



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 8, 2017, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

At Decker Room
RMOW Public Works Yard

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, Get Bear Smart, S. Dolson
Conservation Officer Service, S. Gravel
RMOW Bylaw Services, T. Lunn
Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong

Public:

Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac
Wind River Bear Institute, Lori Homstol
AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy

REGRETS:

RMOW Councillor J. Ford
Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
RCMP. Sgt. R. Knapton
Member at Large, C. Hedderson

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by S. Dolson

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of February 8, 2017.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by T. Lunn
Seconded by S. Dolson

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of January 11, 2017.

CARRIED

Conservation
Officer Service

A discussion led by Sgt. S. Gravel regarding COS activities.

- Bear Response Plan – M. Badry will review against the Bear Smart Community Program goals
- No wildlife issues. Currently reorganizing and planning.

C. Ruddy arrived at 8:50 a.m.

- B. Mueller will be back in uniform in March.
- COS hiring 8 auxillary officers for province. Unknown if one will be assigned to Whistler area.
- Coquitlam was designated a Bear Smart community February 7.
- Bear Response Plan – COS does not want to create alternative policy or matrix, but identify more non-lethal approaches and response for Whistler. GBS handed out its Bear Management Action Plan (dated April 2010). Bear response plan will articulate officer response within Whistler context.

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

- Very quiet
- Park Rangers program will operate again in 2017

ACTION: COS, Bylaw Services Park Ranges and Bear Smart Program Assistant to meet in spring and coordinate bear management efforts.

Discussion regarding communicating successes to public. Add “success stories” as an agenda item, and consider publishing a monthly story. Key messages are that the issues are complex, and everyone needs to play their part.

ACTION: H. Beresford meet with RMOW Communications to discuss opportunity to share a monthly story through Communications department resources.

Carney's Update N/A

WB Update A discussion led by A. DeJong regarding WB activities.

- Quiet on the mountain

Discussion regarding AWARE and Grizzly Bear Initiative (GBI) activities. GBI is working on plans and signs. AWARE is finishing a waste/recycling management guide including bear information for event planners related to the upcoming bylaw update. AGM is March 1.

RMOW Update A discussion led by H. Beresford regarding RMOW activities.

- Natasha Dudley, biologist at Cascade Environmental Resource Group, was chosen by Council as the new member-at-large to replace N. Fitzgerald.
- H. Beresford and A. Tucker, Solid Waste and Transportation Manager, developing system for improving efficiency and tracking contractors who bring residential waste to compactor sites.
- WBAC Garbage Update bylaw comments forwarded to A. Tucker.
- Bear Response Plan – RMOW and COS committed to completing as soon as possible in 2017.
- Solid waste facilities and RMOW planning process. RMOW staff discussing processes for ensuring that solid waste facilities are planned appropriately to service the volume of waste produced.

Get Bear Smart
Society Update

A discussion led by S. Dolson regarding GBS activities.

- Developing bear management guidelines for special events
 - 5 key tips:
 - Natural vegetation management along race route
 - Improving sight lines
 - Hire COS and/or 3rd party bear contractors
 - Meet with all participants before race to share bear information
 - All participants must carry pepper spray

Discussion regarding fact that RMOW, GBS and AWARE all have or are developing special event guidelines. Need for coordination.

ACTION: S. Dolson, C. Ruddy and H. Beresford meet to coordinate messages and delivery of the guidelines.

Previous Action
Updates

- Complete

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by S. Dolson

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the February 8, 2017 meeting at 9:54 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: S. Dolson

RECORDING SECRETARY: H. Beresford