

CPAWS Southern Alberta Chapter
Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2021

Zoom Conference Call

Attendance: The Chapter's Bylaws indicate that a quorum of 10 members must be present at the Annual General Meeting. Attendance was taken and the members present met the number necessary for a quorum. As such, the Annual General Meeting was duly constituted.

1. Land Acknowledgment

Given by Jon Mee on this National Day of Truth & Reconciliation. It was noted that this was an unintentional conflict on scheduling. We acknowledge truth of the residential school system in Canada. It was an intentional component of genocide perpetrated against indigenous peoples of this country. Jon offered reflections on the history of Banff. CPAWS SAB has established a taskforce on Indigenization and Reconciliation and, at the next CPAWS SAB Board meeting we will be establishing a DEI Standing Committee.

2. Review and approval of the minutes of the 2020 AGM

Motion: To accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 16, 2020. Moved by Jon Mee. Seconded by Phil Nykyforuk. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

3. Approval of the 2021 Financial Statements

Jon Mee presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2021.

Motion: That the audited financial statements of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ended March 31, 2021 be approved as presented. Moved by Jon Mee. Seconded by James Early. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

4. Financial Update

Jon Mee provided an overview of our financial outlook, noting that we have a solid funding base. He explained that there was a budgeted loss of \$34,000 for 2022 and that we were likely to see drop in corporate and foundation funding due to the impacts of Covid-19. Fund development on individual donors, targeted communications, and program specific outreach was all part of the fund development strategy.

5. Appointment of Auditors for 2021

Motion: That Buchanan Barry LLP is appointed the auditors of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ending March 31, 2022.

Moved by Jon Mee. Seconded by James Early. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

6. Year In Review

Presentation by Brad Clute, ED, which summarized the last year as unprecedented and historic. Brad proceeded to review the major challenges and achievements, which have been historic, for this Chapter.

Challenges:

- Pandemic, including remote working, IT dependence, events/programs cancelled, funding uncertainties.
- More Coal, Fewer Parks.
 - Park Optimization Plan
 - Cancellation of Coal Policy

Achievements:

- Defend Alberta Parks – 30,000 lawn signs, 25,000 letters, 1,400 volunteers, award winning engagement with Alberta’s public, changed the narrative, gained international attention. Working together with NAB. Government backed down. There are still challenges, but this was a clear message sent to the current government.
- Coal Free Rockies – 18,000 letters, 76% of Albertans on side, 4-part video series and social media leadership, engagement across political and cultural lines, partnerships with other stakeholders, unlikely allies (Corb Lund, etc.), changed the narrative, gained international attention, GoC engagement – Federal Impact Assessments.
- Education – engaged over 8,500 Albertans, 250 experiences delivered – during a pandemic. Adapted 7 presentations for virtual delivery, developed industry leading Covid-19 Standard Operating Procedures, reviewed and updated Risk Management Plans for programs, and adapted outdoor programming for Covid-19 protocols, supported at home experiences with Action Challenge, Bring Nature Home and Climate Game Changers.
- BioDIVERSITY – watershed program that shows shift in focus on DEI issues. Just had first round of indigenous-led hikes and walks this past weekend. Lots to celebrate here.
- Engagement: Over 30,000 supporters from a few thousand. 5,480 new followers across social media (54% increase), 55,1000 website sessions (45% increase), over 3,000 virtual event attendees, overwhelmed with volunteer applications, reaching and engaging with a much younger demographic, too many interviews to count (well over 100)!
- Team – creation of communications team / hire communications manager, shifted way that meetings occur, hired new office and finance administrator, work hand in hand

with CPAWS NAB and other chapters, leading organizational development nationally, recognized as leader in Alberta, never been stronger.

- “If you want to build a boat, don’t drum up people to collect wood and don’t assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea” – Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

7. Election of Board of Directors for 2021/2022

Board nominees standing for re-election: Jon Mee, Phil Nykyforuk, James Early, Ross Glenfield, Jim Donohue, Doug Firby, Kirsty MacKenzie, Lana Mezquita, Nancy Phillips.

Noted that there are 9 nominees for the Board of Directors, all of whom are returning members.

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 Jon Mee. Seconded by Nancy Phillips. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.

8. Other Business

None brought forward.

Motion: that there being no further business, the Annual General Meeting be adjourned at 8:38pm. Moved by Jon Mee. Seconded by Kirsty MacKenzie. All in favour, none opposed. Carried.