



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30
A.M.
ZOOM

Name	Meetings to Date: 9
Present:	
Co-Chair and Recording Secretary, RMOW, H. Williamson	9
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C Grizzly Bear Initiative, C. Ruddy	4
RMOW Council, A. DeJong	7
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda	9
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lucak	9
Conservation Officer Services, B Mueller	7
GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau	2
RMOW, Environmental Stewardship, T. Schaufele	1
Regrets:	
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb	2
Member at Large, A. Baudouin	6
Member at Large, M. Webster	5
RCMP, R. Knapton	2

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by J. Pineda

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of December 9, 2020.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by B. Mueller
Seconded by A. DeJong

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of November 18, 2020.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Updates

- Conservation Officer Service
- A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service (COS) activities and a discussion was held.
- COS workload, surrounding bear management in Whistler, has been steady over the last month. Officers have been patrolling Whistler every night in order to stay on top of bear activity in the Village, Emerald and Alpine.
 - Officers have been patrolling Whistler Village at least 3 nights per week. There have been no reports of bears in the village over the past 5 nights.
 - Bear issues in Whistler Village this fall helped to identify a number of issues with commercial garbage facilities in the area. COS conducted audits and provided education. Businesses owners were quick to make necessary changes which included installation of new locking systems, signage and staff education.
 - Issues with commercial garbage facilities were also identified in Function Junction, COS and RMOW Bylaw conducted audits and educated business owners.
 - Bear was captured and relocated from the Rainbow neighborhood after accessing at least 20 vehicles. Some vehicles sustained damage but overall, damage was minimal compared to past incidents regarding bears accessing vehicles.
 - H. Williamson: We post wildlife alerts whenever there is significant human-bear conflict in Whistler. Should we consider providing follow-up information surrounding the outcomes of these issues?
 - B. Mueller: Yes, in cases where the community has really stepped up and done well in terms of changing behavior. Not in situations involving relocations as this may cause people to become more complacent and view relocation as a solution to all bear conflict.
- RMOW Bylaw Services
- A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding RMOW Bylaw Services activities and a discussion was held.
- RMOW Bylaw has also had a steady month in terms of bear management. Bylaw is currently working with a business in Function Junction to bring them into alignment with Solid Waste Bylaw.
 - Would like to recognize the work of Brittany and the COS team for the significant enforcement effort in Whistler Village this fall.
- GFL Environmental
- A presentation by D. Imbeau was given regarding GFL Environmental activities and a discussion was held.
- Stickers with “No Food Waste” messaging were removed from GFL Construction Bins when they were re-painted. This has been identified and all stickers will be replaced for next season.
 - B. Mueller: Many commercial garbage storage facilities in Whistler Village have received new locking devices. Want to remind GFL staff to

ensure all facilities are fully secured after garbage pick-up, there have been a few instances where devices were left unlocked.

- H. Williamson: Document, surrounding requirements and BMP's for construction companies in Whistler has been finalized. Document will be sent to GFL to circulate to companies renting construction waste bins.

ACTION: H. Williamson to send finalized document, surrounding requirements and BMP's for construction companies in Whistler, to GFL.

Whistler Blackcomb

A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.

- The mountain has been very quiet in terms of bear activity. There have been no bear tracks detected on the lower mountain.

AWARE/C2C

A presentation by C. Ruddy was given regarding AWARE activities and a discussion was held.

- AWARE issued messaging on social media channels related to bears accessing unlocked vehicles in Whistler.

RMOW Environmental Stewardship

A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.

- In the last month there have been no reports of human-bear conflict received via the Bear Aware email address and no requests for wildlife alerts.
- We are hoping to be able to hire a Bear Smart Program Assistant for next year, working 3 days per week, April to end of October. This is pending final budget approvals.

OTHER BUSINESS

L. Harrison, RMOW Solid Waste Technician, joined meeting at 9:00am

Bear Smart Restaurant Program

Committee discussed altering the current bear smart restaurant program in order to increase uptake and explore options for adding additional stewardship initiatives such as waste reduction.

- What are current obstacles for restaurants in completing the current Bear Smart Restaurant program?
 - Staff turnover is high so delivering the training program to all staff members has been difficult, in addition, most restaurant training is conducted in person, so offering the training in a digital format was largely unsuccessful.
- In the future, it may be beneficial to do a blitz training session in the spring and/or fall, as this is just after major staffing turnover.
- More effort should be focused on educating supervisors and managers who can then train new staff members.
- Audits should be conducted between training sessions and additional education provided if needed

- It would be beneficial to combine multiple stewardship objectives into a single program. L. Harrison and C. Ruddy have been developing a program to both educate and audit restaurants for waste management/reduction. They will review content from Bear Smart Restaurant Program and return to committee with recommendations on how to incorporate both initiatives into one program.

ACTION: H. Williamson to send content from Bear Smart Restaurant Program to C. Ruddy and L. Harrison

ACTION: C. Ruddy and L. Harrison to review content from Bear Smart Restaurant Program and provide recommendations for how to combine Bear Smart and Waste Reduction initiatives into a single program.

WBAC Terms of Reference

Committee reviewed updated the WBAC Terms of Reference (TOR).

- The current TOR states that members must attend at least two thirds of the annual meetings to maintain membership. Currently no system in place to track attendance. Suggested that a tracking system, similar to that used by the Forest and Wildlands Advisory Committee, be implemented for WBAC.
- The current TOR states that WBAC will meet once monthly. Should the committee meet less during the winter since bear activity tends to slow during this time?
 - Committee is in favor of no longer meeting in January, but continuing to meet once per month from February to December.
- Not included in the TOR, but suggested that the committee consider continuing to use the Zoom platform, in some capacity, for future meetings. This would allow committee members who don't live in Whistler to attend a greater number of meetings.

ACTION: H. Williamson to include an attendance tracking element, in all WBAC meeting minutes moving forward,

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by C. Ruddy
Seconded by J. Pineda

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of December 9, 2020 be terminated at 9:50 a.m.

CARRIED



Chair, Claire Ruddy



Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson