



Minutes - Executive Meeting of the Kootenay Mountaineering Club
Wednesday April 13, 2016 at Castlegar Rec Centre

Present: Doug Clark, Sandra Fuller, Ross Bates, Jocelyn LaFace, Laurie Helyer, Graham Jamin, Leon Arishenkoff, Phil Best, Peter Oostlander, Tim Clinton, Chris Cowan, Peter Jordan and Dan Derby.

Regrets: -

Meeting commenced at 6:33 pm

- 1) **Approval of Agenda** - moved by; Leon Arishenkoff and seconded by Sandra Fuller, motion carried.
- 2) **Approval of January 27, 2016 Minutes** - as amended moved by Jocelyn LaFace and seconded by Leon Arishenkoff, motion carried.
- 3) **Review of Old business**
 - a) Advanced Booking of Trips (Chris) - presented and discussed draft guidelines. Chris to distribute to membership and have added to trip schedule documentation.
- 4) **New Business**
 - a) Kinnaird Bluffs Update: Vince Hemsall from The Association of West Kootenay Rock Climbers (TAWKROC) - presentation on the process they went through to fund raise for the purchase of the Kinnaird Bluffs. Recently all the hardware, bolts and pitons have been replaced allowing safe usage of area for all levels of experience and age. KMC members have donated \$2100 to date and the KMC donated \$1,000 of club funds. Thanks to a loan from an 'angel' donor, TAWKROC has purchased the property. The \$57,000 loan is to be repaid, of which \$28,000 has been raised to date. TAWKROC intends to eventually transfer the property to the City of Castlegar.
 - b) Friends of Rossland Range, Lepsoe Basin Cabin - Commemorative Plaque (Doug Clark), a wood carving with plaque has been agreed upon that will be affixed to the wall inside the cabin.
 - 235 people signed into the cabin since its opening in fall 2015.
 - FORR is considering asking MoTI to expand parking areas as the Rossland Range Recreation Site is becoming heavily utilized.
 - c) W 5-Mile Cr to Hummingbird Pass Shelter and Trail Marking - Peter Jordan provided the following written report.

A few weeks ago, I met with Kirk Jensen, the manager of Whitewater ski hill, who is interested in applying to Columbia Basin Trust for a grant to install signs and/or emergency shelters in 5-Mile and Qua Creeks. The motivation is, to reduce the number of people who get lost ski touring in these areas.

After this discussion, and talking with Brian Cooles of Search & Rescue, I think it's an idea worth pursuing. A lot of our members use these areas for backcountry skiing, and some even get lost there. 5-Mile Creek (the west fork between Evening Ridge and Beattie) is the highest priority, as it gets the most use.

My opinion is, the KMC should apply for a grant, as the lead group in the proposal. As partners, we should include Parks, Search & Rescue, and Whitewater. (WH2O can't be the lead proponent as they are a commercial company.)The project as we discussed it would be:

- *This spring, locate the ideal route out of W 5-Mile Cr to Hummingbird Pass, and maybe also out of upper Selous Cr. Flag and GPS the routes.*
- *Have signs made, similar to the map signs on cross-country ski trails.*
- *In the summer, hire a trail crew to clear a rough trail, and limb trees up to 4 or 5 m. Put signs on the trees every few 100m, and also reflective red diamond markers.*

If we can get funding for two years, then do a similar project in Qua Creek next year. This would be more difficult and expensive, and also is lower priority as there is less skier traffic there. However Kirk seems keen on it, as he would like to enhance skiing opportunities there, and thinks an emergency shelter there would be a good idea.

I'm willing to take the lead on this, and write up a grant application, if the executive thinks we should do it.

Partners in the project would be White Water, SAR, Parks, Recreation Sites and Trails and KMC. The purpose of the project and maps would be to show exit routes.

After discussion, Exec asked Peter to draft an application for CBT grant to be tabled for Exec approval at next executive committee meeting,

- d) **Local Management Plan** - Doug Clark (see draft letter to Minister Thomson) some executive committee members met with Justin Dexter re non-commercial and non-mechanized recreational use of the back country. It was moved by Doug Clark and seconded by Laurie Helyer that, *the KMC send a letter to Minister Thomson stating that the club is willing to work cooperatively with his ministry to help identify and establish non-commercial, non-mechanized sites for recreational use in the West Kootenays, motion carried.* Letter to be sent to Honorable Steven Thomson, Minister of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations.

5) **Executive Reports**

- a) **President** - Doug Clark, Requested updates on Darkwoods and White Water access agreements. Chris will be working with Darkwoods staff to renew agreement. Peter and Doug to review status of White Water agreement.
- b) **Vice President** - Sandra Fuller, if there is any interest in executive committee members attending either Share the Trails Workshop or FMCBC AGM let Sandra know as she is unable to attend.
- c) **Treasurer** - Ross Bates, financial situation is positive.
- d) **Membership** - Jocelyn LaFace, we were up to 321 members as of April 13, 2016. Still getting new members daily.
- e) **Secretary** - Dan Derby, it was confirmed that minutes of executive committee meetings would be posted to the website after being approved at the following executive committee meeting. AGM draft minutes would be posted as draft to the website until approved at the following years AGM.
- f) **Social** - Laurie Helyer, next social is May 27th at the Taghum Hall with a presentation from Dave Quinn.
- g) **Huts** - Graham Jamin, this winter had 1137 bed bookings in the huts. BC users make up 57% and Alberta users make up 26% of the total.
- Grassy will be the focus of this year's work with new bunks, equipment and firewood to be flown in. With an increase in snowmobile access and maintenance needs the future of Huckleberry cabin needs to be reviewed.
- h) **Newsletter** - Tim Clinton, only 5 members still requesting paper copy of newsletter. Jocelyn, Peter J. and Graham to write up directors reports for next newsletter.

- i) **Mountaineering School** - Peter Oostlander, The KMC is pleased to offer a number of member discounted skills courses this spring.
 - April 23, 2016 full day, April 24, 2016 half day Intro to Wilderness Navigation - Map and Compass Use
 - June 3, 4 and 5 2016: Wilderness and Remote First Aid -Basic and/or Advanced
 - June 4, 2016: Ice Axe & Crampon use, Movement skills & Rope handling
 - June 5, 2016: Crevasse Rescue; Snow & Ice Anchors
 - June 18, 2016: Introduction to Rock Climbing - beginner program
 - June 19, 2016: Introduction to Rock Climbing - learn personalized movement skills, basic anchor construction and rappelling while climbing as much rock as possible!

If sufficient interest, date TBA: Mountain Leadership & Hazard Management.

- Moved by Peter Oostlander and seconded by Graham Jamin that *the KMC support the purchase of two climbing ropes up to \$600 in value*, motion carried.

- j) **Conservation** - Peter Jordan, there may be opposition to proposed logging in Apex creek.
- k) **Hiking Camp** - Leon Arishenkoff, discussed some of the challenges the hiking camp committee is having with policies and committee members. The executive recommended the committee stick with the current policy and that HCC develop a process to solicit member input for potential policy changes.
- l) **Trail Access** - Chris Cowan, plans to survey Lost mountain trail this spring for development of a grant application.
 - Chris is working on an access roads conditions spread sheet for members' use and is ensuring Darkwoods access agreement is kept up to date.
- m) **Winter Trips** - Phil Best, (Kokanee Ski Week Procedures) Kokanee ski week; 15 applications, all accepted, all notified, trip full. Application checks sent to Ross Bates for deposit. ACC confirmed that Feb 4-11, 2017 is reserved for KMC. Deposit to ACC sent for \$3,000.06.
- n) **Summer Trips** - Peter Oostlander, We increased our goal from 65 to 75 trips to keep up with the growing membership. We ended up with 88 trips on the summer schedule; a very enthusiastic response from our members! A big thank you to the phone/email volunteers that helped out this year. They were: Chris Cowan, Mary Prothro, Angie Germaine, Helen Foulger, Nancy Suuban, Phil Best, Sandra Fuller, Marilyn Miller, Valerie Utgaren and P'nina Shames. Thanks also to Vicki Hart for checking the trip descriptions and difficulty grades.

So far, five trips have taken place with 81 members and 5 guests participating. The trip organized by Al and Pat Sheppard to the Yellow Pine trail was attended by the sports reporter, from the Nelson Star, who will write a newspaper article about it.

An incident report was submitted by one organizer and was forwarded to the KMC President and the FMCBC. The individual suffered a fall and a broken wrist but is doing well.

- 6) Motion to adjourn meeting by Peter Jordan at 9:43 pm. Next meeting is June 15, 2016 in Castlegar.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Derby, Secretary, Kootenay Mountaineering Club.