

**Brooks Fish and Game Association
Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2016**

Attendees - Dan Buell, Rod Rosland, Wes Schuett, Brian Petersen, Dave McNalley, Rick & Donna Martin, Mac Anderson, Lester Janke, Hans Kiefaber, Joyce Maitland

- Dan Buell, President, called the meeting to order and distributed copies of the proposed agenda. He introduced two new members: Dave McNalley, who is interested in the Archery Chair position; and Brian Petersen.

- *Donna Martin moved, Mac Anderson seconded, and the amended agenda was approved, with the addition of the BFGA website under Other.*

- *Mac Anderson moved, Rick Martin seconded, and the October 18th, 2016 minutes, which had been emailed to the membership, were approved.*

Chair Reports:

- Mac Anderson provided a verbal Treasurer's Report, with the Pheasant Festival balance at \$157,120, including the bank balance of \$129,838.13 and \$27,281.87 previously held in term deposits. The current BFGA balance is now \$28,470.93.

- Rick Martin gave a Membership Report, with the final 2016 membership numbers at 281 Regular, 89 Family, 176 Dependents and 4 Youth, for a total of 550 members. He is now selling 2017 memberships, which stand at 35 Regular, 6 Family, and 10 Dependents for a total of 51.

- The Archery Chair positions are still vacant. Fisheries, Rifle Range, Firearms, Trophy and PR chairs weren't present to provide reports.

- Donna and Rick Martin provided a verbal report on Hunter Education. They have about a dozen names already and will place ads in January for the next course. They're waiting to hear if they will still get the theatre room at the Medicine Hat College at no charge, as it is perfect for teaching the Feb/March course since it provides seating for up to 60 students and they usually have around 40, with a minimum age of 11. The annual Field Day is scheduled for April 8, 2017, which is usually very successful with a great turnout of around 20 volunteers.

- Lester Janke provided a Pheasants Festival report. Progress is being made on approx. 430 suitable acres that could be bought for pheasant habitat, with financial contributions from other associations, from the Sundial feedlot owners. He said that Brian Dingreville is excited to be involved in this potential land purchase and there will be another meeting prior to our January 17, 2017 AGM.

- Dan Buell gave a brief update on the conditions out at the Rifle Range, saying that a couple of the gongs have been fixed up and a few boards have been replaced.

- Dave McNalley said he had been out to the Archery Range, and that all the targets should be closed to the elements to avoid deterioration. Out of the five he had checked, only a couple had their protective doors closed. He said he would be willing to stand as our new Archery Chair.

- *Mac Anderson moved, Hans Kiefaber seconded, and it was passed to accept Dave McNalley as our new Archery Chair.*

- Hunting Chair Wes Schuett said provincial biologists have reported the 1540 elk taken from the Suffield Block have all tested negative for TB and CWD. He said the biologists are highly protective of the herd. He mentioned spearing black bears was a hot issue earlier in the year, and was concerned that the average age of our mule deer herd right now seems to be young at around 3½ years. He also wondered about a possible scoring course for BFGA members.

- Dan Buell reported on the fall Gun Show. He said attendance was down a little from the previous year, at just under 1,000 people in two days. The rifle raffle sold about 450 tickets and probably netted between \$1,700 - \$1,800, although there isn't a final gun show revenue tally yet. They had several more vendors than anticipated and quite a few custom knife vendors. Next year's gun show will be held in the new Field House, with the City using the same method of charging for space as previously, so the venue will cost \$2,800 compared to the \$2,600 in 2016. There will probably be 140 vendors, which is about 15 – 20 more than last year and back up to previous numbers. The weekend \$35.00 vendor table charge pays for the rental of the arena and overhead costs, with any profit usually found in the \$5.00 admission charge and gun raffle ticket sales. He said that the two gun raffle winners were both young, local guys.

- Our Banquet/Awards Night will be held on Feb 4th, 2017 at the Cassils Hall, which is slightly larger than the Tilley Hall. Mac Anderson requested the List of Donors from Dan from last year, as well as who had contacted each business. Fred has agreed to be our caterer again for the event. The tables at the hall are all round and seat 8 people. There are 250 tickets printed. The stage and board room are quite small, so we may need to bring some of our long tables for the silent auction items. Larry Busse will hopefully score the trophies again this year.

New Business:

- At the Zone 1 meeting in October, it was mentioned that the AFGA is looking for donations from local clubs for a new office and eventually there will be a letter coming from them requesting financial help. They have dropped the acreage idea and are now looking at a commercial building in south Edmonton. They already have an agreement to sell the existing building back to the owner of neighboring properties.

- Our 2 year rifle range lease with the EID is up for renewal at the end of December. The EID is requesting a copy of our liability insurance to confirm it has increased to \$5 million. The City of Brooks wants that amount as well, and Mac will contact the AFGA for a copy of the current policy certificate, as it was previously \$3 million.

- It was suggested that we approach the EID with a proposal for leasing the Long Pump property, with the cost of a grazing lease based on the determined grazing value multiplied by the number of years of the lease. The proposal would have to include what we want to do with the property. Wes offered to look into it with Rick after Dan has found any relevant historical data at the EID, and Dan will ask Crystal about checking the archived documents. It was mentioned that the south end parking lot sign needs to be redone, as there is only an outline of the map left, not the map itself. It was also noted that the current fence line doesn't match the actual property line.

- The BFGA 2017 Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at the Legion, starting at 7:00 pm. Dan will do up a brief summary report of the past year and advertise the AGM in the Brooks papers and on the radio. There are caps and vests that can be used as door prizes for the night. Dan will do up a draft agenda and send it out for ideas prior to emailing it to the membership.

- Dave McNalley presented his ideas and extensive research into opening a BFGA indoor archery range in Brooks, similar to Lethbridge. He has already looked into several suitable rental spaces and their respective costs. Potential indoor range member would be required to join Archery Alberta, which is an affiliate of Archery Canada. He said there would have to be additional membership fees to help offset the costs of an indoor range, although there are also grants available that could be applied for. Since moving to Brooks only a few months ago, he has talked with many people who have expressed interested in an indoor archery range. His impressive amount of work on a Brooks and area indoor archery range was much appreciated, and it was recommended for it to be brought forward to the membership at the AGM.
- It was mentioned that our BFGA website currently doesn't have the upcoming AGM, Banquet/Awards Night or any of our meeting dates on it, which should be corrected immediately. These could be listed under a section entitled Upcoming Events, and it was also suggested that BFGA Facebook photos be transferred to the website. Dan offered to contact Cori regarding these suggestions.

Old Business:

- Regarding volunteer recruitment, Dan reported that we still don't have a Vice President. The Trophy Chair position will also become vacant, unless Larry Busse agrees to stay on.
- Dan still hasn't heard back from anyone regarding an Open House/Bio meeting. It was suggested he may have to write directly to the Minister to get someone to respond.
- Dan had emailed the membership about the Onoway F&G Ladies League and has put the matter on hold for now.
- Mac reported that Cliff has done some work on the Shotgun Sports Facility and will address it at the next meeting.
- Dan gave a brief update on the Zone 1 meeting held on October 22. Items included: that they have received their casino funding and have over \$20,000 in the bank again; Whirling Disease; the AFGA membership fees going up in 2017 another \$4.00 for individual and family and \$2.00 for youth; the April 22, 2017 Wildlife Awards Banquet in Edmonton; the AFGA individual service awards; scholarships for next year; the two year window that the AFGA has to get out of their existing office building, which has been sold to the neighboring land owner for \$450,000; sending people to the conference from Zone 1; and reviewing several resolutions they are submitting to the AFGA.
- We can still send up to six delegates to the AFGA Conference in Edmonton from February 23-25, 2017 and anyone interested in attending should contact Dan Buell.
- Dan reported that the BFGA website Photo Contest already has several entrants and will close on December 15th to give the membership the chance to vote. After January 9th, the Executive will choose the winners, who will be announced and awarded their prizes at the AGM.
- The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at the Legion.
- ***Hans Kiefaber moved, Lester Janke seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.***