



**CPAWS SAB CHAPTER
Annual General Meeting MINUTES
September 13, 2011
Kahanoff Conference Centre
1202 Centre Street SE
Calgary, Alberta**

Attendance: Board members- Gord James, Chair, Phil Nykyforuk, David Walker
CPAWS Staff – Anne-Marie Syslak Executive Director, Sarah Elmeligi, Lindsay
Allan, Sarah Pasemko and special guest speaker Ben Gadd plus 16 members in
addition to those noted above. As 10 members are required for a quorum, there
was a quorum for the meeting.

1. Introduction and welcome.
The meeting was called to order at 7.00 pm by Gord James, Board Chair.
Gord welcomed the members and reviewed the agenda.
2. Review and approval of minutes of last year's AGM.
Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of
September 13, 2010. Motioned by Phil Nykyforuk, Seconded by David
Walker. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.
3. Financial Presentation. Gord presented the audited financial statements
for the year ended March 31, 2011

In looking at the financial statements you will note the profit of \$80K in
2011 compared to a profit of \$17K in 2010. This improvement reflects:

- A year-end bequest of \$20K
- A number of programs that we managed through the year
that helped our financial results.
- Individual donations at \$71K but only \$51K when we strip
out the year end bequest. This is down from the \$65K from
the prior year.

- And as you will note the funding from the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission was up \$27K and played an important role in the improved financial position

Comment: Our net asset position is \$79K but it is below the \$89K level we were at in 2003. So clearly our financial position has improved but it is an ongoing challenge to sustain our financial comfort zone.

- Happy to report that for the first 4 months of the current financial period we have positive earnings.

Motion: That the audited financial statements of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ended March 31, 2011 be approved as presented. Moved by David Walker, Seconded by Dave Delawski. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

4. Appointment of Auditors for 2012
 - Motion: That Buchanan Barry LLP be appointed the auditors of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ending March 31, 2012. Moved by Joe Vipond, Seconded by David Walker. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.
5. The election of your Board of Directors for the next year.
 - Anne-Marie asked if there were any nominations from the floor. No one stepped forward.
 - Anne-Marie introduced the slate of directors
 - Current board members standing for re-election: Gord James, , Susan Eaton, Dave McIntyre, David Walker, David Sauchyn, Phil Nykyforuk
 - New candidates: Liana McCreddie, Carey Booth
 - **Motion:** That the presented slate of Directors be accepted as the Directors for the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the coming year. Moved by Lindsay Allan, Seconded by David Delawski. All in favour none opposed. Motion carried
6. A review of CPAWS successes nationally by Executive Director Anne-Marie Syslak.
 - Nova Scotia establishes a new national park for Sable Island
 - New Brunswick secures forest research partnership funds
 - Saskatchewan chapter adds 111 sq. km of prairie to Grasslands National Park

- Manitoba chapter established Fisher Bay Provincial Park through a partnership with the Leaders of Fisher River Cree Nation.
7. Sarah Elmeligi, Senior Conservation Planner, provided an update on our conservation activities in southern Alberta over the last year
 - a. **Land conservation and stewardship:**

Castle: market action campaign launched to boycott lumber products from Castle, hosted rally to oppose logging in Castle, working with international partner had over 72,000 emails sent to Premier asking to rescind plans for logging

Grizzly Bears: Collaborated with other ENGO's to implement grizzly bear campaign focusing on protecting habitat and reducing roads in core habitat

Grasslands: participated in Prairie Forum Conservation Action Plan, performed social science research re: South Sask. Canyon and attended emergency Sage Grouse summit
 - b. **Influencing Policy and Legislation:**

South Saskatchewan Regional Plan: working to prepare recommendations to the draft vision, including working with stakeholders and other ENGO's, and will report our recommendations by this October; we will follow up with a series of outreach events to educate and empower Albertans on this

Updated our interactive, web-based map (<http://www.rockies.ca/maps/cpaws/maptool.php>)
 8. Anne-Marie Syslak continued with the updates to our conservation and outreach activities
 - c. **Education and Community Engagement:**

Education: Provided 267 in-class visits, 56 hikes and 4 field studies to 4,549 students from 87 schools in Calgary and surrounding areas and hosted 6 adult workshops

Hired two part-time interpretive guides

70% of classes engaged in some form of action

Had Emergency Response Plan legally reviewed

Outreach: Hired full-time Communications and Outreach Coordinator

Participated in ~30 events and engaged new volunteers

Re-established Green Notes newsletter

Re-launched Capture the Wild photography contest

Hosted the J.B. Harkin Award

d. *Parks for Tomorrow:*

Involved in several National Parks committees, working groups and processes, responded to new site guidelines for Mt. Norquay, responded to CEEA amendments, Tangle Ridge development proposal and new recreational guidelines in Banff National Park, stopped Alberta Bill 29 on provincial parks and are waiting for revisions to be released for public consultation

9. Moving forward into 2012 CPAWS Southern Alberta will:

- Researching potential areas for protection in Alberta's grasslands
- Continue collaborating to further the conservation of Alberta's grizzly bears and to increase the extent of our provincial protected areas
- Anticipate the South Sask Regional Plan to be a large focus over the next year
- Re-build our volunteer program
- Increase capacity for our parks file

Special guest lecture by Ben Gadd

Ben Gadd and his wife Cia live in Canmore, Alberta, after 30 years in Jasper. The author of *Handbook of the Canadian Rockies*, which has sold over 50,000 copies, Ben has written or co-authored eight other books and contributed to several more. His first novel, *Raven's End*, has become an award-winning Canadian best-seller. It has been translated into German, Italian, Dutch and Danish for sale in Europe, and also into Japanese. Ben has received three Banff Mountain Book Festival awards.

With a degree in earth science and 35 years of teaching and writing about the Rockies, Ben Gadd is an acknowledged authority on the region

Ben has been an independent natural-history guide since 1985. He is accredited by the Interpretive Guides Association as a master guide. Ben can take your group out for a walk, put on a slide show, lead your tour—or just join you around the campfire to answer questions and swap yarns.

Ben founded the non-profit Jasper Institute, which for many years offered natural-history courses to park visitors. He has also designed nature trails, produced interpretive signage and created museum exhibits. Heard frequently on CBC radio, Ben has appeared in many television items and several documentaries on the Rockies. And he participated in the video CPAWS created last year Simple Solutions.

10. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.