



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council

Meeting on November 9, 2021

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 10:00 a.m. on the 9th day of November 2021.

Present: John Ball, Canadian Ski Instructor Alliance; Tom Cavers, Beaver Valley Ski Club; Brian Edwards, Edwards Insurance Brokers; Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area; Candice Micucci, Canadian Ski Patrol System; Kevin Nichol (Chair), Ontario Ski Resorts Association (OSRA); Mark Rutherford, Brimacombe; Robert Sheridan, Blue Mountain Resorts LP.; Sarah Simons, Kenny Engineering Inc.; Christine Simpson, TSSA's Consumer Advisory Council

Alexandra Campbell, VP, Communications & Stakeholder Relations; Danielle Fernandes, Advisory Council Coordinator; Nashir Jiwani, (Interim) VP, Operations; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Government Relations; Rob Kremer, Manager, Engineering, Elevating Devices Safety Program; Denis Lapierre, Inspector, Elevating Devices Safety Program; Roger Neate, Director, Elevating Devices Safety Program.

Guests: Murray Frankcom, Leitner Canada.

Regrets: Ward Bond, Bond Ski Lift Installation; Craig MacDonald, Caledon Ski Club.

1. Welcome & Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. K. Kennedy provided an overview of the meeting format and stressed the importance of using the agenda item request forms for issue submission in advance of meetings. He advised that the objective of the meeting was to hear from council on priority issues and for TSSA to take issues back for further assessment and analysis and to report back to council accordingly. Additionally, he advised that an advisor from the Ministry of Consumer and Government Services Technical Safety Unit may join the meeting to learn more about the industry and stakeholders.

a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, Council was shown a short video on workplace safety as a shared responsibility.

2. Adoption of the November 9th, 2021, agenda

Council approved the agenda as presented.

3. Approval of March 24, 2021, minutes

The chair raised two typographical errors. First to correct the spelling of "Leitner" on page one of the minutes. Second, it was noted that "Bond Lake" should be corrected to "Bond lift" on page 5 of the minutes.

Action: D. Fernandes to make above noted corrections to the minutes of March 24, 2021, prior recirculating and posting on TSSA's website.

4. Review of Action items from last meeting

R. Neate spoke to pending action items advising that the action items related to recruitment and membership would be addressed under Item 6a of the agenda.

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Additionally, he advised that the action item related to the minutes was completed.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair treated the report circulated in advance of the meeting as read. He noted that a more normal operating season is expected and welcomed by the industry for this winter. He advised that operating guidelines have been well received and accepted by the Ministry of Health, noting however that there is some difficulty in relation to communications with individual municipal health units from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, which are being resolved.

R. Neate advised council of TSSA's vaccination policy and noted that the policy is posted on TSSA's website. Responding to a question from council about how often TSSA inspectors are tested, R. Neate advised that unvaccinated inspectors are tested twice a week. There were no other questions or comments from council.

6. Council administration

a. Membership matrix

D. Fernandes detailed the purpose of the membership matrix review, namely, to ensure alignment with industry. She detailed a proposal for changes to the matrix and provided council with the rationale associated with each of the proposed amendments. The proposal included the following:

Overall:

- Removed sector maximums
- New category Ski Safety Education with a mandatory position for Canadian Ski Patrol or Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance with a minimum of 1 member allowance which were previously under the "consumer" category
- Changed "Other" category to include a with a mandatory position for a consumer representative

Owners/ Operators

- New definitions to classify large and small resorts.
 - 4+ devices = Large resort
 - 1-3 devices = Small resort
- Removed urban resorts as a mandatory position.

Manufacturers/ Independent Engineer

- New mandatory position for manufacturer under Manufacturer/Independent Engineer category with minimum of 1 member allowance. Removed the term "designer" from subcategory.

There was some discussion on this item. Council proposed the following amendments:

1. Creation of a new category for associations with a minimum of (1) position
2. Move OSRA under associations with (1) mandatory position
3. Provide examples of other associations that could fit in this category, noting the list is not exhaustive. Examples provided include Association of Snow Board Instructors (ASBI), Alpine Canada Alpin (ACA), and Canadian Ski Coaches (CSC), etc.
4. Change the minimum position for Owners/ Operators from (4) to (3) to accommodate for moving OSRA to the associations category.

Council approved the matrix as amended.

Action: D. Fernandes to amend the proposal to reflect the changes proposed by council.



Action: D. Fernandes to present the amended proposal to the CEO for approval.

7. Aging Lift Assessment Guideline

R. Kremer spoke to this item advising that the guideline has been shared with council, noting no comments have been submitted. He explained the language in the guideline is tied to the next CAD amendment, adding that once the CAD is posted there will be alignment with the guideline.

Responding to a question from the council about whether the guideline would be updated each time the CAD changes, R. Kremer advised that this is possible, noting that the guideline would be updated with the new CAD as a reference. In response to a question about when the draft was circulated, D. Fernandes advised that it was shared twice, once in September and once two weeks in advance of the meeting.

There were no additional questions or comments from council.

8. SLAC Issue Prioritization Discussion:

a. CAD Status Update

The Chair provided an overview of the request form circulated in advance of the meeting, noting that timely adoption of codes is important to the industry/ sector. P. Simeon acknowledged the comment noting that timely code adoption based on evidence was a TSSA objective that was shared last fall. He advised that six out of seven codes have been adopted noting that the Elevating Device Code Adoption Document is the last to be adopted. He acknowledged that communication about delays should have been more robust and advised that moving forward this would be the case. He advised council that the current CAD amendments have been posted for comment and the deadline to provide feedback is November 13, 2021. He explained that the intention is to have the CAD posted in January, noting however that this depends on the volume of feedback received.

The Chair commented that TSSA is making progress toward faster code adoption, noting this is a welcomed development by the industry. There were no questions or comments from council.

b. Billing model & fee relief

The Chair Provided an overview of the request form circulated in advance of the meeting. He explained that there is a concern within the industry that as a result of the implementation of the new business model, good actors are being unduly penalized. He explained that some operators have seen their fees increase. He asked if the change to the TSSA business model has resulted in an increased inspection frequency. S. Ariyaretnam clarified that the inspection cost has been annualized, noting that this does not change the inspection frequency. He explained that the new business model makes fees more predictable and includes a follow-up inspection should it be required. Overall, he explained the business model is revenue neutral, noting that some customers that were below the average would see an increase while those above the average would see a decrease in costs. He explained that the goal is to eventually transition to a risk-based model, noting that in order to do accomplish this, transitioning to the current business model is essential.

A few council members noted increases in their average costs and advised that as “good actors” it is unfortunate that they face increases. S. Ariyaretnam advised that “bad actors” must pay increased fees for additional inspections, adding that this is how the model is currently handling situations of this nature. A. Campbell added that changes to the model coincided with the fee relief issued by the government. The Chair acknowledged the comment and recommended that TSSA issue communications related specifically to the ski sector which included key messages about business model, specifically what fees are bundled into the new flat fee. D. Fernandes advised that a



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breakdown of this nature was provided at previous meetings, in March and November of 2020 and was circulated with the advance material. A. Campbell advised that TSSA could develop something of this nature to circulate to the sector with the assistance of council.

Action: A. Campbell to circulate communication about the new business model specifically related to the ski sector.

9. Questions and Other Business

The Chair raised two issues, first the resurgence of Training and Certification Advisory Board (TCAB) meetings, noting that there is disconnect between TSSA and OSRA training in relation to continuing education. He explained that a review and update to current curriculum material is essential as this has not happened in some time.

Action: K. Nichol to submit an agenda item request form in advance of the next SLAC meeting.

Action: R. Neate to provide an update on this issue.

Secondly, the Chair raised concern over timely processing of submissions. He advised that it has come to his attention that some have been under review for some time noting this is concerning given that the ski season is fast approaching. R. Kremer advised that he is not aware of any submissions that are taking longer than expected, adding that the turnaround time for engineering is reasonable. Responding to a question about the availability of rush services, R. Kremer advised that there is still a process for priority requests.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.