

**Minutes of 2015 AGM of the Kiskatinaw Ecological Society held at the Kiskatinaw River Ranch, Saturday August 1, 2015, Sunrise Valley, B.C.**

Chairman Joanne Nimitz called the meeting to order at 11:17am and welcomed those present.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM, the Agenda for today's meeting and other important materials were distributed to members present.

**Motion:** To approve the agenda. Max Kaumeyer. Ernest Nimitz. Discussed briefly. **Passed**

Brief discussion and approval of the 2014 AGM minutes as circulated. **Motion:** Bob Nielsen. Alexandra Ratzke. **Passed.**

**Business Arising from the Minutes**

**Michael Nimitz** discussed some of the Society's Working Group Activities.

For the past year the working group has been pursuing several projects. The Peace River Forage Association of BC has taken an interest in some of these projects; and, most specifically measuring and monitoring the soil and water management and forage production of the **23 pasture high tensile electric fence grazing cell** setup on 473 acres ( Day Place) for the yearling heifer herd at Kiskatinaw River Ranch during the spring, summer and fall growing and breeding season. A portable solar wagon provides the water from three locations. This grazing cell also includes 10 Ranch Maxi Ecosites. Intensive management and controlled grazing is utilized whereby a large cattle herd is moved rapidly thru small pastures. A field day/workshop held in early June at the center of the grazing cell was a great success.

Members of the working group were recognized by Michael: Fred Burren, Sandra Burton, Connor Dixon, Glenn Hogberg, Michael Nimitz, Ernest Nimitz and Julie Robinson.

A second exciting project at the Kiskatinaw River Ranch:

**Canada Thistle eating weevils** will be distributed at two sites in late summer/ late fall when we get them from Montana. Currently Canada Thistle is controlled and eradicated by mechanical means with a Schulte 15 foot rotary mower, Stihl power slasher, handheld weed slasher and cattle eating them periodically. We are looking forward to getting our weevils.

A **motion** by Bob Nielsen and Sue Nielsen was **passed** supporting the actions of the Working Group in the past year.

**Financial Report**

This report was given by Ernest Nimitz, Secretary/Treasurer. He advised that the main RBC chequing account in Dawson Creek has a current balance of \$1,891.54 and that the RBC GIC Account has a balance of \$35,542.50. It is our intention to match funds from other sources approximately three to five times before we begin funded project activity on a broader land base in the Kiskatinaw River Valley. Due to various donations by members of their time and money there were no expenses incurred by the Society in the past year.

**Motion** to approve the financial report for 2015 as presented. Ernest Nimitz and Bob Nielsen. Brief discussion. **Passed.**

**Nominations and Elections for Society Board of Directors**

President	Joanne Nimitz
Vice President	Sandra Burton
Secretary/Treasurer	Ernest Nimitz
Director	Michael Nimitz
Director	Bob Nielsen
Director	Alexandra Ratzke
Director	Kimberly Nielsen
Director	Laura Nielsen

After a brief discussion the above eight people were nominated to the Board of Directors of the Society for 2015.

**Motion** Laura Nielsen and Kimberly Nielsen. **Passed. Elected.**

**Nominations and Elections of Ex Officio Directors.** After a brief discussion four ex officio directors were **elected** on a motion by Sue Nielsen and Max Kaumeyer. Rachel Bunnett, Sunrise Valley; Fred Burrell, Farmington; Pat Gerlinsky, Pouce Coupe and Glenn Hogberg, Progress (Peace River Forage Association Rep).

### **Other Business**

Ernest Nimitz briefly reviewed the Dead Dawg Coulee and RME progress to date.

**Dead Dawg Coulee Rehab.** A lot remains to be done here. At this stage work is being done in small increments annually; and is likely to remain thus. Grazing on the East RME enclosure of 8 acres was conducted in June for a few days (for the first time in years) to reduce fire hazard and provide beneficial herd effect to both vegetation and soil. These West RMEs remain in permanent non use.

**Ranch Maxi Ecosites** so named because they usually include a livestock water hole, asymmetrical shape, high tensile electric fence and require maximum management to utilize properly. This concept provides additional habitat for small and medium size mammals, birds, soil organisms, insects, spiders, amphibians and vegetation at really no additional cost while still at the same time providing healthy, clean livestock water. In 2015 we had 30 of these RMEs identified and in use thru July 31<sup>st</sup>; 16 more RME sites have been identified and some completed. The RME concept also allows us to make use of small dugouts for a long period of time. We recommend that you try the RME concept with your livestock herd too!

Please check out our website [www.kiskatinawecologicalsociety.com](http://www.kiskatinawecologicalsociety.com) for more information.

Joanne thanked all the volunteers who helped make our society work this year.

She then advised that Bill and Linda Studley will be playing and singing for our early evening Nimitz Beef grill at the firepit and Buckey the Bull well be ready for customers.

Cowboy lunch and **Memorial Trail Ride** for Mark Ernest Nimitz to follow.

Sue Nielsen read the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm and meeting was adjourned on motion by Bob Nielsen at 11:47am.

EK Nimitz

Secretary Treasurer