



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2019, STARTING AT 8:30
A.M.**

**In the Decker Room
8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V8E 0G4**

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Beresford
Co-Chair. AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lucak
Member at Large, M. Toom (phone)
Conservation Officer Services, S. Gravel
RCMP, R. Knapton

Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson

REGRETS:

Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau
Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by H. Beresford

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of February 13, 2019.

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 January 9, 2019.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

- RMOW Bylaw Services A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities and a discussion was held.
- Calls regarding attractants: 1 in January
 - WCSS willing to accept bear spray from tourists upon leaving Whistler
- ACTION: WBAC to discuss project development during March meeting
- RCMP A presentation by R. Knapton was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.
- RCMP gained 5-6 new members who will receive bear training from COS in the spring
 - No calls for bear activity in January or February
- RMOW Council A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding RMOW Council activities and a discussion was held.
- Ongoing work on Official Community Plan
 - Council approved SLRD regional growth strategy update
 - Retail closed door campaign- submit letters to shop owners, track number of closed vs. open business doors
- AWARE A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding AWARE activities and a discussion was held.
- Writing applications, plans and reports.
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship A presentation by H. Beresford was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- H. Beresford to step down as WBAC Co-Chair, position to be filled by RMOW Environmental Stewardship Supervisor, Hillary Williamson
 - Updating bear awareness brochures to be placed at tourist centers and village host stations.
 - Life sized bear panels, outlining bear-smart behavior, to be produced and placed at all major parks
 - Grizzly bear management plan in development for alpine trails. Review at March WBAC meeting with results from Wind River alpine trail bear hazard assessment. Bring messaging from Wind River report back to April meeting.
- Conservation Officer Service A presentation by S. Gravel was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- Conservation officers will be short one officer through the 2019 season.
 - Auxiliary will be brought in through the 2019 season to help with bear messaging and proactive strategies
 - A second bear trap will be purchased for exclusive use in Whistler
 - RCMP training to be coordinated
 - Hunting on Callaghan Road – FLNRO has taken the lead. Expect an update by March 31, but won't be changed for 2019 hunting season.
- Interpretive Bear Panels A presentation by Kristina Swerhun was given regarding locations and themes for bear interpretive panels and a discussion was held.

ACTION: Bear interpretive panel design and locations as well as life-size bear panel design and locations will be circulated for review. Comments will be made via email and final discussion will be held during March WBAC meeting

2019 Priority Items

A presentation by Heather Beresford was given regarding 2019 priority items and a discussion was held.

Priority	Status
1. Review implementing signage along trails in coordination with other stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Progress
2. Explore options to reduce human-bear conflict with illegal camping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCSS to create management program for portable food cache pilot project. To be presented at March WBAC meeting. Review Squamish illegal camping brochure to see if it can be adapted for Whistler
3. Determine how to use GIS as an internal tool to look for hotspots and conflict patterns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> H. Beresford will raise issue in upcoming GIS users group S. Gravel in communication with Whistler 311, will provide updates when available.
4. Explore options to use Business Regulation Bylaw as an enforcement measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bylaw draft is being reviewed Kevin Creery, RMOW planning analyst, can present to committee when more information becomes available
5. Ongoing public education, incident responses, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COS will develop their own outreach materials RMOW will look into developing short targeted videos for social media

No Go Zones

A presentation by Heather Beresford was given regarding whether “No Go Zones” should be expanded to include Creekside and a discussion was held.

- Creekside is a natural wildlife corridor between the mountain and valley
- Creekside will not be designated a “No Go Zone” rather recognized as a priority area for managing attractants

OTHER BUSINESS

Reviewed status of past actions

Action	Meeting Date	Status
Bears 1-pager for rental properties and new home owners.	February	L. Harrison has created this. Currently have the contact list to send out to rental properties but need to figure out how to reach new homeowners. A. Sefton sent to real estate, BSPA to send to property managers in spring.

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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	Business Regulation Bylaw is currently being rewritten and the change may allow RMOW to revoke business licenses to people who are not following laws. Complete for now but review once the bylaw is rewritten.
Talk to Tourism Whistler and all of the golf courses about promoting safe bear viewing practices.	June/July	Underway. Golf courses have been contacted about interpretive signs. Have not heard back. Lauren to touch base early April.
Create protocol for trail closures	September	Included in alpine trail grizzly bear management planning. Management plan and hazard assessment to be presented at March WBAC meeting.
Look into where bikers are being heli-dropped and what information regarding bear safety they are receiving.	September	L. Harrison will contact Blackcomb Helicopters about its heli-bike service and provide them with information to give their clients. Planned for spring 2019.
Email companies that deliver food to Whistler and leave the food outside a letter asking them not to since it is a bear attractant.	October	Complete (2018.11.22).
T. Macdougall of WCC to provide evidence to quantify the number of encounters and details of those encounters.	November	Complete (2019. 01.09). T. Macdougall developing plan for bear cache pilot project. Discussion to be held during March meeting.
Get bear smart information/brochures in Squamish Adventure Centre driving lounge.	November	Complete (2018.11.23).
C. Baker to request a presentation on the Business Regulation Bylaw update.	November	C. Baker has confirmed it is possible when WBAC is ready for presentation (2018.12.12).
Bear Response Plan updates to consider 'no go' zones and terminology.	December	Complete (2019. 02.13)
Look at options to collect unused bear sprays left by tourists and donate to WCSS or other.	December	T. Macdougall at WCSS has agreed to take unused Bear spray. H. Williamson to add to March agenda to discuss program plan.
Review Bylaw's Illegal camping pamphlet, update to include bear messaging.	December	A. Sefton to action. In progress.

- COS demonstration of new capture net at May meeting.
- Commercial Bear Viewing Association has developed a set of standardized guidelines and best management practices. Whistler bear viewing companies have not yet signed on to this program. Circulate CBVA documents to WBAC by email. Add discussion to April agenda.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by S. Gravel
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of February 13, 2019 be terminated at 10:30 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson