

Provincial Trails Advisory Body for British Columbia (PTAB)

Conference Call Meeting - Tuesday February 16 – 2 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

<u>Members present</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
Tennessee Trent (co-chair)	Provincial Trails Manager, Recreation Sites & Trails BC (RSTBC)
Jeremy McCall (co-chair)	Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council
Daniel Scott	Trail Specialist, RSTBC
Allan Callander	Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI)
Brian Farquhar	BC Recreation & Parks Association (BCRPA)
David Oliver	BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF)
Kirby Villeneuve	BC Parks
<u>Appointed by the Outdoor Recreation Council (ORC)</u>	
Andrew Drouin	South Okanagan Trail Alliance
Bob Holland	Quad Riders ATV Association of BC
Tyler Kraushar	BC Snowmobile Federation
Orville Smith	Horse Council of BC
<u>Unable to attend</u>	
Scott Benton	Wilderness Tourism Association (WTA)
Nick Heath	BC Marine Trail Network Association

1. Welcome - Approval of agenda

The meeting was called to order shortly after 2 PM.

Motion: Moved/seconded (DO/OS) That the agenda be approved. **Carried.**

2. Review minutes of September 22 in-person meeting

a. Approval:

Motion: Moved & seconded (JM/DO) That the minutes of the September 22 meeting be approved. **Carried.**

Note: Draft minutes are posted after each meeting. Follow the PTAB link on the ORC website at http://www.orcbc.ca/pro_ptab.htm

b. Action Items and motions not included in February 16 agenda:

- The updated version of the Environmental Law Centre's document "*Enhancing Public Access to Privately Owned Wild Lands*" was distributed to PTAB members.
- Motorized bike usage: Daniel sent out material related to this issue on October 18 and 20. He described it as a very broad category. Allan said that the different power levels of vehicles determine whether they come under MOTI jurisdiction. There are now electric dirt bikes as well as electric quads and definitions get blurred. David said the lack of noise can be a wildlife concern.
- Dedicated PTAB website: Only initial enquiries have been made by ORC to date.
- Invite Patrick Lucas to the next in-person meeting of the PTAB. Tennessee sometimes sees Patrick and will invite him when they meet next.
- Motion re recreation requirements of local communities when forest service roads are deactivated. No action taken since September 22 meeting.
- Invitation to Tim Ryan, Chair of the Forest Practices Board, to address PTAB. Not yet invited. Jeremy agreed to contact Tim Ryan but Tennessee thinks he may be too busy in 2017.

3. Terms of Reference: Review and amend if appropriate

Robert questioned Scope & Jurisdiction (Point 3) which states that the PTAB will work with regional districts and municipalities with respect to trail issues on their lands. He said that some regional districts with plans for trails are not looking for input from elsewhere. Brian said it would need to be dealt with on a case by case basis after determining whether the public lands in question are crown land or local authority land. He agreed to provide replacement wording for this sentence.

Action item: Brian to reword Scope & Jurisdiction Point 3.

4. Budgetary impact of BC Parks' Future Strategy on RSTBC

Jeremy added this to the agenda because of a lack of clarity about the 1,900 new campsites announced under the BC Parks Future Strategy at a cost of \$23 million over five years. RSTBC's role was not referred to in the original announcements. The new campsites will include sites to be provided by RSTBC as well as by BC Parks. Kirby described it as a collaborative approach and said that giving campers a choice between park sites and less developed crown land sites is important. John Hawkings informed Jeremy in an earlier phone call that RSTBC will receive an additional \$1.1 million p.a. for five years in addition to its current capital budget of \$1.4 million p.a. Tennessee said the construction program is not yet finalized.

5. Trails Strategy Action 12 – Preliminary list of funding sources

After the previous meeting Andrew provided a basic list of the names of organizations which might provide funding for trails. The list was distributed with the agenda. Considerable research will be required to complete profiles and lending criteria for the organizations listed as well as others. Jeremy agreed to assign development of a workable list to Natalia Pisarek, ORC's recently hired Communications & Administration person. Tennessee emphasized the need for matching funding for almost all government funding. This list will be especially useful when and if there are further rounds of federal funding provided through the National Trails Coalition. Andrew suggested that Google Docs be used to accumulate the information.

Action item: ORC to continue to develop a catalogue of funding sources that can support trails as outlined in Strategy Action 12.

6. Update on the ORV Trail Fund

This fund is named as the Off-Road Vehicle Trail Management Sub-account in the 2014 Off-Road Vehicle Act. It is to be established under the Special Accounts Appropriation & Control Act. Tennessee said trail funds in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and the State of Washington are currently under review by BC to learn how the allocation programs in those jurisdictions are run. The fund will be enacted in a similar way to the Park Enhancement Fund for BC Parks, which is a separate line item in the annual BC Estimates. Initial registrations of ORVs already exceed 100,000 vehicles due to a higher registration rate than originally expected so the Sub-account should be well funded. The amounts due to be allocated to the fund, after ICBC has recouped its set-up costs associated with registering ORVs, will be segregated and transferred to the Sub-account in due course. It would be useful to find a way to keep track of the amounts in the Sub-account. Tennessee also reported that he had contacted opposite numbers in Washington State where advisory bodies are involved with the administration of funds like this.

Action item: Tennessee to get an update on the Off-Road Vehicle Trail Management Sub-account for the next meeting.

7. Preliminary list of PTAB stakeholders

Andrew promised to develop this list at the September meeting. He has listed 400 groups to date. He considers it will be a good tool for communication by the PTAB. The list was distributed with the agenda before the meeting. Brian said it is a fantastic list and asked if it could be sorted by user group or activity? Tennessee will provide Andrew with a list of the approximately 350 groups which have agreements with RSTBC. Orville said the horse clubs are missing from the list. Horse Council BC has many clubs.

Action items: Tennessee to provide Andrew with a list of RSTBC's agreement holders. Orville to provide Andrew with a list of Horse Council BC clubs.

8. Trails Strategy Action 13 –Trail Standards & Best Practices project

Daniel has begun work on revising the trail standards in Chapter 10 (Recreation Trail Management) of the BC Forests Recreation Manual. He has completed a review of the literature of other land managers such as the US Forest Service and the US Bureau of Land Management. He estimated that it will take 18 months to complete the work. He has acquired necessary software and some CAD drawings. Jeremy questioned whether he plans to include trail classification which he has always considered to be a starting point and an important element of Action 13. Daniel questioned the benefit of classification and acknowledged the Alberta model. Andrew questioned whether kiosks and trailhead signage would be included. They will be. Kirby expressed support for Daniel's approach but emphasized that the objective is to develop a BC standard for Provincial Parks and Crown Land. He reminded members that a Trail Standards Working Group was originally formed.

David referred to the RSTBC Power Point about Sections 56 and 57 which was recently delivered by Cathy Ross of RSTBC to the Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group. He had distributed a copy to PTAB members. Jeremy said he thought it could be a very useful guide for all organizations especially if it could be edited to remove redundant pages and reduce viewing time. Tennessee said he would consider that.

Action item: Tennessee or Daniel to review Section 56 and 57 Power Point to reduce length so it can be posted on the PTAB website page and distributed to outdoor recreation groups.

9. Other Trail Strategy Action sub-committees

No other reports.

10. Rail trails – RSTBC's September 22 presentation and the ORC/Horse Council BC Share the Trails Workshop, Penticton, Friday May 12

Jeremy said the objective of this workshop is to hear the views of significant stakeholders in the South Okanagan and Boundary Country rail trails and explore opportunities for improving the sharing of these trails. Presenters invited to date include the Thompson Okanagan Tourism Association, which published a major study of the rail trails in 2015, Okanagan Similkameen Regional District, ATVBC, Horse Council BC and Trans Canada Trail (TCT). Trails BC, which is a steward of the TCT in BC, is also expected to make a presentation. Jeremy acknowledged that there can be conflicts associated with the use of the rail trails in this area so the workshop will be facilitated by a professional facilitator. Final planning for the workshop begins on March 15. All ORC's member organizations and Horse Council BC clubs will be invited to send a representative on a first come, first served basis.

The cost of the workshop itself will be borne by the sponsors. Those attending will be responsible for travel and accommodation only.

11. Possible measures to alleviate extreme crowding at key Lower Mainland trailheads

This was put on the agenda as a result of a recent posting by Destination BC which recommended a trail in Cypress Provincial Park (St. Marks Summit) which is not appropriate for members of the public unless they have experience with challenging mountain trails and are suitably clothed and equipped. Jeremy suggested that the PTAB explore ways to influence messaging for this type of situation as well as the recent phenomenon of extreme overcrowding at trailheads like Joffre Lakes, often caused by followers of www.meetups.com Tennessee said a similar situation occurred at Semaphore Lakes above the Hurley FSR and that similar situations are being experienced in BC's interior, even in relatively remote locations like Johnson Lake above Adams Lake in the Shuswap. Tyler suggested that promotion by social media be stopped.

12. PTAB 2016 Year End Review

A draft was distributed with the agenda. Jeremy drafted this first PTAB review and requested comments and suggestions for improving it. Members suggested that photos be included including a photo of the group next time it meets in person. It will be published in March.

13. Round table - New or emerging issues which the PTAB should be aware of or comment on

Tennessee suggested that "timber sleds" could be an emerging issue. A Timbersled is a snow bike conversion system that allows you to convert a dirt bike to a snow bike. A ski replaces the front wheel of the dirt bike and the track system replaces the back wheel. They are used in tight tree terrain.

14. Next meeting and adjournment

The next meeting will be an in-person meeting in April or May (i.e. after the March 31 fiscal year end). Andrew suggested it be held in Squamish. Others suggested it be held in Penticton or Kelowna to tie in with the Share the Trails Workshop on May 12.

Action item: Tennessee to explore possible locations and dates for an in-person PTAB meeting in Kelowna or Penticton..

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3.30 PM.

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