



Kimberley Nature Park Society
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2025

Present: Emma Lukas, Andree Power, John Henly, Jessica Harvey, Laura Duncan, Hasitha Muhandiram, Heather van der Hoop, Dave Hale, Sharon Moorcroft, Tim Chapman

Regrets: Jen McConnachie, Graeme Donaldson, Ava Boehringer, Anna Malvin, Ryan McKenzie, Sue Cairns

President John Henly called the meeting to order at 7:03pm

1. Adopt minutes
 - a. Motion to approve: Andree, seconded by Hasi
 - b. Motion carried
2. Accept agenda
 - a. Motion to accept: Jessica, seconded by Laura
 - b. Motion carried
3. KTS update: Ryan was unable to attend but emailed a report to John
 - a. Winter grooming is finished
 - b. Winter grooming survey will be out soon to collect feedback
 - c. Beginning to work on hiring Trail Crew for summer season
4. City Liaison: Sue was unable to attend
5. Financial report: Emma reported
 - a. Donations mostly from Canada Helps, plus \$145 from United Way. One notable donation of \$1,000 with a note about creating a “kids trail” with no other information.
 - b. PayPal money is being transferred over to our bank account
 - c. Expenses were mainly photocopies, Anna’s invoice, gifts for departing board members
 - d. Square: we purchased the dongle that inserts into a smartphone to take payments, which should be ready to go for the movie night fundraiser.
6. Correspondence/Communications
 - a. Carol Heck (Liaison Officer, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship): We asked about putting cameras on trails, and she responded that our intention is compatible with the intention of the LOO. We would need to post signage that there are cameras.
 - i. **Action item:** Andree will contact Carol to confirm, because the NH committee was told by another source that we would need a permit.
 - b. Carol Heck: We sent a draft management plan for her to review, and she acknowledged receipt and will review and send comments.
 - c. Andy Miller (Living Lakes Canada): Andy asked whether we wanted to participate in a long-term project to plant trees in KNP. He will follow up with a formal letter with additional information.
 - d. Andrew Wilson (General Manager, Kimberley Chamber of Commerce): Jessica and John met with him regarding support for the Responsible Recreation Code. In principle he supports the idea of the Chamber being the focal point (see additional info under #8).
 - e. Will Booth (Fire Chief): Interface fire open house on May 6, 2025, 5:30-7pm, at Kimberley Fire Hall to discuss fuel treatment projects.
7. Unfinished business
 - a. CBT Nonprofit Advisors Grant (Governance): Applied and were accepted. First task was updating the assessment with Wendy Booth (same liaison as last time). John, Jen and Sharon have worked on this project so far and John welcomed additional board members to be involved.
 - i. Reviewed 8 CVs and narrowed to a shortlist of 4 people with strong governance experience
 - ii. Wendy will request proposals (and quotes) from those four based on our assessment.

- iii. Proposals and quotes will be circulated among the board when they arrive. We will make a motion to spend the money once we have reviewed the proposals and costs.

8. New business

a. Umbrella group: Recreation for Economic Development

- i. Kimberley Trails: Kimberley Trails: Assessing the Economic Impact of Diverse Trail Systems funding (\$50,000)
- ii. Goal is to develop a comprehensive economic report of the whole trail network using digital data collection (e.g., Propulso) and develop metric to assess economic impact of trail usage and events, what brings people to town, who's using trails, etc. Goal is to inform City planning, grant funding, etc.
- iii. KTS, Tourism Kimberley, Chamber of Commerce, KNC, KNPS are main players; City of Kimberley, RDEK, and Ktunaxa communities are supporting (Pam from the City will write a letter of support)
- iv. KNPS's goal is to champion our values and emphasize all usage of trails. We bring a multi-use perspective
- v. Jessica met with Paul from the funder and it sounds like there will be lots of applications for this funding
- vi. Due April 11, so the main groups will contribute over the next two weeks
- vii. Align Consulting has been asked to provide a quote on the data collection and management and economic impact

b. Invasive Species Assessment

- i. Invasive species management is one of our obligations under the LOO, and a priority under the Strategic Plan.
- ii. Sole source justification: Per the procurement policy, we need to put out any requests \$10k+ to tender unless there are clear reasons, but this project is a good candidate for a sole source
 - 1. EKISC solely focuses on invasive species, so is likely to have the biggest knowledge base and most experience in the region
 - 2. EKISC is the governing body for this type of work for the Province of BC
 - 3. Based on the experience of several board members, EKISC rates are lower than environmental consultant rates in the area
 - 4. Andree asked for confirmation that no board members have conflicts of interest
 - 5. Motion to use EKISC as sole source: John, seconded by Dave
 - 6. Motion carried
- iii. Expenditure resolution: Cost is just under \$14,000. Field planning would start in May 2025, field work would be in June/July. EKISC would not invoice for the work until the fall to allow us to apply for additional grants to help cover the cost.
 - 1. We have already received a grant (~\$16,000) from the City, and we have applied for a ReDi grant. We can also continue to apply for grants.
 - 2. John moved to approve a \$14,000 expenditure to pay EKISC for the Invasive Species Assessment
 - a. Tim suggested approving an additional 10% to account for increasing expenses
 - 3. Revised motion to \$15,000: John, seconded by Jessica
 - 4. Motion carried
- iv. Management plan we will receive from EKISC is a long-term planning document with an idea of additional costs of future work
- v. Dave will lead this project with Hasi

9. Questions about committee reports

- a. Only Natural History sent a report this month (see below). Reminder to committee chairs to send around reports before the meeting for the board to review.
- b. Trails & Structures had nothing new to report
- c. Interface Fire: Dave reported a conversation between Sue and EK Climate Hub and a few local residents about options for fuel treatment piles other than burning (e.g., biochar and wood

insulation are two potential options that could be explored for feasibility).

10. Interesting sightings: bluebirds, bears
11. Motion to close regular meeting: Sharon, seconded by Emma
 - a. Motion carried
12. Motion to open in-camera session: Sharon, seconded by Andree
 - a. Motion carried

Next Meeting: 7pm, April 24, 2025, at McKim

Natural History Committee Report to the Board Meeting

- Outing was held March 23, 2025: Buds and Bugs – Signs of Spring with Sherrin Perroualt and Betty Baker – 7 keen participants
- Mar. 3, 2025: Wildlife camera sub-committee had a very informative instructional meeting with Alexia Constantinou, who relayed a lot of important information about where and how to set-up cameras, regulatory information about setting up on human trails and about an organization that coordinates data from projects.
- It was determined that the best use for the remaining funds in the REDI grant would be to purchase as many wildlife cameras as possible. We are awaiting confirmation of the amount of remaining funds.
- Natural History Committee meeting was held Mar. 13, 2025 with a focus on determining whether our current activities meet the mandate of the committee and whether we should carry on as is or modify activities. It was determined that all activities meet our mandate and should be continued, including the Ecosystem Assessment project that is currently being pursued. Our current projects include:
 - Monthly Outings
 - Calypso Count
 - Nature Notes – post on kiosks and update
 - Wildlife Cameras
 - Trail Counters (will be run by Trails Committee but info is of interest to NH)
 - Strava Trail Use (will be run by Trails Committee but info is of interest to NH)
 - Landscape Photo Documentation Project
 - Pika Study
 - Ecosystem Assessment Project
 - Update Checklists
 - Inventory identified area
 - McKim student project
- It was noted that some water-quality monitoring had taken place at Eimer's Lake by an outside party in recent past. Follow-up discovered the Youth Climate Crew run by Wildsight had taken part in a Living Lakes Canada initiative called the National Lake Blitz. It was noted that KNPS had done some monitoring at Eimer's Lake in the past due to concern about algal bloom but was discontinued due to the chemical parameters indicating that chemistry was not the issue. It was assumed that summer temperatures were a likely cause and the program was discontinued. However, discussion amongst the group indicated there may be some appetite to begin monitoring one or more water bodies in the Park. Discussions are continuing.
- iNaturalist is a citizen scientist program that allows users to document the presence of flora and fauna. KNP has an iNaturalist project dedicated to the land within the KNPS. A number of people use it to accumulate knowledge about the presence of species and also to help identify uncommon or difficult to ID species. Like many non-profits, iNaturalist asks for donations. Because the NH committee encourages users of the Park to use iNaturalist in order to gain further information about the Park, the NH committee endorsed the idea of giving a donation to iNaturalist. Rather than asking

the KNPS for funds, a member of the NH committee has offered to provide the donation but it was felt strongly that the donation should come through the KNPS so that publicity could be gained through advertising that KNPS was supporting iNaturalist while at the same time encouraging more people to use it. Thus being a win-win for both iNaturalist and the KNPS. We are awaiting word from Emma on how this could be done. The donor is not willing to give the donation unless there can be a benefit to both organizations.

- In addition to a blog, a FB & Instagram notice and article in the newspaper, Eva Boehringer has offered to lead a monthly Outing introducing the use of iNaturalist to attendees
- Next NH meeting will be May 8, 2025