



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 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
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller
RCMP, Jaryt Lyons standing in for R. Knapton
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau

Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson

REGRETS:

Conservation Officer Services, S. Gravel
Get Bear Smart Society, N. Fitzgerald
Member at Large, M. Toom

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by B. Mueller

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

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by J. Pineda

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

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

- Conservation Officer Service A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- B. Mueller will be field training a new recruit over the next year. New recruit will be posted in Whistler during training and will move to North Vancouver once training is complete.
 - No reported bear sightings in Whistler but bears in West Vancouver are coming out of hibernation
- RMOW Bylaw Services A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities and a discussion was held.
- Received two calls related to garbage disposal issues.
 - No calls regarding wildlife in the last month
- RCMP A presentation by J. Lyons was given regarding RCMP activities and a discussion was held.
- No calls regarding wildlife in the last month
 - RCMP has a few new recruits who will need training with CO prior to the start of bear season
- RMOW Council A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding RMOW Council activities and a discussion was held.
- No wildlife activity reported around Whistler Blackcomb
 - Council is still in the midst of budget talks
 - There is a push for the province to develop a policy allowing local governments to develop specific bylaws for greenhouse gas and waste reduction
- AWARE A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding AWARE activities and a discussion was held.
- Would like to find out more about Parks master planning exercise as any park changes may have an impact on bears.
 - Trying to get Pique coverage around issues with helicopters and drones approaching sensitive wildlife. B. Mueller is sending letter to remind all Helicopter operators of the legislation.
 - AWARE to attend Destination BC's session on guiding principles for the sea to sky.
- ACTION: determine whether RMOW Parks Planning Staff would be able to meet with WBAC to go over proposed park changes
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- Developing a series of bear videos to be used for public education
 - Will purchase 5 bear canisters for WCSS to distribute, WCSS to report on program mid-way through season.
 - Working with GIS department to determine how to use bear sightings and conflict data to identify bear hotspots.

- Lauren Harrison to return as Bear Smart Program Assistant April 2, 2019

D. Imbeau arrived at 9:06 am

Grizzly Bear
Management Plan

A presentation by Liz Scroggins was given on the draft Grizzly Bear Alpine Trails Management Plan and a discussion was held.

- Plan created to manage alpine trails to avoid encounters and ensure trail use doesn't impact grizzly habitat
- Suggestion to use Geotab technology to automatically send critical bear safety messaging directly to peoples cellphones upon entering Alpine Trails
- AWARE requested that all spending on Alpine trails be put on hold, no plans for building additional trails but currently unknown whether re-routing of Beverly Lake trail is planned for 2019

ACTION: Circulate presentation to committee via email for further comment.

ACTION: Liz Scroggins to present final recommendations to committee during April 10th WBAC meeting.

Bear Interpretive
Panels

A discussion was held regarding the proposed locations and themes for new RMOW bear interpretive panels

- Committee members provided recommendations on location and themes.

ACTION: Kristina Swerhun will update bear panel locations and themes based on WBAC input. New list will be distributed to committee via email.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. Dejong
Seconded by B. Mueller

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

CARRIED

Chair, Claire Ruddy

Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson