

2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

Thursday November 16th, 2023

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom



Attendance:

1) Kathy Ma	FVISS Executive Director
2) Victoria Brookes	FVISS Chair
3) Nichole Marples	FVISS Treasurer
4) Janne Perrin	FVISS Director
5) Steve Clegg	FVISS Director
6) Terisha Bailey	FVISS Director
7) Todd Kohler	Department of National Defence
8) Trish Gendron	Coast IPM
9) Michelle Lefebvre	FVISS Outreach Coordinator
10) Eli Ross	Fraser Valley Regional District
11) Dave Ralph	Invasive Species Council of BC
12) Tasha Murray	Invasive Species Council of Metro Vancouver
13) Ken Dykstra	City of Abbotsford
14) David Clements	Trinity Western University
15) John Axford	Cultus Lake Stewards
16) Bob Drinkwater	Drinkwater Environmental Services
17) Rob Peters	Drinkwater Environmental Services
18) Sara Hoang	City of Chilliwack
19) Roisin Cumming	BC Parks
20) Michelle Franklin	Agriculture Agri-Food Canada Agassiz
21) Aysha McConkey	Agriculture Agri-Food Canada Agassiz – Speaker
22) Vika Makovestski	Agriculture Agri-Food Canada Agassiz - Speaker

MINUTES

Start of Meeting: 10:00 am

- 1) Welcome, introductions and housekeeping
- 2) Begin AGM
 - Motion to start meeting: Terisha Bailey; Seconded: Nichole Marples
 - All in favour. Motion carried.
- 3) Accept the Agenda for 2023 AGM
 - Motion to approve: Steve Clegg; Seconded: Nichole Marples
 - All in favour. Motion carried.

4) Adopt 2022 AGM Minutes

- Motion to approve: Terisha Bailey; Seconded: Nichole Marples
- All in favour. Motion carried.

5) Report from the Chair

(Victoria Brookes, FVISS Chair)

- Victoria expressed appreciation for those in attendance, their interest in invasive species, and their continued support
- Thank you for Kathy (FVISS) for her expertise and communication skills that have increased the scope and effectiveness of the program. FVISS work has been supported this year by new staff
- Appreciative of sponsors and cooperators in their successful work. Increased budget allowed to expand work in 2024. Reduced Covid-19 restrictions allowed us to increase education and outreach components
- Thank you to Board of Directors and invitation for new board members

6) Report of Financial Statement

(Nichole Marples, FVISS Treasurer)

- Presentation of Financial Statement to date (January to November 2023)
- Question: Approximately what percentage of budget goes to “on the ground” work?
 - Response from Nichole that approximately half goes to contractor work.
- Motion to approve: Alida Janmaat; Seconded: Steve Clegg
- All in favour. Motion carried. Financial report was approved as presented.

7) Operations and Projects 2023 FVISS Update

(Kathy Ma: FVISS Executive Director and Michelle Lefebvre: Outreach Coordinator)

- FVISS in 2023 had a team of five staff members (2 full-time, 1 seasonal, 2 casual). Thank you to staff members and their hard work this year
- 2023 Year in review, updates from the operational field work, including:
 - Contractors used to complete on-the-ground treatment work
 - Summary of species and area surveyed and treated, rough numbers since data is still being finalized.
 - Invasive Mussel Lake Monitoring, and no positive samples detected
 - Updates on other invasive plant incentive programs and monitoring projects
- Thank you to the 2023 Funding Partners
- Question: How is biocontrol considered in the management of tansy ragwort?
 - Response: Crews are asked to check for evidence of biocontrol agents before using manual treatment methods. Where biocontrol is present, the plants are not treated.
- Question: What is the EDRR plan if invasive mussels are detected?
 - Response: There is the Provincial Invasive Mussel Defence Plan from the Ministry of Environment in place. Any positive detections would go immediately to the Province and regional groups and local governments would follow the Province’s lead.

8) Education and Outreach 2022 FVISS Update

(Michelle Lefebvre: Outreach Coordinator)

- Outreach program updates were provided, including:
 - FVISS participation and creation of Munzee QR Code Scavenger Hunt

- Revamped table display items and development of new website resources
- Attendance at public and education events (public table booths, workshops, guest lectures and presentations)
- Newsletter: 201 subscribers, Instagram: 904 followers, Facebook 786 followers
- Public Inquiries
 - (i) Most direct contact were reporting sites
 - (ii) Also asked about invasive plant control options, identification help, invasive plant pick up program, invasive species legislation

9) Presentation: What you need to know about the invasive Strawberry Blossom Weevil (Aysha McConkey, AAFC Agassiz)

10) Presentation: The Use of Biological Control in a Comprehensive Japanese Beetle Eradication Plan in BC (Victoria Makovestski, AAFC Agassiz)

11) Election of Board of Directors

- Aysha and Vika nominated to join existing board members.
- Proposed board members for 2024:
 - Victoria Brookes
 - Nichole Marples
 - Janne Perrin
 - Ken Schwaerzle
 - Alida Janmaat
 - Steve Clegg
 - Terisha Bailey
 - Vika Makovetski
 - Aysha McConkey
- Motion to accept: Steve Clegg; Seconded: Terisha Bailey
 - All in favour. 2024 Board accepted.

12) New Business/Announcements from members

- Question: With the pipeline nearing completion in the Hope area, is there a plan to track the weeds that may and probably will follow?
 - Response: TransMountain has stated that they have invasive management and mitigation efforts in place. However often with large scale projects, any new introductions may not be found until after the work is completed. Follow-up monitoring will be required by TransMountain or the subsequent land manager post-construction.

13) Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn FVISS 2023 Annual General Meeting: David Ralph
- Motion carried.

Time adjourned: 11:50 am