



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2022, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

#### ZOOM

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (5)
Acting Chair and Recording Secretary, Ashley Dowling, RMOW BSPA	3
Arthur DeJong, Council	6
Juan Pineda, RMOW Bylaw Services	4
Ivana Minic-Lukac, Whistler Wildlife Protection Group	6
Brittany Mueller, BC Conservation Officer Service	4
Taylor Green, Member at Large	4
Adrien Baudouin, Member at Large	2
REGRETS	
Chair, Tara Schaufele, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	3
Claire Ruddy, AWARE	4
Simon Gravel, BC Conservation Officer Service	0
Sgt. Nathan Miller, RCMP	0
Denise Imbeau, GFL Environmental - Waste Management	1

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. De Jong  
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of July 13, 2022.

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by I. Minic-Lukac  
Seconded by J. Pineda

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of June 08, 2022.

CARRIED

## PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

### RTS Project Team

A presentation by Shannon Gordon, Todd Hellinga and Martin Pardoe from the Recreation Trails Strategy (RTS) Project to introduce the project, provide an overview of work done so far and gather feedback

- Specific key point for WBAC - Environmental Sensitivity Guidelines
- Most of plan is in inventory stage
- This is a high level directional plan, not a trails master plan, e.g. not stating that trails are needed from A to B or for scenery, etc...
- Types of use discussed – All non-motorized trail users with one motorized exception, trials bikes, and 1 class of ebike (existing users)
- Leaning on committee members of WBAC, FWAC and RLAC for input
- Trail inventory is 368km<sup>2</sup> from Brandywine Provincial Park (S), Wedgewoods (N), Callaghan Lake (W) and Cheakamus Lake (E)
- Designed to match RMOW boundary
- Network has 635km of trails inc. FSR, viewpoints and campsites
- No commercial trails including like WB
- Brief over view of Species at Risk considerations – avoid use of culverts and streams, protecting riparian areas and wetlands, minimizing removal of vegetation for birds
- Consideration of topography
- CWH forests are unmanaged – generally older than 300 years
- Whistler is a connectivity corridor, with movement up and down the valley. Need to allow wildlife to move unfettered throughout
- Overview of Limits of Acceptable (LAC) – learning about and managing user impacts through identifying, defining and selecting key environmental, social and asset indicators and then monitoring what is possible, acceptable or too much
- Setting up a framework for how new trails are determined, others decommissioned and where upgrades are needed
- Request for input about the strategy by Sunday if possible
- WBAC will receive parking strategies within 2-3 weeks
- Will return for discussion and feedback in Sept 2022
- Going out to community in Sept/Oct 2022 for recommendations
- Will hold 2 x rounds of stakeholder engagement and 2 x rounds with community

### Updates

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

### Conservation Officer Service (COS)

- A bear was euthanized following the rapid escalation of unnatural behaviours displayed over a few days, becoming a significant public safety concern. Accessed food on two separate occasions – in the same area, bluff charged people, approached somebody and made contact with another (put paws on their back whilst they were sat at a table eating). Bear was not tagged previously and had been hazed

multiple times. Despite park being closed and signage implemented, continued to be a problem.

- Riverside campground has been experiencing issues again with a bear trying to access food and garbage. The bear has been knocking over the large GFL containers to gain access. Bear is tagged. COS asked BSPA & WWPG to do education. Tented sites are the issue, bear approaches tables with food on from bushes, even with people there. BSPA will also install signage

#### RMOW Bylaw Services

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

- June 16<sup>th</sup> received a call for a beehive in a backyard in Alpine. Beehive had been destroyed – likely by a bear and was removed. Beehives are allowed in Whistler, but only when secured
- Some businesses with garbage were ticketed
- Vehicles with garbage were ticketed

#### A. DeJong

A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding bear sightings.

- Snowpack is about 5 weeks behind normal snowmelt – only been seen once in about the last half a century. Will take some measurements for a project and look at berry production

#### Whistler Wildlife Protection Group

A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding Whistler Wildlife Protection Group activities and a discussion was held.

- Education was done at the Trainwreck trail head, Cheakamus Lake and Jane Lakes area. Lots of people hiking and biking. Lots of information given out

#### RMOW Environmental Stewardship

A presentation by A. Dowling was given regarding RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant activities and a discussion was held.

- Sgt Rob Knapton has been replaced as a member by Sgt Nathan Miller
- Ellie Lamb contacted to ask if GBS member position will be retained or if somebody else from the GBS would like to attend WBAC meetings
- Taylor Green will discuss the Co-Chair position with Claire Ruddy and Tara Schaufele
- Whistler Blackcomb contacted regarding permanent WB member position available, Nicole Baudisch, Safety Manager at WB, will seek out best fit for position
- Commercial Bear Viewing Association (CBVA) Guidelines – Ashley will speak with Taylor regarding setting up a document to outline the best practices. Following a bear smart initiatives talk with adventure companies, it has been seen that not all companies are abiding by the 100m distance rule. ByLaw did not think it would be feasible to put a permit system in place for viewing companies, as it would not be enforceable. COS have issued some advisory letters to companies. T. Green is a CBVA tour guide

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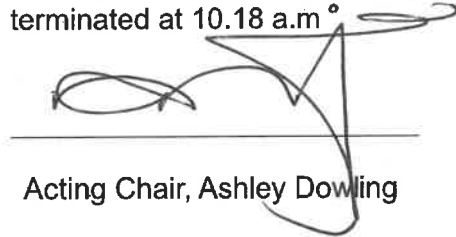
- Discussion with ByLaw regarding Cheakamus residential area email from resident highlighting strawberry patches and requesting education in area – education done and signage added
- Discussion with COS regarding BC Parks closure of Cheakamus Lake area trails – further discussion to be held so dialogue can be opened for when closures are implemented
- BC Parks have been contacted to add a wildlife narrative to their day use pass applications
- Miller Capilano contacted to request highway signage to say no stopping to view wildlife. This has been passed to the MoT for review
- ByLaw thanked for attending Meadow park following notification a bear was accessing garbage there – confirmed no bear was found to be accessing garbage, but container was knocked over

**MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by J. Pineda

Seconded by A. DeJong

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of July 13, 2022 be terminated at 10.18 a.m.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ashley Dowling', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Acting Chair, Ashley Dowling