

**Brooks Fish and Game Association
Annual General Meeting Minutes
January 17th, 2017**

Attendees - Dan Buell, Patty & Pete Green, Cliff Healy, Rick Martin, James Unchelenko, Mac Anderson, Larry Busse, Cori Forseth, Jonathan Pool, Jerome Cleary, Dave McNalley, Wes Schuett, Brian Petersen, Hans Kiefaber, Joyce Maitland

- Dan Buell, President, called the meeting and distributed copies of the proposed agenda.
- *Patty Green moved, Jonathan Pool seconded, and the agenda was approved.*
- Copies of the January 19th, 2016 minutes, which were previously emailed to the membership, were available. *James Unchelenko moved, Wes Schuett seconded, and the minutes were approved.*
- Dan Buell surrendered the meeting to Rick Martin for the Elections:

Executive:

President – Dan Buell, by acclamation

Vice President – Jerome Cleary, nominated by Dan Buell, seconded by Hans Kiefaber

Past President – Patty Green

Treasurer – Brian Petersen, nominated by Mac Anderson, seconded by Hans Kiefaber

Secretary – Joyce Maitland, by acclamation

Chair Positions:

Membership - Rick Martin

Trophy - Larry Busse, who started the Brooks club initially, agreed to stay on for another year

Pheasant Festival - Lester Janke was absent, but Dan Buell said he would probably agree to stay on

Hunter Education - Donna Martin was absent, but Rick Martin said she would agree to stay on

Firearms – Cliff Healy

Rifle Range - Lloyd Cook & Cliff Healy

Archery – Dave McNalley

Hunting – Wes Schuett

Fishing – Jonathan Pool

PR Chair – Cori Forseth

Gun Show Committee – Dan Buell & Hans Kiefaber

2017 Banquet/Awards Night Committee - Mac Anderson

Chair Reports:

Treasurer – Mac Anderson distributed a December 31, 2016 Treasurers Report, showing \$28,358.93 in the BFGA bank account; \$129,838.13 in the Pheasant Festival account, plus \$27,405.95 in long term deposits. He distributed copies of the October 29 & 30, 2016 Gun Show Income Summary, which showed revenues of \$14,568.40, expenses of \$8,027.78, for a net income of \$6,540.62. He also distributed a 2016 Budget, showing a net loss of \$2553.00 with current membership income against annual expenses of administration, insurance, rents, range maintenance and meeting advertising.

Membership - Rick Martin reported 2017 memberships to date at 108, with 72 Regular, 14 Family and 22 Dependents, with more just received in the mail. Rick said that 98 of the 108 renewed members reported using the rifle range.

Trophy – Larry Busse reported that there are quite a few entries for the upcoming Awards Night, with one late youth entry received well past the deadline of December 31st, 2016. It is well known that all entries have to be in by December 31st, with a valid membership for current year purchased prior to August 31st.

It was moved by Rick Martin, seconded by Jonathan Pool, and passed that all Awards Night trophy submissions by members in good standing as of August 31st, have to be received by December 31st annually, without exception.

To ensure that members are reminded of these longstanding rules in as many ways as possible, Larry Busse will submit something in writing to Cori Forseth to post on our website and Facebook page.

Pheasant Festival - Lester Janke was not in attendance, but Dan Buell reported that potential suitable property by Sun Dial is still under discussion.

Hunter Education - Rick Martin reported that the next course will run from February 14th to April 4th, with the Field Day to be held on a Saturday in early April. They already have several names for the course, and will soon place ads in the local papers.

Firearms - Cliff Healy said that he had several handouts for members to pick up and read, including one on the UN Firearms Marking Scheme, supposed to take effect after June 1st, 2017. He encouraged everyone to write to the Prime Minister, Ralph Goodale, our Minister of Public Safety, and our MP expressing opposition to this marking scheme, which is financially and physically impossible at this point in time. He also encouraged everyone to join and support one or all of the Canadian firearms groups, including the Responsible Firearms Owners of Alberta (RFOA), the Canadian National Firearms Association (NFA) and Canadian Shooting Sports Association (CSSA). He reiterated the need for everyone to become active and involved, as it is the only way to successfully fight the anti lobby groups.

Rifle Range - Cori Forseth reported being out to the rifle range on the previous Sunday and noted that the sandbags and back boards were in good shape, but there was garbage scattered around, which he picked up.

Archery - Dave McNalley introduced himself, and said he had moved to Brooks this past October with a job transfer. He is an avid archer and will do everything he can with our association to start an indoor archery range in Brooks. There are a lot of costs involved, but there are also many archery enthusiasts that would potentially join the association and it could eventually pay for itself. Rick mentioned he had added a line about it in the renewal forms this year, and out of the 25 renewals he had received back so far, 6 had said they would be willing to pay towards an indoor range.

Fishing - Jonathan Pool reported that there was lots of ice on area lakes, with good pike fishing on Lake Newell. He said whirling disease has now been found in the Bow River watershed, including all streams, creeks, lakes and rivers that feed into the Bow River. Right now the affected zone ends at the confluence of the Bow and Saskatchewan rivers, with no changes to the fishing regulations on the Bow River as of yet. Whirling disease can affect brook trout, rainbow and mountain whitefish, but not pike or walleye. He asked anglers to write letters and/or emails requesting a re-sampling of Crawling Valley and Rolling Hills reservoirs, to verify if their previous testing results were accurate.

Hunting - Wes Schuett mentioned there wasn't much for hunting news at the moment, but Big Horn sheep management issues could be coming up shortly.

Gun Show - Dan Buell reported that the Oct 29/30, 2016 gun show was a success once again. He recruited a few new volunteers at the show for our Association. He has the new Field House at the Lakeside Leisure Centre already booked for the 2017 fall gun show and will check it out in person in March. He asked for new volunteers to help with the gun show, especially with vendor registration, as Chad will be unable to do it this year due to other commitments.

PR Chair - Cori Forseth said that we have 181 members on our Facebook page, with 80-90 viewings in the first few hours after something new is posted. He said the viewing rate is higher than the participating rate. For our BFGA website (www.bfga.ca), he, Rick, Donna and Dan are the only ones allowed to post directly to the site, other than the web designer. He said we only seem to get traction when there is a link to the website from our Facebook site. He said about 58 people visit the site monthly. Our website annual fee is \$345.00, including report data that he now has access to. If usage doesn't improve, he feels it might not be

worth keeping it, and to only have our Facebook page, which is an issue we can review at renewal time. He gets a lot of spam, which he has under control for now. Suggestions were made to have meeting dates and events listed on the website calendar, as well as all the minutes posted.

Cori reported that our first website photography contest saw 104 photos from 25 individuals. A suggestion was made to gather all the submitted photos together for a slideshow to run at the annual Awards Night for exposure and encouragement for the next year's photo contest. It was noted that no late entries would be accepted for the photography contest.

Awards Night – Mac Anderson reported that Saturday, February 4th is the date for our annual Awards Night and Banquet, and it will be held at the Cassils Hall for the first time. Set up will be on Friday, February 3rd. Brian Petersen volunteered to work the cash table with Paulette, and James Unchelenko volunteered to help with the bucket raffles. Mac and Dan will meet up this week to go over the Donor List, to see where we need volunteers to ask for donations from local businesses who haven't been contacted yet.

New Business:

Photo Contest winners were announced by Dan, and copies of the winning photos passed around. For the main Adult Entry contest, 1st place went to Ken Folton, and 2nd and 3rd places went to Kaelyn Quinton. The Youth Entry contest winner was not chosen yet, as it was still unclear who the Youth entrants were. Dan will contact the main contest winners and get photos taken with them for our website and Facebook page. It was agreed that it is worth doing the contest again next year, as participation was high for our first time.

Replanting the Sproule Food Plot was discussed. It was noted that it didn't produce a corn crop this past year due to late planting and weather conditions, with the cost at \$6,600.00 rather than the \$5,500.00 originally budgeted for it. In 2012, the cost was also around \$6,400.00. There are numerous other winter grazing corn fields around now for pheasants, and with ACA re-evaluating and potentially no longer putting funds towards small plots like it in the future, it may no longer be worthwhile for us to put our Pheasant Festival funds towards it.

Additional Gongs at Rifle Range - Dan would like to add a 3" gong at the 200 yard and 6" gong at the 300 yard target. It would cost about \$1,500 to add these, but benefits are that they are highly appreciated and enjoyed by the members, and maintenance costs to replace the wood have been dropping.

BFGA sponsoring members to attend AFGA Becoming an Outdoors Women or AFGA Narrow Lake Youth Camp was discussed. It was agreed not to sponsor a woman member to the women's camp, as they can usually afford to go themselves if interested, but to possibly send a youth member to the youth camp. We would need to know a year in advance and could see if there is interest among the youth with this lead time. It was suggested that we could perhaps send the top two youth members from the annual hunter education course to the camp.

Indoor archery facility and program (motion) - A lengthy discussion was had by those in attendance regarding the creation and involvement of the club in a indoor archery facility.

Jonathan Pool moved, James Unchelenko seconded, and it was passed to create an archery subcommittee to pursue an indoor archery facility to see if it would be financially feasible and beneficial to our Association. Dave McNalley and Jonathan Pool volunteered to be part of the subcommittee.

Pheasant Habitat Purchase Motion:

It was moved by Patty Green, seconded by Mac Anderson, and passed to spend up to \$150,000 of the Pheasant Festival funds on a suitable land purchase for pheasant habitat.

Volunteer Recruitment - Dan asked if anyone knew of someone who could volunteer with the Association, as he is always looking as well.

- Old Business

- The AFGA Conference in Edmonton, from February 23- 25, 2017, was discussed. We are eligible to send up to six delegates, with confirmation so far only from Dan and Jonathan. Patty & Pete Green and Jon went last year and encouraged anyone who could to go, as it was well worth the time and good deals could be had on trips, etc., at the auction. It was mentioned that Rick's brother and sister-in-law might want to go again this year as well. Dan had already sent out the proposed resolutions to the membership via email.

- Bulk Gun Purchase - Dan Buell updated everyone on purchasing guns for upcoming raffles, with the final decision being to support local businesses. The bulk deals offered last year from big box stores out of our area weren't all that much cheaper, and it was agreed it wouldn't be fair to buy from them instead of from local businesses. They may be a little more expensive, but always support us.

- Raising membership rates \$20/membership – To stay ahead of increased maintenance/enhancements costs of the range and increased AFGA dues, a motion was made at the 2016 AGM, and passed, to increase membership rates to \$60/regular, \$80/family and \$15/youth starting in 2017.

- Use of Restricted Rifles is permissible under our range permit. The signage and range rules posted at the range have been redone to accurately describe what is allowed.

- Mandatory Membership Card Display at the range has been hard to enforce. It hasn't been found to be necessary either, as there hasn't been very much usage abuse by non-members.

- Video Surveillance for Range is a non-issue, as it would be too expensive to implement and vandalism has dropped since the gongs have been put in.

- It was suggested to have another venue for the AGM next year, as it was difficult to hear people speaking when the heaters kicked in during the meeting.

- The next Annual General Meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 16, 2018.

- The next regular meeting will be held on February 21, 2017.

- Jerome Cleary moved, Mac Anderson seconded and the meeting was adjourned.