

Alberta Native Bee Council

Annual General Meeting

October 27, 2020

Attendees: Megan Evans, Caroline Whitehouse, Lisa Neame, Luke Wonneck, Charity Briere, Ralph Cartar, Lincoln Best, Sydney Worthy, Brandon Allen, Joelyn Kozar, Brittany Wingert, Pat Bumstead, Maura Hamill, Scott Gillespie, Dayna Bordage, Nikki Pasker, Meghan Jacklin

Minutes prepared by Lisa Neame

Welcome (Megan Evans)

- The Alberta Native Bee council seeks to be a forum for connecting people who are learning about bees, other interested people, academics.
- 3rd annual general meeting, first virtual meeting.
- Quick Zoom overview

I. Annual General Meeting

1. Called meeting to order: 7:06 pm

- Board members present (Lisa Neame, Luke Wonneck, Charity Briere, Caroline Whitehouse) each provided a brief introduction
- Board members not present: Brad Jones, Connor Nelson, Courtney Hughes; the latter two are stepping down from the board
- For the AGM our bylaws establish quorum; quorum is 5 members
- Voting at the meeting requires membership; encourage everyone present to become a member, if you aren't already.
- Memberships are on an annual basis and can be purchased online
- Funds from memberships help us do the work of the society
- Call to add anything to the agenda

2. Review and approve 2019 AGM meeting minutes

Overview:

- Last year we held an in person event, including a speaker program.
- Business meeting portion includes a report on activity, the financial report, unfinished and strategic planning
- We discussed a special resolution last year regarding bylaw change with regards to modifying membership term to align with AGM, as we previously had an issue with expiry. Memberships run Sept 1 to August 31st.
- Held elections, and presented the budget
- Call for errors or omissions from the minutes. None raised.

- Approve the minutes from last AGM: Caroline Whitehouse motioned to approve the minutes; Lisa Neame seconded the motion. All in favour, motion carried. 2019 AGM meeting minutes approved.
3. Report on Activity (Megan Evans)
- 2020 was a challenging year and a lot of adaptation and changes, however, we were still busy
 - About 1300 followers on Facebook, 250 followers on Twitter, and Instagram
 - We try to post only things that are fact-checked, to ensure we are providing good information on social media
 - Social media is tricky to manage and takes a lot of time
 - Will continue the course we have been
 - Outreach-
 - Hosted four webinars, (three external and one in-house, for which Luke presented)
 - Did four in person presentations before March; this was very few compared to usual, as all the events scheduled for the spring and summer were cancelled. These outreach events are a big part of what we do
 - Held two bumblebee box workshops
 - Sold 70 bumblebee box kits/assembled boxes. People are really interested in them
 - Put out two newsletters- switched to mail chimp format. Easier to manage lists
 - Revised bylaws as mentioned in the meeting minutes review
 - With funds from the Entomological Society of Alberta (ESAB), we purchased 10 aerial bee nets – the intent was to host outreach events outside, on an informal walk while showing people bees. Idea was small group sizes. The plan was to pilot these with the Nature conservancy of Canada (NCC) on their lands – as NCC is a landowner and a conservation organization, we see this as a good partnership
 - Question: What kind of response did you get for the bumblebee box reporting? – will address this in a few moments
 - Developing guidance documents:
 - Created a best practices brochure for solitary bee hotels. Wanted to ensure we were disseminating the most up-to-date science and help ensure there is no negative impact, includes information on design, maintenance and cleaning; available on our website
 - Continue working on a brochure titled: I have bees - what do I do? This is a common question; we get a lot emails between June and September on this topic. The brochure includes information on bee identification, identifying whether they are wasps, and what they can do if they have bees on their property
 - Printed the Bees of Alberta poster
 - Last year Mindi Summers (professor at UofC), presented on her work with digital collections, they have been working on high resolution images of bees. It is a tremendous resource for information, and identification.
 - We intended to sell the posters at outreach events but we haven't had any events since; cost of shipping is an issue- haven't found an economical way to ship them. If anyone has suggestions please submit them.
 - Hopefully we will continue outreach events soon and sell them as fundraiser

- Thanks to the Uof C
- Strategic planning
 - Held a strategic planning session last winter; talked about objectives and how we can meet them
 - The main thing we identified is a capacity issues; there is lots of demand from public for information and outreach. And because of capacity issue we also haven't yet drafted a strategic plan. We have notes from that meeting to pull together into a plan
- Funds: we received 3000\$ from NCC to help with the bumblebee box program. We are grateful, those funds mean a lot to an organization like us. A report back to them is still outstanding
- We selected a new logo
- Participated in grassland market symposium.
 - The organization (the Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity Network) wants to create a market for conservation of grasslands (by landowners). There was a lot about carbon credits but the underlying intent is maintaining and creating ecosystem services. There is an important link with ecosystem services and bees.
 - It is important to stay connected to these organizations.
 - Think the presentation are online and there was a report. Was interesting and see the value in connecting with land managers and conservation of native grasslands
- Interviews: one radio interview, and several print articles
- City of Calgary responsible pet ownership bylaw
 - Recently reviewed the City of Calgary responsible pet ownership bylaw, which includes urban beekeeping. The bylaw does not address it beyond provincial requirements. Wanted to ensure awareness of effects of honeybees and presence of endangered bees within the city
 - Suggest requirements for a course for urban beekeepers (disease etc.) and also to suggest planting flowers to feed their bees. In terms of the amount of floral resources required to support a hive, we came up with a generalization: 1/5 of an acre. Used information on hive densities and crop pollination studies. Don't expect that they will make it a requirement, but opened some dialogue and offered to give presentation to new beekeepers to help to educate them about native bees.
 - May issue a call to membership to contact their councilors on these kinds of issues
- The Gault museum in Lethbridge will have a display on bees; there is a lot of information on bees in that area. May be up in February
- Question: Are you working with any honeybee group in Calgary? No, have not. We have kept a bit of a distance from some of those groups
- Mitigation hierarchy.
 - Working on a mitigation hierarchy and a document
 - We know managed bees can have negative impacts on native bees
 - Honeybee populations are growing unchecked, or at least without consideration for effects on native bees
 - Want to address honeybees, leafcutter, mason and bumblebees. Bumblebees may be most problematic. Each group needs different approach.

- We don't want to tell people that they can't or shouldn't have bees; rather, we are looking for solutions to mitigate the impacts of honeybees on native bees
- Has been difficult to develop
- Key recommendation is to plant flowers to feed your honeybees; this is the same as is required for any livestock owner
- If people are interested and you want to volunteer – we need to do literature reviews find solutions, and put together materials, are happy for volunteers to help with this
- Plant lists for pollinators. Compiled the list based on grad student data locally in Alberta and info from other organizations. Not sure how some other groups identified plants (maybe anecdotal), so we also supplemented with actual data; confident with this list
- Casino fundraiser.
- Now have everything to submit that application. The money that can bring in would be a game changer; with the funds we hope we could bring someone on board to help with the work of the council
- We have a volunteer working on website content. Our website needed a lot of work, and needs to be branded with new logo
- Bumblebee box monitoring program
 - In 2019 received 66 reports, it was the first year for reporting. Eight boxes were colonized. Most of the 66 boxes were placed on the ground/deck. All but one of the colonized boxes was placed above ground level. We know from research that different species have different nesting preferences, and some are generalist.
 - We expected more ground level colonization, but it wasn't the case. Have not yet examined the data in detail so not sure what might be going on, but it is interesting all the same. In the future will attach to tree or fence
 - For 2020, received 48 reports so far; will be reminding people to submit. 11 were colonized, 7 of those 11 were above ground level
 - Question: How many boxes are out there in total? - Quite a lot. We have made thousands of boxes via workshops. We have learned over time - now we make people register and remind them to submit report. The reporting form is online and easy to complete
 - Question: In the boxes that were colonized, are there a variety of species? - We don't always know. From photos we can usually identify the species but we want to grow the program so that we can collect nest contents at the end of the season to identify any dead bees in nest.
 - Suggestion that perhaps we can incentivize reporting by providing a poster or a t-shirt in a draw. – yes, we are offering a prize this year
 - If anyone is interested in volunteering to help with the program, let Megan know
 - Great program and we would like to grow it. You can find instructions online or can get one from us. Usually we have workshops to put them together. Type of wood doesn't really matter, as long as it is not pressure treated wood
 - Ralph happy to chat bumblebee boxes

- Question: Can you sell boxes through the wild bird store? – We need to look into that option ,it would be nice if we could direct people to some places in the major centres.
- Native bee monitoring program
 - Other major program is the native bee monitoring program. This is a massive collaborative project – conducted sampling in the spring and summer of 2018, collaborating with Ralph Cartar and Paul Galpern (UofC), Alberta Environment and Parks, agricultural fieldmen, Alberta Agriculture and Forestry.
 - Sampled throughout the province. We did not focus effort in the grasslands (which are already better sampled); rather focused on the rest of province; this is the most robust sample for a single year
 - Handed out kits to volunteers and they collected bees.
 - The real work is with processing samples. About 2/3 of the bumblebees are identified and most labeled, next step is to pull out native bees, identify the remaining bees. Identification is the difficult part. We knew it would take a long time to process, as we don't have money to pay people. Treated the first year of sampling as a pilot; and also wanted to initiate sampling sooner than later, as we can't go back in time to collect baseline. The intent is to repeat sampling every 5 years. We will be looking at habitat associations, range maps
 - Found a new bumblebee species
 - Question: How many specimens collected? - Estimates: at least 10,000, likely 15,000; there is data for ~8000 online
 - Question: What about bees collected through Glenbow Ranch? Can data from there be incorporated? – Have the impression that the data from there was bumblebee box and observation. There were different objectives so not sure if we could combine the data – not that we don't need more data, but the need is for standardized and repeated data.
 - Lincoln Best identified that the Wildlife Preservation Society did a season of sampling, using vane traps; they caught about 4000 specimens.
 - If it is vane trap data, then it is comparable, yes, we could use that. Wasn't aware they did any blue vane traps, good to know
 - The data hasn't been published so talking to Genevieve Rowe about releasing on Canadensis.
- Approval of the report on activity: Luke Wonneck motioned to approve the report; Charity Briere seconded the motion. All in favour, motion carried. Report on activity approved.
- 4. Financial Report (Caroline Whitehouse)
 - Requirement according to the Alberta Societies Act is to present audited financial statements each year; we need to file with the province as part of the annual return
 - At AGM we also appoint auditors who examine the books; primarily to ensure no one is misappropriating funds.
 - Income statement – presentation. Revenue, expenses and net profit. Total Revenue \$12,511.76, Net profit \$2,591.60

- Main areas of revenue are bee box workshop, some grant money, and member dues also provide some revenue. Bee box program supplies form one of our larger expenses, as well as printing and reproduction
 - Balance sheet, showing total worth. The Society is now worth 6278.04\$
 - Total Revenue \$12,511.76
 - Gross profit \$\$12,511.76
 - Total operating expenses \$\$9,920.16
 - Net profit \$2,591.60
 - a. Appointment of Auditor for 2018-2019 and 2019-2020
 - Auditors do not need to be in same location, can audit digitally.
 - Call for two volunteers; audit will be for both years
 - Appointment: Luke Wonneck and Brandon Allen
 - Motion to approve financial report: Lisa Neame motioned to approve the financial report; Luke Wonneck seconded the motion. All in favour, motion carried: financial report approved.
5. Unfinished Business:
- Strategic planning and fundraising
 - Had a great strategic planning session
 - Fundraising will always be unfinished business. If you have ideas opportunities, let us know.
6. New Business
- Committees
 - Would like to initiate some committees, specifically for developing the website and newsletters
 - Website: Bette Beswick has been working on website content; looking for contributions from anyone who has time and expertise. Some of what is need is some design, and some technical aspects. Website domain currently through Dreamhost, and using Wix for the website design/layout
 - Newsletter: Need help with generating newsletters; Lincoln Best has been writing a quarterly article on bees and plants (called Pollinator Linc or Linc's bee corner) - this is exactly what we are looking for, would be great to include it
 - If others interested in either committee, you can let us know after the meeting as well
 - Logo
 - The new logo is a bee with a diversity of flowers , we actually have a list of the flowers in the logo. The bee outline is similar to an *Andrena* (mining bee). We have a burgundy and gold version, also other colours as well.
 - We are planning to get t shirts and mugs, intend to sell them at events; unfortunately distributing by mail is problematic because of the cost of shipping
 - We are very excited about the logo, it has been a long road to land on a logo
7. Elections
- Current board: President (Megan Evans), Treasurer (Caroline Whitehouse), Luke Wonneck (Director), Lisa Neame (Director), Charity Briere, Connor

- Connor Nelson has stepped down as vice president
- Courtney has stepped down as a director
- Brad Jones has stepped down as a director
- Board Vacancies: vice president and director positions
- 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: will call for nominations from the floor (three times); some nominations were submitted ahead of time.
- Asked some nominees to introduce themselves and talk about why they want to be on the board.
- **Meghan Jacklin.** Has an undergrad in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the U of A (2014). While in university worked as a field or lab assistant, including insect labs, so have some entomology experience (previously worked with beetles). Currently hold full time work with two non-profits: Beaver Hills Bird Observatory (BBO) and the Edmonton and Area Land Trust (EALT). Lots of outreach experience, including: presentations to all age groups and written outreach with BBO, experience with pollinators with EALT, and working with blogs, social media info booths, monthly newsletter. Using square space. Also have a big role with EALT's protecting pollinator program. Also have worked with solitary bee hotels. Comfortable with outreach; would like experience working with a board.
- **Sydney Worthy.** Many may know her from previous interactions. A week away from finishing master's thesis at U of A. Her master's work is on pollinators and effect of honeybees on native pollinators. Focused in on bees in terms of pollinator identification, and have identified 8000 to 10000 bees, got some help from Lincoln. Expect that for the the board those skills are beneficial. She also has art and design experience and an interest in photography, and so can potentially help with website and newsletter design. In terms of outreach has worked with students.
- Second call to the floor for nominations
- **Nikki Paskar.** First got involved with pollinators through the EALT. Helped organize a talk with the Alberta Native Bee Council at Miquelon Lake, which was inspiring, so have had a keen interest in native bees for a number of years and now in a position to contribute more meaningfully. Have been involved with non-profits the past several years. Educational in Environmental and Conservation Sciences from the U of A. Currently working as volunteer coordinator at EALT – manage newsletter, blog, media relations website, among many other things, and including work related to the protecting pollinators campaign. Also work with CPAWs and volunteered for 5 years as the chair of conservation committee. Also spent three years as president of the Alberta Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and in that role initiated an outreach component. Also previously involved with strategic planning for three organizations. Also recently joined the Sustainable Food Edmonton board as well.
- Peter White was not able to join us tonight, he also submitted a nomination
- Third call for nominations. Everyone here has opportunity to nominate themselves if they would like.

- We need to fill the position of Vice President, and general board director positions.
 - All three candidates identified they are willing to take on the role. Regardless of position, we need help.
- Megan submitted poll via Zoom to everyone; all members present get a vote (including nominees) , and you can vote for yourself
- Results: Meghan Jacklin and Nikki Pasker each received 18% of votes, Sydney Worthy received 64% of votes, no votes for Peter White, as he is not present.
- Sydney, Caroline, lisa luke director – Meghan Jacklin. Nikki Pasker, peter white.
- Board of the Alberta Native Bee Council: Megan Evans (President), Sydney Worthy (Vice-president), Caroline Whitehouse (Treasurer), Lisa Neame (Secretary), Luke Wonneck (Director), Brad Jones (Director), Charity Briere (Director), Nikki Pasker (Director), Meghan Jacklin (Director)
- Roles intended to commence at the beginning of the calendar year, the Board will convene to discuss details of responsibilities
- Motion to approve Board appointments (Charity Briere); Seconded (Caroline Whitehouse); All in favour, motion carried. Board appointments approved.

8. Proposed budget

- Currently there is 10800\$ in the account. Propose \$3000-\$4000 to purchase ANBC t-shirts etc. these items eventually will also generate some revenue through sales
- If we go ahead with workshops for 2021, will require material (wood etc). There is some left from this year. Would normally schedule events soon; if we don't go ahead with events, we won't purchase. Expect budget required if needed would be 1000\$
- Also may put some money to taxonomic support. Maybe up to 2500 for taxonomic support.
- We did sell some bumblebee box kits last year. Is time consuming. Requires material but also provides revenue
- Any comments or suggestions from the group?
- Think if we advertise doing virtual events we will get more uptake on those
- We had a strong plan for outreach in 2020 and an education committee, which of course did not happen because of COVID-19.
- Question: is swag available through website? – the issue for distributing (via website or through a third party) has been shipping costs, which is pretty prohibitive.

9. President's Address

- Thanks to all for attending the meeting tonight. Members are an important part of the society
- Thanks to the current board members for the work and the skills they bring to the board and the society.
- Thanks to outgoing board members for all contributions
- Welcome to our new board members

10. Motion to adjourn the meeting: Lisa Neame motion to adjourn, Megan Evans seconded the motion.

- All in favour, motion carried
- Meeting adjourned 8:38 pm