



WHISTLER

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

**In the Decker Room
8020 Nesters Road, Whistler, BC V8E 0G4**

PRESENT:

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

RMOW Environmental Stewardship, H. Beresford
Conservation Officer Services, E. Harbich

REGRETS:

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by A. DeJong
Seconded by I. Minic-Lukac

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Whistler Bear Advisory
Committee Agenda of March 11, 2020.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by I. Minic-Lukac
Seconded by M. Webster

That Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Whistler Bear
Advisory Committee Minutes of February 12, 2020.

CARRIED

UPDATES

- | | |
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| Conservation Officer Service | <p>A presentation by E. Harbich was given regarding Conservation Officer Service activities and a discussion was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No bear calls in Whistler over the past month• Few bears have come in and out of hibernation in Pemberton and one bear has come out of hibernation in Squamish |
| RMOW Bylaw | <p>A presentation by J. Pineda was given regarding Bylaw activities and a discussion was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One call for wildlife attractants; large bags of garbage left at a bus stop. Bylaw cleaned up garbage and ticketed the responsible party.• Responsible party was a tourist staying in a nightly rental where they were provided with instructions for proper garbage disposal |
| Whistler Blackcomb | <p>A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding Whistler Blackcomb activities and a discussion was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No bear activity reported on Whistler Blackcomb |
| RMOW Council | <p>A presentation by A. DeJong was given regarding RMOW Council activities and a discussion was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RMOW has new CAO, Virginia (Ginny) Cullen• The RMOW is seeking a new Climate Change Coordinator, in the meantime the Whistler Center for Sustainability is helping to keep the Climate Action Plan Moving forward until a new Coordinator is hired |
| RMOW Environmental Stewardship | <p>A presentation by H. Williamson was given regarding RMOW Environmental Stewardship activities and a discussion was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sarah Thomas has been hired as the RMOW Bear Smart Program Assistant and is set to start work on March 23• Sarah brings a wealth of experience in public education, specifically surrounding the prevention of human/bear conflict |
| RMOW Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy | <p>A presentation by H. Beresford regarding the final Grizzly Bear Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Alpine Vegetation Mapping Report and a discussion was held.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Lana Ciarniello reviewed draft strategy in April 2019 and presented recommendations to council, key recommendation was to conduct vegetation and habitat mapping to determine "hot spots" for Grizzly Bear activity• RMOW hired Grant MacHutchon to conduct habitat and vegetation mapping, focusing on the Sproat and Rainbow alpine areas. Report recommendations included:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ No further infrastructure or trail construction in the Gin and Tonic or Beverly Lake regions<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ RMOW agrees○ Re-route Flank trail to avoid spring feeding areas<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ RMOW to determine new trail alignment in 2020 in coordination of RTS and CCF○ Consider trail closures along Pot of Gold due to Grizzly use |

- RMOW committed to increase monitoring of bear and human use in 2020, trail relocation to be determined based on monitoring results
- Consider trail realignments or other mitigation strategies on skywalk
 - RMOW to assist ACC with installing signs and additional monitoring tools
- Continue Alpine Rangers Program and consider increasing educational efforts
 - RMOW continuing program and looking into increasing ranger hours on 21 Mile Creek trail
- Further signage improvements on trails
 - RMOW hired consultant to create communications plan
- Continue trail closures between dawn and dusk and ban on E-bikes and dogs in alpine areas
 - RMOW agrees
- Additional recommendations made by RMOW:
 - Increase Alpine ranger program to 7 days per week in 21 Mile Creek
 - Encourage province to curtail helicopter excursions to Hanging and Beverly lakes and other alpine locations
 - Share report with WORCA and ACC to ensure planning aligns with report
 - Recommend Rec Sites and Trails BC ban commercial use and events on alpine trails
 - Align grizzly bear recommendations with RMOW Recreation Trails Strategy Project
- Response and communications plan developed
 - Scenario based, outlines lead and support organizations and associated tasks and responsibilities
 - Divided alpine into three zones to allow for focused efforts
- 2020 RMOW Actions
 - Installation of Himmelsbach Hut to act as Alpine Ranger Station
 - Install wildlife cameras and counters on RMOW trails and coordinate installation of monitoring equipment on ACC trails
 - Increase educational training for Alpine Rangers
 - Plan and deliver signage and communications plan
 - Determine new alignment for Flank Trail

MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by J. Pineda

Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of March 11, 2020 be terminated at 9:36 a.m.



Chair, Claire Ruddy



Recording Secretary, Hillary Williamson

CARRIED