

**MINUTES Lillooet Naturalist Society - Annual General Meeting – January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Rm 201 REC Centre**

**Present: Board** – Vivian Birch-Jones (chair), Greg Smith (treasurer), Robin Strong, Kevin Aitken, Colin Vidian-Jones, Simon Warhurst  
**Membership** – Kim North, Kathryn Mazur, Hal Stathers, Heather Karras, Paul Williams, Bob Deadman, Jeff O’Kelly, Anne Heath, Leah Goldie, Gabrielle Kingston, Betty Weaver, Eleanor Wright, Colin Walsh, Karen Playfair, Lori Smith, Geoff Playfair, Scott Bodaly, Stefan Zeidler, Judy Bodaly, Cathy Arthur-Stathers, Marianne Gagnon, Ian Routley, Doug Grossler  
**Regrets:** Christine Galliazzo, MJ and Ken Oakes, Jacquie Rasmussen, Tristan Banwell **Minutes:** Jeff O’Kelly

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1. Call to order</b>		At 1:03 PM
<b>2. Welcome/introductions</b>	Round table of introductions. New members and renewing members welcomed by Vivian and Board	Sign-in sheet circulated
<b>3. Adoption of agenda/additions?</b>	“100 People who Care” added to agenda by Anne Heath – added to Reports	Motion to adopt agenda as amended. <b>Carried.</b>
<b>4. Adoption minutes 2017 AGM</b>		Motion to adopt 2017 AGM minutes. Seconded and <b>carried.</b>
<b>5. Business arising from the minutes</b>	Previously dealt with or included in the agenda today.	
<b>6. New Business – Reports:</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Annual report to members</b></li> <li>➤ (Vivian and directors)</li> </ul>	Distributed by e-mail and printed copy circulated at meeting. A few minutes allowed for people to review report. It has been a busy and successful year. A few questions were asked but no substantive issues arising from the report.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Financial Report</b></li> <li>(Greg Smith)</li> </ul>	Greg submitted the yearly financial statement and reviewed the details of the expenditures and income. Income in 2017 - \$15,963.25 (over \$7K from BC Nat AGM) Expenditures in 2017 - \$8,412.92 Balance on Account as of Dec. 31/2017 - \$8,508.45 Investment Savings Acct. Dec. 31, 2017 - \$13,832.66. Sturgeon project income \$4,606 and expenses \$4,023 Vivian provided some background on the LNS’ involvement with the Sturgeon tagging program in response to a question.	Motion to accept Financial Report seconded and <b>carried.</b>  Sturgeon project - unspent monies to go towards tagging program in 2018.

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<p>➤ <b>Membership and Fees</b> (Judy Bodaly and Stefan Zeidler)</p>	<p>Judy reported that we had 51 memberships (individual and family) in 2016, 68 in 2017. Our annual membership fees staying the same, \$25 individual, \$30 family. Stefan Zeidler is taking over the membership duties from Judy.</p>	<p>Members encouraged to pay dues by March 31<sup>st</sup> each year to enable us to send the correct BC Nature fees on.</p>
<p>➤ <b>LRISS</b> ➤ (Jacquie Rasmussen – regrets – report provided)</p>	<p>Thanks to LNS for their contribution to LRISS for 2017. The funds went towards 4 features in the Bridge River Lillooet News to highlight invasive species and best management practices like Play,Clean,Go. Our outreach program reached more than ever this year because of our involvement locally and in tourism initiatives. LRISS had a successful field season hiring 3 local contract crews. Over 50 hectares were treated covering 120 sites and included 14 high priority species. After three years of referral work, two of three St’at’imc communities have approved the pilot use of herbicides to treat hoary cress and blueweed sites in our region. We are waiting to hear from one more. We were very pleased to be involved in the hosting of the BC Nature AGM last spring. LRISS and Xaxli’p Community Forest held a workshop in the Fountain Valley. Robin Strong and Jacquie Rasmussen explained the work that had been completed with invasives and restoration in the territory. Thanks to the Lillooet Community Foundation for funding to help host this workshop.</p>	
<p>➤ <b>Restoration Site/Seton Corridor &amp; Educational Outreach</b> (Kim North)</p>	<p>Kim circulated a 3-page written report and summarized. Kim is spending the final funds in the LNS restoration account (prior to her departure from Splitrock). In 2018 they have applied for funding to plant forbs and bunch grasses on the restoration site – watering, weeding and maintenance will be led by Splitrock. Bob Deadman continues monitoring of reptile boards.</p>	<p>Volunteer event call outs will be circulated on the LNS list.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Walking with Smolts and Salmon in the Canyon</b> (Kim North)</p>	<p>800 participants and over 2,000 plants into the ground at the Walking with Smolts event. Event may not take place in 2018, but strategic plan for Splitrock is underway now so this is yet to be decided.  About 400 people attended Salmon in the Canyon – event coordinated with</p>	<p>Thanks to everyone who helped. Fraserfest planned for August 18<sup>th</sup> and rafting and biking trips might also be organized –</p>

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	<p>the Rivershed Society (Kim is board member). 20 people rafted down the Fraser with SLLP group while one swam and one kayaked! In 2018 Salmon in the Canyon will be a smaller event – may just be a dinner with the rafting group from SLLP. Kim asked for feedback on the food booths at the Salmon in the Canyon event – general feedback from those present positive. Fall stewardship days - over 600 plants planted by some 80 participants at the events.</p> <p>Wetland project ongoing. Research and outreach on Sturgeon to continue in 2018. Splitrock has done some mapping and has recommendations for the Lions trail work in 2018.</p>	<p>notices to follow.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Bluebird Box project</b> (Chris Galliazzo – regrets – report provided)</p>	<p>See report – reviewed by vbj, attached and circulated with agenda.          146 of 153 next boxes used this year.          278 Mountain bluebirds fledged.          406 Tree swallows fledged. Also a few House wrens and chickadees used boxes.          Good year for grasshoppers. Bad year with the fires and smoke. Some help with the OK Ranch nest boxes from a PhD. Student in the area.          Chris received volunteer award at BC Nature AGM for her work on this project among all the other volunteer jobs she does in the community. The provincial bluebird group will be meeting here in September and LNS will help with hosting.</p>	<p>Vivian will send out notice for the bluebird outings and for the provincial event.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Osprey webcam</b> (Scott Bodaly)</p>	<p>Thanks to Lyttonet for their support. Everything went well this year.</p>	<p>Scott Hudson will be taking the lead setting up the camera in the spring.</p>
<p>➤ <b>Christmas Bird Counts</b> (Ian Routley and Eleanor Wright)</p>	<p>Lillooet CBC – 18<sup>th</sup> annual CBC for Lillooet.          Bird numbers were down a bit – probably mostly due to weather, but still respectable and there was a great turnout of volunteers (as usual).</p> <p>11<sup>th</sup> year for the Yalakom (Eleanor Wright coordinator). Fewer numbers (birds &amp; people) in the Yalakom this year though they did well on dippers. 35 species as well as otters, coyote and cougar seen on the ‘day’.</p>	

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<p>➤ <b>LORCA</b> Mountain Biking initiative (Robin Strong and Kevin Aiken)</p>	<p>Robin and Kevin are also directors of this new Society that was started under the umbrella of LNS. Goal to establish legal sustainable trails. 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. A four km. easy trail is planned for the Fountain Valley between the lakes – plan to build it in professional sustainable way as a prototype. SLRD provided \$5,000 to LORCA to assist with startup costs. LORCA also received a generous donation from “100 People Who Care” and the BMX/Skateboard association (which folded) donated their remaining funds. Weekly rides planned to start up again in the Spring. Also planning a bike rodeo for kids – information on that will be circulated when date set.</p>	<p>See the LORCA Facebook page for information, membership and newsletters.</p>
<p>➤ <b>LAFS</b> Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (Tristan Banwell – regrets – report vbj)</p>	<p>Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS) has had a successful second year with workshops on Food Sustainability, Water Conservation, Bringing Nature into the Garden and xeriscaping as well as Pruning and Growing your own Organic Garden – all organized in cooperation with the communities. Currently a survey is out asking for suggestions for future workshops. Agritourism event held at Fort Berens – all very positive stuff. Hope to implement a Farmers’ Market Coupon program in conjunction with the Friendship Centre Food bank in 2018. <b>Seedy Saturday coming up February 24th</b> – LAFS supporting Lillooet Food Matters for this popular event.</p>	<p>Note the date, February 24<sup>th</sup> for Seedy Saturday</p>
<p>➤ <b>Sturgeon</b></p>	<p>We received funding from BC Nature Foundation, Community Foundation and the Chamber and contributed to a successful tagging program overseen by Bob Butcher CO. Education and conservation were incorporated into the activities and a natural history presentation in November was well attended. Our activities have drawn positive attention from the provincial experts. Splitrock has received \$22K to do more work on sturgeon. Steve Alain (Winner’s Edge) chairs the community round table on sturgeon.</p>	<p>Offer unspent program funds to Bob Butcher for tagging program in 2018 - vbj</p>
<p>➤ <b>100 People Who Care</b></p>	<p>Anne reported on the group’s 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting (earlier this month). About 60 people now involved. LNS applied for funding for work on the Lions Trail – the Lions Club put the Naturalist Society forward for this The Rowing club won the grant. LNS will not compete with the Food Bank at the next meeting to give them a better opportunity. We may apply during the following ‘round’.</p>	<p>Anne encouraged people to join this positive initiative. Next meeting is April 24<sup>th</sup>.</p>

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<b>7. Election of Directors</b>	The 7 current Directors are willing to stand for re-election. Vivian Birch-Jones – president, Greg Smith – treasurer, Chris Galliazzo – secretary, Robin Strong, Kevin Aitken, Simon Warhurst, Colin Vidian-Jones– directors at large.	
<b>8. Nominations for 2018</b>	Nominations from the floor invited three times. No new nominations.	Current board re-elected by acclamation. Applause!
<b>9. Approval of 2018 budget items recommended by directors:</b>	<i>Value of ‘new’ expenditures recommended = \$4,200</i>	Motion to approve the expenditures (listed below) seconded and <b>carried</b> .
➤ Osprey webcam	Approve up to \$200	Approved
➤ Bluebird nest box trail	Approve up to \$500 (this fund usually not fully spent but this year some extra may be needed for the provincial meeting).	Approved.
➤ Rivershed Society	Bring forward the contribution of 2017 that wasn’t spent (still with Rivershed Society). Vivian suggested we should approve funding for a second participant for 2018. It is a great program that highlights the health of the Fraser River and we want to take part again this year. Approve \$500 for 2018.	Approved.
➤ LRISS	Education and outreach invasive species – approve \$1,000 – increased for 2018	Approved
➤ Sturgeon	Sturgeon tagging project – bring forward our unspent 2017 funds (offer to Bob Butcher towards more tags)	Approved
➤ Trail work	Maintenance including weeding, clearing downed trees (chain saw service), fuel/ signage costs – approve up to \$500. Vivian also applying other funding for large ticket items such as burdock removal – this contribution good leverage.	Approved.
➤ LORCA	Xaxli’p trail – approve \$500	Approved.
➤ Contingency	Other items that come up in 2018 as approved by directors – up to \$1,000	Approved
➤ Restoration site, Salmon in the Canyon, Smolts / Splitrock activities led by Kim	Salmon in the Canyon, Walking with Smolts, Restoration site activities and signage – funding from separate Restoration Account managed by Kim and Greg – to be spent down in 2018 and directors can consider other funding (from contingency)	Kim to update directors as needed.

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<b>10. Plans and priorities for 2017</b>		
➤ Trail maintenance	Trails in Hiking Guide as needed and as conditions allow as in previous years. Hope to do major upgrade and tackle burdock on Lions trail.	
➤	Vivian thanked Aspen Planers for brushing out an extra half kilometer to get us access to our trailhead for the Enterprise Alpine trail. Some work has been started on that but major work needs to be done in a coordinated fashion.	
➤ Young Naturalists	Kim indicated she may have more time to get back to working on this and could use the educational trailer purchased by LNS for outreach activities. Kathryn Mazur has indicated she will help with this.	Thank you Kim and Kathryn. Notices will be sent out on our email list.
➤ Continue building stronger relationships with First Nations 2018	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.	
➤ Osprey webcam - spring	Scott Hudson 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 ➤	Requests for presentations / sessions on reptiles. Request for inviting a geologist back this year for a presentation/field trip. Kim would like to work on a watershed community program (art/mapping project). Ward Strong booked for an entomology presentation May 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2018. Vivian and Simon working on a Wildlife Tree presentation in March 2018.	Information will be sent on the email list.
<b>11. Adjourn</b>	Motion to adjourn.	<b>Carried.</b> Adjournment at 2:17 PM.