



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016 STARTING AT 8:30 A.M
In the Decker Meeting Room
Public Works Building, Whistler, BC V0N 1B4**

PRESENT:

Heather Beresford, RMOW, Co-Chair
Sylvia Dolson, GBS, Co-Chair
Brittany Mueller, Conservation Officer Service
Chris Reiss, RMOW Bylaw Services
Paul Kindree, Carney's Waste Systems
Arthur DeJong, WB
Sue Maxwell, RMOW Council
Nicole Fitzgerald, Member at Large
Colin Hedderson, Member at Large
Ellie Archer, Public
Meg Toom, Public
Claire Ruddy, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative
Lori Homstol, Public

Guests

Joe Salkeld, UBC
Jessa Marley, UBC

REGRETS:

Simon Gravel, Conservation Officer Service
Sgt. Rob Knapton, RCMP
Colin Hedderson, Member at Large

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by S. Maxwell
Seconded by S. Dolson

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee agenda of February 10, 2016.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by M. Toom
Seconded by S. Maxwell

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the regular Black Bear Working Committee minutes of January 20, 2016.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

1. Updates

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICE (COS) UPDATE

- Quiet
- Received report today of injured bear (possibly cub) at Lillooet Lake Estates

RCMP UPDATE

- N/A

BYLAW SERVICES UPDATE

Bylaw Services and COS will meet to discuss working relationship

CARNEY'S UPDATE

- Quiet

WHISTLER BLACKCOMB UPDATE

- N/A

C2C GRIZZLY BEAR INITIATIVE

- Resolutions of support for GB recovery from 12 communities in corridor
- Planning 2016 focused on reaching special interest groups with information (e.g. biking in bear country).
- Seeking funding for signs at key trailheads. Will bring drafts to WBAC.

2. RMOW

- H. Beresford provided draft waste management guidelines to RMOW Special Events team for review.
- 2016 work plan revisions reviewed and approved.
- Frank Ritcey, Wildsafe BC will present Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) at March meeting as WBAC continues to learn about available information recording options.
- COS will present on GIS system in spring. Confirm with Simon.

3. GBS

- Finalizing 2015 reports for funders
- Preparing funding 2016 applications to CFOW and WB.
 - 5 minute staff training video; Mad Bear Skillz; 4 the Love of Bears; infographic
- PSA – 3 30 second radio spots; FAQ for landlords; Bear cut out signs; garbage truck wraps

4. Presentation “Does education reduce human-bear conflict? An agent-based modeling approach”

Joe Salkeld & Jessa Marley, UBC Okanagan

Theoretical approach to understanding human bear interactions and quantify how public education affects conflict.

The models simulate black bear foraging behaviors in proximity to urban environments. Assumes 100% education and compliance. Used RMOW Terrestrial Ecosystem Mapping data. Worked with Tony Hamilton, MOE, to categorize.

Model Education – Two types:

- Food education (teaching people to remove attractants)
- Vigilance education (teaching people to take action to keep bears away)
- Combination of the above two.

Found that all education significantly reduces the number of conflict bears. For every 1% increase of urban population educated, there was a 3% drop in conflict bears.

Top three education methods are:

1. Both types of education at border of community
2. Both types of education clumped throughout community
3. Food education at border of community

Discussion: Model accommodated bears leaving RMOW boundary. Indicated that they always returned. Consider including security of habitat as a model assumption. Model could only use data from 5 collared bears. Lori Homstol has compliance data that could be incorporated. Suggestion to create an information package for nightly rentals in neighbourhoods and for community gardens. WBAC could use the model in a future GIS application.

Conclusions:

1. Education has a significant impact
2. Configuration of education program is important.
3. Content of education program is important.

This stage of the project is complete. Future students may continue.

ACTION: H. Beresford to send Wayne McCrory's black bear habitat data.

Work Plan 2016 – Progress/Updates

Bear Smart Program Assistant budget increased. Scheduled to start in April.

Working Group for residents without cars: S. Maxwell, N. Fitzgerald will head up with Lori, Sylvia and Claire. Others welcome.

ACTION: S. Maxwell will prepare TOR for March meeting.

Riverside Campground – meet with new management in the spring.

RCMP Training – N. Fitzgerald had initial discussion with S. Gravel to better understand current situation. Will conduct stakeholder interviews and then make recommendations for improvements.

COS – Tim Ansell developing a standard provincial non-lethal training program.

AWARE is developing an organics solutions guide for implementing new RMOW garbage disposal bylaw. Aimed at commercial F&B.

Bylaw timeline – set for adoption in July. Will come into force in January 2017. WBAC to be advised on draft when available.

OTHER BUSINESS

- N/A
- Next Meeting – March 10
 - Wildsafe BC - WARP presentation
 - Draft TOR for car-less residents working group

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by P. Kindree

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adjourn the February 10, 2016 Regular meeting at 10:25 a.m.

CARRIED

CO-CHAIR: Sylvia Dolson