

**CPAWS SAB CHAPTER
Annual General Meeting MINUTES
September 9, 2014**

Lougheed House

Calgary, Alberta

Attendance: Board members-, Gord James (President), James Early, Doug Firby, Phil Nykyforuk, Liana McCreadie, Joe Vipond.

Newly elected Board Members: Lori Cantafio, David Delawski, Jean-Philippe Hervieux, Jeff Rau, Venessa Shaneman

Total of 21 members and 30 other non-member supporters.

1. Introduction and welcome.

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Gord James, President, who indicated that a quorum was present and as such the meeting was duly constituted. Gord opened the meeting by informing everyone that Anne-Marie Syslak had recently reached her 10 year milestone with CPAWS. Gord then welcomed the members and reviewed the agenda. Anne-Marie introduced staff and acknowledged those who had recently moved on. She also thanked supporters and all those in attendance.

2. Review and approval of minutes of 2013 AGM

Motion: Move to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 10, 2013. Motioned by Phil Nykyforuk, Seconded by James Early. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

3. Financial Presentation. Liana McCreadie presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2014

- Revenues exceeded expenses by \$34,000 for 2014 fiscal year.
- Net asset position of \$168k provides the organization with a financial safety net.
- Auditors delivered the standard audit opinion for a not-for-profit organization for fiscal 2014.
- Loss of \$1,000 for the four months of 2015 fiscal period, ended July 31, 2014.
- Continuing cautiousness over donor funding base and possible donor/funder "fatigue".

- Cautious outlook for 2015 fiscal year; budgeting a break-even position
- Recent estate bequest of \$20,000
- 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, 2014 be approved as presented. Moved by Joe Vipond, seconded by Doug Firby. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

4. Appointment of Auditors for 2015

Motion: That Buchanan Barry LLP be appointed the auditors of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ending March 31, 2015. Moved by Gord James, seconded by David Delawski. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

5. Election of Board of Directors for 2014/2015

- Anne-Marie asked if there were any nominations from the floor. No one stepped forward.
- Anne-Marie thanked the Directors who were stepping down from the Board and introduced the slate of directors
- Board nominees standing for re-election: Gord James, James Early, Doug Firby, David McIntyre, Phil Nykyforuk, Liana McCreddie and Joe Vipond. New nominations were: Lori Cantafio, David Delawski, Jean-Philippe Hervieux, Jeff Rau, Venessa Shaneman and Duncan Taylor.

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 Sonya Jakubec, seconded by Joe Vipond. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried

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

- 50 years of wilderness protection and Week of the Wild celebrations
- Highlights for Southern Alberta Chapter:
 - Starting a new parks focused education program Discover Parks!
 - Anne-Marie was accepted to speak at World Park Congress in Australia, November, 2014
 - Started an engagement committee, an e-newsletter and increased our outreach work
 - Held a successful gala in March, 2014
 - Hotel was not approved at Maligne Lake but 20 tent cabins were. CPAWS has filed a judicial review to try to make Parks Canada adhere

to their own management plan and not allow outlying commercial accommodations in contravention to their own plan

- Organized a strong campaign to enlist public support and increase awareness of the South Saskatchewan Regional Plan (SSRP). We saw a small improvement in the final plan but this may not have even occurred without the huge effort of CPAWS SAB and our supporters. We may still have some input on the management plans; biodiversity, trails and recreation, etc.
- Continuing to work to protect the Castle region
- Working with government and stakeholders on forest management of the Eastern Slopes
- Saw a larger investment from government on grizzly bear recovery. We continue to work with Alberta Wilderness Association (AWA) and Yellowstone to Yukon (Y2Y) on this recovery plan.
- Will conduct a survey of Albertans and their use of parks to be used in future planning.

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
 - Ensure that established protected areas are managed to prioritize ecological integrity.
 - 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 the Southern Alberta Chapter:
 - Involvement in the management frameworks of the SSRP
 - Assessing our campaign to conserve the Castle
 - Continue to work on forest management in the Eastern Slopes
 - Provide feedback for updated grizzly bear recovery plan
 - Survey of recreation use in order to propose recreation guidelines in parks

- Monitor judicial review of proposed Maligne Lake development
- Continuing to work on a National Parks Strategy
- Implementing new volunteer engagement strategy
- Expanding new opportunities in education
- Strengthening our partnerships within the conservation community
- Diversifying our funding base

7. Special guest lecture by Robert W. Sandford
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm