Chilliwack Recreation Advisory Group Meeting Notes from April 16, 2018
(Chilliwack Resource District Office on Airport Road in Chilliwack)

Attending: Luc Anderson (RSTBC Technician), Rose Schroeder (BCHBC), Derrick Lordon (4WDABC), Brian Dick (VMMC), Josh Morneau (4WDABC), Karen Black (RNATV), Karin Smith (BCHBC), Leon Lebrun (Trails BC), Cal Kaytor (SWATT), Neil Hawkings (DSBC), Ryan Thom (BMMC), Ray Heppner (VMMC), David Oliver (LMBCWF).

Meeting Opened – at 7:00 pm by Luc A.

Additional Agenda Topics:
- garbage bins at Tamahi
- camping at the Tamahi motorized staging area
- Vedder Mtn gate at motorized staging area
- BCWF Conservation App and other initiatives

Chilliwack District News

1. **Stave Update** – sites still under construction. Lower Kearsley is almost done (85 sites including 10 for equestrian). Rocky point is a bit behind but will start soon. One contractor will be operating all 4 sites (Sayers, Rock Creek, Rocky Point and Lower Kearsley) from May long to Thanksgiving. Grand Opening is planned but no date set yet. Question from SWATT on loc blocks and gravel being supplied for the official Kids and Safety Training area? Cal K had sent a proposal to Tom B but has had no response? Cal K was asked to resend the proposal to Luc A. A detailed proposal had been requested by RSTBC in December 2017 but none has been provided to date. Kim R from the 4WDABC has been consulting with Tom B if this could also be used as a 4x4 Winch Recovery Training area.

There is a Stakeholders meeting at the Zajac Ranch on April 19th. Starts with site visits at 9:00, meet at the ranch. Agenda is attached to these minutes.

2. **Skwellepil** – is complete, furniture has been removed.

3. **Section 56/57 Applications** – hoping to make a decision on the ones that have come back by May. Blue Mtn: Kwantlen has asked for an extension of 15 days to reply. Deadline for that one is sometime this week.

4. **ATV Training** – decision to postpone until Fall 2018.

5. **Chainsaw Training** – was last weekend. Considered a successful event, 13 people participated from various user groups.

6. **Garbage bins at Tamahi** – concern over them being removed from the motorized staging area. It appears that rates have been increased and services reduced? RSTBC is removing most remote bins (other than those near a host site). Remote bins attract garbage and the service is being abused. Additional duties have been added to the Host responsibilities along with the increase in fees. The intent is to reduce costs borne by the Province at fee for use rec sites in order to make available more funds for trails and to keep camping rates down. Concerns over these issues should be addressed back to RSTBC.
7. Camping in the Tamahi Motorized Staging Area – concern voiced of host allowing people to camp in the off-loading area and extra campers in designated camping sites. There is also confusion in day-use fees and visitors to campers across the road using day use parking in the motorized staging area. As well, there are motorized users camping at the Rapids site, unloading and crossing Chwk Lake Road to access the trails at Tamahi. Suggestion of having a Blue Tooth lock gate like is being tried at the Vedder Mtn Motorized Staging Area? Another suggestion: can RSTBC define the duties/responsibilities of the Hosts so there is less confusion? There was a healthy discussion on users and user groups taking on some responsibility for an area they use and helping to keep it clean.

8. Vedder Mtn Motorized Staging Area – gate project is still in progress, Dan is working on it.

9. BCWF Initiatives – David O presented;

a. the “BCWF Conservation App’ - for reporting wildlife violations and garbage dumping. Discussion on the balance between enforcement and education. Free App. User groups need to education their members and lead by example. Reduced tipping fees at the dumps could also help.

b. BCWF Fishing Forever program – for people with physical and/or mental disabilities to get outside for a day of fishing. This will be at the Freshwater Fisheries Society at Vye Rd in Abbotsford Saturday June 2 or Sunday June 3 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Contact fishingforeverLM@gmail.com

c. BCWF Wild Kidz Camp – week long summer day camps for children 9-12 years old. To educate them on the importance of nature. Program Coordinator is Chris Lim chris.lim@bcwf.bc.ca

Round Table – each user group outlined their projects for the year and/or any issue they have experienced.

BMMC (Blue Mtn Motorcycle Club) – look after the trails on Blue Mtn. Will issue a wet weather riding policy. Reminder to other groups to do the same. Sometimes they hike to do trail work as it is easier to carry the tools needed.

BCHBC (Back Country Horsemen of BC) – help to maintain the horse/hiking trails on Vedder Mtn and the TCT in the Chwk River Valley. Have a project in the Stave Recreation Area at Kearsley Creek to install 20 corrals, 2 at each of the 10 sites.

4WDABC (4 Wheel Drive Assoc BC) - May 12th event at Hale Creek for Newbies and to do a cleanup. Maintenance is limited by the snow still. This year are focused on the Mud Flats project at Stave and also building a training area.

VMMC (Vedder Mtn Motorcycle Club) – maintaining trails and making them more sustainable. Been working on the new staging area (kiosk installed) and a trail to access straight into the trails without having to use the FSR. Looking at building a kids loop like Chipmunk (very popular). Sept 1 and 2 have a Race and Fun Ride planned. Never ending work to keep garbage cleaned up, but are noticing less that previous years. Concern over a trail that was logged last fall and not cleaned up called “Angry Men”.

2
TCT (Trans Canada Trail: Trails BC) – have cleared from Tamahi to the Centennial Fish Channels and now waiting for snow to leave so the group can work further up the Valley. The Tolmie section (about 6 Km) needs rebuild, lots of wet areas. Are happy with the relationship between motorized and non-motorized. Bikes are staying off the TCT and the trail is healing. Have a big project to reconstruct some bridging with high school students this summer. RSTBC and BCHBC will be supplying materials and the students will build and install.

Discussion on the gate (motorhome) at the FSR to Caroline Mines. Luc to check if this is a legal gate or not. It is right on the TCT and restricts motorized access to the other trails.

SWATT (South West All Terrain Trails) – working on the Sasquatch Controlled Recreation Area. Consulting with the Berazan Group that are developing a Recreation Plan to present May 2018.

DSBC (Dual Sport BC) – have a Spring Newbie Ride April 29th at Tamahi. Also help TCT and Trails BC on Paleface Pass to brush the trail open. Hopefully participate again this year. Working on aligning an Association like VMTA for all motorized groups using the trails south and around the Tamahi area and Chipmunk.

RNATV (Right Nuts ATV) – agree on the need for a combined user group for Tamahi and Chipmunk. Are becoming more involved in clean-up of areas used for riding/camping. Assisting in a river clean up this weekend in the upper Chilliwack.

BCWF (BC Wildlife Federation) – initiating a program to prevent the development of Herrling, Canary and Gill Islands in the Fraser River. Wish to protect them in their natural state. Conservation App, Kidz Camps and Fishing Forever program as described above.

12. Next Meeting – May 28, 2018 at the Forestry Office on Airport Road in Chilliwack at 7:00 pm. Adjustment of the May meeting because of the holiday.


Abbreviations:

AIA – Archeological Impact Assessment
CFD – Chilliwack Forest District
CO - Conservation Officer
CRV – Chilliwack River Valley
CVRA – Chwk Valley Ratepayers Assoc
DRO - District Recreation Officer
EIA – Environmental Impact Assessment
FCBC – Front Counter BC
FRR – Forest Recreation Regulation
FSP – Forest Service Plan
FSR - Forest Service Road
FVRD – Fraser Valley Regional Dist
NRO - Natural Resource Office
Rec Groups
4WDABC – 4 Wheel Drive Assoc of BC
ATVBC – Quad Riders Assoc of BC
BCHBC – Back Country Horsemen of BC
BCORMA – BC Off-road Motorcycle Assoc
BCSF – BC Speleological Federation
BCWF – BC Wildlife Federation
BMMC – Blue Mtn Motorcycle Club
BMTS – Bear Mtn Trails Society
CKBC – Canoe Kayak BC
COC – Chilliwack Outdoor Club
CRVC – Chilliwack River Valley Cavers
CSC – Chilliwack Snowmobile Club
DSBC – Dual Sport BC
EMM – Eagle Mountain Moto
FMC – Federation of Mtn Clubs
FVMBA – Fraser Valley Mtn Bike Association
ORV – Off Road Vehicle
PTAB – Provincial Trails Advisory Body
RMA – Road Maintenance Agreement
RSTBC - Recreation Sites & Trails BC
    Branch of the Ministry of Forests, Lands
    & Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO)
RT - Recreation Technician
SEEC – Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission
WHA - Wildlife Habitat Area
YWD – Yarrow Waterworks District
NRRA – Natural Resource Roads Act
FVDRA – Fraser Valley Dirt Riders Assoc
GVMC – Greater Vancouver Motorcycle Club
HCBC – Horse Council of BC
HBC – Hike BC
HPAC – Hang Gliding and Paragliding Assoc
LMATV – Lower Mainland ATV
NHT – National Hiking Trail
OATVC – Outlanders ATV Club
ORC – Outdoor Recreation Council of BC
RNATV – Right Nuts ATV Club
SWATT – Southwestern All Terrain Trails
TBC – Trails BC
TCT – Trans Canada Trail
VKC – Vancouver Kayak Club
VTR – Valley Trail Riders
VMMC – Vedder Mtn Motorcycle Club
WCSC – West Coast Soaring Club