

**CPAWS Southern Alberta Chapter
Annual General Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2024, 19.00
By Zoom Conference Call**

Attendance: The Chapter's Bylaws indicate that a quorum of ten (10) members must be present at the Annual General Meeting. The Meeting convened as scheduled at 19.00. At that time there were only nine members present. It was therefore resolved, following the Land Acknowledgement, to adjust the Agenda and begin with an information item, namely the Executive Director's Report. By the time the report was completed (about 19.35) additional members had joined the Meeting and quorum was established. As such, the Annual General Meeting was duly constituted for the business part of the Meeting and for all Resolutions. The Minutes below follow the order of the Agenda as circulated.

1. Land Acknowledgment
Given by Jon Mee.

2. Review and approval of the minutes of the 2023 AGM

Motion: To accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of September 19, 2023.

Moved by Doug Firby, seconded by Lana Mezquita

Adopted.

The Agenda was adopted by consensus with the change in order described above.

3. Approval of the 2024 Financial Statements

Lana Mezquita presented the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2024.

Motion: That the audited financial statements of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society Southern Alberta Chapter for the year ended March 31, 2024 be approved as presented.

Moved by Lana Mezquita, seconded by Phil Nykyforuk.

Motion as presented carried unanimously.

4. Financial Update

Lana Mezquita provided an overview of CPAWS-SAB's financial outlook through to August 2024 and acknowledged the important work undertaken by Tatiana Jaciw-Zurakiwsky, Finance and Operations Director. Ms Mezquita noted that we have been making progress in using unrestricted assets to address strategic priorities of the society.

5. Appointment of Auditors for 2024

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, 2025.

Moved by Lana Mezquita, seconded by Elliot Fox.

One member (Don McGarvey) asked how long we have used Buchanan Barry LLP as our auditors and whether we had considered issuing an RFP? Nicole Edge responded for the finance committee. The committee had turned its mind to this question but concluded, given the low risk profile of the organization and that audit costs have not increased, that it was preferable to continue using Buchanan Barry LLP. Mr McGarvey indicated that he was content with the response and was glad to hear that the issue had been considered.

Motion as presented carried unanimously.

6. Year In Review

Presentation by Katie Morrison, Executive Director.

Ms Morrison began by acknowledging the important role of CPAWS-SAB staff and the role of the Board. Ms Morrison's presentation covered the following topics: strategic planning, developments in protected areas (participation in COP 16, the province's nature strategy, support for the Blackfoot Confederacy's IPCA project, town planning issues in Banff); coal (continuing to follow the Grassy Mountain project as well as reclamation issues); land use planning (possible expansion of irrigation and 10 year review of the Soth Saskatchewan Plan); species at risk issues (especially bull trout critical habitat); forest management (especially Highwood and Loomis Creek, West Fraser has paused plans for now but the risk remains – highlighted CPAWS-SAB's ability to raise \$70,000 for field work in Loomis Creek); education and engagement (referenced significant participation in community walks, interpretive hikes etc, youth programs and volunteer program); fund and sustain (new fund development capacity added).

Ms Morrison responded to a question about engaging the public on native trout issues. Ms Morrison noted that CPAWS-SAB has been working on critical habitat issues (including the Loomis Creek work) and unauthorized interference with critical habitat and will be well placed to engage with the public on these issues.

One member (Don McGarvey) and Jon Mee both acknowledged the impressive work reflected in Ms Morrison's report.

7. Election of Board of Directors for 2023/2024

Board nominees standing for re-election: Jon Mee, Phil Nykyforuk, Doug Firby, Lana Mezquita, Nigel Bankes, Elliot Fox, Nicole Edge and Connie Van der Byl

Board nominee standing for election: Daphne Rodzinyak

Jon Mee noted that bios for all nominees had been made available.

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.

One member (Don McGarvey) raised two questions: (1) do we have a competency matrix, and (2) do we have term limits for directors? In response Jon Mee and others noted that we have used a skills matrix in the past but have not been as deliberate as we might have been. We do not have term limit in our by-laws but we do have an ongoing review of our by-laws by the governance committee. Jon noted that, from his perspective, we have a good balance of long-standing directors as well as newer members.

Moved by Phil Nykyforuk, seconded by Don McGarvey. All in favour. Carried.

8. Other Business

None brought forward.

9. Adjournment

Motion: that there being no further business, the Annual General Meeting be adjourned (20.00).

Moved by Doug Firby seconded by Connie Van der Byl.

Meeting adjourned.