



WHISTLER

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

In Decker Room

RMOW Public Works Yard

8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V0N 1B8

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford

Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson

Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree

Conservation Officer Service, S. Gravel

Conservation Officer Service, B. Mueller

Member at Large, N. Dudley

RCMP, R. Knapton

RMOW Bylaw Services, T. Lunn

RMOW Council, S. Maxwell

Recording Secretary, A. Paris

RMOW Environmental Stewardship Supervisor, T. Schaufele

Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong

Wind River Bear Institute, L. Homstol

UBC Okanagan, Luke Crevier

Public:

Previous WildSafe Coordinator, M. Toom

REGRETS:

Member at Large, Colin Hedderson

AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by L. Holmstol

Seconded by S. Maxwell

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of June 14, 2017.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Maxwell

Seconded by L. Holmstol

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of May 10, 2017.

CARRIED

Conservation
Officer
Services

VERBAL REPORTS

A discussion led by B. Mueller regarding COS activities.

- Patrolling the upper lots and staff housing with Bylaw Services as follow up to the bear death at the Canadian Adventure building.
- Sow with two cubs was bluff charging at Base 2 of Whistler Blackcomb.
- Overnight camping allowed in designated campgrounds. Overnight parking is allowed in day lots but it's difficult to enforce with people moving around. Parking regulations in lots 4 & 5 change on July 1st, this may help.

S. Gravel arrived at 8:44 am.

- Question article, poor pairing of bear death article with picture of Fairmont-sponsored life sized signs.

A. DeJong arrived at 8:49 am.

- Village businesses audit, found many problems and are following up. Partnered with Bylaw Services.
- Nordic bear has moved on. Coordinated effort to reduce attractants and provide education.
- Debrief with Bear Smart Program Assistant and Whistler Wildlife Protection Group to clarify messaging.
- Bear sightings on Whistler Golf Course. Follow up with Bylaw Services on Peak Dr. and Whistler Golf Course residences.
- Bear killed Monday morning after entering a building on Whistler Blackcomb property Sunday afternoon through unsecured door. Bear was trapped and confined with people, this bear had previous history and was regarded as too high on the safety matrix. COS will reach out to Whistler Blackcomb. Planning to spend more time on business that operate on the edge of mountain habitat because it is the first point of contact bears have with humans. COS took enforcement action by issuing a non-compliance letter. If terms of non-compliance letter not met, COS can take person or business to court.
- COS and GBS will purchase an electric mat to assist in deterrence.
- New training system complete. Incorporates Get Bear Smart society information. Setting date with RCMP.

RMOW Bylaw
Services

A discussion led by T. Lunn regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities.

- Base 2 patrols, recycling seems like an issue.
- Speaking with business about leaving doors and kitchens open with attractants near entrance.
- 10 garbage files, 15 camping with attractants files and a ticket issued for a dirty grease bin. Property and strata management was

contacted for a meeting to discuss ways the bin could have improved security

- Construction bins are a problem with house hold waste being dumped in them. Need to either bear proof or add a sign, add this to the conditions of a building permit for work sites to require Bear Smart info.
- Tickets and non-payment issues. Bylaw investigating a system to taking non-payers to court.
- Contact is 604-935-8280 bylawservices@whistler.ca

RCMP A discussion led by R. Knapton regarding RCMP activities.

- 9 calls since May 13th.
- Setting up training date with COS.

Whistler Blackcomb A discussion led by A. DeJong regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities.

- Berry crop will be poor this year.

Carney's Waste Services A discussion led by P. Kindree regarding Carney's Waste Services.

- Fairly quiet
- People are advised about bear precautions with construction bins.

ACTION: Discuss bin strategy in July.

Bear Movement Model

A presentation from Luke Crevier, MSc. student at UBC Okanagan.

- Bear model to explore and compare effectiveness of management strategies to reduce bear conflicts.
- Removing attractants in random area of community reduces bear conflict most versus increasing deterrence on perimeter.
- Fencing doesn't seem to help very much, it can trap a bear inside as well as keep a bear out of an urban environment.
- Roaming deterrence (increase COS or bear handler to keep bears out of the urban areas) is most effective.

Discussion:

- Previous model showed that education on perimeter was most effective but updated model shows random pattern more effective. This model is more detailed and checks all for movement, revealed different results.
- Bears remember where food is good in both urban and natural environments. Matches actual bear behaviour.
- Model attractants are distributed in cells 25m x 25m. Each cell is uniform, can't be any more fine grained than that. L. Holmstol may have more data, but food quality will have changed since her

research conducted. Simulation used uniform cells to develop a zoned food matrix.

- How can the model be used for practical management applications?
 - Keep food away from bears.
 - Configuration results show spatially random distribution of increased deterrence works best. Allows deterrence to take place throughout urban area, not just concentrated in one neighbourhood.
- Could model incorporate areas of high tourist use? Yes, would need access to high use locations by season. COS may have data.
- Berry season is so variable; it can be difficult to build into model.
- Model only uses one bear, doesn't include interactions with other bears but does include some level of habituation from L. Holstol's research.
- It is uncertain if this model will be further developed.

Solid Waste Bylaw

A review led by S. Maxwell and S. Dolson on the draft RMOW Solid Waste Bylaw revision.

- Moved to June 20th Council from June 6th.
- Requirements for solid waste management plans may be revised.
- WBAC comments not included in bylaw: 12 to 6 unit change didn't happen. Shed guidelines not included. Landlords are not required to provide solid waste collection.
- Sheds must be wildlife proof. Guidelines were too prescriptive but end results must be secure.
- Public hearing date yet to be announced.

ACTION: Discuss at July meeting. H. Beresford follow up with A. Tucker to receive updated version.

Bear Smart Program Assistant

A discussion lead by A. Paris on RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant activities.

- Meeting with Whistler Blackcomb on Friday regarding attractant management for special events and on-mountain filming.
- WB Foundation EnviroFund application submitted by GBS to digitize Bear Smart restaurant program to move away from expensive subscription format.

Get Bear Smart Society

A discussion lead by S. Dolson on Get Bear Smart Society activities.

- Tough Mudder, Ironman and Whistler Half Marathon are all hiring bear dog handlers.
- As part of funding provided, CFOW requested that discussions be held with RMOW regarding making dog handlers mandatory for special events.

ACTION: Add dog handler discussion to August WBAC agenda.

- Disposal method for used pepper spray to be confirmed. Possibly can be done at Carney's household hazardous waste drop off.

ACTION: BC Transit and A. Paris will confirm details and RMOW will communicate this information through its channels.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Gravel

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the June 14, 2017 meeting at 10:38 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: S. Dolson

RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Paris