

*Wildsight Creston Valley Branch*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING March 15, 2019

- Meeting called to order; Joanne Gailius moved, Clements Verhoeven seconded; Agenda approved. 33 people present.
- Minutes read by Brian Churchill; Clements Verhoeven moved; Tanna Patterson seconded; Accepted
- REPORTS:

Presidents Report: Brian presented:

a) Bird Fest - past successes, and the programme created for this year. Congratulations to all volunteers, especially Tanna and Terry.

b) Local Colours - another successful annual event, which presents the work of wildlife and scenic photography. 200 attendees. Our gratitude to the organizers and presentors.

c) Wild and Scenic - 180 attendees. The selection of films covered a broad spectrum of public tastes and was well-received. Thank you to sponsors who provided door prizes. Thank you to organizers and participants.

d) Local chapter's role - Brian stressed that our primary role is to be a voice on ecological concerns for the Creston Valley, and to report those concerns to Wildsight Central, in an effort to co-ordinate programs and/or action on various issues that arise.

e) Educational Programs - an ongoing commitment of Wildsight. To that end, a teaching position currently held by Melissa Flint, continues to have an impact on young lives in the elementary schools in Creston district.

f) Map Project - Brian spoke of our Local's project to provide a Green Map for the Creston Valley, which details the impact of various human activities in the various ecosystems of the valley. This promises to be a great resource to analyse and reach some conclusions about a sustainable approach to human activity. We are looking forward to making the Map, and the information it contains, available for groups and organizations to use in decisions that affect the environment.

Financial Report 2018: Presented by Terry Posynick:

Attached to these minutes. Moved to approve, Jackie Moore; seconded Tanna Patterson; Accepted.

- EXECUTIVE POSITIONS NOMINATIONS: There was acclamation of the current executive with no additions and no resignations.

President: Brian Churchill, Vice President: Gitte Grover, Secretary: Clements Verhoeven Treasurer: Terry Posynick Wildsight Regional Liasons: Jim Smith, Tanna Patterson Board Members: Drew Gailius, Vanessa Lozecnik

- OPEN DISCUSSION OF MEMBERS:

The floor was opened for members to present questions or suggestions. Jackie Moore advocated for more involvement with interested public and members. Jackie mentioned the idea of establishing committees to undertake various projects. Discussion ensued. Mary Jane Blackmore, of the Trails Society, extended an invitation to include a representative from Wildsight at Trail Society meetings. In conclusion, there was a consensus that if we are to effectively practise conservation, we need informed representation to raise concerns with RDCK and other political leadership.

Brian responded that our commitment to work with the Kootenay Conservation Programme could grow to more successfully connect with other conservation groups. Brian's current representation includes liasons with the Y2Y project, an international effort to establish/protect wildlife corridors from the Yukon to Yellowstone. The Community Forest and its shareholders provides a good foundation or model of information sharing. Brian suggested that Wildsight Local is considering hiring a part-time Co-ordinator to organize committees and/or projects .

- ADJOURNMENT: Jim Smith moved to adjourn the 2019 AGM; seconded by Terry Posynick; Accepted . Meeting adjourned.

The meeting was followed by a presentation by Jerry Bauers on the Community Forest's project to link the network of existing trails on Mount Thompson, and to upgrade the trails and campsites.