



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

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

### PRESENT:

Co-Chair and Recording Secretary, RMOW, H. Williamson  
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda  
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac  
RMOW Council, A. DeJong  
Member at Large, M. Webster  
Member at Large, A. Baudouin

RMOW Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford  
Conservation Officer Services, E. Harbich

### REGRETS:

RCMP, R. Knapton  
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller  
Co-Chair. AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy  
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb  
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau

### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory  
Committee Agenda of March 11, 2020.

CARRIED

### ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by I. Minic-Lukac  
Seconded by M. Webster

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear  
Advisory Committee Minutes of February 12, 2020.

CARRIED

## UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service      A presentation by E. Harbich was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- No bear calls in Whistler over the past month
  - Few bears have come in and out of hibernation in Pemberton and one bear has come out of hibernation in Squamish
- RMOW Bylaw      A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- One call for wildlife attractants; large bags of garbage left at a bus stop. Bylaw cleaned up garbage and ticketed the responsible party.
  - Responsible party was a tourist staying in a nightly rental where they were provided with instructions for proper garbage disposal
- Whistler Blackcomb      A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.
- No bear activity reported on Whistler Blackcomb
- RMOW Council      A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding RMOW Council activities and a discussion was held.
- RMOW has new CAO, Virginia (Ginny) Cullen
  - The RMOW is seeking a new Climate Change Coordinator, in the meantime the Whistler Center for Sustainability is helping to keep the Climate Action Plan Moving forward until a new Coordinator is hired
- RMOW Environmental Stewardship      A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- Sarah Thomas has been hired as the RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant and is set to start work on March 23
  - Sarah brings a wealth of experience in public education, specifically surrounding the prevention of human/bear conflict
- RMOW Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy      A presentation by H. Beresford regarding the final Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Alpine Vegetation Mapping Report and a discussion was held.
- Dr. Lana Ciarniello reviewed draft strategy in April 2019 and presented recommendations to council, key recommendation was to conduct vegetation and habitat mapping to determine “hot spots” for Grizzly Bear activity
  - RMOW hired Grant MacHutchon to conduct habitat and vegetation mapping, focusing on the Sproat and Rainbow alpine areas. Report recommendations included:
    - No further infrastructure or trail construction in the Gin and Tonic or Beverly Lake regions
      - RMOW agrees
    - Re-route Flank trail to avoid spring feeding areas
      - RMOW to determine new trail alignment in 2020 in coordination of RTS and CCF
    - Consider trail closures along Pot of Gold due to Grizzly use

- RMOW committed to increase monitoring of bear and human use in 2020, trail relocation to be determined based on monitoring results
- Consider trail realignments or other mitigation strategies on skywalk
  - RMOW to assist ACC with installing signs and additional monitoring tools
- Continue Alpine Rangers Program and consider increasing educational efforts
  - RMOW continuing program and looking into increasing ranger hours on 21 Mile Creek trail
- Further signage improvements on trails
  - RMOW hired consultant to create communications plan
- Continue trail closures between dawn and dusk and ban on E-bikes and dogs in alpine areas
  - RMOW agrees
- Additional recommendations made by RMOW:
  - Increase Alpine ranger program to 7 days per week in 21 Mile Creek
  - Encourage province to curtail helicopter excursions to Hanging and Beverly lakes and other alpine locations
  - Share report with WORCA and ACC to ensure planning aligns with report
  - Recommend Rec Sites and Trails BC ban commercial use and events on alpine trails
  - Align grizzly bear recommendations with RMOW Recreation Trails Strategy Project
- Response and communications plan developed
  - Scenario based, outlines lead and support organizations and associated tasks and responsibilities
  - Divided alpine into three zones to allow for focused efforts
- 2020 RMOW Actions
  - Installation of Himmelsbach Hut to act as Alpine Ranger Station
  - Install wildlife cameras and counters on RMOW trails and coordinate installation of monitoring equipment on ACC trails
  - Increase educational training for Alpine Rangers
  - Plan and deliver signage and communications plan
  - Determine new alignment for Flank Trail

### **MOTION TO TERMINATE**

Moved by J. Pineda  
Seconded by A. DeJong

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of March 11, 2020 be terminated at 9:36 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair, Claire Ruddy

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Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson