



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

Online- Zoom

PRESENT:

Co-Chair and Recording Secretary, RMOW, H. Williamson
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller,
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac
Member at Large, A. Baudouin
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
RCMP, R. Knapton

Member of the public, S. Thomas

REGRETS:

Member at Large, M. Webster
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C, C. Ruddy

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by B. Mueller

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of August 12, 2020.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by R. Knapton
Seconded by A. DeJong

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of July 8, 2020.

CARRIED

UPDATES

Conservation Officer Service

A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.

- Currently the Sea to Sky area is second in the province in regards to the number of human wildlife conflicts. There have been 57 calls to the RAPP line in August so far.
- There are a number of ongoing and emerging bear issues in the Whistler area:
 - Food was delivered to a property but no one was home to receive the delivery. Delivery was left outside and later accessed by a bear.
 - Ongoing issues with bears accessing attractants in construction bins. Construction companies from out of town don't know to not deposit food waste into construction bins. In addition, visitors are depositing food waste into empty bins outside of working hours.
 - Emerald neighborhood is a hotspot for current bear activity. Bears have access garbage in the area and are now persistently entering yards and patios to access BBQ's and citronella candles.
 - Riverside Campground has moved to a self-check-in system. This has created issues with campers being uninformed and there has been ongoing issues with bears accessing unsecured food waste in sites.
 - River of Golden Dreams has had issues with larger than usual number of users leading to overflowing garbage bins. Bears have also accessed attractants in this area.

ACTION: B. Mueller will send details of food delivery issue to RMOW Bylaw so they can follow up with the company

ACTION: Emerald neighborhood: H. Williamson to issue a wildlife alert and I. Minic-Lukac will canvas the area with WWPG volunteers to provide education and pass out door hangers.

ACTION: H. Williamson to send B. Mueller updated WBAC email list

RMOW Bylaw

A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.

- July was not unusually busy in terms of calls for bears and attractants but August has been quite busy already.
- Bylaw confirmed the report of bear accessing garbage at a residence on Emerald Drive and worked with the owner of the residence to secure all remaining attractants.
- Bylaw has followed up with Kids on the Go, they have been locking lunches in one of the cabins while at Rainbow Park. Currently camps are keeping lunches close by while at Lost Lake but Bylaw will follow up to see if they can secure lunches inside warming hut instead.

ACTION: RMOW Bylaw to follow up with Riverside Campground to encourage staff to monitor sites for attractants and educate guests

ACTION: J. Pineda to follow up with Kids on the Go Camp to see whether they can secure their lunches inside the Lost Lake Warming Hut while at Lost Lake Park.

RCMP

A presentation by R. Knappton was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.

- RCMP has received 9 bear-related calls so far in August:
 - Most calls have been related to bear sightings only.
 - One call where RCMP had to euthanize a bear injured in an automobile accident.
 - Multiple calls for bears at Riverside Campground and in Emerald neighborhood

Whistler Blackcomb

A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.

- No reports of bear issues on Whistler Blackcomb, the mountain has been fairly quiet with less traffic reported than usual at this time of year.
- A. DeJong will send out update on alpine berry production in the next few days with the hopes that alpine berry crop will help to alleviate bear pressure in the valley
- Whistler Blackcomb is busy planning for winter season and determining how to proceed in a safe manner.

Council

A discussion by A. DeJong was given regarding council activities and a discussion was held.

- Council's primary focus right now is managing safety in the community in regards to Covid-19. There has been a lot of time spent working with local businesses and the community to promote safe practices.

RMOW
Environmental
Stewardship

A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.

- Stewardship has issued three wildlife alerts in the past two weeks. Two alerts for bears destroyed in White Gold and Green Lake and one alert for general attractant management in RMOW Parks and natural areas.
- Signage has been installed at the Riverside campground and Stewardship team will frequent the area in the days leading up to the weekends to provide education to campers
- Additional information has been put up on Rainbow Park webpage to stress attractant management, specifically if bins are full then waste must be packed out when visitors leave the area.
- Would like to initiate a conversation with GFL regarding construction bins. GFL doesn't have wildlife-proof bins but is there opportunity to provide non-wildlife proof covers for bins that would restrict visitors from depositing food waste into bins when crews are not on site.

ACTION: H. Williamson is drafting a letter to Eagleridge Strata Manager instructing them to remove Huckleberry plants that have become ongoing bear attractants. RMOW Bylaw to follow up after letter is delivered.

Whistler Wildlife
Protection Group

A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding WWPG activities and a discussion was held.

- Things have been quiet for Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, until now they have not received reports or requests to educate the public in specific areas or neighborhoods
- Whistler Wildlife Protection group will be sending out volunteers to hand out door hangers and provide public education in the Emerald Drive area.
- Mountain Ash trees are beginning to ripen, it would be worth sending a message to the various strata's alerting them that all berries must be picked prior to ripening or all plants should be removed.

ACTION: H. Williamson to reach out to strata managers to remind them to manage or remove Mountain Ash plants on their properties. There is additional messaging on this topic for the general public to be released via RMOW social media channels this week.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by J. Pineda

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of August 12, 2020 be terminated at 9:15 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair and Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson