



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 10, 2017, 8:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.

At Decker Room  
RMOW Public Works Yard

#### PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford  
Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson  
Carney's Waste Systems, L. Moir  
Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree  
Conservation Officer Service, Sgt. S. Gravel  
RCMP, Sgt. R. Knapton  
Recording Secretary, Anitra Pairs  
RMOW, T. Schaufele  
RMOW Bylaw Services, C. Riess  
RMOW Council, S. Maxwell  
Wind River Institute, L. Holmstead

#### PUBLIC:

Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac

#### REGRETS:

AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy  
Member at Large, C. Hedderson  
Member at Large, N. Dudley  
Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Dolson  
Seconded by C. Riess

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

CARRIED

#### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Schaufele  
Seconded by C. Riess

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of April 12, 2017.

CARRIED

## VERBAL REPORTS

### RMOW Bylaw Service

A discussion lead by C. Reiss on RMOW Bylaw Services activities.

- 11 garbage related calls, 6 of which were attractants.
- Some calls attended had been accessed by wildlife but likely not by bears due to patterns.
- A common issue of overflowing recycling outside residences and businesses.
- Bylaw has been responding proactively.
- Garbage enclosures are being monitored.
- Updating strata doors and making them easier to secure by getting rid of cane bolts.
- Tim Horton's update: There is now a shed deadline. The planning department has a meeting with Carney's to relocate the cardboard bin.

ACTION: A. Paris will make sign for Tim Horton's garbage bin as a reminder to close bin properly inside enclosure.

### RCMP Report

A discussion lead by R. Knapton regarding RCMP activities.

- One report of a bear in Northlands Boulevard regarding the bear walking north.

### Carney's Waste Services

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

- Not much activity in Whistler.
- New Operations Manager at Carney's, Lindsay Moir.
- More activity in Squamish, slight seasonal difference.
- Electric fence up at transfer station, wires are activated.
- Nesters new site will be opening in June.

*S. Gravel arrived at 9:08 am.*

A discussion led by S. Gravel regarding COS activities.

### Conservation Officer Services

- Little bear activity in past month.
- A concerning report that required follow up on Crabapple Drive where a bear was accessing birdseed/bird feeder. A contractor was hired to vacuum the bird seeds spilt on the ground. Successfully notified all residents with the help of the strata. RMOW bear in area signs were placed. The bear came back, accessed BBQ once but wasn't rewarded further. The door wasn't secured, S. Gravel worked with resident to secure house. The bear has an ear tag.
- A bear accessed garbage in Creekside after garbage was left on a balcony. The landlord was asking their residents to leave for pickup

later. A ticket was issued for this behaviour. The area is being monitored but the bear has not been further rewarded.

- Non-lethal management training is being developed for the RCMP by COS T. Schumacher and B. Mueller. With the expansion of bear smart communities, non-lethal methods are being adopted in other communities. A pilot project will run this year this year, endorsed by COS in the next year as a proper training.
- Referring to car strikes: Slower speeds, can allow the driver to react better. North of Whistler, between Pemberton has a high number of strikes.
- Highway signage on long weekend for reduced speeds for bears.
- Looking into the Banff, Alberta as an example of wildlife overpasses
- COS will provide the draft bear response plan soon with comments.

#### Bear Hazard Assessment

A presentation by S. Maxwell regarding the RMOW Bear Hazard Assessment. See Appendix A.

- Update audits on number of unsecured containers, follow up from bear hazard assessment from 2009.
- RMOW is updating solid waste bylaw to include waste and organics.
- Multi-family dwellings with fewer units may require enclosures now.
- Consider how to integrate trails planning and bear habitat
- RMOW parks is reassessing trail planning process to include grizzly bear habitat.
- Review tolerance levels for garbage infractions. More tickets vs just education? Analyzed on a case-by-case basis.
- Update plan for grizzly bear education and conflict management.
- Grizzly bear information on trail signs. Coast to Cascades input is being considered.
- Actions for events, preventing encounters and managing attractants.
- Do bear tour guides have safety training?

ACTION: A. Paris will reach out to tour groups, safety and attractants.

ACTION: S. Maxwell and A. Paris will follow up on BC Transit.

#### Get Bear Smart Society

A discussion led by S. Dolson regarding GBS activities.

- Educational article requests for new home buyers and Whistler activity guides.
- Ironman, proposal for Whistler Events. Modeled after the Wind River Institute model for the 24 Hours of Adrenaline Race.

- Life-sized bear signs update: Will be installed at the Passive house, Upper village and Olympic rings. Support from the Fairmont Chateau Whistler.
- Three BC Hydro boxes are being updated with bear images and bear smart information.

A discussion led by L. Holmstol regarding Wind River Institutes activities and large outdoor events in Whistler.

- Adventure events are on the rise and there have been negative encounters. A pre-day sweep of area and prioritizing areas that should be monitored, can help mitigate potential problems.
- Lost Lake is a potential area of conflict. Different time of year, seasonal (spring and summer) and the highest quality habitat. High risk areas based on line of sight, plants and berries.
- Confirmed to be working with Ironman and Whistler Half Marathon.
- Wind River will potentially be working with Tough Mudder.
- COS will be there as an on-call basis, otherwise it may limit capacity. Working with a third party option may be better.
- Ironman will be working with Carney's.
- L. Holmstol received Habitat Conservation Trust Fund funds and is looking for a suitable bear to collar

ACTION: Lost Lake area information to L. Holmstol from S. Gravel, COS.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by P. Kindree

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the  
May 10, 2017 meeting at 10:16 a.m.

CARRIED

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CO-CHAIR: S. Dolson

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RECORDING SECRETARY: A. Paris

**APPENDIX A.** Bear Hazard Assessment Review Points (provided by S. Maxwell)

1. Where are we at on the number of unsecured waste containers since the BHA? Should we do a check?
2. Is there still the same degree of hand-feeding (or any)? If so, should we add an action?
3. How can we integrate consideration of bears and habitat into trail planning (it still seems to be missing)?
4. Have we done an assessment of bear attractant plants in the Village area and if so, how much more replacement of plants is needed?
5. What can be done to reduce the tolerance of food-garbage infractions?
6. BHA notes grizzlies almost extinct here. We may wish to plan for an increase in population or the potential for it. Not sure exactly what actions those would be.
7. For residents without cars, include the recommendations from the WBAC work done on this.
8. Still a need for education for construction/demo sites
9. We should have actions on events (both for attractants and preventing encounters)?
10. Do bear tour guides still have safety training?
11. Anything to add from more recent studies (local and other)?
12. With upgraded, busier highway and evidence that Banff highway wildlife crossings are working, do we need to look at that model?