

## Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group

### Notes for September 21, 2015

**Present:** Tom Blackbird (RSTBC), Rose Schroeder (HCBC), Donna Elias (BCHBC), Karin Smith (BCHBC), Garth Harper (GVMC), Mike Reilly (RNATV), Jack Brycelenad (FMCBC), Cal Kaytor (SWATT), Scott Fisch (FVMBA), Ernie Kliever (FVMBA), Brian Romak (Chwk SC), Elmer Niezen (Chwk SC), Patrick Harrison (Hike BC/NHT), Tom Timmerman (SWATT), Leslie Hagen (4WDABC), Jen Belding (4WDABC/Northwest Mud Racing Assoc), Leon LeBrun (Trails BC)

#### **A. Additional Agenda Items:**

9. Herring Island
10. IPP's (Independent Power Projects)
11. Radio Channels
12. Chipmunk Creek FSR (Forest Service Road)

#### **B. Agenda Items:**

##### **1. Chilliwack District News:**

- FVRD (Fraser Valley Regional District) has started discussions with all Districts re: plan to request buffers (from 400-800 meters) on active FSR's, trails and rec sites, to discharge of firearms. This would be for the whole of the Chwk Forest District. New regulations would not apply during hunting season. Concern over lack of enforcement discussions already underway with CO's and RCMP.
- Stave West (City of Mission and Interpretive Forest project). Section 57 is official but the draft management plan is not. Tom B expressed concerns ie. hunting closures, other area closures, day use fees, boat launch controls, mud flat and portal plans. Dist of Mission has approved it but RSTBC must as well. Comment; mud flats are critical to 4WDABC as well as other motorized rec stakeholders.
- West Harrison Fire, the road is open again. There are signs identifying areas of high risk (most due to danger trees and risk of slides). RSTBC will have a more detailed survey shortly. This may include the Wood Lake area and the trail to the Harrison Fire Lookout. Marina and Jacquie will be doing assessments on all sites next week. High risk areas (7) will be done first. Discussed work on the fire lookout and suggest it be done next spring. ***If there are groups out using the area it would be helpful to report what you observe to the RSTBC office.***

- 2. District Budget:** is on track. Agreement holders are mostly maxed out. Forest Fires will have an impact on budget allocations.

### **3. Tamihi Staging Area Update:**

- Discussions with SAR (Search and Rescue) suggest the need for current trail maps and/or links to websites of the different stakeholders. **Action: send links to Jack Bryceland [jackb@imag.net](mailto:jackb@imag.net)**

Tom T gave a recap of the Bell Acres issue with noise from the Tamihi staging area and what has been done so far. The Tamihi Kids Loop and Alternate Trail Project has been stopped until this issue is resolved. So now the kids are back on the FSR and circling the parking lot area! Is this a safe solution? Sound tests have been done and proved to be below acceptable levels at the staging area. Above acceptable levels were only found just before and at the corner where the trail leaves the FSR and heads south. This concludes that the Kids Loop and the alternate trail do not negatively impact the Bell Acre residents. Tom has put out a referral for the alternate trail and suggests that this be completed before the Kids Loop. The NTC (National Trails Coalition) funding for this project has been returned as the project cannot be completed in the time frame. Still need funding for signage and maps. Discussion on grading of staging area by a volunteer. **Action: Tom B will provide the volunteer with the permission paperwork.**

Discussion on Rec Site Day User fees: no news. Fees are reviewed every 2 years. They were last done in 2014.

### **4. Section 57 Applications - there are 7. Office is working on prioritizing them.**

**5. Section 56 Applications** - Office is working on prioritizing them. Stakeholders and ORC are concerned over the length of time it takes to get trails and rec areas officially authorized so that volunteers are covered under the insurance program offered by RSTBC. **ACTION: Tom B will check into this and report back.**

### **6. NTC funding Updates:**

- Tamahi Staging Area funding has been returned and will be allocated to another project.
- Vedder Mtn is progressing. AOA (Archeological Overview Assessment) will be done over the next month.
- Chilliwack River Valley trails, a lot of volunteer work has been done as well as some trail maintenance by contract. This includes the Vedder Ridge Trail on Vedder Mtn.
- Weaver Loop to Hemlock Mtn trail was done by SWATT.

### **7. Chilliwack River Valley News:**

- there will be a memorial service for the Airplane Creek Crash at Thompson Park Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 1:00 pm.
- BCHBC (Back Country Horsemen of BC) reports that 2 signs have gone missing (Scoop Your Poop) along the Chilliwack Lake Road. Posts are still in place.
- RSTBC will be trying longer term camping for the off season. Camp hosts can increase the length of stay from 14 days to one month. This will come with guidelines so that rec sites are not used as Storage sites for RV units. Concern that long term contracts take the best sites. The project will be reviewed after one season to evaluate its effectiveness and success.
- Riverside area, on the FSR on the opposite side of the river, Chilliwack Center Creek FSR, going east. Concern over garbage left behind by campers. The gate that was once controlled by Fisheries is now left open. **ACTION: Tom B will check into this.**

- Tom B is working on having a second technician in the office for 2016.

**8. Lost Creek FSR** - work going on to repair and replace bridges. SB complete by end of Sept.

**9. Herring Island** - proposal for a “Pay for Use” Rec Site. This has been in the works for some time. **ACTION:** Tom will find out what info the office has on this proposal.

**10. IPP's** - Discussion on the Tamihi proposed IPP.

<http://arfd.gov.bc.ca/ApplicationPosting/index.jsp?PrimaryStatus=any&keyword=KMC%20Energy%20Corp>

Closing date for public input is Oct 15, 2015. **Action:** Rose S to ask ORC (Outdoor Recreation Council) if the office got it and forwarded. There are 8 proposed IPP's for the Chwk River Valley as well as one out of Hope

**11. Radio Channels** - frequencies and channels will be changed for all Districts. Going to named not numbered roads and one channel will cover each drainage. A list has come out, please check The Resource Road frequency implementation:

[https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dck/engineering/RR\\_RadioChannels.htm](https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dck/engineering/RR_RadioChannels.htm)

Signage on roads will also be changed to reflect the new system. There was a suggestion to hold another radio use seminar similar to the one put on last year by 4WDABC. **ACTION:** Leslie H will check into it.

**12. Chipmunk Creek FSR** - Engineering Dept has replaced some culverts which on inspection were failing.

**F. Date of Next Meeting** - October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Ministry of Forests Office, Airport Rd Chwk 7:00 pm.

Actions from this meeting

Action: All CRAG members to send stakeholder map and website links to Jack Bryceland for SAR.

Action: Tom B will provide the volunteer that is grading the Tamihi Staging area with the permission Paperwork needed to continue.

Action: Tom B will check into the current status of gov't insurance for volunteers working on maintaining trails that are not officially authorized and report back.

Action: Tom B will check into garbage left by campers past the gate on the FSR on the other side of the river from Riverside Rec Site. Gate was controlled by Fisheries and is now left open?

Action: Tom will find out what info the office has on the proposal for a Motorized Rec Site on Herring Island.

Action: Rose S to ask ORC (Outdoor Recreation Council) if the office got a referral about the Tamahi IPP and forwarded it to stakeholders for comment.

Action: Leslie H will check into the 4WDABC hosting another radio use seminar.