



**CPAWS SAB CHAPTER  
Annual General Meeting MINUTES  
September 10, 2012  
Kahanoff Conference Centre  
Calgary, Alberta**

**Attendance:** Board members- Gord James(Chair), Susan Eaton, Phil Nykyforuk, Liana McCreddie (Treasurer), Daryl Beatty. Total of 20 members and 40 other non-member supporters.

1. **Introduction and welcome.** The meeting was called to order at 7.00 pm by Gord James, Board Chair who indicated that a quorum was present and as such the meeting was duly constituted. Gord welcomed the members and reviewed the agenda, Anne-Marie introduced staff and thanked supporters.
2. **Review and approval of minutes of 2011 AGM**  
**Motion:** Move to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 10, 2011. Motioned by Phil Nykyforuk, Seconded by Susan Eaton. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.
3. **Financial Presentation.** Liana presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2012
  - Revenues exceeded expenses by \$54k.
  - Net asset position of \$133k provides the organization with a financial safety net.
  - Auditors delivered the standard audit opinion for a not-for-profit organization for fiscal 2012.
  - Breakeven results for the first five months of 2013 fiscal period.
  - Continuing cautiousness over donor funding base erosion in current economic climate.
  - Tempered by strong balance sheet.

- Reappointment of Buchanan Barry LLP as auditors for 2013 fiscal year recommended.

**Motion:** That the audited financial statements of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ended March 31, 2012 be approved as presented. Moved by Sue Sargent, seconded by Joe Vipond. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

**4. Appointment of Auditors for 2013**

**Motion:** That Buchanan Barry LLP be appointed the auditors of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ending March 31, 2013. Moved by Mike Carrier, seconded by Susan Eaton. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

**5. Election of Board of Directors for 2012/2013**

- Anne-Marie asked if there were any nominations from the floor. No one stepped forward.
- Anne-Marie introduced the slate of directors
- Board nominees standing for re-election: Gord James, Susan Eaton, David McIntyre, David Walker, David Sauchyn, Phil Nykyforuk, Liana McCreddie, Carey Booth. Daryl Beatty was a new nominee.

**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 David Delawski, seconded by Dave Poulton. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried

**6. Review CPAWS achievements** by Executive Director Anne-Marie Syslak

- Introduction CPAWS - SAB
- Y2Y and Parks for Tomorrow our focus program areas
- National achievements
- Program areas for SAB
  - Land Conservation & Stewardship
  - Influencing Policy & Legislation
  - Education & Community Engagement
  - Parks for Tomorrow

7. Sarah Elmeligi, Senior Conservation Planner, provided an update on our conservation activities in southern Alberta over the last year.

**a) The Castle**

- Continued to work with collaborative group of organizations to oppose logging and support protection of the Castle Special Place.
- Provided background support for media attention around protests and logging commencing in January-February 2012.
- Working with partners, we have succeeded in getting over 100,000 emails and over 1,000 phone calls to the Premier and the Minister of ESRD.
- Met with Minister of ESRD three times to discuss the Castle, participated in a fly-over of the area with the Minister.
- Kept the Castle in local, regional, and National news on TV, radio, and in the newspapers.
- Despite the first year of logging happening, we have remained committed to this campaign and working to stop logging in the future.

#### **b) Alberta's grizzly bears**

- Working with a collaborative of environmental groups, we continue to implement a strategic provincial grizzly bear campaign.
- Asked for a moratorium on all new road construction in core grizzly bear habitat, succeeded in meeting with Minister to discuss.
- Are working with a private contractor to create a report detailing recommendations to reduce linear disturbance density.

#### **b) Alberta's grasslands**

- Are now members of the Prairie Conservation Forum's Board of Directors
- Completed a research project looking at social needs and perceptions regarding the South Saskatchewan Canyon ("SSC"). This work resulted in a recommendation to protect part of the SSC as a Heritage Rangeland.
- Working to put forward resulting report in the South Saskatchewan Regional Planning process.

#### **d) Influencing Policy and Legislation:**

##### **I. The South Saskatchewan Regional Plan**

- Completed and submitted our detailed recommendations based on the Advice to Cabinet from the Regional Advisory Council.
  - Main recommendations included creating new protected areas, reforming forestry practices, and more sustainable

management of recreational opportunities throughout the region.

- Hosted a series of workshops across the region to engage citizens in the public consultation process.
- Workshops hosted in Medicine Hat, Lethbridge, Cowley, Canmore, and Calgary.
- Total of 100 people attended and close to 250 workbooks were distributed.
- Another workshop will be held in Turner Valley later this month.
- Have met with various government departments to share CPAWS' recommendations for the SSRP.

## II. **Modernizing forestry along the Eastern Slopes**

- In response to several protests regarding forestry practices along the Eastern Slopes, CPAWS SAB has started to take a closer look at forestry policy and regulations
- Project objective is to define how forestry policy and regulation needs to change in order for forestry to be based on ecosystem objectives
- Project results will be presented to Alberta ESRD and be part of CPAWS' recommendations for the SSRP
- Forestry along the Eastern Slopes will be part of our strategic planning discussions. We will look at how we can approach government along with industry to champion our recommendations for best practices

## 8. Anne-Marie Syslak updated Education, Communications, Volunteers and Parks for Tomorrow Achievements

### a. **Education**

- Provided 272 in-class visits and 51 guided hikes (total 323 visits) to 4,677 students and their teachers in 56 schools in Calgary and surrounding areas
- Spent four weeks programming in rural Alberta - conducted 88 classroom visits to 962 students in those regions
- Hosted 12 adult workshops, doubling our adult outreach from last year
- Hired an Education Programmer to assist with program and resource development
- Participated in the Alberta Science Conference in Lake Louise, Mayor's Environment Expo, and various teacher conventions

- 60% of classes engaged in the Action Challenge
- We are co-hosting another Conservation Biology course based out of St. Mary's University College this fall. Dave Poulton and Dr. Mary Ann McLean are teaching. Please contact us if you are interested in participating.

**b. Outreach**

- Hired a full time Communications & Outreach Coordinator
- Participated in or organized 27 outreach events throughout the year, such as the CAWST Youth Summit, Creekfest, Parks Day, and a talk by Douglas Chadwich called "Crossing the Flathead the Wolverine Way"
- Hosted a Wild Soiree last November
- Launched the annual Capture the Wild Photo Contest, deadline for submissions October 19<sup>th</sup>

**c. Communications**

- Increased CPAWS social media presence. We are now active on Facebook and twitter and trying to engage a more youthful audience through this medium
- Coordinated the production of two promotional videos, one for our chapter and one for the our education program
- Published 2 editions of the bi-annual Green Notes newsletter

**d. Volunteers**

- Recruited a volunteer Volunteer Coordinator
- Engaged volunteers in meaningful projects in the areas of outreach, communications, and conservation
- Established new processes for recruiting, coordinating, and retaining volunteers

**e. Parks for Tomorrow**

- Involved in national park committees and processes: Bow Valley Parkway, annual planning forum, Grand Fondo and caribou conservation strategy workshops
- Seasonal closure announced for Bow Valley Parkway
- Responded to proposal and Environmental Assessment for the Brewster Glacier Discovery Walk along the Icefields Parkway.
- Solicited extensive opposition and awareness across the country on this issue. Over 2000 letter were written by CPAWS members. Lots of media was generated. Unfortunately, this massive infrastructure development was approved and is currently under construction
- Responded to new recreational guidelines for new activities in Banff NP
- Responded to Parks Canada's caribou conservation strategy for mountain woodland caribou

- Attended the Grizzly Bear Symposium in Banff to decide how to move forward with the Parks Canada and CP commitment to mitigate grizzly bear mortality in Banff along the railway over the next 5 years.
- Created draft comments on the proposed amendment to the Riding Mountain NP (Manitoba) management plan to solicit proposals to re-open the Agassiz ski hill
- Presented at the Canadian Parks Council Leadership Course

9. Special guest lecture by Gordon Stenhouse

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm