



Elders Council for Parks In British Columbia

**20TH Annual General Meeting
December 10, 2024
Held virtually by Zoom**

Minutes

The President called the Annual General Meeting to order at 10:00 am

Present: 16 members.

President Wayne Stetski welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted that we were meeting on the unceded territory of several First Nations.

1. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda as previously circulated. **Moved:** Bev Ramey **Seconded:** Bill Henwood. **Carried**

2. Approval of the 2023 Annual General Meeting minutes

Motion: to approve the 2023 minutes as previously circulated. **Moved:** Wayne Stetski **Seconded:** Bev Ramey. **Carried**

3. Reports

President – Wayne Stetski

The President reviewed the past year, highlighting the Council's accomplishments. His full report is attached.

Wayne highlighted our involvement with senior provincial and national government members and senior government officials, focusing on the 30 by 30 initiative.

Motion: to accept the President's report. **Moved:** Tory Steven, **Seconded:** Kaaren Lewis
Carried

Treasurer – Bill Henwood

Bill Henwood reviewed the 2024 financial report (Statement of Financial Position) from Invictus, our pro bono accounting firm, for the Society's General account and the Gaming account.

2024 President's Report

Wayne Stetski

The highlight for me was the great group of Directors we have on the Board! These individuals care deeply about parks and protected areas in BC and are continually monitoring what is happening, both good and bad, and sharing it with the Board, so we can share it with government. If you want to stay current, the Elders Council is the place to be!

The 2024 Board of Directors:

Wayne Stetski (President), Mel Turner (Secretary), Bill Henwood (Treasurer), Nancy Wilkin, Mark Haddock (on November 24, Mark was awarded the 2024 Andrew Thompson Award by West Coast Environmental Law for his lifetime contribution to strengthening the legal protection of the environment in BC – Congratulations Mark!), Bob Peart, Kaaren Lewis, Bev Ramey, Ric Careless, and Gail Ross.

A special thank you to Betty Davison, BC Nature, for keeping us on-line, on-track, and looking good on the admin side of life – you are very much appreciated!

For the first half of the year, we focused on staying in touch with the province on where they were going on reaching the goal of protecting 30% of BC by 2030 (30 x 30), which the province has stated will be indigenous led. This was accomplished through quarterly updates to the Board by Jim Standen, ADM for Parks, and David Muter, ADM for Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. We very much appreciated their regular participation in our meetings!

As your President, I also continue to liaise federally with senior people in Parks Canada and Natural Resources in Ottawa on 30 x 30 and the Nature Agreement. More locally, on your behalf, I stay in touch with the BC Parks Foundation, the Friends of Ecological Reserves, the Outdoor Recreation Council of BC, and the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society – BC Chapter. We share common values with so many great organizations and people.

This fall we penned a letter to the leaders of all the political parties in the BC election outlining our concerns around parks and protected areas which also became an op-ed in the Vancouver Sun newspaper. We are looking forward to corresponding with, and potentially meeting with, Minister Tamara Davidson (Environment and Parks), and Minister Randene Neill (Water, Land and Resource Stewardship).

So, where do we go in 2025? We are at one of those critical points in history in building a better future for conservation and recreation in BC. Our dedicated group of Board members will do their best, but we need YOU by our side to make it happen. Thanks for caring!

Motion: to accept the information in the 2024 financial report. **Moved:** Colin Campbell,
Seconded: Ric Careless. **Carried**

4. Appointment of Invictus to Prepare Statement of Financial Position

The President noted that Invictus has offered to continue to provide a statement of financial position services as required by our CRA charitable status on a pro bono basis.

Motion: to re-appoint Invictus as service provider. **Moved:** Bill Henwood, **Seconded:** Bev Ramey. **Carried**

5. Motion to Restrict Funds

The outgoing Executive identified the continuation of 2 priorities for the upcoming year:

- Capital repairs to Heritage Centre cedar siding \$7000
- Support to Collections program \$1000

Motion: That \$8000 in funds from the General Account be internally restricted in order to support the two discussed priorities.

Moved: Mel Turner, **Seconded:** Bill Henwood . **Carried**

5. Election of Directors

The following members have indicated that they are prepared to act as directors for 2025. Bob Peart, Colin Campbell, Tory Stevens, Ric Careless, Bev Ramey, Bill Henwood, Mel Turner, Mark Haddock, Wayne Stetski, Kaaren Lewis, and Nancy Wilkin.

The President asked if any of the other members present wished to stand but none indicated.

Motion: that the identified directors be elected. **Moved:** Wayne Stetski, **Seconded:** Ric Careless. **Carried**

7. Membership Engagement.

Colin addressed the issue of the future of the Council and the need to address outdoor recreation needs on protected areas and the non-protected areas.

8. Adjournment:

Motion: to adjourn. **Moved:** Nancy Wilkin, **Seconded:** Bev Ramey **Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.