

**CPAWS SAB CHAPTER
Annual General Meeting MINUTES
September 10, 2013**

Kahanoff Conference Centre

Calgary, Alberta

Attendance: Board members-, Susan Eaton, Phil Nykyforuk, Liana McCreadie (Treasurer), David Sauchyn, Daryl Beatty. Total of 22 members and 30 other non-member supporters.

1. **Introduction and welcome.** Before the meeting was called to order, Anne-Marie Syslak, Executive Director, indicated that Gord James, Board Chair, was not present and nominated Liana McCreadie, Treasurer, to be Acting Board Chair for Annual General Meeting proceedings. Voted in favour by membership, none opposed and nomination carried.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Liana McCreadie, Treasurer and Acting Board Chair who indicated that a quorum was present and as such the meeting was duly constituted. Liana welcomed the members and reviewed the agenda, Anne-Marie introduced staff and recently moved on 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, 2012. Motioned by Yvonne Schmidts, Seconded by Daryl Beatty. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

3. **Financial Presentation.** Liana presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2013

- Revenues exceeded expenses by \$745 for 2013 fiscal year.
- 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 2013.
- Loss of \$8,000 for the first quarter of 2014 fiscal period, because depreciation for entire year was factored into this quarter.
- Continuing cautiousness over donor funding base erosion in current economic climate.
- Recent anonymous bequest of \$35,000

- Fund development a strong priority.
- Reappointment of Buchanan Barry LLP as auditors for 2014 fiscal year recommended.

Motion: That the audited financial statements of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ended March 31, 2013 be approved as presented. Moved by David Delawsky, seconded by Phil McCourt. 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, 2014. Moved by David Poulton, seconded by David Sauchyn. 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, Phil Nykyforuk, Liana McCreddie, Carey Booth, Daryl Beatty. Doug Firby, Joe Vipond and James Early were new nominees.

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 Miriam White, seconded by Dave Poulton. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried

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

- Upcoming CPAWS 50th Anniversary and Week of the Wild celebrations
- Highlights for Southern Alberta Chapter:
 - New office space at Canada Olympic Park
 - New Conservation Director
 - Co-taught Conservation Biology Course at St. Mary's University College with David Poulton
 - Logging in the Castle on hold
 - Creating map and report for forest practices along Eastern Slopes
 - Commented on bison re-introduction in Banff
 - Mt. Norquay will be permitted summer use
 - 2 promotional videos produced for the Chapter
 - Developed a new draft conservation strategy for the chapter, not approved by the board yet.
 - A. Vision -

- I. Southern Alberta will become a new and inspiring standard for the conservation of nature. We will protect the tapestry of life in the Southern Alberta landscape and waterscape and establish a new global standard for protecting the integrity of wilderness areas.
 - II. Southern Alberta is home to a world renowned network of parks and wilderness areas where best practices prioritize environmental and human health. Albertans understand, use and respect these areas for their inherent ecological values and their contribution to a high quality of life
- B. **Mission** - CPAWS envisages a healthy ecosphere where people experience and respect natural ecosystems. CPAWS Southern Alberta chapter is a respected leader in the conservation and stewardship of the Southern Albertan landscape. We strive to educate, collaborate, engage and empower Albertans in developing solutions that safeguard, connect and expand parks and wilderness areas.
- C. **Guiding Principles** –
- I. We believe nature, wilderness and wild places have intrinsic value unto themselves.
 - II. We base our decisions and opinions on science-based research and citizen involvement, guided by the precautionary principle.
 - III. We believe that healthy ecosystems have a significant positive impact on human health.
 - IV. We believe that healthy, functioning and diverse ecosystems are more resilient to climate change and thus more opportunity for nearby human communities to adapt as well.
 - V. We believe that people are an integral part of the ecosystem and we encourage and empower people through education and awareness to share in the responsibility of stewardship of the ecosystem.
 - VI. We promote collaboration and cooperation with industry, governments, Aboriginal peoples, private citizens, educators and other stakeholders for conserving and managing the wise use of the landscape for our children and great-grandchildren.
 - VII. We respect other perspectives and interests.
 - VIII. We believe that an informed and engaged citizenry is important to public debate and solving environmental and wilderness issues.
 - IX. We are politically non-partisan. We support principles and policies, not individuals or parties.
 - X. We proactively develop solutions based in our approach to conservation.
 - XI. Our direct success is measured by engagement with Albertans, on-the-ground protection and management and stewardship of parks wilderness areas.
- D. **Strategic Priorities** –
- I. Strengthen the network of interconnected protected, wilderness and natural areas throughout Southern Alberta;
 - II. Ensure the effective stewardship of Alberta's national and provincial parks and wilderness areas;
 - III. 3. Ensure Albertan's value and respect our parks and wilderness areas through education, appreciation, engagement and experience
- E. **Regional Focus Areas** –
- I. Alberta's Southern Eastern Slopes
 - o Ensure that established protected areas are managed to prioritize ecological integrity.
 - o Identify priority conservation areas on the Southern Eastern Slopes, expanding the current system of protected areas

and ensuring connectivity between areas. A key initiative in this objective is achieving full legal protection of the Castle Special Place as a Wildland Provincial Park.

- Decrease disturbances and linear access in the Southern Eastern Slopes to below grizzly bear and cutthroat trout density thresholds.
 - Ensure adaptive management is used to prioritize ecological and social objectives and outcomes on Alberta's Southern Eastern Slopes.
 - Conservation and protected areas are well-represented in land use planning in Alberta, ensuring connectivity and the maintenance of natural systems and habitats and protection of headwaters.
 - Build constituency of support and stewardship for conservation of Alberta's Southern Eastern Slopes.
- II. Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks
- Ensure Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks are managed to prioritize ecological integrity and to provide people with sustainable recreational opportunities.
 - Build constituency of support and stewardship for Canada's parks among the public and decision-makers.
- III. Grasslands
- Explore opportunities for a coordinated CPAWS National grasslands conservation campaign that would complement on-going work by other organizations.
 - Build constituency of support and stewardship for conservation of Southern Alberta's native grasslands
- Looking forward for Southern Alberta Chapter:
 - SSRP and full protection of Castle Special Place
 - Forest management along Eastern Slopes
 - Implement new conservation strategy
 - Hoping to develop a Parks Education Program
 - Increase engagement via social media
 - Diversifying funding base

7. Special guest lecture by David Sauchyn

8. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm