

MINUTES

January 14, 2025

Meeting of the Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia

Present: Wayne, Nancy, Bev, Bob, Bill, Tory, Colin, Mark

Guest: Betty Davison (BC Nature)

1. Indigenous Recognition – Wayne.

2. Agenda Review

- Proposed agenda approved, with addition of Liability Insurance discussion by Betty Davison, BC Nature.

3. Minutes from last Meeting

- Approval postponed to February meeting.

4. Liability Insurance

- Betty Davison informed us that the BC Nature Board decided the Elders Council will be considered as a club under BC Nature. This means that the Elders Council corporately, and its directors as individuals, have liability coverage under BC Nature's insurance policy. This policy also covers the Elders Council outreach program contractors.
- Betty believes the errors and omissions coverage for directors is \$1,000,000, and directors' personal liability will be covered up to \$5,000,000.
- Betty will continue to help the Elders Council from time to time. Mark volunteered to coordinate Zoom meetings.

5. Financial Report

- Bill (treasurer) reported that the Elders have \$1,230 in the general account. \$7,660 in gaming. \$10,270 in flex term deposits. Total = \$19,165.
- **Motion:** to approve financial report; **Moved:** Bob; **Seconded:** Colin. **Carried.**

6. Elder's Priorities for 2025 - Round Table - All Directors

- 1) **Public Access to Parks:** public v. commercial users. Day use passes (e.g. Joffrey). Government promised review of policy -- what review has been done? (Issue was day-use passes all given out within moments, then passed out by commercial users to clients.

Public had no real chance to get day use passes).

2) Establishing Contact with New Minister & Her Staff: who is the political staff? Should we suggest that the minister set up an Advisory Council for parks & protected areas, similar to that for wildlife?

3) Establishing Contact with New Lieutenant Governor for BC (Wendy Cocchia). Ask her to continue being Elders Council patron.

4) Get Update from Parks Canada on BC Initiatives: 30 x 30, South Okanagan Similkameen, etc. Keep pressure on federal government as 2025 is an election year. Past commitment was to protect 25% by 2025 on path to 30 x 30.

- **Action:** Bill will call James Gordon and try to arrange update to Elders

5) Get Update from Province on 30 x 30 and what it is counting as a protected area

6) Get Update on Status of Land Use Planning in BC

7) Continue lobbying work with Provincial officials: establish relationships with new ministers, political staff and ministry executives. Politicians need to know that we are potentially one of their best allies.

8) Continue to work with UVic re Library and Archives

9) Carry out public education and advocacy about the importance of protected areas. Pay attention to younger generation and address issues of concern to them such as climate change, carbon sequestration. Develop stories that communicate well and help people understand the value of parks and protected areas. Could look to BC Parks Foundation for good information, such as the number of health practitioners prescribing access to nature for mental health.

10) Develop vision for rebuilding a strong BC Parks agency. E.g. what it would look like, and how it can be done. Consult with people who worked for long time with BC Parks when it functioned well. Look to other agencies that have more secure funding models, e.g. Highways.

11) Consider ways to team up with allies, such as CPAWS, Outdoor Recreation Council, etc.

7. Next Meeting - February 11, 2025 - 10am Pacific