

Tourism Wells Gray
Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
Thursday June 8th, 2023

MINUTES of the meeting of the Tourism Wells Gray Board of Directors held in person and via Zoom on Thursday June 8th, 2023, from 1:47PM – 3:08PM at the DLCC meeting room 107 in Clearwater, BC.

PRESENT:

Vice-Chair H. Wadlegger	Director at Large
Treasurer T. Govaert	MRDT
P. Bradstock	Clearwater Chamber of Commerce
L. Frizzle	District of Clearwater, Councillor
T. Haughton	BC Parks
H. Louwerse – via Zoom	Guiding and Activities

STAFF:

Amber Benoit	Executive Director
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REGRETS:

Chair M. Larose	MRDT
W. Robinson	Accommodation and Food
V. Gat	BC Parks
A. Green	Simpcw First Nation
K. McKay	Parks Permit Holder
R. Vesak/U.Tsao	TNRD Area A
Amanda Svenson	Visitor's Centre Manager

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- a. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair at 1:47PM.

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

MOTION: That the agenda for the Jun 8th, 2023, Regular Board Meeting be approved.

Moved by T. Govaert

Seconded by T. Haughton

CARRIED

3. READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING:

MOTION: That the minutes of the meeting from May 11th, 2023, be accepted as presented.

Moved by T. Govaert

Seconded by T. Haughton

CARRIED

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Local Art Kiosk at Wells Gray Visitor Information Centre – Shannon Dana – it was noted that Evergreen Acres now has an art gallery. Discussion was initiated on what parameters should be set for vendors operating outside of the Visitor Centre on the grounds. Several points were raised:
 - i. Any vendors chosen would need to complement the atmosphere of the Visitor Centre and Tourism Wells Gray’s mandates.
 - ii. Payment for use of these spaces should be fair – in line with what Backcountry Bowls is currently being charged.
 - iii. RFPs should be considered for each space. If, for example, TWG wanted to have one space for a food truck (currently Back Country Bowls), one for a local artist, and another for another retailer. Applicants should be given equal consideration.
 - iv. Any successful vendor would need to fit within the communal vendor conditions of non-competition and a right to a quiet enjoyment of the space.

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. CEBA Loan Repayment – almost complete – one more email to be sent and this should be completed.
- b. Executive Director Cell Phone – Recommendation was made that, as per last board meeting, the ED go ahead and procure a cell phone for the ED position. Prior to purchase, ED will ensure that maximal savings can be achieved by exploring option to bundle with the VIC Manager cell phone plan. Additionally, ED will check with YCS on call forwarding capabilities.

MOTION: That the Executive Director purchase and contract a business cell phone for the Executive Director position.

**Moved by T. Haughton
Seconded by T. Govaert**

CARRIED

- c. North Thompson Communities Foundation Spring Grant – A picture was taken of the group utilizing the Owl-3 camera during the meeting to use for social media and stakeholder announcements as part of the agreed upon recognition to the NTCF for the grant. Once all announcements are made, ED will compile the final report to send to the NTCF.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Wells Gray Sketches book – Approximately 100 books were donated to TWG from the late author’s daughter with no compensation requested, other than that the proceeds from sales of the book go back into the park. ED with coordinate with the VIC to provide these for sale by suggested donation at the VIC. The proceeds will then go into the Wells Gray Park BC Parks Park Enhancement Fund account, which will then be used to perform park updates to be determined at a later date.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- a. TWG Weekly Stakeholder Newsletter – A Survey was taken and the majority of stakeholders requested weekly updates from Tourism Wells Gray. As such,

updates on park conditions, local events, and any pertinent emergency updates will go out to the stakeholders email list on Fridays, with additional updates as needed in case of local emergencies.

- b. PEF Grant Applications – Three applications were submitted for the BC Parks PEF Grants: Emergency signage, a water refilling/drinking station, and self-serve iPad kiosks, all for the continued upgrading of the Visitor Centre.
- c. 2022 MRDT Reporting – completed, with minimal questions thus far.

8. Visitor Centre Update and Report (updates by ED)

- Staffing so far is at acceptable levels on a day-to-day basis; however, recent illnesses are putting strain on the staff covering sicknesses. Discussion was had about potentially hiring a casual, on-call staff member to fill the gaps.
- Question arose about getting the parking lot lines repainted. Lynne to follow up with Chad, the one contracted out for this work. Once a quote is received, further discussion can be held on how to cover these costs.

9. FINANCIAL REPORT

- MRDT for March ticked back up again unexpectedly at \$11,382. Was expecting a downwards trend as pipeliners leave the area, but so far this has not been the case.
- After completing the MRDT reporting for 2022, ED reports that the Visitor Centre expenses were approximately \$25,000 for the year. Likely, there are additional start-up costs included in this as it was the first year for TWG sponsoring the centre; however, ED estimates that the originally projected budget of \$10,000 for expenses in 2023 will need to be increased for future years.

10. CHAIR'S REPORT

- N/A regrets.

11. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS -

a. **BC PARKS: Tod Haughton**

- Currently a wildfire on the northeast of Murtle Lake. Still far away from any public use areas, but BC Parks will continue to update as situation progresses.
- 8 seasonal employees with BC Parks: 4 student rangers, 2 trail clearing crews, 2 naturalists (1 trail clearing and 1 naturalist funded by Roland Neave).
- Weekly information on the naturalist schedule will be going out via TWG Stakeholder newsletter and social media.
- Questions arose regarding continued use of Triple Decker trails – recommendation to contact Mackenzie Kentner at BC Recreation and Trails to query what information can be released to the public on this upcoming project.
- Moul Falls stairs are slated to be repaired in Sept/Oct.

b. **MRDT: Tania Govaert**

- Revenue this year is way ahead of last year thus far.

c. **SIMPCW: Alison Green**

- Regrets
 - d. **PARKS PERMIT HOLDER: Kenneth McKay**
 - Regrets
 - e. **ACCOMMODATION & FOOD: Will Robinson**
 - Regrets
 - f. **GUIDING & ACTIVITIES: Holly Louwerse**
 - N/A Nothing to report.
 - g. **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE: Peter Bradstock**
 - Funding was received for the Chamber AGM in Whistler, and this was an educational, albeit urban-focused event.
 - The “of the year” awards will be happening again this coming October.
 - Question arose about the dust at Jim’s parking lot as it is becoming hazardous – ED to check with Bylaw Officer and DOC on regulations (if any) around this.
 - h. **DISTRICT OF CLEARWATER: Lynne Frizzle**
 - 3 trails have been completed in town, and there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 17th. Updates on DOC activities will be available at the event, and all are encouraged to attend.
 - i. **DIRECTOR AT LARGE WGO: Hazel Wadlegger**
 - WGO will be having a solstice ride on June 21st from 5pm-9pm. There will be a social following the ride. This will be at Candle Creek Trails, and Backcountry Bowls will be on site as a food vendor.
 - j. **TNRD: Usoff Tsao**
 - Aug 17th, TNRD Directors will do a tour and are currently looking for suggestions of stops to make. Salmon-viewing platforms, rafting, and Backcountry Bowls were suggested.
12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next regular board meeting tentatively set for Thursday July 6th at 1:30PM in a DLCC meeting room.
13. ADJOURNEMENT:
- a. **T. Houghton moved to adjourn meeting at 3:08PM.**

CARRIED