

Centre For Human-Wildlife Conflict Solutions Society
Annual General Meeting
Minutes

June 1, 2017, 19:30-20:45

Whitehorse Public Library Meeting Room

Members Present: Heather Ashthorn, Pamela Brown, Lindsay Caskenette, Scott Gilbert
Regrets: Cassey Andrew, Denny Denison

Chair: Lindsay Caskenette

Minutes: Scott Gilbert

1. The meeting was called to order at 19:30. Two board members were absent and three members of the public attended.

2. Review and Accept the Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda as presented: Lindsay Caskenette

Seconded: Heather Ashthorn

Motion carried

3. Review Minutes from 2016 AGM

Motion to accept minutes from 2016 AGM: Lindsay Caskenette

Seconded: Pamela Brown

Motion carried.

4. **Executive Director's Report:** Heather began her verbal report by pointing out that she had just completed the 2016-17 Progress Report and uploaded it to the WWY web site.

Overview of Activities since 2016 AGM:

- Wildwise Yukon experienced a large turnover among Board members last June but thanks to Jennifer Smith and Pamela Brown there was some continuity between the old and new Executive.
- The WildWise Yukon web site was updated and provides a fresh and engaging presentation of our activities.
- The Southern Lakes Door to Door project was completed and was well received by residents. With funding from the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust the Door to Door education campaign will be extended this summer to Carmacks (Pelly Crossing declined) and Copper Ridge and perhaps another community / neighbourhood.
- WWY continues to encourage action on the Whitehorse Bear Working Group to try and bring about improvements to the high priority items identified in the Bear Hazard Assessment that was completed for Whitehorse.
- There has been lots of progress during the past year on various trail sign projects and this helps WWY keep a focus on education and practical ways to reduce human-bear conflicts.

- The recent media attention about the number of bears destroyed in and near Whitehorse related to livestock attractions confirms the need for the work WWY did on promoting the use of electric bear fences for chicken farmers.
- WWY co-hosted, with the Yukon Science Institute, a visit by a cougar expert Aliah Knopff in February who gave well attended talks in Whitehorse and Haines Jct. This helped expand the public focus beyond human-bear conflicts to the general case of co-existing with wildlife.
- The past year has been a busy one from the point of view of developing partnerships. We had a successful project with the Dän Keyi RRC developing public education materials to reduce vehicles collisions with Dall's Sheep in Kluane. There is an ongoing project with the Carcross Tagish First Nation focusing on human-bear interactions along the Skagway Road. Heather gave an update on some of the controversy that has arisen in the media and on Facebook regarding the message "Don't Stop for Bears". We had several exchanges with the Association of Yukon Communities but this led to no action on the part of AYC.
- Looking ahead the Board has an interest in approaching an Outside foundation for some multi-year funding to allow us to have a graphic artist on a permanent retainer to help with educational materials. During the past year core funding has been provided by Environment Yukon. Other funding was received from the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust, City of Whitehorse Environment Fund, Yukon College and Dän Keyi RRC.

5. Financial Report

- 2016-17 Financial statements – We changed book keepers this year and have used MacKay and Associates for the financial summary that was distributed by email before the meeting and circulated in hardcopy at the meeting. We are in a good financial position with a small surplus carried over. Looking ahead we must continue our practice of finding outside money to fund any new projects that we take on. Draft budget for 2017-18 will be reviewed by the new board of directors at their next meeting.

Motion to accept the Financial Statements as presented: Scott Gilbert

Seconded: Lindsay Caskenette

Motion carried

- Special resolution for category B society to waive the right to review financial statements by a professional accountant.

Motion to accept the special resolution to waive the right to review financial statements by a professional accountant: Lindsay Caskenette

Seconded: Pamela Brown

Motion carried

6. **President's Report:** Lindsay Caskenette, as vice-president, stepped in for Denny Denison and expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Board for the significant accomplishments WWY has made under Heather's direction as Executive Director. The organization has made progress on all fronts and the Board values Heather's commitment and leadership.

7. **Board Elections:**

Board of Directors

- Nomination of Existing Members: Denny Denison has stepped down as President and Jennifer Smith left the Board last December and will not be returning.
- Scott Gilbert nominated Lindsay Caskenette; Pamela Brown seconded. All in favour.
- Pamela Brown nominated Cassey Andrew; Scott Gilbert seconded. All in favour.
- Scott Gilbert nominated Pamela Brown; Lindsay Caskenette seconded. All in favour.
- Lindsay Caskenette nominated Scott Gilbert; Pamela Brown seconded. All in favour.

- Nomination of New Members: call to the floor for nominations of new members. Lindsay Caskenette nominated Aimee Schmidt. Pamela Brown seconded. All in favour.
Aimee Schmidt introduced herself – she grew up in Atlin and just successfully defended her PhD. thesis on polar bear – humans interactions. She has worked with Phil Timpany as a guide at the bear viewing area at Bear Cave Mountain and is currently working with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation.

Societies Documentation

- Notice of Change of Directors (Form 2): to be completed at the special meeting.
- Notice of Registered Address (Form 4): to be completed at the special meeting.
- Annual Report for Societies (Form 6): to be completed at the special meeting.

8. **Set Board of Director's Meeting Date**

The incoming Board will meet Sunday, June 4th at 5 PM for a 1.5 hr meeting to elect Executive positions, accept the 2017 budget and deal with the paperwork required by the Societies Act.

9. Meeting adjourned at 20:45