

**CPAWS SAB CHAPTER  
Annual General Meeting MINUTES  
September 15, 2015**

**Lougheed House**

**Calgary, Alberta**

**Attendance:** Board members-, Gord James (President), Lori Cantafio (Treasurer), David Delawski, James Early, Jeff Rau, Duncan Taylor

Newly elected Board Members: Andre de Leebeeck, Riley Prescott

Total of 17 members and 15 other non-member supporters.

**1. Introduction and welcome.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Gord James, President, 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 acknowledged those who had recently moved on. She also thanked supporters and all those in attendance.

**2. Review and approval of minutes of 2014 AGM**

**Motion:** Move to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 9, 2014. Motioned by James Early, Seconded by Bob Morgan. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

**3. Financial Presentation.** Lori Cantafio presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2015

- Revenues exceeded expenses by \$43,000 for 2014 fiscal year.
- Net asset position of \$210k provides the organization with a financial safety net.
- Auditors delivered the standard audit opinion for a not-for-profit organization for fiscal 2015.
- Have loss of \$6k for the first four months of 2016 fiscal period ended July 31.
- Reappointment of Buchanan Barry LLP as auditors for 2015 fiscal year recommended.
- Continuing cautiousness over donor funding base & possible donor/funder “fatigue” and in a challenging economic environment for many organizations and individuals.

- Have budgeted a loss of \$40k for fiscal 2016 period – we have a net asset position that allows us to maintain our team and programs intact at this time. Some unbudgeted funding recently received will help this situation.

**Motion:** That the audited financial statements of Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ended March 31, 2015 be approved as presented. Moved by Duncan Taylor, seconded by David Delawski. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### 4. Appointment of Auditors for 2016

**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 Joe Vipond, seconded by Bob Morgan. All in favour, none opposed. Motion carried.

#### 5. Election of Board of Directors for 2015/2016

- 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/election: Gord James, Lori Catafio, David Delawski, James Early, Doug Firby, Andre de Leebeeck, David McIntyre, Phil Nykyforuk, Riley Prescott, Jeff Rau, Duncan Taylor and Liv Vors

**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 Joe Vipond, seconded by Joe Obad. 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:
  - Outreach and Education**
    - Milestone: over 100,000 students reached!
    - Spoke at the World Park Congress showcasing our Discover Parks! education program.
    - Expanded our education program to reach new immigrant adult audiences.
    - Was involved in over 50 outreach events!
    - Created and implemented a new volunteer strategy.
    - Another successful Wild Soiree

- First Big Wild Challenge.
- Great media year.

**Conservation**

- National Parks – Lake Louise Site Guidelines and Crisis in our National Parks report
- Castle Wildland Provincial Park – Major win after 40 years
- Forest management on the Eastern Slopes
- Recreation Survey
- Working more closely with ENGOs and stakeholders

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.
  - o Decrease disturbances and linear access in the Southern Eastern Slopes to below grizzly bear and cutthroat trout density thresholds.
  - o Ensure adaptive management is used to prioritize ecological and social objectives and outcomes on Alberta's Southern Eastern Slopes.
  - o 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.
  - o Build constituency of support and stewardship for conservation of Alberta's Southern Eastern Slopes.
- II. Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks
  - o Ensure Canada's Rocky Mountain Parks are managed to prioritize ecological integrity and to provide people with sustainable recreational opportunities.
  - o Build constituency of support and stewardship for Canada's parks among the public and decision-makers.
- III. Grasslands
  - o Explore opportunities for a coordinated CPAWS National grasslands conservation campaign that would complement on-going work by other organizations.
  - o Build constituency of support and stewardship for conservation of Southern Alberta's native grasslands

- Looking forward for the Southern Alberta Chapter:
  - o Castle public consultation on now! We need your voice to speak up for conservation of this area.
  - o Working to ensure that the Castle management plans prioritizes protection of nature.
  - o Involvement in the Porcupine Hills plan. This is an important template for management.
  - o Grizzly bear recovery plan update to be released this fall.
  - o Bull trout recovery plan drafted this coming year.

- Continue work on forest management in the Eastern Slopes. Release of report.
- Release of recreation survey and influencing on the ground use.
- Looking at new opportunities- Eastern Slopes vision project.
- Maligne Lake court case end of October.
- National Parks campaign going on now!
- Expanding our education programs and developing new partnerships.
- Strengthening our partnerships and our collective conservation efforts within the community.
- Looking at a CPAWS lobby day in Alberta.
- Diversifying our funding base
- Castle Celebration TBD!

7. Special guest lecture by Joe Vipond
8. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm