



Elders Council for Parks In British Columbia

May Minutes

Tuesday May 13, 2025 – 10:00am

Meeting held Via Zoom

In Attendance: Wayne Stetski (President), Mel Turner, Nancy Wilkin, Mark Haddock, Bev Ramey, Ric Careless (10;39), Tory Stevens, Bill Henwood, Colin Campbell

Gallivanting: Kaaren Lewis, Bob Peart,

President Stetski thanked everyone for attending the meeting and acknowledged the meeting on traditional territories.

1. Approval of the Agenda

*Moved by Tory, seconded by Nancy, that the agenda be approved. **CARRIED***

2. Approval of April 11 Minutes

*Moved by Nancy, seconded by Bev that the minutes be approved. **CARRIED***

3. Treasurer's Report

Bill reported that the General Account had just over \$2808 cash and a \$9,000 term deposit, and the Gaming Account had about \$7257.

4. Elders' Projects

A) May 8 meeting with Ministers

Wayne reported that the Society met with Minister Neil and Minister Davidson in Victoria. Tory reported that the meeting was positive. Nancy noted that Minister Neill wanted to know if they were not responding to issues. Both Ministers were working on 30 x 30 and indigenous-led land use planning that they were still a government priority and there would be public involvement.

Wayne noted that the Ministers also asked for other ideas on ways forward for land use planning. Wayne also noted that only parts of an IPCA would meet IUCN protected area definition.

Tory also noted that it appears that some areas of the Province may not be covered.

Nancy added that the issue of national parks establishment was also discussed.

Mel asked if there was a role for the Elders to advise the Ministers that Parks Canada has breached the Gulf Islands National Parks Reserve agreement and that any new national designations have an annual federal/provincial review clause. Mel and Bill will prepare a draft letter for Wayne.

Wayne will also send a letter to the Ministers as a result of the Ministers meeting, indicating the Elders' understanding of the meeting.

B) Round Table

Mark reported that he was spending time on a review of Bill 15-Infrastructure.

Ric noted that the legislation would have significant effect on existing protected areas.

C) Budget Consultation

Wayne advised that anyone wishing to present needs to get in their request.

5. Elders Expenses

Wayne asked about the policy for meals while travelling. Mel noted that there is no policy but the practice has been not to charge for meals even though the expense form recognizes meals.

It was decided to allow directors to charge for meals at director's discretion.

6. Next Meeting

Next meeting: June 10, 10am.

6. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:05am.