

# Prince George Backcountry Recreation Society Annual General Meeting – December 20, 2023 Minutes

## Invitees:

### Directors:

1. President – Alex Bevington, PRESENT
2. Vice President – Les Szerencsi, PRESENT
3. Treasurer – Dave King, PRESENT
4. Secretary – Heather MacRae, PRESENT
5. Communication Director – Chandra Matlock
6. Authorization Director – Tyson Solmonson, PRESENT
7. Fundraising Director – Jeremy Morris
8. Past President – Duncan McColl, PRESENT
9. Director at large – Deanna Danskin, PRESENT
10. Director at large – Joel McLay
11. Director at large – Hardy Griesbauer, REGRETS
12. Director at large – Kimberley Kenyon

### Member Groups:

1. Caledonia Ramblers: Dave King and Mark Neilsen, PRESENT
2. Caledonia Nordic: Gretchen Prystawik (invited for John Hybers)
3. Alpine Club of Canada - Prince George Section: Val Hunsaker
4. Prince George Naturalists: Bonnie Houge, PRESENT
5. Fraser Headwater Alliance: Roy Howard, PRESENT (online)
6. UNBC Outdoors Club: Riley Millar
7. Northwest Brigade Paddling Club: Duncan McColl, PRESENT (online)
8. Penny Community Historical Association: Les Szerencsi, PRESENT (online)
9. Ozalenka Alpine Club: Jeff Corbett
10. Prince George Cycling Club: Jacob Mullen
11. Association of Caledonia Trailbuilders: Dan Domes, PRESENT
12. Back Country Horsemen of BC – Omineca Chapter: Verna Houghtaling, PRESENT (online)
13. Great Divide Trail Association: Doug Borthwick, PRESENT (online)

## Members of the public in attendance:

Mark Neilsen - Caledonia Ramblers

## Agenda Items

1. Housekeeping
  - Thanks to OverHang for the space
  - Land acknowledgement.
2. Approve minutes from last meeting (AGM and June)
  - Les, Heather
3. New agenda items, approval of agenda
  - Alex, Dan

#### 4. Member club updates

- Caledonia Ramblers
  - A couple trips per weekend, lots of trailwork; up to 500-800 hrs.
  - Viking trail installed 800ft of plankway. 1800ft now in place. Lumber is ready for another 400ft next year. The worst muddy areas all have plankway.
  - Improvements to the Fort George Canyon Trail. Muddy sections covered with boardwalk. Bought lumber for more work to be done next year. Some spots done but lumber in for next areas. Need a wetter season to know where to place facilities.
  - Members are around 150. Celebrating 50 years next year, figuring out how they are to celebrate.
- Caledonia Nordic
  - No representative available for an update
- Alpine Club of Canada
  - No representative available for an update
- Prince George Naturalists
  - Christmas bird count completed. Taking on kids programming for bird counts as well.
  - Some walks in cottonwood park.
- Fraser Headwaters Alliance
  - MOF has deactivated the East Twin FSR which accessed the Chalco area. Recreation Sites and Trails (RS&T) renounced permit to work on the trail due to access issues. FHA decided to drop interest in the trail.
  - All effort now into Goat River Trail. Reroute on west end to get it off deactivated road but would enter into Bowron Lakes Provincial Park. So did clean out FSR this fall; about half complete and next spring will continue. Usually do helicopter access trail maintenance but this year no helicopters were available.
  - RS&T covered the engineering assessment costs for the Goat River tram and it has a stamp of approval.
- UNBC Outdoors Club
  - No representative available for an update
- Northwest Paddle Brigade
  - Duncan McColl, Plan for AGM soon and people are still boating due to the water being open.
  - Pool session set to run early in the new year.
  - COMMENT: Duncan to look into road deactivations in relation to overall picture of recreation.
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- Penny Community Historical Society
  - New board elected a year ago. Most have stepped down, will be moving the AGM to March and rebuild the board. Not much work throughout the summer. Might be plowing the Fraser flats road for the rest of the season.
- Ozalenka Alpine Club
  - No representative available for an update
- Prince George Cycling Club
  - No representative available for an update

- Association of Caledonia Trailbuilders
  - Pretty successful grant application to the development fund. Couple thousand hrs of Executive members and Sunday work parties. Lots done; 5.5 new trail ready to go in the spring on top of the 6 from last year. 13 kms of trail now available that doesn't exist in PG. Jump trail next year.
  - RFFFG has given us more funds for building next year; 5 or 6 more. 17-18 kms in 3 years with a wide variety of opportunity- cross country touring, double black downhill, adaptive standard wide standard trail.
  - Lots of interest in the club. 163 by the end of this season.
  - Trail counter on Aug 26, bottom staging to trail network. 60 hits a day (30 rotations), road also access with vehicles. YRB has extended plowing into staging area for access in the winter.
  - PG Cycling Club is interested in grooming.
  - Grand opening in June/July, postponed to allow for more trails available.
  - RS&T has not yet recognized this system as a Sec 56 tenure. Insurance costs are high as we are not under government liability without this. Have tried to get support, but still waiting on that.
  - Come check out the 8x80ft wall!
  
- Backcountry Horsemen Association
  - May helped the ATV club on the parking lot clean up.
  - Mothers day at Red Rock - not many users. July 23 at hickory wing.
  - Barkerville or Coalmine in Smithers trip.
  - Trips in McBride near Belle Mnt associated to the campsite - 280,000 grant through RS&T, MacIntosh campsite - 3kms off the highway.
  - Oct did a fence line work to fix a bridge.
  - Riding to Troll lake cabin a lot this year.
  
- Great Divide Trail Association
  - Very productive year up near the trail. Official northern terminus - signage is up now at the 54th parallel. Northern terminus at Kakwa.
  - Partnership agreement in the park through PGBRS - cleared about 12 kms of trail.
  - Cecilia creek bridge put in and planning for more trail building to the Kakwa cabins. Lots of heli use which took up most of the trail work budget. Planning to go in through Walker creek this coming year for trailbuilding to reduce helo costs.
  - Walker repaired up to 60km. Will work with the snowmobile club.
  - Going through strategic planning to come up with where the organization will go along with the trail network. Will send out surveys to this group to understand what the trail can do for communities.
  - Want to work as gateway community connections. Might send some people out in the spring to connect with PG to promote the trail.
  - Question: Plan to continue the trail north? Will look at strategic plan. Lots of hikers have asked about moving north to Monkman.
  - Kakwa Aug cabin host counted 56 people coming in from GDT. 75-90 utilized that portion of the trail.
  - Difficult logistics due to the remoteness of the trail - coming off the Walker is remote, coming off the Blueberry now has a contractor to move people to staging areas
  - Dave King mentioned that the Herrick area is being developed for logging in the coming years so access will be possible in that area heading in the Monkman area.

## 5. Director's updates

- Past President - Duncan: happy to have supported Alex and everything he has done.
- Secretary – Sorry for the slow movement on some items but Wildfire season was difficult to keep up on things.
- Directors at large - Deanna, Joel, Hardy, Kim
  - Alex for some of Hardy's work: Authorization for Longworth - Sec 57 to rebuild the Lookout: focusing on the rebuild and then push for 56. That will be Hardy's project in the future. Purgatory climbing area routes being developed halfway between Purden and Sugarbowl. Some already in and lots of potential there.
  - Deanna - collaborated with Alex on the cabin user survey. Lots of responses and information. Alex may look at making available to all. Now automated into the booking system. Helped with Grizzly digging holes with the engineer. Now added the Farm to the survey.  
**ACTION ITEM: Have a brief summary of the survey available at the AGM each year.**
  - Jeremy. Fundraising - landed Grizzly grant. Alex has provided lots of direction on grant applications that Jeremy has completed.
  - Tyson: Wants to add more in the next year but fire in the North Peace kicked his ass this year.
  - Chandra: not available for an update.
- Finance
  - Alex and Dave. \$293,000 between all accounts. \$216,000 slotted for Grizzly construction. Everything is accounted for from the chequing account then reconciled to the projects. Alex went through rough budget. See attachments.
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- Vice President
  - Les, mostly spent time on support for ACT; lots of work into Tabour mnt. Summer months were used there.
- President
  - Report attached

## 6. Elections

- President – Alex Bevington
- Vice President – Les Szerencsi
- Treasurer – Dave King
- Secretary – Heather MacRae
- Comms – Tyson Solmonson
- Events – Tim Antill (Alex to check in if he's willing to accept)
- Fundraising – Jeremy Morris
- Past President – Duncan McColl
- Director at large - Joel McLay
- Director at large – Hardy Griesbauer
- Director at large – Kim Kennedy
- Director at large – Deanna Danskin
- Director at large – Mark Nielsen

## 7. Annual Reports – all will be completed soon.

- BC Parks
- RS&T
- BC Societies

8. Longworth historical instruments are missing. Hardy is looking for them so if anyone hears where they are could you please connect with the PGBRS.

9. Meeting Adjourned

- Alex, Heather