

Alberta Native Bee Council

Annual General Meeting

October 26, 2019

Attendees: Megan Evans, Ron Miksha, Carol Frost, Janelle Goodine, Sydney Worthy, Connor Nelson, Sara Peterson, Luke Wonneck, Godo Stoyky, Dave Prescott, Charity Briere, Peter Whyte, Samantha Morrice, Caleb Bryan, Rick Nelson, Leanne Nelson, Brad Jones, Caroline Whitehouse, Lisa Neame, Terry Eberhardt. Left before AGM: Mindi Summers (speaker series), Melissa Scaman, Sue Peters

Welcome (Megan Evans)

- The Alberta Native Bee council seeks to be a forum for connecting people who are just learning about bees, other interested people, academics.
- Round of introductions

I. Speaker Program

- Wild Bee Monitoring in Alberta - Dave Prescott (Fish and Wildlife, Alberta Environment and Parks)
- Effects of introduced *A. mellifera* on native bees in urban environments - Ron Miksha (M.Sc candidate, University of Calgary)
- Digitizing Alberta's Native Bee Diversity - Mindi Summers (University of Calgary)
- Solitary Bee Hotel Design and Maintenance - Megan Evans (Alberta Native Bee Council)

II. Annual General Meeting

Attendees: Megan Evans, Ron Miksha, Carol Frost, Janelle Goodine, Sydney Worthy, Connor Nelson, Sara Peterson, Luke Wonneck, Godo Stoyky, Dave Prescott, Charity Briere, Peter Whyte, Samantha Morrice, Caleb Bryan, Rick Nelson, Leanne Nelson, Brad Jones, Caroline Whitehouse, Lisa Neame, Terry Eberhardt

- Opening of meeting (2:00 pm)
1. Review Minutes of 2018 AGM
 - Approve the minutes from last AGM Moved to last agenda item
 2. Report on Activity (Megan Evans)
 - Currently 41 members in good standing
 - Attendance today will mean you are a member
 - Overview of wild bee monitoring program (Dave Prescott)
 - helping us understand distribution of wild bees

- Lots more work to do
- A few more years before we will resample
- In 2019 we did 40 events
 - Reached over 7000 people (talks workshop, booths) about wild bees
 - Over 500 bumblebee boxes distributed in 2019 with only 15 completed questionnaires
 - Open to suggestion on how to improve this.
- Encouraging reporting on bumblebee boxes
 - Lack of reporting is an issue that plagues a lot of citizen science
- Social media
 - Facebook page: 941 people following the group and page
 - Ask folks to follow and add
 - Instagram page just created, working on twitter.
 - Covering bases in terms of social media

3. Financial Report (Caroline Whitehouse)

- Requirement according to the Alberta Societies Act is to present audited financial statements each year
- Showed first financial statement; at that time balance was zero
- Income statement – April 1, 2019 – end of September
 - Gross profit \$9,146.13
 - Total operating expenses \$3,280.67
 - Net profit \$5,865.46

4. Appointment of Auditor for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

- Auditors will be for both years; if we keep on the track, showing statement from 2 years
- Appointment: Peter Whyte and Luke Wonneck
- Motion to approve report (Megan Evans); seconded (Connor Nelson); all in favour
 - Motion carried: financial report approved

5. Unfinished Business:

- Strategic Plan Update:
 - A strategic plan will ensure that work we are doing is meeting our objectives
 - Working towards development of a strategic plan
 - Reaching out to the provincial community development branch
 - They offer facilitated workshops on strategic planning for societies
 - Planning to do a workshop with them this winter
- Looking into funding opportunities to generate resources that can help us meet our objectives
- New Business
 - Special Resolution Vote on Bylaw change
 - Notice sent out with newsletter on October 1 to membership (notice required under bylaws)
 - Membership expiration: issue with purchase at AGM and inconsistency with calendar year. Annual memberships currently expire at the end of the calendar year, which aligns poorly with our fall Annual General Meeting when many memberships are purchased. To address this, the board decided that members who have purchased a membership in 2019 will remain in good standing until September 1, 2020. This change will better align membership purchases with the AGM so that a membership purchased at the AGM would be good for almost a full calendar year. To facilitate this, the Board is proposing to change Section 5.4 of our bylaws from:
 - 'The Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be held on or before October 31 in each year...' to
 - 'The Annual General Meeting of the Council must be held between September 1 and October 31...'
 - Proposed change: change expiration of September and hold AGM in a defined period (September to October)
 - This will ensure it is clear to members when memberships expire
 - Easier administratively to have a single date for expiration, rather than tracking purchase date for each member
 - Motion to approve bylaw change (Megan Evans); seconded (Godo Stoyky); all in favour
 - Motion carried

- Alberta Native bee council Logo
 - Brad Jones reached out a design instructor at NAIT, his class put together a branding package as an assignment
 - We are working with a student
 - General feedback and discussion:
 - Divided on whether it looks like a bee; it is hard to represent all bees due to diversity in size, colour and form, many bees look like wasps
 - Question about whether there is any utility in sending out other designs; however we have already retained a student based on conversation and decision made at board meetings
 - Comment that one of the newer options may look like a undergarment
 - Challenges with the wild rose and confusion with honey bee organizations
 - Suggestion to consider a couple of different branding options- one bumblebee option, other solitary, can be tailored to audience, allows a bit more variation. Same format, slightly different
 - For merchandise, we can set up designs and purchase options they want on demand; we can look into cost- Caroline has knowledge of platforms for this
 - Suggestion for a mug, there could be two sides where you see the back of a bee on opposite site
 - Considerations about transferability
 - General consensus is that the logo may need a bit of work, there are options we can consider
 - Other news: note the recently created Native Bee Society of BC

6. Elections

- Board Vacancies: vacancies for Secretary, Vice president and two directors
- Current board: President (Megan Evans), Treasurer (Caroline Whitehouse), Luke Wonneck (Director), Brad Jones (Director), Lisa Neame (Director)
 - Alexandria Farmer has stepped down as secretary

- Carol Frost is stepping down as Vice President
- Calls for interest in joining the board
- First request - Charity Briere and Connor Nelson
 - Connor Nelson: grad student at University of Alberta, a student in Carol Frost's lab; has been involved in council activities for the past year, including working on monitoring program samples, interested in further contribution to the society
 - Charity Briere: background in entomology; founder and past president of the honeybee society in Red Deer, had been very involved in honeybees. Shifting focus to wild bees as she became more aware of and concerned about impacts on wild bees
 - Courtney Hughes: I am interested in continuing to learn about native bees through supporting data collection, as well as engaging public audiences in new monitoring and stewardship. I'll be moving to Grande Cache and am excited to bring bee work to that area, while continuing my involvement with bee monitoring and citizen science in the Peace Region. I bring previous and current board experience, as the Rotary club of Peace River's director for community and international projects (I'm off to Tanzania in November), the current Chair and founding Board member of Peace Regional Restorative Justice association, and founding Chair of Mighty Peace Barbell Club.
- The information in our society registration and bylaws is that our mission and vision includes promoting wild bee conservation, advocating for wild bee conservation, supporting outreach to community and expanding and sharing our knowledge of native bees
- Nominations
 - Charity Briere self-nominated as a director
 - Lisa Neame self-nominated for Secretary
 - Connor Nelson self-nominated for vice president
 - Megan Evans nominated Courtney Hughes as a director
- Summary of nominations
- Courtney Hughes and Charity Briere standing for directors, Connor Nelson as Vice President, Lisa Neame as secretary
- Motion to approve Board appointments (Megan Evans); Seconded (Connor Nelson); All in favour

- Board of the Alberta Native Bee Council: President (Megan Evans), Treasurer (Caroline Whitehouse), Connor Nelson (Vice President), Lisa Neame (Secretary), Luke Wonneck (Director), Brad Jones (Director), Charity Briere (Director), Courtney Hughes (Director)
- Roles intended to commence at the beginning of the calendar year
 - Board will convene to discuss details of responsibilities
 - Board member duties: attendance at meetings and other tasks and roles as prescribed or as desired
- 7. Proposed Budget (Megan Evans)
 - Recently applied for NCC funding (\$3000.00)
 - Looking at other funds
 - Looking for funding from the Entomological Society of Alberta for funding for insect nets
 - Intend to apply for casinos soon
- 8. President's Address (Megan Evans)
 - Thank you to the board and everyone who has participated; excited about moving forward and proud of what the Alberta Native Bee Council has accomplished to date
 - Excited about the caliber and experience of past and new board members
 - Thanks to Dave Prescott for all his work with the monitoring program
 - Finally, thanks for attendance at the meeting today
- 9. Closure
 - Lisa motion to adjourn the meeting; Luke seconded, all in favour

Meeting adjourned (2:38 pm)