



DRAFT

Board of Directors Meeting

August 14, 2018

Art House

Minutes of Meeting

Call to Order: J. Bray 7:07 p.m.

Chair: J. Bray

Present: Jayme Kennedy, Carsten Ginsburg, Chris Nelson, Ken Dunsworth, Inge Dunsworth, Chris Stafford, Jefferson Bray, Fraser Koroluk

Regrets: Tom Hermance, Jan Prins, Holly Willgress

Absent:

Additions to agenda:

i) Bella Coola Valley FaceBook page 'Belco Bear Bulletin Board' report (K. Dunsworth)

ii) CCCTA rep report (J. Kennedy)

1. Motion to adopt agenda (J. Kennedy/C. Ginsburg)

Motion: CARRIED

2. Motion to adopt June '18 Minutes (K. Dunsworth/J. Kennedy)

Motion: CARRIED

3. Business arising from June's Minutes:

i) Volunteer Travis George to cut the grass @ BCVT VIB every two weeks

ii) USB presentation by BCVT to Destination BC BOD did not happen.

iii) VIB staffing and funding secured until September 1, 2018. Volunteers required to staff VIB for month of September.



4. New Business:

i) Bear viewing / 'Cowboy' Photography on social media
(Guest speaker: Fraser Koroluk, BCVT member):

Mr. Koroluk expressed concerns regarding photos posted on BCVT FaceBook page 'Visit Bella Coola' of grizzly bears on the road. He does not believe BCVT/'Visit Bella Coola' should be portraying bears being in Bella Coola all the time, but more seasonally. Also expressed that BCVT should not be promoting bear viewing all over the Valley.

Another photo (taken by a CCCTA photographer) of a big male grizzly was shared and posted to 'Visit Bella Coola' page. Mr. Koroluk's public FaceBook comment to this post was read aloud:

FaceBook 'Visit Bella Coola' July 28 @ 8:28 pm Fraser Koroluk wrote:

"Based on where this photo was taken it looks like an opportunity for a photographer to justify interrupting a bears early season feeding on salmon...in fact quite amazing you got this photo without trespassing, but what do I know? Looks like a cross channel shot on the rip rap rock of a creek adjacent to Hwy 20. But not wilderness."

This comment was deleted from public view by page administrators. Mr. Koroluk and Mr. Ginsburg (FaceBook page administrator) exchanged apologies with respect to their interactions on personal messaging with one another. Discussion ensued addressing concerns re: bear viewing on creek bridges in Hagensborg/Bella Coola townsite(s). Members were in agreement that solutions are required to address:

- No trespassing on private property
- No traffic and/or pedestrian stopping on bridges (Nooklikonnik, Snootli, Thorsen Creeks).
- Tourism and non-tourism alike should not be recommending bear viewing in town (e.g. at creek bridges).
- Public road access on southeast side of Nooklikonnik Creek - close road access during chum salmon spawning season?
- High visibility of natural salmon-bearing creeks (July) and presence of bears fishing (July) is a reality. Fish are here, so too are bears. Issue(s) are human access, and behaviour/conduct of "tourists" and non-tourists alongside salmon bearing creek require attention/monitoring/controlled viewing area(s) and/or alternative monitored/controlled viewing areas. Suggested examples via K. Dunsworth (see report below re: discussion/suggestions @ August 13/18 'Resource Committee' (Community Forest Licence holder), included end of Airport



Rd., and/or lower Snootli Creek on DFO Hatchery property.

ii) Bella Coola Valley FaceBook page 'Belco Bear Bulletin Board' report (K. Dunsworth):

- reported fear mongering comments, photos of bear attacks on 'Belco Bear Bulletin Board' FaceBook page
- bullying for challenging comments on page and asking for factual evidence in support of comments
- blaming BCVT, tourism, for 'habituating' the bears in the Valley.
- August 13, 2018 Resource Committee (Community Forest) held meeting; had hoped to bring in UBC Professor specializing in human - wildlife conflict...not happening
- Resource Committee recommendations discussed for two alternative viewing places @ end of Airport Rd. & Snootli Creek on DFO hatchery property
- "Bear Working Group" August 14, 2018 meeting in Bella Coola with representatives from RCMP Bella Coola detachment, BC Parks, WildSafeBC Coordinator Frank Ritcey, Conservation Officer Service including Mike Badry Human/Wildlife conflict specialist with COS, and Bella Coola Sustainable Agricultural Society. Ken Dunsworth asked to be included in group as representative of BCVT; request denied. Jefferson Bray also asked Mike Badry, Chair of "Bear Working Group" (August 9, 2018 phone conversation) to be included as representative for BCVT. Request denied.

iii) Bear Safety / Attractants / Law Enforcement (J. Bray):

BCVT logo - is our 'brand'. As membership, and as an Association, we have a responsibility to conduct our business in compliance with British Columbia law e.g. Motor Vehicle Act, Criminal Code, Wildlife Act, etc. Third Party Liability is null and void in cases deemed to be illegal activity.

BC Wildlife Act, Section 33.1 states:

Attracting dangerous wildlife

33.1



- (1) A person must not
 - (a) intentionally feed or attempt to feed dangerous wildlife, or
 - (b) provide, leave or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises with the intent of attracting dangerous wildlife.
- (2) A person must not leave or place an attractant in, on or about an land or premises where there are or where there are likely to be people, in a manner in which the attractant could
 - (a) attract dangerous wildlife to the land or premises, and
 - (b) be accessible to dangerous wildlife. ...a person who contravenes subsection (1) or (2) commits an offence.

“I may not know everything about bears, but I do know one thing, bears aren’t the problem, people are.” ~ Charlie Russell

- July 3, 2018 incident involving MOE employee and grizzly family feeding in an unprotected, illegally provided cherry tree is clear message that BCVT must “take the lead” i.e. affirmative action, in reducing risk of human caused wildlife conflict in the Bella Coola Valley. Membership must be compliant with BC law (Wildlife Act).

- ‘habituated’ definition: a neutral response to human animal presence - not ‘flight’, and not ‘fight’, but neutral.

- ‘food conditioning’ definition: when non-human animals come to associate human presence with provision of non-natural (human) food sources/rewards. Like feeding the dog from the table, it only takes once and the behaviour is learned/imprinted.

- asked of BCVT BoD “We become enraged when we see videos of North Shore people feeding bears peanut butter sandwiches, but what is the difference with bears feeding in our fruit trees?” Answer: “No difference but distance. Food conditioning from the hand vs. food conditioning from ‘arm’s length’ - it’s all food conditioning to bears.”

- generations of bears have been ‘food conditioned’ to supply of fruit trees readily accessible in the Bella Coola Valley, as well as DFO Hatchery supplemented salmon runs in Atnarko/Bella Coola River system. Bears on fish is ‘natural’ feeding; bears in fruit trees is non-natural feeding.



- BCVT to take proactive community leadership and procure grant monies for creation and sponsorship of a contest for naming a “program” in compliance with BC Wildlife Act ‘attractant’ management laws and ‘Bear Smart’ coexistence criteria. Contest would involve a title/naming of the BC Valley ‘program’ e.g. “Wild & Wise”, plus artwork design contest for creation/production of website logo/business signs/vehicle stickers for BCVT members to display. BCVT membership would rank top three names & art designs with most votes for #1 being adopted. Votes determining #1, #2 & #3 choices would receive prize packages to be determined by BCVT BoD e.g. gift certificates for dinner, accommodator stay packages, ‘local’ tours, cash prizes

Motion: BCVT to procure grant monies to put toward creation of a Bella Coola Valley “program”* in compliance with BC Wildlife Act ‘attractant’ management laws and ‘Bear Smart’ coexistence criteria. (I. Dunsworth/J. Kennedy)

Motion: CARRIED

Motion: Human/wildlife conflict (bear) response strategy to be topic at future BCVT BoD meetings. (I. Dunsworth/C. Stafford)

Motion: CARRIED

iv) Emergency Management - CCCTA asked BCVT & CCRD to co-ordinate efforts to better manage emergencies. BCVT has a new DropBox account for critical organizational information such as website & email passwords and Director contact information (Tom Hermance hopes to upload BCVT Society Information also in near future). The plan also includes a BCVT Emergency Co-ordinator volunteer to be in place for Summer 2019. Volunteer’s are welcome. The main request is checking BCVT email every few hours during the Summer months.

Action: BCVT to write letter to CCRD informing them that Ken Dunsworth is volunteer representative for BCVT on EOC - Emergency Operations Centre. Daily monitoring of BCVT emails during Summer months.

5. Reports -

i) President:

- regrets that I am unable to attend meeting due to family emergency.

- Membership Fees: the reduced rate for non-tourism businesses resulted a few more renewals. Three tourism operators announced they are leaving the Membership due to fee increase,. (Glacier Creek Outfitters said they will re-new for 2019). Four others haven’t communicated either way (but I believe it was due



to 2018's insurance requirements).

- Marketing: during June & July, I updated the website & re-purchased BCVT's annual email plan & heavily promoted the website. I am currently adding new Google maps on all Membership web-pages.

- DestinationBC re-launched their website HelloBC. This year HelloBC is relying heavily on Trip Advisor. Members have been encouraged to add a TripAdvisor account to be promoted on HelloBC. Another email will send to the Membership emphasizing the importance of TripAdvisor to promote their businesses later this month.

6. CCCTA Rep Report (J. Kennedy):

- June meeting in Williams Lake as Rep CCCTA Marketing of MRDT
MRDT - new tax for accommodators with more than four (4) rooms.

- How do operators wish to hear their voice heard for marketing ideas
Community Futures Program available Sept. 24-25 ,and Oct. 22-23

7. Treasurer's Report (J. Prins): see attached

8. Old Business

i) VIB: The Visitor Staff are becoming more professional in their interactions with the public. Positive comments from Nuxalk Development & Copper Sun Gallery. Hours of operation 11a.m. - 7 p.m. until September 1st.

ii) Ferry update: Months of assisting BCF passengers & BCVT members made for a very challenging season. Northern Adventure (vehicle capacity 87) is due to take over new route on September 20th. Northern Sea Wolf will take over October 20th and continue through the Winter. CCCTA are in negotiations to compensate operators for this Summer's cancellations. During July's BCF meeting BCVT gave the rep's our 2019 wishlist (includes start 2019 season June 1; increase marketing of Route 28 on-par with similar routes (TV ads & Williams Lake signage) & compensation for fallout that is expected to continue for some time - especially European market.

iii) Local signage: Two locations (Wharf & Ratcliff's Pullout) have free Wi-Fi available now.



Ratcliff: concrete poured, signs arrived, post painted, plexiglass framed. Wharf needs frame redone. Plans for a plaque dedicated to Ernest Hall at Ratcliff's to be delayed due to financial restrictions, but hope to complete next year.

Motion (K. Dunsworth/ I. Dunsworth) Meeting adjourned 9:01 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 3rd, 7:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by J. Bray