

LILLOOET NATURALIST SOCIETY Minutes – Annual General Meeting – February 22, 2009

Present: Vivian Birch-Jones, Ian Routley, Ken Wright, Jeff O’Kelly, Anne Heath, Ursela Stephane, Bob Deadman, Pat St Dennis, Rod Webb, Nancy Shook, Bruce and Mary Jaffary, Tim Malone, Greg and Lori Smith, Cathy Arthur-Stathers, Ursela Stephane, Karl Heinz Mascher, Eleanor Wright, Kim North, Paul Ehni, Simon Warhurst, Lindsay Hillocks.

Guest: Sofi (bird biologist)

Regrets: Toby Mueller, Scott and Judy Bodaly, Jacquie Rasmussen, Ken and MJ Oakes, Olivia Flynn-Goméz, Eleanor Routley, Susan Brown, Chris Galliazzo, Marie Barney

Minutes: Jeff O’K

1. **Call to order** at 10:03 A.M. Welcome and introductions.
2. **Review of Agenda.** Added Earth Week (Rod Webb) under #8, “Upcoming for 2009”. Amended agenda approved.
3. **Review of minutes.** Added Nancy Shook to those who were present Feb. 16, 2008. Amended minutes approved.
4. **Annual Report** from Vivian (see “AGM report to members Feb 2009”). One change: remove the phrase “a record high for us” from third last item (re 2008 CBC). Report accepted as circulated.
5. **Financial Report** from Ian (see “Lillooet Naturalist Society Financial Statement 2008”). Motion to accept the report (Anne/Bruce). Carried. Other financial items:
 - In 2008 Anne Heath donated \$500 to Chris Galliazzo to assist with costs for maintenance of the bluebird trails.
 - \$2,247 of the money in our bank accounts is committed toward the Powerhouse Restoration Project.
 - Vivian raised \$1,380 (also in accounts) dedicated towards the B.C. Nature Camp in September 2009.
 - It was agreed to make up to \$500 available again this year to reimburse Chris Galliazzo for her costs on the bluebird houses / trail.
 - It was agreed to carry forward \$500 currently in accounts for the “Birds of the Lillooet Area” book project.
 - It was agreed that we cannot financially support local participants in the Sustainable Learning for Leadership Program (part of Rivershed Society’s programs) at the same level as we have done before. It was also agreed that we would prefer this year’s participants to be First Nations. Agreed that we could support one participant to the amount of \$500, or two up to \$250 each.
 - We will be receiving approximately \$170,000 from the BCRP for the Powerhouse Foreshore Restoration Project this year. It was agreed that this year we should keep BCRP money and LNS funds in separate accounts.
6. **Call for Directors:** No one from the current slate of directors asked to step down and no new candidates were forthcoming. Current slate of directors stands. It was suggested that to refresh the board and for new perspectives that we work this year toward staggering board positions – i.e. rotate two directors out each year. The current slate of directors can meet in the course of this year to decide who would like to step down for the coming year, and then put out a call for nominations via e-mail.
7. **Membership renewal:** A slightly higher amount of money from our membership fees will go to B.C. Nature this year. However, no change to our current membership fee structures this year, \$25 per family / individual.
8. **Upcoming for 2009:**
 - Powerhouse **Restoration** Project - Kim reported on progress from 2008. This year’s work will concentrate on two strips of land in the upper bench. As mentioned in #5 above, the project will be funded by BCRP to the tune of \$170K. Other funds have also been applied for. The Salmon in the Canyon festival last year was a great success (even if it was *bloody hot*). It is scheduled again this year for August 22.
 - **Earth Week.** Rod Webb reported on the Lillooet Peace and Ecology Group’s plans to celebrate Earth Week this year. They have three evenings booked at the Friendship Centre for various activities –

April 18, 22 and 25. The Peace and Ecology Walk and Planet Peace Café will probably be held on April 25 (Saturday). Perhaps the Naturalist Society can collaborate in some events. Possibly a tour of the Powerhouse Restoration Project (with incidental birding, of course) on the 25th.

- **Bluebird Trail** - Chris Galliazzo was not present so Vivian gave an informal update and encouraged people to join in this season's outings
- **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** – Ken reported. 56 species were recorded on count day, 60 for count week. Highest number of participants (30) this year. Jeff noted that it was also the most comfortable count day in memory (and that the turducken sandwiches at Cathy's place during lunch break were superb). Eleanor Wright will supply us later with a report on the Yalakom CBC. A count was also held at Hat Creek.
- **Breeding Bird Atlas** – Ian described the project and his involvement with it and encouraged participation. Ian will give a presentation on the project more fully outlining what is involved (with a little recruitment along the way) on Saturday, March 14, Rm. 201 at the REC Centre. 10AM – Noon.
- **Sturgeon Conservation Society** – Tim Malone reported on his involvement with the sturgeon conservation efforts. Local concerned citizens started a tagging program last year and tagged over 150 fish. He hopes that Lillooet will receive a visit from the Sturgeon Conservation Society this year. If so, perhaps they can provide a presentation for LNS members. Perhaps they could time it to coincide with the Salmon in the Canyon festival....? The LNS is willing to supply a letter of support to Tim if it will help him in his efforts. Pat St. Dennis also offered that the District of Lillooet would be willing to supply a letter of support.
- **Churn Creek Protected Management Area** – Greg Smith discussed the Churn Creek Area and has proposed a trip to the area to increase people's awareness and appreciation of this important grassland habitat. The trip would be scheduled for late June or early July. It would probably be a 4 day trip, driving up the west side of the Fraser. From there a 7-8 kilometer hike (fairly easy) to the campsite. Greg would arrange a sort of "camping seminar" with presenters on the trip discussing grasslands ecology, threats and restoration. Greg has pack mules to help! No specific cost yet per camper, but probably something like \$70 per person, primarily to cover costs of the presenters. Greg will provide dates / ideas and Vivian will circulate to LNS members by e-mail when they are finalized.
- **Wetland Creation** at Cayoosh School – Vivian reported on Jacquie Rasmussen's behalf that Jacquie has worked with the B.C. Wildlife Federation who are coming into town to create a (presumably small!) wetland at Cayoosh Elementary School. This will be taking place with student involvement on June 24. No direct participation by LNS though if anyone has good ideas about how we could be involved, please contact Vivian / Jacquie. An agenda will be circulated closer to the date.
- **Young Naturalists** – Vivian reported that Toby Mueller would like to revive the Lillooet Young Naturalists. Anyone interested in helping should contact Toby.
- **B.C. Nature Camp** – Taking place in Lillooet September 13-18, organized by Vivian. There is only room for 24 participants in this program. Twenty-one have already registered.
- **BCRP** will be here for a watershed workshop and update March 26th – invite has been circulated.
- **Other Wildly Optimistic Plans Dept.** – Ken W. mentioned important bird habitat in the area and the role of LNS. Some discussion. Seems like more of a proposal for Nature Conservancy or Ducks Unlimited but we are interested in identifying and supporting protection of important habitats.

9. Meeting **adjourned** at 11:57 AM.

10. **Next meeting** TBA – 2010