



Technical Standards and Safety Authority Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting on March 28, 2012

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council (SLAC) meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held in Boardrooms 1433 and 1434, 14th Floor, Centre Tower, 3300 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario at 09:30 a.m. on the 28th of March, 2012.

Present: Ward Bond, Bond Ski Lift Installations/Loch Lomond Ski Ares, Murray Frankcom, Leitner-Poma Canada Inc., Dolly Gerrior, Consumers Advisor Council (CAC), Bruce Haynes (Chair), Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA), Martin Kimble, Horseshoe Valley Resort Ltd. Al Knott, Canadian Ski Patrol, Craig MacDonald, Caledon Ski Club, Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area, & Kevin Nichol, Gougeon Insurance Brokers.

In attendance: Michael Beard, VP of Operations (all items except item 19), Bernadette Celis, Communications Advisor, Public Education (item 14 only), Roland Hadaller, Director, Elevating and Amusement Devices (all items except item 19), Judy Harrison, Project Coordinator (item 9 only), Gord Kanani, Engineer (item 16 only), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all items except item 19), Rob Kremer, Engineer (item 12 only), Kathy Milsom, President & CEO (all items except item 19), Jim Palmer, Regional Supervisor (all items except item 19), Richard Smart, Chief Financial and Information Officer (item 7 only), Joshua Sorman, Advisor, Training and Certification (item 15 only).

Regrets: Radu Petrut, Teora Engineering and Services Ltd., Rob Sheridan, Blue Mountain Resort, Jason Young, University of Western Ontario, & Mohamed Awad, Ministry of Consumer Services (MCS).

1. Constitution of Meeting

B. Haynes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:07 A.M.

2. Council Chair's Report

B. Haynes informed the council about the upcoming Ontario Snow Resorts Associations (OSRA) spring conference: Eastern Canada Ski Areas May 28 – June 1, 2012 at Hilton hotel in Gatineau, Quebec.

3. Approval of Agenda

Council approved the agenda of March 28, 2012 meeting as revised.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Council approved the minutes of October 12, 2011 Ski Lift Advisory Council meeting as drafted, as being a true and correct record of that meeting.

5. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

R. Hadaller reviewed the outstanding action items from previous meetings with council, noting that all were completed with the exception of providing an update on Ski Lifts Risk Reduction Groups which will be updated as item #16 on today's agenda.



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6. TSSA President & CEO's Report

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received a report from the President and CEO regarding TSSA's key activities over the last quarter, which was treated as read.

7. Fee Review and Process Framework Update

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, R. Smart provided an overview of the initial proposed fee adjustments and feedback from the fee review sub-committee.

He highlighted the incentive and deterrent factors that are meant to influence safety behaviour in the fee review and process framework and presented the fee adjustments proposal for the ski lifts industry.

He also reported the potential for an oversight fee increase from MCS and what this may entail in regards to the fee adjustment. Fee review discussions to date have not taken into consideration the possibility of a future MCS oversight fee increase.

The council discussed possibilities of challenging the upcoming oversight increase from MCS. It was noted the Committee of Council Chairs had discussed the last oversight fee increase and related oversight activities with MCS and felt it had resulted in some positive outcomes; however, the current financial pressures faced by the provincial government may not be conducive to such dialogue with the MCS.

R. Smart summarized the discussions of the March 9 sub-committee meeting where general support for the revised fee proposal was received. In a further discussion, involving all council members, concerning the Ski Lifts fee proposal, some council members expressed concerns that the bundled fee, including the travel component, would create a disincentive for operators to prepare as many devices for inspection at the same time as possible. R. Smart explained to council members that the proposal was intended to ensure that all operators were treated equally, and that geographic location should not impact the fees assessed an operator, including travel. Although the fee proposal involved a fair attribution of the cost of travel across all devices, some members were concerned with the perception of paying "excess" travel on a per-device basis when actual travel was far less. Members of council recommended to have cost of travel based on per site rather than based on per device.

It was agreed that TSSA would consider this feedback and determine any adjustments to the fee proposal, including having travel assessed on a per visit basis.

Council also acknowledged they may not need the second fee sub-committee meeting since they provided feedback at today's meeting.

ACTION: R. Smart will discuss the council's feedback with TSSA's senior management team and will respond to council's recommendations by Friday, March 30, 2012.

8. Follow Up From Survey Results Meeting (February 16, 2012)

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received a report from the Chair regarding recommendations to TSSA, which was treated as read.

B. Haynes reported, as a follow up on the survey result presented at the last council meeting, council met without TSSA on February 16, 2012 at Hockley Valley. Council made recommendations to TSSA.



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The recommendations included having the SLAC's agenda reorganized into categories of interest as was presented at today's meeting. The council also assigned council members to each specific category as per the agenda. These members will take responsibility for providing information to industry under this category as well as bringing topics to council meetings.

B. Haynes will include this information at the OSRA AGM to inform the industry at large whom they may call for information regarding categories set today. The council acknowledged industry members may still call for information those they are familiar with and who may be in the same region. The council membership matrix indicating sectors will remain the same.

Council members assigned to each new category are as follows:

- Regulations – M. Kimble & R. Sheridan
- Enforcement/Inspection/Reporting – D. Mathewson
- Mechanics/Licensing/Training/Education – K. Nichol
- Engineering/Submission – M. Frankcom

Changes will be included in the council membership contact sheet and the TSSA newsletter in the fall, both of which are posted on TSSA website.

ACTION: TSSA ski lifts newsletter will highlight those responsible for providing information and guidance for each category set out at today's SLAC meeting.

ACTION: B. Haynes will announce the new categories created today and those assigned to them at the next OSRA AGM.

9. Input Industry Trends and Issues

As part of the advance materials for this meeting, the council received a briefing note requesting input regarding the ski lift industry, which was treated as read.

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, M. Beard provided an overview of emerging trends for ski lifts industry and how TSSA will respond to some of the concerns.

10. Priority Safety Issues

Enhance consistency among regulators: Council will take the lead on this project since they are involved with Ministry of Labour issues. B. Haynes requested and TSSA agreed to facilitate this initiative when needed.

11. Safety Compliance

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, R. Hadaller provided an update regarding ski lift safety and compliance.

The council discussed if it was possible to break down the information on a monthly basis. R. Hadaller will follow up to see if this is possible.

ACTION: R. Hadaller to follow on the preparation of the safety compliance presentation and find out if the data presented can be broken down by month to month rather than quarterly as it stands now.



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12. Incident Reporting Guideline 214/09

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, the council received the revised Incident reporting guideline with recent tracking changes, which was treated as read.

Council reported challenges with the Ministry of Environment' Spills Action Centre. There were some concerns that the Spills Action Centre was not familiar with the calls regarding Incident reporting.

R. Kremer provided details on the changes made to the Incident reporting guideline while adhering to the regulations. The main issues were defining incidents requiring a medical practitioner and avoiding closure of lifts when the incident was not caused by mechanical/electrical or operation.

Council would like to have a Risk Reduction Group (RRG) formed to work on the Incident reporting guideline focusing on the above-mentioned areas including concerns regarding Spills Action Centre. This RRG may need one full meeting to come to conclusion.

Based on council recommendation, the Incident reporting guideline RRG members will consist of B. Haynes, K. Nichol, M. Frankcom, M. Kimble, D. Mathewson, R. Sheridan (B. Haynes will inform R. Sheridan) and the appropriate TSSA staff.

ACTION: R. Kremer will facilitate Incident reporting guideline RRG meeting.

13. Priority Safety Issue

TSSA technicians/inspectors availability to enhance inspector's role in more safety promotion: As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, the council received a briefing note highlighting the current status of efforts to promote safety at various sites, which was treated as read.

J. Palmer provided an overview of TSSA participation in the training of lift operators this past season. Challenges with booking and scheduling were discussed. J. Palmer will continue to create a simple and effective way of booking sites that need this program. The council members were pleased with this approach.

14. Priority Safety Issues

Ski lift safety public education program end of season update: With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, B. Celis provided an update on the ski lift public education activities to date.

She reported that the focus was on the new skiers and snowboarders and engaging them face to face was found to be the best approach.

She also reported there were approximately 25,000 direct interactions at 11 resorts which was a 46% increase over last year. Most of the interactions were at the common places where the target audience gathers and this was found to be very a effective method.

She highlighted the importance of partnership initiatives with the key industry organizations. Partnership with Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA) and Canadian Ski Patrol (CKP) were acknowledged.



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15. Training and Certification Advisory Board (TCAB)

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, the council received a briefing note to provide an update on the unresolved issues documented at the previous TCAB meetings, which was treated as read.

Council discussed details regarding the total practical/demonstrated hour requirement. Council further discussed the recognition of Ontario Certificates of Qualification for a reduction in practical/demonstrated experience.

Council also discussed the importance of finding ways to attract students to the ski industry.

J. Sorman reported the next step is to communicate the reduction for recognized Ontario Certificates of Qualifications to the Ski Lifts TCAB.

Update on the Ski Lifts TCAB will be provided at the next SLAC meeting as a regular standing item on the agenda.

16. Priority Safety Issues

Risk Reduction Group conclusion (Aging equipment including hangers & surface lifts): With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, G. Kanani provided conclusions and next steps of this RRG.

The presentation informed the council of the status of the RRG recommendations that were previously presented to council at the last meeting.

The following high level recommendations were presented:

- For carriers for aging chair lifts, the current Director's Guidelines 224/07 was updated with the recommendation from the RRG and was issued requesting comments on March 14, 2012.
- For tensioning system for aging T-bars/J-bars, an exploratory consultation to seek guidance from ski industry has been tentatively planned. This may be held during Eastern Canada Ski Areas Conference Tradeshow on May 29-31, 2012.
- In keeping with the latest requirement in CSA Z98, an information bulletin detailing requirements for updating the current operations and maintenance manuals was issued on March 20, 2012.

17. Priority Safety Issues

Risk Reduction Group conclusion In-conjunction with item #16 (Clarifications to alterations of electrical controls) lifts): With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, G. Kanani provided an update on the Electrical/Electronic/Programmable Electronic System (E/E/PES) RRG.

He advised that a meeting is scheduled in May 15, 2012 in Barrie for the E/E/PES RRG to focus on preparing a simple test case of E/E/PES. This meeting will also focus on joint review with TSSA to arrive at clearer process for application of CAD Sections 5.10.2 & 5.10.3.

18. Questions on Information and Other Business

B. Haynes reported Mark Rutherford, General Manager, at Brimacombe would like to join council representing urban sector resort.



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A. Knott advised that he would not be seeking an additional term on the Ski Lifts Advisory Council. He informed he will attend at the next meeting to introduce his replacement from Canadian Ski Patrol System, Ontario Division (CSPS).

In regards to J. Young's membership, council acknowledged that it would be beneficial for council to have the perspective of the Canadian Ski Instructors' Alliance (CSIA) Ontario Chapter.

ACTION: R. Hadaller and B. Celis will follow up on J. Young's intention on staying on as a member and will provide an update at the next meeting.

ACTION: A. Knott will provide contact information for his replacement to TSSA and B. Haynes.

19. In Camera

Council members met in camera without management.

20. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 1:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10, 2012.