



# WHISTLER

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

Online- Zoom

#### PRESENT:

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

Member of the public, A. Dowling

#### REGRETS:

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

#### ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by J. Pineda

**That** Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory  
Committee Agenda of October 14, 2020.

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 August 12, 2020.

CARRIED

## UPDATES

- RMOW Bylaw                      A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- September has been a very quiet month, RMOW Bylaw has not received any calls in September, or early October, for wildlife or attractants.
  - There are no known encampments that have been attracting wildlife in Whistler
- Whistler Blackcomb            A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.
- No reports of bear issues on Whistler Blackcomb.
  - There seems to be fewer bear sightings on Whistler Blackcomb, just a few sows with cubs. However, it's difficult to know if lack of sightings is because there are less bears or if it is because bear viewing tours are not operating on the Mountain this year.
  - Berry production on the mountain has been very sporadic, good in some areas but poor in others. Not seeing a lot of bear activity in areas where berry production is good.
- RMOW  
Environmental  
Stewardship                      A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.
- Stewardship has issued two wildlife alerts in the past two weeks:
    1. Alert issued to let members of the public know that the Rainbow Lake Alpine Trails have been closed due to the ongoing presence of a defensive Grizzly Bear. These trails remain closed until further notice.
    2. Alert issued for the Northlands, Montebello and Village areas due to tagged black bear frequenting the area and attempting to access Barbecues.
  - Compared to earlier in the season, we are receiving far fewer reports of bear activity, or encounters, in the valley.
- Whistler Wildlife  
Protection Group                A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding WWPG activities and a discussion was held.
- Whistler Wildlife Protection group sent volunteers out to provide public education in the Northlands and Montebello areas.
  - I. Minic-Lukac spoke with the individual who placed the initial call to COS, individual was renting the property and mentioned that the bear had accessed the BBQ on the property which the previous renter hadn't cleaned.
  - I. Minic-Lukac has noticed that Mountain Ash trees in the valley have lots of ripe berries right now but berries appear to be remaining on the trees. In previous years any ripe berries would be rapidly consumed by bears.

ACTION: H. Williamson to reach out to strata managers for Montebello and Glaciers Reach to provide bear smart information, specifically regarding attractants, to those operating nightly rentals.

## OTHER BUSINESS

### Construction Bins

Committee reviewed the current recommendations surrounding bear smart practices for developers and construction sites in Whistler:

- Current recommendations and expectations should be expanded to address issues with members of the public depositing food waste into bins outside of regular working hours.
- The following recommendations should be added:
  - Wherever possible developers and contractors should rent bins that have lids that can be locked outside of working hours. All GFL medium and small sized construction bins have lids.
  - Bins should be located as far into the construction site, and as far away from the road, as reasonably possible to further deter individuals from depositing food waste into bins.
  - If companies are not able to rent lidded bins then bins should be encircled in construction fencing.
- Continue to look into options for providing signs, or large magnets for construction bins which say “no food waste”.

ACTION: H. Williamson to update bear smart practices for developers document and will bring to committee in November for further review.

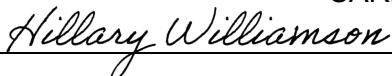
## MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by A. DeJong  
Seconded by J. Pineda

**That** the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of October 14, 2020 be terminated at 9:25 a.m.



Chair, Claire Ruddy

CARRIED  


Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson