Key Components*

For a complete description of each Key Component see the Trails Strategy for British Columbia at: [http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/documents/Trail-Strategy-for-BC\\_V6\\_Nov2012.pdf](http://www.sitesandtrailsbc.ca/documents/Trail-Strategy-for-BC_V6_Nov2012.pdf).

Nos. 1 & 2 – Environmental stewardship

No. 3 – Collaboratively develop local, regional and provincial trail system plans

No. 4 – Engage First Nations in collaborative trail planning

- No. 5 - Engage landowners in collaborative trail planning
- No. 6 – Integrate trail planning with the transportation network system
- No. 7 – Reduce red tape
- No. 8 – Develop a communication and education strategy to inform trail users
- No. 9 – Legislation, regulations, and policy to manage motorized use
- No. 10 – Enhance recreation opportunities by reducing liability risk
- No. 11 – Establish a reliable and diverse funding model
- No. 12 – Catalogue of funding sources
- No. 13 – Consolidate existing trail standards, guidelines and best practices
- No. 14 – Education programs to foster responsible trail use
- No. 15 – Compliance and enforcement
- No. 16 – Integrate recreation use into resource roads
- No. 17 – Develop a “best practices” approach to the stewardship of trails
- No. 18 – Develop and maintain an inventory of trails
- No. 19 - Undertake comprehensive survey of trail users
- No. 20 – Support the marketing of trails
- No. 21 – Establish a Provincial Trail Advisory Body: - Complete!
- No. 22 – Support existing local and regional trails committees