

Lillooet Naturalist Society – AGM – Minutes January 22, 2011

Present: Vivian Birch-Jones, Odin Scholz, Kim North, Eleanor Wright, Ken Oakes, Rod Webb, Hal Stathers, Chris Galliazzo, Ursela Stephane, Bob Deadman, Scott & Judy Bodaly, Susan Brown, Lucy Jones, Simon Warhurst, Roberta Martin, Doug Johnson, Ian Routley, Jeff O’Kelly, Roberta Martin and Douglas Drummond.

Minutes: Jeff O’Kelly

1. **Call to order** at 2:06 PM.
2. **Welcome and introductions.** Regrets from Wayne Robinson, Cathy Arthur-Stathers.
3. **Adoption of agenda** – with the addition of Rod Webb speaking about Lillooet Peace and Ecology group under “New Business” (#6). Motion to accept agenda (Hal/Jeff). Passed.
4. **2010 AGM minutes** – One correction (Jeff): “Rob Webb” under the list of those present should be “Rob Webb”. Motion to accept minutes (Hal/Vivian).
5. **Business arising from the minutes:**
 - Draft letter from Sara Chandler re BC Nature and Gaming fund cuts (see under #7 in Jan. 29/2010 AGM minutes) was not received by LNS.
6. **New Business**
 - (A) **Reports**
 - **Financial Report** from Treasurer **Greg Smith**. Balance as of Dec. 31/2010 - \$6106.76. Investment Savings (re Hiking Guide) - \$20,972.10. Motion to accept (Greg/Jeff). Passed.
 - **President’s report** (prepared by **Vivian**, attached to agenda). One small change (per Kim) – it was Jeff and Maria Mascher who prepared the radio documentary on the Salmon in the Canyon Festival, not Jeff and Kim. Two items to add (per Vivian) – reports on South Chilcotin trip in September and Hat Creek weekend in October. Motion to accept (Vivian/Scott). Passed.
 - **Update on BC Hydro’s Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program (Vivian):** Vivian and Larry Casper are on the Board of F&W CP. The LNS supported 10 applications for project funding in 2011. Competition was fierce. Several projects in this area were approved for a total of roughly \$600K.
 - **Restoration Site/Education Outreach (Kim):** Powerhouse restoration project in its 5th year, 3rd year “on the ground”. Some 7,000 native plants put in over the last 3 years. The Native Plant Nursery is doing well. Mostly positive feedback on the restoration project from the public. This year reptile monitoring, Breeding Bird, bat, Screech Owl and small mammal surveys were conducted. Seven species of bat detected on the site, no Screech Owls, lots of Deer Mice. After a couple of years of “flogging” the educational outreach program, local schools are starting to approach Kim for presentations/activities. The Restoration project and Educational Outreach programs collaborate with a variety of other local organizations and events including “Salmon Talks”, the “Apricot Festival”, the Farmer’s Market, and many more. There was a large staff (12) working on the restoration project this year. This meant that a lot of work got done, but it was hard to manage such a large number of staff. Preliminary research was also conducted this year toward the Cayoose Corridor project. Plans for the future include establishing a committee for a Nature Centre and a Nature Conservancy. Budget/Financial report was submitted to LNS treasurer. Hal Stathers (and others) wished for an expression of appreciation for Kim’s hard work, leadership and time to be included in the minutes. Kim expressed her thanks to the Bridge River Lillooet News for their co-operation on the Watershed Art Show.
 - **Bluebird Trail (Chris)** – 4 maintenance and survey trips were carried out during 2010. There are 159 boxes. They yielded 274 new Mountain Bluebirds (78% success rate) and 193 Tree Swallows (74%). Bluebird numbers were up from last year, Swallow numbers were down. Chris expressed thanks to everyone who volunteered. (*Post Facto addendum* – as per 2010 AGM minutes, Anne Heath has covered Chris’ bluebird expenses and will be happy to do so for 2011. Many thanks to Anne!)
 - **CBC Counts/Breeding Bird Survey** (delivered by Vivian in Ian’s absence – he showed up later): There were 25 participants in the 2010 CBC. They observed a total of 59 species on count day and a total of over 1800 birds. This was the highest # of species for count day since they were begun. Counts were also held in Hat Creek and the Yalakom with participation from several LNS members. Last year was

year 3 of 5 in the Breeding Bird Atlas project. There were many contributions from local birders. Ian notes that some squares have been under-surveyed, others over-surveyed.

(B) Other New Business

- **Invasive Species Committee (Odin):** Lillooet one of the last areas in B.C. to have an organization and/or strategy for dealing with invasive species. Odin proposed the creation of an Invasive Species Committee for the area. He would like the LNS to act as an umbrella organization for it until it can stand on its own feet (probably quite soon – Odin thought within 6 months). There is a lot of interest already although the committee membership has not yet been formalized. The 2nd meeting will take place in late January. Odin would like an LNS representative on the committee. Other committees in the province are offering their help. The committee already has representatives from the local bands, SLRD and various ministries. Any LNS member interested in acting as a representative should contact Odin. Motion (Odin/Vivian) – The LNS to serve as an umbrella group for the Invasive Species Committee until such time as the committee establishes itself as a recognized society or to the end of 2011. Passed. This relationship can be reviewed and revised later as necessary.
 - **Coalition re effects of Bralorne Gold Mine’s tailing ponds (Eleanor Wright):** Residents from Goldbridge, the Yalakom and the Bridge River band have formed a coalition on this. She wanted to know if the LNS is interested in direct involvement and can the coalition mention the LNS as a concerned party in correspondence. Several LNS members are already involved, but not in their capacity as LNS members. The LNS board would like more information but agreed that that the coalition can cite the LNS as a concerned party.
 - **Review of Memberships/fees (Judy):** There are currently 71 members although not all are paid up to date. Motion to rescind 2010 motion regarding fee structure (Hal/Ian). (The 2010 motion was to raise fees to \$30 for either an individual or family). Passed. Motion to establish 2011 fees as \$30/family, \$25/individual membership (Hal/Ian). Passed.
 - **Peace & Ecology Group (Rod):** The Earth Day/week walk will be April 23. If LNS would like to host an event, they should try to co-ordinate with the Peace & Ecology Group’s plans.
 - **Election of Directors:** Scott Bodaly would like to step down as a director. He has recruited two people to stand for election as directors: Simon Warhurst and Doug Grossler (*in absentia*). Anne Heath is also stepping down as a director. Vivian, Greg, Jeff and Wayne Robinson are willing to stay on. All candidates elected by acclamation. President – Vivian Birch-Jones, Treasurer – Greg Smith, Secretary – Jeff O’Kelly, directors-at-large – Wayne Robinson, Doug Grossler, Simon Warhurst.
 - **Approval of foreseeable budget items for 2011:** \$500 to be made available to eligible candidates for the Sustainable Living Leadership Program (to be split equally if more than one candidate).
 - **B. C. Nature Club Grants & Scholarships:** deadlines coming up. Listed in B.C. Nature Magazine (and presumably available at their website).
 - **B. C. Nature AGM & Field Trip:** May 12-15 in Williams Lake.
 - **Day train trip to Gates Spawning Channels:** Vivian will inform members when this is planned.
 - **Other ideas:** Wildflower walk in Botanie Valley (Susan Brown).
7. **Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn (Jeff/Ken). Passed. Adjournment at 3:35 P. M.