

Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 17, 2015
Minutes

Present: Board – Vivian Birch-Jones (chair), Greg Smith (treasurer), Christine Galliazzo, Andra Forney, Jeff O’Kelly
Membership – Bob Deadman, Ian Routley Scott Bodaly, Doug Drummond, Robin Strong, Robbie Martin, Hal Stathers, M.J. Oakes, Ken Oakes, Scott Hudson, Bill Spencer, Kevin Aitken, Toby Mueller, Cathy Stathers, Judy Bodaly, Kim North, Alison McHugh, Elijah Jack, Lori Smith, Avaleen Adolph, Bonnie Dunn, Beatrice Williams, Jennifer and husband, Vanessa and Jeryn Wolfe, Ale Waterhouse Hayward, Terry and Chris Hurst, Keri Petschl and Dave Remple, and Matt Fitz-james, Jennifer Eddie and husband Mike Seitzinger, Amy and Sacha Bordas, Kelly Agar, Vanessa Wolfe, Hans and Ruth Meyer.
Regrets: Doug Grossler, Simon Warhurst, Eleanor Wright, Jacquie Rasmussen, Jacquie Lanthier, Wayne Robinson
Minutes: Jeff O’Kelly

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to order		At 2:01 PM
2. Welcome/introductions		Board members introduced selves
3. Adoption of agenda/additions?	Request from Toby to move Yalakom Christmas bird count up on agenda.	Motion and seconded to adopt with the change in agenda order. Carried.
[3a] Toby’s report on Yalakom Christmas Bird Count	Terrible weather that day. 5 participants got 23 species, 110 individual birds. One new species – Trumpeter Swan at Horseshoe Bend.	A heroic effort!
4. Adoption of minutes from 2014 AGM		Motion to adopt previous minutes. Seconded. Approved.
5. Business arising from the minutes		Vivian moved any items into today’s agenda
6. New Business – Reports:		
➤ President’s report (Vivian and directors)	Vivian distributed by e-mail. Wayne Robinson’s report on the summer hiking program attached as well as Jacquie Rasmussen’s LRISS report. Questions or concerns?	Motion to adopt seconded and carried.
➤ Financial Report (Greg Smith)	Greg distributed this year by e-mail and reviewed at meeting. Vivian noted that we have been repaid the outstanding \$6,000. from the Restoration Project.	Motion to adopt and seconded. Carried.

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<p>➤ Membership and Fees (Judy Bodaly)</p>	<p>Stable membership. 58 (2013); 60 (2014). Membership fees remain the same: \$25 individual, \$30 family. Noted that \$17 of membership fees go to BC Nature for the magazine, liability insurance and other services.</p>	
<p>➤ Restoration Site/Seton Corridor & Educational Outreach (Kim North)</p>	<p>2014 was 8th year of work on the Restoration site. Work continued in 2014 with some money for site maintenance from FWCP. Sage coming in too quickly. Burning program this year to encourage grasses. Work on Seton Corridor project continues (overseen by Cayoosh Creek Band and Split Rock Nursery with support from Lillooet Naturalist Society). Kim thanked Avaleen and expressed appreciation for all her work. Avaleen Adolph is moving on but has done hard work on the projects which is greatly appreciated. Kim also expressed thank to Bob Deadman, Chris Galliazzo and Phora Horton for their help with surveys.</p>	
<p>➤ Walking with Smolts and Salmon in the Canyon (Kim North)</p>	<p>Walking with Smolts is already in planning for this year. Aiming for Salmon in the Canyon to coincide with arrival of Jacquie Lanthier’s Fraser River relay swim. Kim called for volunteers willing to help with planning Walking with Smolts and Salmon in the Canyon.</p>	<p>Vivian available to circulate request for volunteers when Kim sets dates.</p>
<p>➤ Bluebird Box project (Chris Galliazzo)</p>	<p>Several people joined Chris on her bluebird runs this year. Total of 162 boxes. In 2014 the Bluebirds had to compete for nest space with Tree Swallows, House Wrens and Deer Mice. Not as productive for bluebirds as some years. Possible risks due to new fertilizer (bio-solids). Likely to reduce grassland. Could affect grasshopper and other insect populations which would have an impact on the bluebirds. Box-building bee was held last summer. The plan is to put up ten in closer to</p>	<p>Chris is going to see if she can find out what kind of heavy metals might be present in the bio-solids and look at some of the other research. This is taking place on private property that we have permission to access at Big Bar Ranch.</p>

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	town (some at Fort Berens, HOOH). Chris still hasn't found anyone to take over the Jesmond portion of the bluebird trail. Chris is now a director of the Southern Interior Bluebird Trail Society and participates on the North American Bluebird organization.	If you know anyone interested in taking over the Jesmond route, please get in touch with Chris.
➤ LRISS (Vivian for Jacquie Rasmussen)	Distributed via e-mail – attached to President's report	
➤ Peace and Ecology group (Bill Spencer)	Annual Walk for Peace, Ecology and Social Justice will be Apr. 18 th – Noon. Meet at the REC Centre lawn a half-hour earlier. Gathering at the Friendship Centre later that same day at 5:30. Open stage at 7 PM. Yard sale on April 11, starting in AM. 554 Main Street. Drop off donations at that address. Vivian and Kim discussed idea of an open house at Split Rock Nursery during the Walk for Peace week.	Get in touch with the Peace and Ecology group if you would like to put on a related event during the week of April 11-18. Vivian will circulate reminders sent from LPEG to LNS members.
➤ Osprey webcam project (Scott Bodaly)	Numerous technical failures this past year. We have now received a better camera (free) from Lyttonet which will provide better image as well as a new radio transmitter. Many thanks to Daniel Mundell and Robert Richards of Lyttonet for their assistance and generosity. New solar panels on the way. We still won't have streaming video this year. We just don't have the money yet.	Installation of new camera etc. will happen in the Spring. Kevin Aitken will help with the climbing. Team commended for all their work and raising the profile of our Ospreys hugely in the community. Greg to send thank you note to Lyttonet from LNS.
➤ FWCP Update (Vivian)	Vivian and Larry Casper are still on the Board of Directors. 8 projects funded in our watersheds last year for a total of \$370,000. Competition for funds will be fierce this year. Meetings happening next week. Vivian will give us an update after that.	If anyone has ideas about someone from this area to replace Vivian on the Board after this year, let her know.
➤ Lillooet Christmas Bird Counts (Ian Routley)	Ian - Record high of 68 species on count day plus 4 more in count week. 29 participants – also a record high. Birds of note - Chris Galliazzo got a Peregrine	

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	falcon and a Northern Mockingbird.	
➤ Summer hiking program (Wayne)	Attached to President’s report. We need a group of fit hikers to do the Viola Lake trail upgrades and maintenance. It’s helpful if volunteers can get out to do trails prior to their use in the Summer hiking program (Vivian, Ian and Doug did this last season, before the Vancouver group of hikers – worked well).	Wayne will provide schedule of this year’s guided hikes in March and Vivan will circulate invites for work parties. Let Vivian know if you can take the lead on Viola.
7. Election of Directors (Hal Stathers to chair)	Robin Strong would like to stand as a candidate for Board of Directors. Kevin Aitken also will stand as a candidate. Jeff and Doug would be pleased to step down as directors. Chris is willing to step into the Secretary position.	Robin Strong and Kevin Aitken elected by acclamation. Jeff O’Kelly and Doug Grossler will step down from the board. Chris Galliazzo will take over as Secretary.
8. Nominating committee for 2015		Contact any of the directors if you are interested in becoming a Director and would like to know more about what is involved.
9. Approval of budget items for 2015 recommended by directors:	Hal feels we need to add a sum into the budget for Directors’ expenses.	Motion to approve the listed budget items with the addition of \$1000 to cover Directors’ expenses if needed to conduct LNS business. Approved.
➤ Osprey webcam – approve up to \$600		Approved
➤ Rivershed rafting trip – approve up to \$500		Approved
➤ Bluebird trail project – approve up to \$500		Approved
➤ LRISS – approve up to \$500		Approved
➤ Salmon in the Canyon – approve up to \$1,000		Approved

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➤ Walking with Smolts – approve up to \$500		Approved
➤ Fraser River swim relay – approve up to \$500		Approved
➤ Other items that come up during the year as approved by directors – up to \$1,000	In 2014 the kiosk was a sudden unforeseen expense and good opportunity for PR for LNS and LRISS. This is an example of the kind of expense this item is intended to cover.	Approved
10. Plans and priorities for 2015		
➤ Building stronger relationships with First Nations – pursue more actively in 2015	We have good relationships with First Nations but not much activity within membership. We will continue and extend efforts as opportunities and ideas arise in 2015.	Vivian has appt with Lillooet Tribal Council early in February 2015.
➤ Bat research	Dr. Cori Lausen will be here over the winter to check bat monitoring stations – you may receive a short notice invite to meet with her and her adopted bat ‘Lilly’ – kids specially invited	
➤ Bat house kits	We obtained 10 through the ‘Got Bats?’ project – Robin is planning a bee with the kids in February.	Kim hopes that in the future Split Rock will be able to make and sell bat houses to the public.
➤ Osprey webcam	See item in Osprey webcam project report above.	
➤ Splitrock – Open House, Earth day week?	See in reports above. Kim – maybe a native plant presentation and nature walk?	
➤ Bluebird Box outings – Chris	Chris circulates invite to LNS through Vivian when she is planning a bluebird outing.	
➤ BC Nature meetings in May 2014 at Salt Spring	Agenda and registration information in BC Nature Winter edition	Vivian, Ian, Scott and Judy registered.
➤ Fraser River relay swim, Sept 2015 – Jacquie L.	Discussed above. Vivian read report that Jacquie provided.	September 13 th tentative date relay at Lillooet.

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<p>➤ Mountain biking project – Kevin Aitken</p>	<p>New District of Lillooet Councilor (and now new member of the Board of Directors of LNS) discussed the work he is doing to initiate the development of non-motorized mountain biking trails. Mountain bikers are already using the Lillooet area. Why not take some local control of this recreation and do it with education and community involvement? Mountain bikers have been responsible for very little environmental damage to our trails so far but there are some ‘redbull’ cowboys that made a trail and posted a video online that highlights how we do <i>not</i> want to do this. With some stewardship attached we could have some degree of control with a shared use model. Directors are generally supportive. Scott Hudson suggested additions to signs on trails listed in hiking guide indicating which are and are not suitable for mountain biking. Concern expressed regarding spreading invasive weeds and creating ruts in the trails but comments from membership overwhelmingly positive with emphasis on ethical use of wilderness. Noted that this item brought some new members to the meeting (and dropped our average age by a few years)</p>	<p>Those who would like to discuss this more as a new LNS initiative for 2015 are asked to remain behind after the AGM to meet with Kevin.</p> <p>Kevin will lead committee and Vivian will circulate invitation for those interested in joining to work with Kevin on this.</p>
<p>- Other wildly optimistic plans?</p>	<p>Possible grizzly presentation this year by Coast to Cascades Grizzly initiative (we are signatories to that project). Hal would encourage the board to continue and extend the facilitation of funding transfer as we did in 2014 with Ken Wright’s loon project and previously with the restoration and invasive weed’s initial years.</p>	
<p>11. Adjourn</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn.</p>	<p>Adjournment at 3:26</p>
<p>Next meeting/event:</p>	<p>Larry Davis re Fishers and Richard Weir re Wolverines (FWCP funded projects in our area)</p>	<p>March 13, 2015. Mezzanine at REC , Centre, 7 – 8:30 PM</p>

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