

**Nature Alberta**

**Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**November 29, 2022**

**7:00 pm**

1. Welcome and Member Check-in:

Present  
President: Kim MacKenzie  
Vice President: Lu Carbyn  
Treasurer: Jim Donohue  
Secretary: Erin McCloskey  
Past President: Liz Watts  
Calgary: Kaya Konopnicki  
Central: Claudia Lipski  
Edmonton: Shane Hammell  
North: Cheryl Bozarth (new)  
Member at Large: Linda Howitt-Taylor  
Member at Large: Tony Blake  
Richard Schnieder: Executive Director  
Alberta DeFrancesco: Member  
Carolyn Ross: Member  
David Rhody: Member  
Elizabeth Millham: Member  
Jessica Haines: Member  
John McFaul: Member  
Joshua Miller: Member  
Kate Spencer: Member  
Larry Briggs: Member  
Len Shrimpton: Member  
Mark Tempest: Member  
Nick Carter: Member

Quorum was established with eighteen (23) members present at the time the meeting was called to order. Linda Howitt-Taylor (Member at Large), Lorraine Barrett-Park (Member), and Melissa Chisholm (Member) arrived late.

The meeting was called to order at 19:05 pm by Kim MacKenzie

**MOTION**: to adopt the agenda  
**MOVED** by Lu Carbyn, **SECONDED** by Len Shrimpton, **CARRIED**

1. Review Minutes from 2021 AGM

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes, as presented.  
**MOVED** by Liz Watts, **SECONDED** by Cheryl Bozarth, **CARRIED**

# Nature Alberta: Year in Review

***President’s Report (Kim MacKenzie) Powerpoint***

Board updates:

Strategic Plan was updated in 2022

Fundraising: we were able to have our casino August 27&28 in Edmonton

We had our 50th anniversary celebration, we were delayed two years because of Covid.

External boards:

Lu Carbyn – endangered species conservation committee. Focus on Franklin’s groundsquirrel.

Chinchaga Task Force – Gillian Chow-Fraser; will wrap up in January 2023

Alberta Conservation Association Board - Tony Blake. Represents the non-consumptive conservationists.

Board of Directors:

Margot Hervieux has retired as northern rep

Gillian Chow-Fraser has left as a director at large

Treasurer: Jim Donahue replaced Gerben since last year’s AGM

South Director nominee: Lise Mayne

North Director nominee: Cheryl Bozarth Soll

Board of Directors Regional Representation for our member clubs.

We are seeking a Funds Committee Chair. We have a dedicated volunteer to mentor the person in this position.

1. Land acknowledgment (Jim)

Query on listing all five Treaties instead of the way it is worded and whether Inuit are included and to list “air” alongside “lands and waters”. Check commas. We will clarify these queries with our consultant. This is a working document that will continue to evolve.

1. Year in Review Report (Rick) – Powerpoint

Nature Alberta PRograms

PUBLIC OUTREACH:

Nature Kids

Magazine

Social Media increased by 8%, 9809 followers

E-news 3,132 subscribers, 30% rise in the past year

Events: on the website (Learn about Nature; Experience Nature; Protect Nature)

Google searches are bringing up our website from posts on topics.

NATURE NETWORK

Naturalist clubs, members, partner groups, biologists/academics, stewards (Important Bird Areas)

Support of NA’s 42 clubs: club promotion (social media, website, etc), monthly newsletter, network forum and resource library, zoom speaker series, free zoom account for club meetings, promotion of club conservation issues, volunteer and job recruitment, group insurance.

Membership: Three years of grown 2020-2022; annual increase 24% members, 31% increase in E-news subscription.

Citizen Science: make NA a central hub for Albertans interested in engaging in citizen science projects. Promotion of citizen science. Direct support of initiatives (May bird count, may plant count, biodiversity challenge, Christmas bird count, franklin’s ground squirrel). There are about 30 projects that the public can get involved in.

Nature Conservation: Raise awareness of important conservation issues and deliver calls to action. Advocacy using the magazine, E-news, social media, and conservation blog (species at risk (eg woodland caribou), expansion of irrigation in southern Alberta, expansion of forest harvesting, legislation (eg red tape reduction act), important bird area stewards).

Financial Sustainability: continue reliance on foundation funding linked to specific programs (eg Nature Kids), successful casino in August, successful 50th anniversary fundraiser, ED position remains unfunded, need to transition to a more sustainable funding model. Endowment current total: $321,375.

Comments by Melissa Chisholm for mandatory membership ($10) for club members. She also spoke about Motis Monitoring Network (geomonitoring). Rick requested her to email him about this being a potential citizen science project. Lu suggests she writes an article. Melissa Chisholm is interested in joining the board and will contact Rick directly.

1. Review of Financial Statements – Jim

The numbers are healthy. The balance sheet is boringly wonderful. Missing is the change in the cash owing to the casino delay. $192,000 in unrestricted funds is a good number but it is still not enough for an ED or staff, but it is continuing to grow. Statement of operations: drop in grants but up in endowment fund. Service fees stopped this year. We added a part-time staff position.

MOTION to appoint Peterson Walker LLP as the auditor of our financial reporting for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2023.

MOVED by Jim Donohue, SECONDED by Len Shrimpton, CARRIED

1. Nominations for the Board of Directors

Introductions were given by Kim MacKenzie.

New Southern Director: Lise Mayne. Lise was absent from the meeting but provided her acceptance to the role via a letter read by Kim.

New Northern Director: Cheryl Bozarth Soll. Cheryl spoke of her background and experience and accepted her role.

**MOTION:** to approve the Board of Directors, as presented.  
**MOVED** by Linda Howitt-Taylor, **SECONDED** by Liz Watts, **CARRIED**

1. Adjourned

**MOTION:** to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.  
**MOVED** by Len, **SECONDED** by Unanimous Approval, **CARRIED**

1. Next Meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will be scheduled in 2023.