



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 08, 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
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac
Member at Large, M. Webster
Member at Large, A. Baudouin

Conservation Officer Services, E. Harbich

REGRETS:

RCMP, R. Knapton
Co-Chair. AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by E. Lamb

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of January 08, 2020.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

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

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

CARRIED

UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service
- A presentation by E. Harbich was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.
- 4 conflict reports through month of December:
 - 2 calls for Black Bear sightings
 - 1 call for cub hit by a car near Pemberton, cub was euthanized due to extent of injuries
 - By mid-December all bears appeared to have gone into hibernation

- Bylaw
- A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- No attractant or wildlife related calls during the month of December

- Whistler Blackcomb
- A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding WB activities and a discussion was held.
- No incidents or bear sightings on Whistler or Blackcomb mountains during the month of December

- RMOW Environmental Stewardship
- A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- Ordered 5 new bear caches to be used in the Bear Cache Project run by WCSS. Project will have a total of 8 bear caches to be used in 2020.
 - The hours have been increased for the Bear Smart Program Assistant position for 2020
 - Currently in planning stages for 2020, reviewing and updating priorities, work plans and communications strategies

D. Imbeau joined meeting at 9:30am

M. Webster and A. Baudouin joined meeting at 9:45am

- Human Bear Conflict Mitigation Plan
- Committee reviewed WBAC recommendations for improvement as outlined in the RMOW's Human Bear Conflict Mitigation plan and a discussion was held.
- All recommendations were considered to be relevant and ongoing and will continue into 2020 with minor changes
 - Actions identified for 2020:
 - Parks Department to audit all park areas to ensure clear sightlines around Children's play areas.
 - Access to transfer stations for residents without cars: review success of current programs and investigate whether there is need for additional programs
 - Delivering bear smart messaging in schools and daycares: COS will join BSPA in spring of 2020
 - Wildlife viewing on Callaghan Road continues to be an issue:
 - COS will continue working on developing Whistler specific bear viewing guidelines for commercial bear viewing companies

- Contact Hotel Association and Tourism Whistler to discourage sending visitors to Golf Courses and Callaghan Road to view bears
- Investigate having BSPA conduct intermittent patrols along Callaghan Road to inform visitors of safe bear viewing practices
- There is bear signage along Callaghan road but it is in a poor location and often missed. Investigate whether this sign can be moved to a better location.
- Bear Aware training sessions: COS will conduct training sessions for Whistler bike park patrol and trail building staff, RMOW alpine ranger and bylaw staff as well as RCMP. Investigating potential for additional training sessions with GFL staff.

Bear Smart Program
Assistant
Recommendations

Committee reviewed BSPA recommendations for 2020 and a discussion was held.

- RMOW to recruit additional bear volunteers to assist BSPA and WWPG with outreach activities
- COS to conduct training session with BSPA, WWPG volunteers and RMOW volunteers to ensure delivery of consistent messaging
- BSPA to re-send rental one page document to all strata rental units in spring of 2020. Document should also be sent to those renting units through Airbnb.
- Committee to investigate opportunities to increase participation in Bear Smart Restaurant Program.

2019 Priority
Issues/Actions

Committee reviewed 2019 priority issues and actions and a discussion was held.

- Bear Cache Project was very successful in reducing human-bear conflict with illegal camping, the program has been expanded for 2020
- Bear signage has been installed and/or updated in all RMOW Parks and in WB day lots. There are plans for more informational/interpretive signage for Alpine Trail system, drafts will be brought to WBAC for comment.
- Visitor brochures and illegal camping brochures were updated in 2019. These will be reviewed during February WBAC meeting to ensure no additional changes need to be made before more are printed for 2020 season.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by B. Mueller

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of January 08, 2020 be terminated at 10:30 a.m.

CARRIED

Chair and Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson