



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2019, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

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

PRESENT:

Co-Chair, RMOW, H. Williamson
Co-Chair. AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lucak
RCMP, R. Knapton

Recording Secretary, L. Harrison
Conservation Officer Services, J. Bjarnason
RMOW Environmental Stewardship Manager, H. Beresford
RMOW Bylaw Services, K. Creery

REGRETS:

Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by J. Pineda

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of October 09, 2019 as amended to include the following presentation:

Human - Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by B. Mueller
Seconded by I. Minic-Lucak

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of September 11, 2019.

CARRIED

UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service
- A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- Conservation officer, J. Bjarnason will be working in Whistler until November 15th.
 - There are 2 black bears frequenting the village. These are the same 2 bears who were in the village earlier this summer. One of them was relocated and was back in the village within a day.
 - Barbeques have been the largest attractant in Whistler especially in Spruce Grove and White Gold neighbourhoods.
- RMOW Bylaw Services
- A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- There has been an increase in garbage at bus stops however the public has been vigilant about calling it in. J. Pineda will be contacting infrastructure services in an attempt to get more regular service of the bus stops.
 - A sow and 2 cubs accessed attractants at an illegal campsite.
- RCMP
- A presentation by R. Knapton was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.
- From September 20th to October 9th there has been 14 calls regarding bears. The majority of these were sightings and were not a concern.
- AWARE
- A presentation by C. Ruddy was given AWARE's activities and a discussion was held.
- AWARE attended the Mountain Bike Tourism Symposium held in Whistler. 'Mountain Biking in Grizzly Bear Country: Understanding the Aspects that Influence the Safety of Cyclists and Bears' was presented by Dr. Ciarniello however it was not well presented. AWARE is planning to get Dr. Ciarniello to present at the Trails Planning and Working Group to bring more awareness to the safety issues of biking in bear country for both cyclists and bears.
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship
- A presentation by L. Harrison was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- The Parking Lot Committee has approved bear signs for near the skateboard park, the Lot 5 exit to the Valley Trail and one of the pedestrian exits in Lot 4. They would like us to use the bear cut out signs.
 - This is L. Harrison's last month in 2019 as the Bear Smart Program Assistant so she is working on final reports and planning for 2020.
- Whistler Blackcomb
- A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.
- There are no more berries left on the mountains and the bears have moved back down into the valley.

WWPG

A presentation by I. Minic-Lucak was given regarding WWPG activities and a discussion was held.

- WWPG has been busy conducting door knocks in Spruce Grove and White Gold neighbourhoods.

PRESENTATIONS

Business Bylaw
Presentation

K. Creery gave an update on the new business bylaw and a discussion was held.

- The new bylaw combines the business license bylaw and the business regulation bylaw. The new bylaw gives the RMOW the ability to revoke a license once it has been granted. The new bylaw will likely be passed at the November 19th, 2019 council meeting.
- When a commercial bear viewing operator receives a license we can add into their conditions that they must follow the Commercial Bear Viewing Association guidelines. In addition, if an operator violates the Wildlife Act their license could be removed.

WBAC Terms
of Reference

H. Beresford led a discussion on the WBAC Terms of Reference and whether we would continue with monthly meetings.

- The committee unanimously decided that we would like to keep the monthly meetings as they are a good place to keep up with everyone's work and discuss any issues. If a month is not very busy and there is not a lot to discuss then the meeting can be cancelled with 72 hours' notice.

AWARE Eco-Citizen
Video

C. Ruddy presented a draft of AWARE's eco-citizen video.

- The video is 6 minutes and contains content about waste management, bears, backcountry etiquette and invasive species.
- The video will be shared with the Spirit Program, Whistler Blackcomb orientation and Tourism Whistler to present to new employees in Whistler.

Human - Grizzly Bear
Conflict Mitigation
Strategy

H. Beresford gave an update on the Human - Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy and a discussion was held.

- Objectives of the strategy are to minimize human interactions with grizzly bears on the alpine trails, identify actions to minimize impacts of recreation trail use on grizzly bear habitat and use patterns and develop a response plan.
- The mitigation strategies are public education and communication, planning and trail modifications, enforcement and restrictions and the Alpine Trail Ranger program.
- A grizzly bear response plan has been created and it will be merged with the black bear response plan to create an overall bear response plan.
- The Human – Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy is currently in version 7 and once it is approved by council a work plan will be created.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by J. Pineda
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of October 09, 2019 be terminated at 9:55 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson