



MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING OF THE WHISTLER BEAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, June 9th, 2021, STARTING AT 8:30 A.M.

Remote Meeting

Held via Zoom – Link available at www.whistler.ca/committees

PRESENT	Mtgs. YTD (3)
Co-Chair, Hillary Williamson RMOW Environmental Stewardship	2
Arthur DeJong, Council	3
Simon Gravel, BC Conservation Officer Service	2
Member at Large, Ivana Minic-Lukac	3
Member at Large, Margot Webster	3
Member at Large, Adrien Baudouin	3
Recording Secretary, Jagoda Kozikowska	2
REGRETS	
Co-Chair, Claire Ruddy, Coast to Cascades Grizzly Bear Initiative/AWARE	1
Ellie Lamb, Get Bear Smart Society	2
Juan Pineda, RMOW Bylaw Services	1
Sgt. Rob Knapton, RCMP	3
Denise Imbeau, Carney's Waste Systems	3

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Simon Gravel
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Agenda of June 9, 2021.

CARRIED

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by R. Knapton
Seconded by A. DeJong

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee adopt the Regular Committee Minutes of Feb 17th 2021.

CARRIED

PRESENTATIONS/DELEGATIONS

No presentations were scheduled for this meeting.

Bear Related Updates

An update by Simon Gravel was given regarding the following topics:

- Brittany Mueller has left the COS. There will currently be no permanent replacement for her position, which leaves a gap but staff can be brought in from other locations if problems arise.
- There will be a new Wildlife Safety Officer hired for this area. Their role will not be enforcement but instead education and outreach. Can be used as a resource if needed.
- Reports of a tagged bear accessing BBQ's. Need a post out regarding ensuring to clean BBQ's thoroughly and store away if possible. No reports of the bear accessing BBQ's now for some time which is good news.
- Good success with deterring both Alpine and Emerald bears from accessing vehicles. No reports for the past few weeks so looks like signage, door to door outreach and social media posts worked for neighborhoods to step up and help the situation.
- Cheakamus Lake trail and campground closure due to a bear displaying defensive/aggressive behavior. Bear had accessed human food several time and began to approach and follow people. Reports of swatting and charging.

A discussion was held regarding the bear with the key points listed below:

A more increased CO presence could not be possible to try and deter the bear from the area. Simon mentioned that they went to the campground 3 times and did not see the bear. The area is too large and complex to try efforts to haze the bear from the area.

Adequate signage will be placed by BC Parks at the entrance to the Cheakamus Forest Service Road to deter people from heading up the road to the park.

After some time of the trail and campground closure, only the trail may open first for the public while the campground could stay closed for longer durations.

There will need to be a more regular presence by BC Parks in the area to ensure public is not accessing the area and once opened to educate park users on attractants.

Seasonal closure will occur at Taylor Meadows due to the amount of bears that feed on the berries in that area.

An update by A DeJong, was given regarding bear activity at WB:

- Mid-mountain bear activity is high. Seems higher than usual possibly due to Covid and less visitors in the area. There has been currently no issues on the mountain with bears
- Mentioned his concerns with the excess of users at Recreational Sites and the risk it is posing to wildlife and fires safety of the Whistler area as well. He feels there need to be more of an enforcement presence in these areas from fire chiefs as well.

A discussion was held regarding the increase of people in the backcountry and the environmental and wildlife risks it may pose as carrying capacity of these areas have been drastically exceeded.

- No update from Council from A DeJong but he mentioned the hardship of the cyber-attack on top of Covid that the Municipality has been faced with which has been extremely tough for staff.

An update by J.Kozikowska, was given on RMOW's bear smart program

- Signage inventory and some new signs will be ordered
- Looking into a QR code for signage for Public to have easier access to bear information from posted signs
Completed door to door at Emerald to educate neighborhood on bears accessing attractants from peoples cars
- Current bear signage locations based on reports and incidents: Alpha Lake Park, entrance to Meadow Park, Emerald neighborhood areas, Lakeside Park
- Orientation completed at Riverside campground-good turnout answered lots of questions, esp. regarding reporting bears when they are present in the campground

An update by I. Minic-Lukac was given on behalf of the WWPG

- Biking for bears event occurred
- Golf courses were extremely busy this spring
- Conducted door to door education at Alpine and Emerald neighborhoods. Received more door hangers so has enough supply for now
- Asked if the group could get a copy of the annual COS Report to the RMOW so that they could access stats regarding bears

A discussion was held regard bear stats and public misconception regarding bear relocations in Whistler.

ACTION ITEMS

- Simon to send bear stats to Ivana for educations

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Other Business.

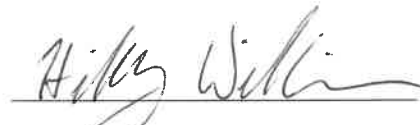
MOTION TO TERMINATE

Moved by Arthur


Seconded by Claire

That the Whistler Bear Advisory Committee Meeting of June 9th, 2021 be terminated at 9:45 a.m.

CARRIED



Co-Chair, Hillary Williamson



Recording Secretary, Jagoda
Kozikowska