

**Commercial Recreation Tenures Working Group
Minutes
December 19, 2006 12-1:00 pm
ILMB office, Theatre Rd, Cranbrook**

Present:

Bill Adair, ILMB
Pam Cowtan, ILMB
Sangita Sudan, ILMB (conference call)

Tom McDougall, Koot Mush & Berry Picker
Larry Hall, EKHA
Jeanette Sissons, CBK Chamber of Commerce
Peter Davidson, Rocky Mountain Naturalists

Presenters:

Harry Mitchell, MTSA

Absent:

FJ Hurtak, KWHF

Alan Gordon, City of Cranbrook

1. Welcome and introductions

- Round-table introductions. Bill welcomed the group and thanked them for attending during the lunch hour.

1.a. Expectations:

- Discussion of Group expectations.
- Larry expressed that the working group needs to maintain consistency in process for each application.
- Jeanette suggested, and Tom and Peter agreed, that they need a checklist for reviewing applications, and for each item on the list a rationale is needed before bringing it to the CWRAC with their recommendation.
- Pam said she hoped meetings could be scheduled so it works for everyone and that members feel it is a valuable use of their time. Peter said he will need at least 10 days notice of meetings.

2. Draft TOR

- Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) were circulated and discussed.
- MTSA will provide updates to the Working Group from time to time or as needed. He noted that they receive maybe 1 or 2 new applications and amendments per year.
- Larry and Peter felt that the Working Group should make recommendation on activities that occur on private land adjacent to Crown land where there is a high level of recreation and wildlife values, for example the Marcer property at Lake Koocanusa. Jeanette pointed out this is private land and Bill said it is not within the scope of the plan to make recommendations for private land. Pam said that, with any plan, changes to land use may require plan direction to be revisited - currently the Crown land around Marcer's is designated motorized, hard surfaces only.

AGREED: That meetings be held as needed and one annually. TOR will be amended to reflect this and re-circulated to working group members.

3. MTSA Presentation - Harry Mitchell, Adventure Tourism Manager

- Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts (MTSA) is a new Ministry. Previously, Commercial Backcountry Recreation was handled by Land and Water BC and the Public Recreation Sites and Trails program was in the Ministry of Forests. Now both are within MTSA.

- The mandate of the Adventure Tourism Branch (commercial recreation) is to provide tourism opportunities that include large scale tenured operations like Canadian Mountain Holiday lodges and ski areas. Harry noted that they also include medium and low scale operations that have limited or no developments attached to them and are usually associated with recreation activities restricted to existing trails and roads. He noted that most of the clients are established and are building up their businesses.
- Guide Outfitter camps are approved by MTSA, but their territories are approved by Min. of Environment and legislated under the Wildlife Act.
- Peter asked if MTSA has legislation for commercial recreation tenures that limits the size of structures. Harry said each application is assessed for what is reasonable and responsible use.
- Larry asked what guidelines there are to limit MTSA tenures for lodge applications in high alpine lake areas. Harry responded that the recreation plans give guidance to MTSA on level of development and activity.
- Harry outlined the application process, ie. When a proponent wants to apply for commercial recreation tenure, the application is first taken in by FrontCounter BC. They review the proposal with MTSA to see if it is consistent with guidelines and recreation plans. If the application is inconsistent with the plan, the proponent is first asked to consider changes and, if they still wish to proceed, the application will be brought to the attention of CWRAC (to the Working Group who will make recommendations to the full table). CWRAC would then provide a recommendation to government on amending the RMS. MTSA will consider this recommendation, as well as the results of referrals to agencies, First Nations consultation and public advertisement in making its decision on the application. Harry said recreation plans are very important and always considered in their decisions.
- If the application is consistent with the plan, it would be advertised, referred to agencies and First Nations, reviewed against comments received, changes made if needed, and a final decision to issue the tenure would be made.
- Harry said that, when applications come to the Working Group and/or CWRAC, he will speak on behalf of some proponents or in some cases have the proponent present to them.
- Official community plans (OCP) are considered during the adjudication process where there is zoning in place.
- Peter noted the need for recreation planning in Invermere and cited Cross River as an example. He observed that the role and function of ILMB has changed from strategic planning for resource and wildlife values to one focused more on land development.
- Pam explained that ILMB has new planning direction that requires executive level approval for new planning and a commitment from the sponsoring agency (eg. MTSA) to implement the resulting plan.
- Pam suggested that there is a lot of work to be done on the CWRMS and she felt the group should focus on the plan area. Peter could still bring his concerns about the Cross River directly to MTSA.
- Larry said government isn't following the plan, he noted he was at the EK Hunting Opportunities Committee (EKHOC) meeting where MOE said they are establishing an AMA in Baribeau Ck. Pam responded that ILMB is aware of proposed changes to some closures to address wildlife concerns. No decisions have been made on these and MOE is gathering input from groups like EKHOC and CWRAC. They will be presenting these for discussion at the January CWRAC meeting. Her understanding is that government, ie. MOE, MOFR and MTSA, is using the plan to guide decision making.

- Jeannette pointed out that the Guide Outfitters walked away from the Cranbrook West planning table because they thought government would not comply with the plan. Now they want to come back to the table realizing that government is using the plan for guidance.
4. **Other Items** - none noted
 5. **Feedback from Committee members (round-table)**
 - Tom observed that Guide Outfitters are looking to expand their territory and wondered if there are guidelines to control this.
 6. **Next meeting:** as noted, meetings will be held as needed and once a year.
 7. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1: 07 PM.