



WHISTLER

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY
COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 09 2023, STARTING AT 8:30
A.M.
TEAMS MEETING**

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (6)
Chair, Tara Schaufele, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	4
Recording Secretary, Ashley Dowling, RMOW Environmental Stewardship	3
Arthur DeJong, Council	6
Adrien Baudouin, Member at Large	4
Ivana Minic-Lukac, Whistler Wildlife Protection Group	6
Brittany Mueller, BC Conservation Officer Service	5
Taylor Green, Member at Large	5
Hanneke Snijder, Whistler Blackcomb	3
REGRETS	
Sgt. Nathan Miller, RCMP	1
Claire Ruddy, AWARE	0
Simon Gravel, BC Conservation Officer Service	0
Denise Imbeau, GFL Environmental - Waste Management	2
John Beith, Bylaw Services	1

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by B. Mueller
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Agenda of August 09th, 2023.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by H. Snijder
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Minutes of July 12th, 2023.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

Human-Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy

A review was started by T. Schaufele of the current Human-Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy, with an aim to extend the region covered by this from just the Alpine trails of Sproatt and Rainbow Mountain, to the Whistler Valley. When the discussion was started it was decided that as this document applies specifically to the Alpine regions it would be a better use to update the Whistler Bear Response Plan, which includes a Grizzly Bear Communications Response Protocol. The review was left at Page 23, with an agreement that the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee (WBAC) would convene this at the September meeting, after committee members had been able to review the document thoroughly and updates could be made to both documents. Amendments to the current Strategy would include the addition of the new camping ground for 2023 in the Whistler Olympic Park in the Callaghan Valley.

Verbiage for WBAC Communications Use

A presentation was given by T. Schaufele and A. Dowling, following a meeting with Sgt. Simon Gravel, regarding verbiage that should be used for communications for the WBAC. A list document containing the correct verbiage to use will be requested from the COS communications department and circulated with WBAC members. Examples of language to use are: Human habituated and food conditioned, but food habituated.

Updates

Conservation Officer Service (COS)

A presentation by B. Mueller was given regarding COS activities and a discussion was held.

- Jefferson Smith was introduced as the new Wildlife Safety Response Officer (WSRO) and joins from the Parks team with the RMOW. Jefferson's role involves education – door-to-door, presentations, attending parks and assisting Conservation Officers.
- Sgt. Simon Gravel has moved to a new position within the COS – Officer in Charge, so will be moving away from the WBAC and Whistler, but still in the Sea to Sky.
- There have been 155 bear reports in the last month in Whistler, 23 of these were for food conditioned bears, including accessing BBQs and commercial garbage.
- Two bears were accessing Saskatoon (Service) berries in the Village area. The RMOW has removed the berries, however have now found other attractants from being in the village. Both bears were relocated, but are now back. Bylaw Services have been actively addressing the issues, but it has been a challenge.
- At Lost Lake park a bear accessed food reward and moved people away from a picnic table. Signage has been installed in the area to remind visitors to the park not to leave food unattended.

- There have been multiple bears hit by vehicles this year, more than usual. One was euthanized, however COS do not interfere unless the bear is showing signs of suffering or not able to perform natural behaviours.

RMOW Environmental Stewardship A presentation by A. Dowling was given regarding the RMOW Environmental Stewardship's activities and a discussion was held.

- Signage was made and installed at Lost Lake Park at the request of COS following the incident where the bear accessed food at an occupied picnic table.
- Door-to-door education was completed with Ivana in Spring Creek as a yearling has been frequenting the area.
- Educational events have been held – children's camps, bear safety works shops and bear spray workshops

Whistler Wildlife Protection Group A presentation by I. Minic-Lukac was given regarding Whistler Wildlife Protection Group activities and a discussion was held.

- Door-to-door education was done in Spring Creek, residents were aware the bear had been in the area.
- Received a report that on Whistler Golf Course (WGC) there was an injured bear. Ivana contacted B. Mueller and the manager of WGC about three weeks ago, it appears the bear was ok.
- A question was asked following the update from COS regarding the locations bears being – highway or residential areas.
- A question was raised about starting a conversation with the transport department about installing signs for 'SLOW – Bears in Area', near highways

Vail A presentation by H. Snijder was given regarding Vail activities and a discussion was held.

- Not much to update, some berries are ripening.
- There are less bear family units on the mountain this year

Grizzly Bear Foundation A presentation by T. Green was given regarding The Grizzly Bear Foundation activities and a discussion was held.

- Questions were asked about the Whistler Bear Response plan and the Grizzly bear communications protocol, which will be reviewed in the next WBAC meeting in September.

A. DeJong A discussion by A. DeJong was held.

- Thanked the Bear Smart Program Assistant for sending through an article containing bear photos he had taken.
- There is light berry production about 1600m, which is rarely seen. A little concerning about general berry crop production

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Dowling to make amendments to the Human-Grizzly Mitigation Strategy that were discussed
- A. Dowling to contact COS communications department for verbiage document

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business

MOTION TO TERMINATE

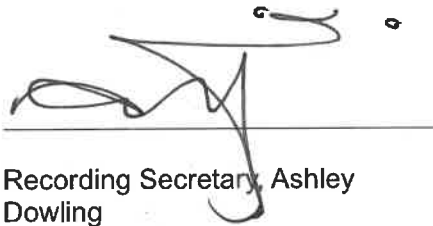
Moved by B. Mueller

Seconded by T. Schaufele

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of August 09, 2023 be terminated at 9.52 am

Tara Schaufele

Chair, Tara Schaufele



Recording Secretary, Ashley
Dowling