



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2018 STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.**

**In the Decker Room
8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V0N 1B8**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
RMOW Environmental Coordinator, T. Symko
RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant, L. Harrison
Carney's Waste Systems, P. Kindree
RMOW Council, S. Maxwell
Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald
Whistler Blackcomb, A. DeJong

REGRETS:

Member at Large, N. Dudley
RCMP, P. Hayes
Whistler Wildlife Protection Group, I. Minic-Lukac
RMOW Bylaw Services, C. Baker
Conservation Officer Service, B. Mueller
Member at Large, M. Toom

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Maxwell
Seconded by A. DeJong

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of June 13, 2018.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by S. Maxwell
Seconded P. Kindree

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the amended Whistler Bear Advisory Committee minutes of May 9, 2018

CARRIED

Updates

Conservation Officer Service (T. Symko on behalf of B. Mueller)

- Ongoing bear jams in Callaghan. Several reports of cars/people in very close proximity to bears. Public suggested better signage is needed and to move sign at base of Callaghan Rd as it is in-between several other signs. COS was thinking a joint project with Bear Smart Program and WWPG to set up in road pull out with pamphlets and outreach regarding safe bear viewing practices.
- Whistler RV park has updated their commercial waste bin to a new bear proof 2-door container. Reports had been received that the old commercial bin was not secured and overflowing at the end of the long weekend.
- Several reports received of injured bear at Fairmont golf course. COS attended bear was gone on arrival. Bear is reportedly still mobile and covering large distances and feeding. It is a rear leg injury and unfortunately usually results in a bear unable to climb trees or run. COS is monitoring condition. If bear becomes immobile or shows signs of suffering COS will need to put down.
- COS is waiting for training on electric fence unit to deploy at appropriate locations when needed.

N. Fitzgerald arrived at 8:45 am

RMOW Bylaw Services (T. Symko on behalf of C. Baker)

- Bylaw and COS paired up to do outreach/audits around day lots, village, upper village and illegal campsites around village area. 55 contacts made. Positive experience, likely will repeat again this season.

Carney's Waste Systems

- Tough Mudder is happening June 16-17 at Whistler Olympic Park. They are set up with adequate waste management bins.

Whistler Blackcomb

- A. DeJong has seen fewer bears on the mountain overall this season but more cubs than usual. May was very dry which opened up space for the bears despite the large snowpack.

C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative/AWARE

- Bruce McLellan gave a talk about grizzly bears at BioBlitz on June 8, which was well attended by public.
- C2C is hosting a Grizzly Bear Conflict Prevention workshop on June 16 and June 17 with training about how to use electric fencing and bear spray.

Get Bear Smart Society

- Currently creating public safety announcements to air on Mountain FM about not sleeping in your car/tent with attractants and about how getting close to take pictures of bears can contribute to habituating them.

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

- Alpine Trail Kiosk Sign Final Alpine Trail Kiosk sign was presented.
- Bear Smart Program Assistant Dusty's, Merlin's and Garibaldi Lift Co. (GLC) restaurants from Whistler Blackcomb are participating in the Bear Smart Restaurant Program.
- Bear Response Plan Detailed Communications Protocol Discussion about draft revisions to the Bear Response Plan's detailed communications plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Reviewed status of past actions

Action	Meeting Date	Status
L. McIvor to follow up with Emma DalSanto and Communications Department to offer assistance again on the garbage on buses initiative.	January	L. Harrison has put signs up in all bus shelters. This has been added to the BSPA workplan so that every April signs are up. Completed.
L. McIvor/H. Beresford to touch base with Parking Lot Committee and RMOW Communications Department.	January	In progress. Parking Lot Committee is happy for signs to go up however now need to find the budget for these signs. L. Harrison is going to look into GBS taking the lead on this and then they will be able to get funding from WB EnviroFund.
T. Lunn discussed opportunity for RMOW to share bear management approach at upcoming License Inspectors and Bylaw Officers Association of BC zone meeting or annual conference in 2019. T. Lunn investigate how to get on zone meeting agenda.	February	Unknown. T. Lunn no longer working with RMOW after end of March. C. Baker to follow up (May).
Bears 1-pager for rental properties	February	L. Harrison will work on this. Collaborate and coordinate messaging with

		AWARE's Eco-Citizen awareness initiative.
RMOW to consider existing and needed efforts to promote proper composting practices	March	L. Harrison will add a section about proper composting practices to website.
Follow up on suggestion to promote the Tourism Whistler Sustainable Events Guidelines and bears section within the Solid Waste Management Plan template	March	T. Symko has completed this.
Send thank you to the Canadian Homebuilders Association on behalf of the WBAC for keeping construction sites in Whistler attractant free.	May	Completed.
Look into permitting for bear viewing tours and removing permits if operators are not operating under a set of guidelines that keeps bears and people safe.	May	C. Baker determined that tour operator's improperly viewing bears does not violate any Whistler bylaws. A change needs to be made to the Business License Bylaw in order for licenses to be revoked.
Talk to concierges and Visitor Centre about information going out if people would like to view bears on their own.	May	L. Harrison has sent out information to the Visitor's Centre and concierges. Completed.
Review Alpine Trail Signs draft and recommend edits to streamline content; look into GO-GRIZZ phone contact.	May	Alpine Trail Signs are finalized. Completed.
Review RMOW draft Solid Waste Bylaw revisions to ensure bear issues addressed, with particular attention to special events.	May	Completed.
Look into the potential of an RMOW internal staff referral system	May	T. Symko discussed internally with staff and determined that

for special event applications.		current less formal system is satisfactory.
Investigate how SLRD manages special events (E.g. triggers for permits, etc) with respect to integration of bear smart content	May	SLRD has a permitting system that is triggered by the number of people at an event. Otherwise, the SLRD solid waste bylaw also addresses attractants.
Talk to Kerry Ing regarding an RMOW reporting app for issues in the community and ensure that there is a bear component.	May	L. Harrison is working on this.
Investigate potential for shared online site for key WBAC resources, accessible by all group members	May	T.Symko looked into this and determined not practical or necessary. Instead, Lauren Harrison to prepare an Orientation Package for new WBAC members.

TERMINATION

Moved by P. Kindree

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee terminate the June 13, 2018 Whistler Bear Advisory Committee meeting at 9:45 a.m.

CARRIED

 CO-CHAIR: C. Ruddy

 RECORDING SECRETARY: L. Harrison