



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30
A.M.**

Online- Zoom

PRESENT:

Co-Chair and Recording Secretary, RMOW, H. Williamson
Co-Chair, AWARE/C2C, C. Ruddy
RMOW Bylaw Services, J. Pineda
Conservation Officer Services, B. Mueller
RMOW Council, A. DeJong
Member at Large, I. Minic-Lukac
Get Bear Smart Society, E. Lamb
Member at Large, A. Baudouin
Member at Large, M. Webster

Member of the public, A. Dowling
Member of the public, S. Thomas

REGRETS:

GFL Environmental, D. Imbeau
RCMP, R. Knapton

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by C. Ruddy

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of November 18, 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 October 14, 2020.

CARRIED

UPDATES

- Conservation Officer Service
- A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding Conservation Officer Service (COS) activities and a discussion was held.
- There were 44 calls made to the RAPP line for the Whistler area in the last month. One call was particularly concerning, it was in regards to a bear trying to access a house in Nicklaus North despite no history of past conflict in that area.
 - COS has been kept extremely busy hazing bears from Whistler Village over the last month. It was thought there was a single problem bear in this area but it later became clear that there was at least three different bears accessing the village on a nightly basis. One bear has been relocated, the rest are being regularly hazed with some success.
 - COS received reports of bears accessing a number wildlife resistant garbage facilities in the vicinity of Whistler Village. Many of these locations have never had issues with bears in the past resulting in some complacency surrounding the maintenance of these facilities. COS and RMOW Bylaw conducted audits of all garbage storage facilities in the area and all issues have now been remedied. COS has not received any additional reports of bears accessing garbage facilities following the audit.
 - The village remains a hot spot for bear activity in Whistler but there continues to be calls coming in from other Whistler neighborhoods regarding bears attempting to access BBQ's.
- RMOW Bylaw
- A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.
- November has been much busier than previous months regarding the number of bear related calls to Bylaw.
 - Bears appear to be very motivated to access bear resistant garbage facilities:
 - Received a call about a bear accessing a residential garbage facility in Whistler Cay. Bear was able to navigate a fairly complicated system in order to open a gate in order to gain access to a dumpster.
 - Received a call of a tagged bear accessing an RMOW bear resistant garbage bin at the Whistler Interpretive Forest. After sustained effort the bear was able to remove the lid and climb into the garbage bin. The bin has since been thoroughly cleaned and repaired.
 - Received a report of garbage left outside of a business, was able to determine the person responsible for the garbage and issue a ticket.
- 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. Minimal bear movement reported on Ski Hill.
 - La Nina seems to produce more early season snow at lower elevations which may force bears into the valley.

RMOW
Environmental
Stewardship

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

- Environmental Stewardship has issued two wildlife alerts in the past month. Both alerts were regarding bear issues in and around Whistler Village.
- Tara Schaufele has returned from leave and will be taking over for H. Williamson as the Co-Chair of the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee.
- Due to low activity, the external website offering the training program for the Bear Smart Restaurant Program has been decommissioned and the course content will migrate to Whistler.ca. This is a great opportunity for the committee to look into opportunities to revamp the current program and potentially add additional elements surrounding sustainability and waste reduction.

ACTION: H. Williamson will reach out to Lauren Harrison, RMOW Solid Waste Technician, to investigate opportunities for the two departments to work together to create a program which involves both bear smart and sustainability initiatives.

ACTION: C. Ruddy to connect with Whistler Chamber of Commerce as they have conducted quite a bit of research relevant to the development of these types of programs.

Whistler Wildlife
Protection Group

A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding WWPG activities and a discussion was held.

- Biking for bears program began after the October long weekend on the Whistler Golf Course. Compared to activity noted during the spring of 2020, the course was very quiet in terms of both bear and human activity.
- The biking for bears program ended fairly quickly due to cold and snowy weather conditions.

OTHER BUSINESS

Backpacker Cache
Program

A presentation by Dan Knox from Whistler Community Services Society on the outcomes of the 2020 Backpackers Cache Project.

- Backpacker's Cache program began in 2019 as people living outdoors were reporting bear conflicts due to improper food storage around campsites. Goal of the program is to reduce wildlife conflicts and provide a safe food storage option for residents living outdoors.
- The program runs from May 1st to November 30th.
- Five people participated in the program in 2020. Units were used from 1 month to up to 6 months. This is slightly lower program participation compared to 2019. Possible reasons for lower uptake include:
 - There were less people living outdoors in Whistler in 2020. Many residents returned to communities where family was located.
 - Food bank was moved to more central location in Whistler Village and had extended opening hours.
- Overall, 2020 program was successful, there were several returning participants from 2019 and there were no bear conflicts reported

amongst program participants. Recommended that program continue in future years.

Construction Bins

Committee reviewed updates to requirements and best management practices for developers and construction sites in Whistler:

- Document was updated to reflect committee recommendations made during the regular committee meeting on October 14, 2020.
- No further changes were recommended by committee members.
- Document will be sent to all committee members along with November meeting minutes for final review before document is finalized.

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by H. Williamson
Seconded by J. Pineda

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of November 18, 2020 be terminated at 9:40 a.m.

CARRIED



Chair, Claire Ruddy



Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson