

**Hemlock Resort - Public Recreation Working Group Meeting
June 30, 2016**

In Attendance:

User Groups

Brian Murphy	Hemlock Home Owners Association
Greg Petrinko	Lower Mainland All-Terrain Vehicle (LMATV) - Southwest All-Terrain Trails (SWATT)
Cal Kaytor	President, SWATT
Bruce Ledingham	Director, SWATT & Manager of the West Harrison Rec Sites (contract under Sts'ailes MOU)
Kim Reeves	Four Wheel Drive Association of BC
Kim Smith	ATVBC
Mark Cohen	Dual Sport BC (on phone)

Hemlock Resort

Kevin Bourdin	General Manager, Hemlock Resort
Troy Bilodeau	Director of Operations, Berezan Hospitality

Fraser Valley Regional District

Margaret Thornton	Director of Planning and Development
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Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Recreation, Sites and Trails

Tom Blackbird	District Recreation Officer
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Mountain Resorts Branch

Tori Meeks	A/Sr Manager Major Projects
Kelly Northcott	A/Land and Timber Manager

Regional Operations Division - Coast Region

Tom Cole	Land and Resource Specialist
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Absent:

Willie Charlie – Chief Negotiator, Sts'ailes
Rose Shroeder – Vice President, Back Country Horsemen Society of BC
Jeremy McCall – Executive Director, Outdoor Recreation Council
Brian Wood - Federation of Mountain Clubs BC

Items for Discussion:**1. INTRODUCTIONS**

- a. Sign In Sheet
- b. Round Table
- c. Reviewed Agenda

2. SETTING THE STAGE

- a. **Context of current situation – Hemlock MP & MDA approvals**
 - i. The Master Plan for the Hemlock Resort Expansion was approved in October 2015
 - ii. In April, 2016 a Master Development Agreement (MDA) was signed.
 - iii. The MDA authorizes resort development over a 60 year term.
 - iv. The Mountain Resorts Branch (MRB) regulates the development and administers the tenures for all season resort development.
 - v. The FVRD manages the local gov't approvals and they are soon going to be initiating an Official Community Plan amendment for the area that will take into consideration the new Master Plan.
- b. **Contractual Obligations of Hemlock Resort.**
 - i. Hemlock Resort has the exclusive right to develop the resort as per their approved Master Plan on a phase by phase basis.
 - ii. The resort has the ability to control access within the Controlled Recreation Area, and responsibility for public safety.
 - iii. Through the Master Plan review it was determined that there is high public recreational use in the area and because of this, we have inserted some commitments relating to public recreation into the MDA.
 - iv. It is very important that the resort works with the user groups to develop a Public Recreation Plan which will form an addendum to the approved Master Plan, in addition to identifying year round motorized trails for public recreation and access.
 - v. MRB is here to assist in facilitating the creation of the Public Recreation Plan.
 - vi. Hemlock Resort is responsible for developing the plan.
 - vii. Developer to has a commitment to meet with Stakeholders/Province to complete a recreation plan in 2 years.
 - viii. Both Summer and Winter designated trails in CRA may be required.
- c. **Provincial Interest in a coordinated approach to the management of Public Recreation within the resort area.**
 - i. The Master Plan review for Hemlock Resort was lengthy (8-10 years), it is a very large area (6,000 ha), and land use planning in a large area such as this requires coordination.
 - ii. The Mountain Resorts Branch, Rec Sites and Trails, as well as Hemlock Resort and the Sts'ailes have an interest in a coordinated approach to the management of this area.
 - iii. The intent of this meeting is to initiate the process and ensure we have all necessary groups at the table and included in the conversation.

- iv. Some people who were intending on coming are not here today, others we have not heard back from. Are there any other groups we are missing?
- v. **ACTION: Kevin Bourdin – will provide the contact for the Mountain Bike Association. - completed**

3. IDENTIFY WHAT RECREATION IS TAKING PLACE NOW

- a. **Mapping exercise and conversations around existing use (ATV, Snowmobile, Camping, other?)**
 - i. Handed out the maps.
 - ii. Discussed different known trails.
 - iii. Overview of some of the trail and recreation site development.
 - iv. Connection to the area through the Sts'ailes Indian Reserve via Morris Valley Road. Acknowledgment that Sts'ailes involvement and support as an active partner in this planning is important.
 - v. Tom Cole working on a transition strategy of forestry interests from TEAL to First Nations Woodland Licence(FNWL) in the name of Sts'ailes.
 - vi. Resort has been approved but there are ongoing commitments to resolve the overlapping forestry, recreation and transportation interests.
- b. **Roundtable - What is Working Well? What are the Challenges?**
 - i. Tom Blackbird (Rec, Sites and Trails)
 - Has just been getting up to speed on the Hemlock Resort project as he only recently took on the role of RST Officer.
 - There are Rec Permit areas within the Hemlock Controlled Recreation Area that were agreed upon to be cancelled.
 - Work with stakeholders to see where interests are.
 - Make sure we capture mountain biking and any other users.
 - ii. Hemlock Resort
 - Identified priorities.
 - 5 – 10 years around existing base area and the lakeshore component for immediate development.
 - Conflicts are down the road as development progresses.
 - Getting an idea of pace of development is key to setting accurate timelines.
 - iii. ATV Organization
 - Grace Lake Staging area is very important.
 - Maps should show Grace Lake.
 - As the lake develops the Sts'ailes Forestry Service Road (FSR) would likely be public road.
 - Motorized users are using the FSR and other roads as a circle routes.
 - *Motorized trail from Grace Lake would be essential to keep staging area if the FSR is made a public road.
 - Trails paralleling public road would be an option.

- Access to Weaver Lake is very important.
 - No Snowmobiles at the Grace lake Staging area, it is too low in elevation.
 - Four Wheel group doesn't like the gates as they require a wider running surface.
 - The map of roads doesn't include all of the ATV trails that are on the ground.
 - Section 56 is the authority that most of the ATV trails are under
- iv. Bruce Ledingham (SWATT)
- Area for unloading at Grace Lake maintained or relocated must be a component of plan.
 - Can transportation corridors be established?
 - Some bridges are throughout trail network and constructed and maintained by ATV club.
- v. Kevin Bourdin (Hemlock Resort)
- Under the MDA there is an obligation for public access through CRA. The resort has a responsibility for public safety and the ability to control access.
 - Need due diligence though.
 - The resort wants to encourage tourism and use of the area, the intent is not to shut the area down.
 - Desire to manage recreation in a manner that meets the needs of the resort, Sts' ailes, and the public users.
 - There is an expense to do the maintenance on the roads
- vi. Tom Cole (MFLNRO)
- Accesses on permitted roads are in transition and he is beginning work on developing a plan.
 - We want an orderly exit from TEAL.
 - Sts' ailes moving to FNWL. Timber and non-timber resources. Exclusive use.
 - A key question is what roads need to remain?
 - Estimates 20 km required road for public use
 - Their (Sts' ailes) licence does not require roads, unless they are being used.
 - Only one (non-fsr) bridge, Brenna Creek bridge.
- vii. Kim Reeves (4X4)
- Four Wheel Drive Association of BC has a management contract for the Francis Lake REC Site.
 - recreation site, maintained by volunteers, one of 4 sites the group assists with.
 - Using volunteers.
 - Harrison Lake area is a destination point for 4x4's, looking for rough, backcountry roads.
 - Concern about gates, only really impede street legal trucks, not the dual sport and atv users.
 - Francis – Weaver traverse.
 - Sts' ailes FSR is used.
 - Hatchery/Grace Lake mostly ATV staging.

- All Season use.
- viii. Cal Kaytor (SWATT)
 - Chilliwack has issue with noise from ATV's.
 - There will be multiple uses of outdoor recreation.
 - As the resort develops and residential areas are created there will be noise complaints, residents will want peace and quiet.
 - Bell acres is an example.
 - Important to understand where the proposed residential areas now so that we can plan for the future.
 - May have to move trails, staging areas, etc...
 - Designated ATV trails should be established.
 - There is all season use for ATV.
- ix. General Discussion
 - Hemlock Resort has had an ongoing conflict with snowmobilers and disturbing ski runs.
 - Kim Reeves – Can motorized events be held on the ski runs?
 - Kevin – This would require dialogue with the resort
 - Brian - There are X-Country/hiking trails used by residents, they are easily torn up by motorized users. Would not encourage motorized use on ski runs or non-motorized trails.
 - KR - The damage caused by people is not the clubs and we should not manage for the lowest common denominator. Suggesting regulated event that is properly sanctioned.
 - Dual Sport vs ATV is different.
 - Motorcycling may use a variety of trails – snowmobile trails.
 - The main issue is access to the area. Regional District will be starting to iron out issues.
- x. Brian Murphy (Hemlock Homeowners Assn)
 - More concerned with the conflicts of motorized and non-motorized
 - West side of the existing ski area is used for hiking/public access.
 - Brian will assist in representing the hiking & cross-country skiing user group interests
- xi. Margaret Thornton (Regional District)
 - Supportive of the Resort
 - More detailed planning for neighbourhoods as development proceeds.
 - Get main access plan.
 - MDA feeds the OCP, FNWL tenure.

4. NEXT STEPS/FOLLOW UP ITEMS

- a. Long term recreation access for resort is the goal.
- b. Existing permitted roads used for forestry must be addressed and a transition plan developed that works for everybody
- c. Recreation trails.
 - i. need representation from the non-motorized sector, ie. Mountain biking, Horseback riding, hiking, etc..
 - ii. We don't have anyone here that specifically represents the snowmobilers. **ACTION: If anyone knows of an appropriate contact please advise.**
 - iii. At this stage we want to ensure that there are representatives from all user groups and to reach out to other groups such as X country and Backcountry, snowmobiling, mountain biking and horseback riding.
- d. Build a map that starts to illustrate all the important areas and the different trails and uses.
- e. **ACTION: Each user group to provide mapping of current use and pertinent information (ie. Important staging areas, necessary connector trails, etc..) to Tori for compilation.**

5. ACTION ITEMS

- a) Kevin Bourdin – will provide the contact for the Mountain Bike Association. – *completed*
- b) ALL – If known, please provide contact info for snowmobile user group
- c) ALL - Provide mapping of current use and pertinent information (ie. Important staging areas, necessary connector trails, etc..) to Tori for compilation