

LILLOOET NATURALIST SOCIETY
Minutes - Annual General Meeting
January 15, 2012

Present: Cathy Arthur-Stathers, Vivian Birch-Jones, Judy Bodaly, Scott Bodaly, Bob Deadman, Doug Drummond, Paul Ehni Chris Galliazzo, Doug Grossler, Fiona MacLeod, Alyson McHugh, Natalie McKay, Toby Mueller, Ken Oakes, M.J. Oakes, Jeff O'Kelly, Pam Paradis, Sam Quinlan, Jacquie Rasmussen, Ian Routley, Odin Scholz, Greg Smith, Lori Smith, Bill Spence, Hal Stathers, Simon Warhurst, Eleanor Wright, Ken Wright

Regrets: Wayne Robinson

Minutes: Jeff O'K

1. Call to order at 7:10 PM.
2. Welcome & Introductions.
3. Agenda adopted.
4. Minutes from previous AGM adopted. (Cathy/Scott)
5. Business arising from previous minutes: none.
6. New Business:
 - **Financial Report** (Greg Smith): see Treasurer's report. Treasurer's report adopted. (Greg/Jeff)
 - **President's report** (Vivian): see President's report. Correction: Maria Mascher took the lead on maintenance of bluebird boxes when Chris G. couldn't. President's report adopted. (Vivian/MJ)
 - **Regional Co-ordinator Update** (Vivian)
 - **Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program** (Vivian): FWCP has received lots of good applications from our area.
 - **Restoration Site**: Kim is away so Odin gave an informal report. Last year was the 4th year of work "on the ground". The project has had a 90% survival rate on most planting. Monitoring is ongoing of reptile, bird and small mammal populations. Bob Deadman reports that there are more snakes sighted each year. More food available. We don't yet know where they are wintering. There were fifteen workers on-site in the summer of 2011. There were more sales from the nursery in 2011. Lots of outreach programs including many school visits, the Salmon in the Canyon Festival and the Walking with the Smolts Festival (in co-operation with Salmon Talks). The project hopes to receive FWCP funding (as well as some other sources) for 2012 which will be the 5th and final year of the formal project. Work is underway to build a conservancy group to continue & further the work on the site. The Cayoose Band is a bigger partner now. Several parties are joining together to look at what can be done in the Seton corridor. By choice, LNS has no formal standing in these efforts, but Jeff is currently serving as an observer. (At this point, Eleanor Wright expressed – with hearty agreement – that Kim and Odin deserve a lot of recognition for their immense quantity of work on the Restoration project, the greenhouse and their continuing efforts.)

- **Bluebird Trails** (Chris): There were two trips to each site in 2011. Overall, numbers were lower for Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. Many thanks to Anne Heath for financial assistance.

- **CBC & Bird Atlasing** (Ken/Ian/Toby):

- **LRISS Report** (Odin): Odin thanked the LNS for acting as an umbrella organization while LRISS was finding its feet. It now has its own board of directors and has had official society status since April 2011. They are looking for increased membership. It's free! First AGM will take place spring of 2012. They are currently working on a strategic plan for the Lillooet area. Some education and outreach programs were conducted in 2011 and more will take place in 2012. Knapweed "exploded" in 2011 due to wet weather. Bill Spence is a director of LRISS and reported that getting the society up was an interesting and enjoyable process. The Invasive Species Council of B.C. has its AGM later this month. Several board positions are open.

- **Memberships** (Judy): There were 54 paid memberships in 2011. There were 56 in 2010 but several were voluntarily carried over by LNS. Less mercy will be shown in the future! Current membership rates: \$25 – individual; \$30 – family.

- **Election of Directors**: Motion for re-election of current slate of board of directors (Vivian/Hal). Carried.

- **Budget Items for 2012**: currently only two foreseeable large expenses. \$500 to sponsor one or more students taking part in the SLLP program. \$500 for maintenance of bluebird trail. Approved by consensus.

- **Plans and Priorities for 2012**: Vivian has begun planning for another BC Nature Camp in Lillooet for October 1-2. Chris, Alyson, Eleanor and Doug may be able to help her with prep. *Important discussion* of our financial *surplus*. Simon expressed concern about this. Greg suggested that initially we transfer some of the surplus back into a higher-interest earning account. MJ suggested possibly sponsoring a scholarship for young naturalists. Jacquie suggested spending some money on training Cayoosh Elementary teachers to help them incorporate the temporary wetland at Cayoosh into their curriculum. It was agreed that the directors of the LNS need to develop a strategy for how to spend some of the surplus.

- Other: Hal suggested that we need more study of frogs in our area. Survey? Guest speaker? Field Trip?

7. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 PM.