

MINUTES Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 29, 2017, Rm 201 REC Centre

Present: Board – Vivian Birch-Jones (chair), Greg Smith (treasurer), Christine Galliazzo (secretary), Robin Strong, Kevin Aitken,
Membership present – Bob Deadman, Scott Bodaly, Anne Heath, Kim North, Bill Spencer, Corrie Allen, Erin Banwell, Tristan Banwell, Jacquie Rasmussen, Jade Goldie, Kathryn Mazur, Colin Vidian-Jones, Lori Smith, Judy Bodaly, Cindy Frederick, Steven Hempell, Scott Hudson, Kathryn Young, Connie Sobchuk, Gary Sobchuk, Cathy Arthur-Stathers, Mary Jane Oakes, Ken Oakes, Doug Drummond, Paul Ehni, David Pitt-Brooke, Alison Arthur, Ian Routley, Meghan Dauphinee, Iraleigh Anderson, Shannon Squire
Regrets: Simon Warhurst, Eleanor Wright
Minutes: Christine Galliazzo

Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
1. Call to order		1pm call to order
2. Welcome/introductions	Sign-in sheet circulated. 31 people plus 6 directors in attendance	
3. Adoption of agenda/additions?	Scott Bodaly motioned to adopt agenda, and Colin Vidian-Jones seconded the motion, all in favour.	Motion to adopt agenda Seconded. Approved.
4. Adoption of minutes from 2016 AGM	Motion by Tristan Banwell, Cathy Arthur-Stathers seconded. All in favor.	Motion to adopt previous minutes. Seconded. Approved.
5. Business arising from the minutes	Included in the agenda today.	
6. New Business – Reports:		
➤ President’s report (Vivian and directors)	Distributed by e-mail and printed copy circulated at meeting. Questions or concerns? Burkholder follow-up requested – letter has been sent by LNS already at request of membership – to seek further details on the plan to protect the recreational values of the area in proposed logging plans.	Ann Heath motioned, Bill Spencer seconded, all in favour to accept report.
➤ Financial Report (Greg Smith)	Jan 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2016 – report circulated and discussed. Expenses greater than income this past year. Overall assets greater than \$14,000 currently. Asked if there are suggestions for increasing our income. BC Nature AGM planned for Lillooet will bring in funds - we have rec’d contributions for that and should make an overall profit for us and BC Nature. Another idea is to host BC NATURE Camps again in the future. Separate Restoration account is used for various events – managed by Splitrock. Natural history talks that we hold bring in donations – nice that there is no admission fee but we still raise \$.	Motion to accept Financial report by Ian Routley, seconded by Scott Bodaly. Carried.

MINUTES Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 29, 2017, Rm 201 REC Centre

	Anne Heath offered to help to sell raffle tickets if LNS would like to do raffle. Donation from Anne Heath – thank you Anne. BC Nature tax receipt will be requested from BC Nature.	
➤ Membership and Fees (Judy Bodaly)	Membership – 65 members in 2015, 53 in 2016 including 37 families. BC Nature is in the process of increasing membership dues by ~\$2 in upcoming year – to be voted on at May AGM, 2017 (note: \$17.25 of your membership fee currently goes to BC Nature for programming and liability insurance)	Members encouraged to pay dues by March 31 st each year to enable us to send the correct BC Nature fees on.
➤ Restoration Site/Seton Corridor & Educational Outreach (Kim North)	Report: many ongoing projects. FWCP funding in final year. Invasive weeds control work at Restoration site. Sage study ongoing. TRU Carbon Sequestration research project – reports to be put on LNS website. Also, trailer with educational outreach materials available to LNS.	Updates and invites will be sent by Kim to Vivian for circulation to members.
➤ Walking with Smolts and Salmon in the Canyon (Kim North)	600 students and 35 volunteers participated in Walking with Smolts event in 2016. Invite to follow for this year – planned for May. Volunteers needed to plan and work at event. Partnering with the Rivershed Society to put on 150 year celebration with Salmon in the Canyon on August 4 th . Volunteers needed. Wetland report coming out soon, and a plan for management of local wetlands. Volunteer Citizen Scientists needed.	Volunteers welcome to help with event and invites will be sent. Contact Kim to volunteer for events.
➤ Bluebird Box project (Chris Galliazzo)	See report – presented by Chris, attached with minutes. Overall a very good year for the Bluebirds and the nest box program. Bio-solids – Chris had planned a meeting with Sylvis representative Rene at OK Ranch in 2016 - did not occur due to protests. Rescheduling for spring 2017 re: Sylvis involvement in the monitoring of bio-solids on site and grasshopper research study on OK Ranch lead by UBC Okanagan. Work outings this upcoming season will be called by Chris and circulated to members by vbj.	Chris to arrange meeting with Sylvis rep on OK Ranch in spring 2017. Invites for work days to follow on email over the season.
➤ LRISS (Jacquie Rasmussen)	Information page circulated - currently main species - Hoary cress, Japanese knotweed, Yellow flag iris and Blueweed targeted. Public outreach for awareness and control measures. Field work ongoing this year. Will be participating at the BC Nature AGM. LNS acknowledged for helping fund some of the educational outreach in 2016.	Watch the new library initiated Community Calendar for events and outreach.

MINUTES Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 29, 2017, Rm 201 REC Centre

➤ Osprey webcam (Scott Bodaly)	Nesting went well but the webcam didn't work well in 2016. Lyttonet has offered to help with connection of camera to website. Not live streaming video but instantly updated photos. Service should be improved – lots of interest in the Osprey nests.	
➤ Christmas Bird Counts (Ian Routley)	Lillooet CBC – 17 th annual CBC for Lillooet. Total species this year 64 and over 1.000 birds counted on the day. Overall numbers down a bit. White-throated sparrow and American tree sparrow new to count day. Northern Hawk Owl seen Nov 29 th at Restoration site. Good participation for count including visiting birders from out of town. Counts were also held at Hat Creek (Heather Bains coordinator) and Yalakom (Eleanor Wright coordinator).	
➤ LORCA Mountain Biking initiative (Robin Strong)	Robin and Kevin are also directors of this new Society that was started under the umbrella of LNS. Goal to establish legal sustainable trails. See the LORCA Facebook page for information, membership and newsletters. Not building any new trails until all processes in place with First Nations and province. Have formed a partnership with Xaxli'p for Fountain valley area. Burkholder area logging concerns – letter sent to Aspen – no response. SLRD provided \$5,000 to LORCA to assist with startup costs. Weekly rides planned to start up again in the Spring.	
➤ LAFS Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (Tristan Banwell)	One year in place as a Society. Events and training coming along well with agricultural films at library planned. Focus this year on agro-tourism. AGM in April 2017. Website www.lillooetagricultureandfood.com . Monthly newsletter.	
7. Election of Directors	The 6 directors on LNS board willing to stand for re-election. Vivian Birch-Jones – president, Greg Smith – treasurer, Chris Galliazzo – secretary, Robin Strong, Kevin Aitken, Simon Warhurst – directors at large.	6 directors elected by acclamation.
8. Nominations for 2017	We have a position for another director. Nominations from the floor – 3 times – Colin Vidian-Jones agreed to stand. Accepted.	Colin Vidian-Jones elected as a director.
9. Approval of 2017 budget items recommended by directors:	Anne Heath moved to accept the following list of budget items. Bob Sobchak seconded. All in favour.	
➤ Osprey	Osprey webcam – approve up to \$200	Approved

MINUTES Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 29, 2017, Rm 201 REC Centre

➤ Sturgeon	Sturgeon tagging project – approve \$250	Approved
➤ Bluebird	Bluebird trail project – approve up to \$500	Approved
➤ Invasive weeds	LRISS – approve up to \$500	Approved
➤ Mountain biking	LORCA Mountain Biking Initiative – approve up to \$500	Approved
➤ Fraser River rafting trip	Local youth or adult to attend Rivershed Society Fraser Rafting Expedition the length of the Fraser River in August. Must include a project or report for community. Up to \$500	Approved Kim to send invite.
➤ BC Nature AGM	Contributing plenty of volunteer hours – recommended no funds from LNS.	
➤ Contingency	Other items that come up during the year as approved by directors – up to \$1,000	Approved
➤ Splitrock activities	Salmon in the Canyon, Walking with Smolts, Restoration site, acoustic device – funds from separate Restoration Account managed by Kim and Greg	
10. Plans and priorities for 2017		
➤ Trail maintenance – Robin	Which trails would members see as priorities for maintenance? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two trails featured at the May AGM trails will be priorities: Fountain Ridge, and Camelsfoot Fire Lookout trail • Burkholder trail (and extension to Peridotite Lake another possible trail clearing project – Paul Ehni suggested, and this could be good mountain biking trail down to Yalakom Road). Seton Ridge trail needs work (trees down) • Lions Trail. Splitrock crew can help on Lions Trail and Scott and Lions plan to work on this trail before BC Nature AGM. 	Members reminded that wildlife sightings of species at risk to be recorded in provincial databases. Some of our members entering data in e-bird.
➤ BC Nature AGM hosted by LNS in Lillooet May 4-6, 2017	Planning committee: Vivian, Judy, Eleanor, Christine and thanks to other volunteers who are leading trips etc. Volunteer opportunities/meetings to be held – watch for invitation. Agenda and registration information in BC Nature Winter edition and LNS website. Lori Smith overseeing the Raffle – Anne offered to help. 108 registrants so far. 200 people our limit (capacity – will cap at that number). Judy looking after registration. Some presentations will have room for LNS members to attend. Reduced fees for volunteers. Anne suggested special T-shirts for volunteers.	
➤ Resolutions for BC Nature AGM?	Vivian reviewed previous resolutions that we have put forward (habitat for Spotted Owl, Fish Farm concerns, Steady State Economy) and encouraged members to consider big idea resolutions for the provincial meeting here. Note: the incoming President for Nature Canada, Bob Peart, will be attending.	Members to advise directors if suggestions.

MINUTES Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 29, 2017, Rm 201 REC Centre

➤ Young Naturalists	Opportunity to connect with BC Nature Young Naturalists lead in May – interest?	Contact directors if interest.
➤ BC Nature seeking feedback from community groups – Lillooet input?	Also, comments from LNS re BC Nature increase in fees?	Members to advise directors if comments or suggestions.
➤ Continue building stronger relationships with First Nations – pursue more actively in 2017	Some positive meetings with FN and directors held over the past year. Involvement of several First Nation communities in BC Nature AGM meetings and field trips.	
➤ Assistant for MJ for our website	MJ reports the workload manageable.	Thanks MJ!
➤ Osprey webcam in the spring	Scott will lead volunteer group work on this and coordinate with Lyttonet	
➤ Bluebird Box outings	Chris will circulate invites over the season via Vivian to the membership	
➤ Other items	Forest Stewardship Plan replacements due this year by Forest Licensee's – input suggested from LNS membership. Watch for their ads in the newspaper for public input. These are ten year plans. Burkholder ppt available today – prepared and shown by Paul Ehni. North America Bluebird Society – interest in membership? Info provided by Chris. Ecosystem/farming communications from LNS to farmers is of interest – Tristan of LAFS. Loon information pamphlet circulated to members. Itinerary and registration information for the May AGM circulated – LNS members welcome to register	
11. Adjourn	Motion to adjourn by Cathy Arthur-Stathers. All in favour. People stayed for various lively discussions following the meeting until 3 PM.	Adjournment at 2:16 pm.