

LILLOOET NATURALIST SOCIETY
Annual General Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2010

Present: Vivian Birch-Jones, Ian Routley, Jeff O'Kelly, Anne Heath, Doug Grossler, Scott Bodaly, Judy Bodaly, Jacquie Rasmussen, Ken Wright, Kim North, Ursela Stephane, Sara Chandler, Bonnie Michell, Simon Warhurst, Chyris Galliazzo, Colleen Jacob, Wayne Robinson, Fred Moffat, Karl Delling
Minutes: Jeff O'Kelly

1. Call to order at 2:05 PM.
2. Welcome and introductions.
3. Addition to agenda – report from Colleen Jacob re Nature Centre visioning. Motion to adopt amended agenda (Anne/Ian). Motion carried.
4. Motion to adopt minutes from Feb. 22, 2009 AGM (Ian/Anne). Motion carried.
5. Business arising from previous AGM minutes:
 - Jacquie Rasmussen reported that the wetland (mentioned under #8 in 2009 minutes) was created at Cayoosh Elementary School (spring of 2009) and is doing well.
6. New Business:
 - Ian presented the 2009 Financial Report. Several people had questions (Ken – re resource books; Doug – re tool rental; Jeff – re hiking guide buy-back; Anne – re reimbursement). All were answered to the satisfaction of the questioners. Motion to accept 2009 Financial Report (Ian/Anne). Motion carried.
 - Review of membership fees. Vivian has received suggestions from several sources urging a higher membership fee. Also suggestions to have different membership fees for individuals “vs.” families. As many members had already paid their 2010 membership fees at the old rate (\$25) it was agreed to maintain the current fee for 2010. Different rates for individuals as opposed to families makes the bookkeeping much more difficult so it was agreed to stick with one simple fee. Motion to increase 2011 fees to \$30 (Ken/Ian). Motion carried.
 - President’s report to members presented by Vivian. Two minor amendments: 1 LNS member went to BC Nature meetings at Pender Harbour (as opposed to “Two members went to the BC Nature meetings at Sorrento”). Motion to accept amended President’s report (Vivian/Ian). Motion carried.
 - Powerhouse Restoration Project Report presented by Kim. More outreach took place in 2009 (partly through the “3 Rivers Join 1” and Nature Centre Visioning projects). 2010 will be the final major year of work on the powerhouse site (still more machine work and planting to be done). After that, it will become more of a maintenance project. Kim reported on the challenges faced during 2009 – commitments and liabilities, staffing issues, climate, fire, etc. In 2010, the Cayoosh Band will be assuming most of the staffing responsibilities for the project. The LNS would like to express its appreciation. Vivian expressed acknowledgement and appreciation for all Kim’s work, echoed by all.
 - “3 Rivers Join 1” project reported on by Jacquie Rasmussen and Bonnie Michell. Jacquie gave an overview of the program and explained its sources of funding. She also gave a report on the program’s events and activities in 2009, and mentioned the project’s major expenditures for 2009 – the traveling trailer (with thanks to Alex North for volunteering his time to set-up wiring in the trailer), digital microscope, watershed model, 2 underwater cameras, reference materials and art supplies. Bonnie reported on the themes and activities of 2009 presentations. Themes included salmon, native plants, reptiles, bugs, lichens, earth science, herbal walk and worm composting. She expressed her thanks to the LNS and Cayoosh Band for their support of the project.

- Colleen Jacob reported on the Nature Centre Visioning Project. In 2009, surveys were conducted with the public, there were youth outreach/education programs and an open house was held in the spring to seek more public input. Much would depend on input from the Cayoose Band who seem supportive so far. There is a need for visual references (e.g., artist's renderings of what a Nature Centre might look like *in situ*. There is, however, no consensus yet regarding a possible site. The Powerhouse Restoration site and the Lower Spawning Channels seem to be the most popular. Another visioning session is planned for 2010 (no date yet, probably early February). There was also a discussion of whether the focus of a centre should be Nature, First Nations culture, or both. The general feeling was that the LNS should not tread on previous plans by USCLES and Cayoose Band for a First Nations cultural centre.
 - Ken Wright reported on 10th annual CBC. Fifty-seven species were recorded on count day by 20 observers. This is very close to our previous high of 58 species on count day. Over the 10 years of counting, we have accumulated a total of 91 species. Thanks to all who have taken part.
 - Ian Routley reported on the Breeding Bird Atlas project. The surveying of "squares" is proceeding at a very satisfactory rate, but some squares may be inaccessible while others have received more attention than was really required.
 - Chris Galliazzo reported on the Bluebird trail project. There were limited field trips in 2009 because of fires in the area, forcing many road closures. There was a lot of bear predation of nest boxes this year. Nevertheless, out of 167 boxes, 88 produced young (409 birds – a combination of Mountain Bluebirds and Tree Swallows).
 - Election of Directors. Ian Routley and Ken Wright expressed their desires to step down from the board. Vivian reported that Greg Smith was willing to let his name stand *in absentia* for a position on the board. Wayne Robinson put his name forward as willing to run for a position on the board. In the absence of any other nominees, Vivian Birch-Jones and Jeff O'Kelly were re-elected respectively as president and secretary by acclamation. Greg Smith was elected by acclamation as Treasurer. Directors-at-large were elected by acclamation: Wayne Robinson, Scott Bodaly, Anne Heath.
7. Approval of Budget Items for 2010:
- Anne Heath expressed her willingness to provide financial sponsorship to the Bluebird Trail Project. Gratefully accepted.
 - \$500 contribution by LNS toward a Lillooet Bird book project carried forward.
 - The Society expressed its willingness to once again contribute up to \$500 to local participants in the Rivershed Sustainable Leadership program (to be divided equally between participants).
8. Other:
- Rob Webb and Nancy Shook (*in absentia* with regrets) advise that the Lillooet Peace and Ecology group are planning for the 25th Earth Week events at Lillooet. The walk and café will be on the 24th of April, 2010 with events all week. The LNS is welcome to join/participate as always.
 - Request from member to write to MOE regarding plastic recycling and encourage them to accept the lids as part of the program - general agreement
 - Letter re fish farms – request from member to sign onto declaration calling for the removal of open net cage salmon farms from the wild salmon narrows – general agreement and Vivian to follow up- declaration attached and Vivian will ask Ruby Berry, who is an LNS member and active with the Georgia Strait Alliance to follow up with our declaration
 - Sara Chandler raised the issue of a letter to the provincial government re BC Nature and Gaming fund cuts – Sarah invited to follow up with draft letter for LNS. Sarah noted some success with mobilizing a protest through letter writing with a different group that had funds reinstated by the Gaming Commission..
9. Motion to Adjourn (Anne/Ken). Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:39 PM.