

**Brooks Fish and Game Association
Meeting Minutes
March 21, 2017**

Attendees - Dan Buell, Jerome Cleary, Mac Anderson, Cliff Healy, Lester Janke, Rod Rosland, Carson McCormick, Sally Bartman, Evan Scheuerman, Hans Kiefaber, Joyce Maitland

- Dan Buell, President, called the meeting to order and distributed copies of the proposed agenda.

- *Lester Janke moved, Mac Anderson seconded, and an amended agenda was approved, with the addition of banking and meeting rooms.*

- *Hans Kiefaber moved, Cliff Healy seconded, and the February 17th, 2017 minutes, which had been emailed to the membership, were approved.*

Chair Reports:

- Mac Anderson provided a verbal Treasurer's Report, with the total Pheasant Festival balance at approximately \$157,000, and the current BFGA bank balance at approximately \$35,000. He had accidentally left his written report at home and would email it to Joyce within the next few days.

- Rick Martin wasn't present, as he and Donna were teaching the Hunter Ed course the same night, but he had provided Dan with his 2017 Membership Report. Numbers stands at 155 Regular, 44 Family, 96 Dependents and 2 Youth, for a total of 297. Survey results with the returned memberships showed 15 would pay extra for an indoor archery, 38 said they wouldn't, and roughly 80% of the members utilize the range.

- Trophy, Archery, Fishing and PR chairs weren't present to provide reports.

- Pheasant Festival Committee - Lester Janke reported that time is of the essence in trying to purchase the roughly 480 acres around the Sundial Feedlot, as there are American buyers interested in the property now was well. There is supposed to be a meeting scheduled for this week between TJ Swanke and Chris to discuss it. Lester also mentioned hearing of another 80 acre parcel out in the Patricia area that might be for sale as well.

- Hunter Education – Rick had told Dan they had 36 students and a large number of parents attending this year's course. The Field Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 8th, and they already have quite a few volunteers for the day.

- Firearms Chair Cliff Healy was recently at the Calgary Boat and Sportsmen Show and said the anti hunting presence was quite light this year. He encouraged everyone to write their local MP, and also c.c. Ralph Goodale, to voice their dismay at the appointments to the federal Canadian Firearms Advisory Committee. Ralph Goodale is the Minister of Public Safety. The committee seems stacked against firearms.

- Rifle Range – Cliff mentioned that he and Lloyd were out at the range and changed out the 50 and 100 yard boards, and that Lloyd and his grandson also changed out the 200 and 300 yard boards. He noted that some of the gongs are in rough shape and need to be fixed or replaced. Dan said there are spare 3" and 6" gongs in the small sea-can and 12" in the big sea-can. He suggested taking the old ones to Jim Clow at Horizon, as he builds them for us and we also have an account there.

- Archery – Dave McNalley wasn't at the meeting, Dan said he has been extremely busy with the Summer Games since the original Chair who had volunteered for the archery portion resigned. It was mentioned that a Concession out at the range on July 8th for the games would be a good idea, and it was suggested we tender the concession and take a percentage of the profits. It was also suggested that we rent port-a-potties for the day, as well as possibly on an annual basis. Mac, Dan and Dave will get together to discuss it.

- Fishing - Jonathon Pool is helping with Hunter Ed, but mentioned to Dan that the fishing regulations are out now. Cliff mentioned the popularity of the kid's fishing pond at the Calgary show and Dan said Jonathan could check it out.

- Hunting - Carson McCormick volunteered to take on the position of Hunting Chair, as Wes Schuett had to resign due to the demands of his guiding business. Everyone congratulated and welcomed him on board.

- Gun Show - Dan Buell reported on the fall Gun Show, saying that he and Hans had measured the new Field House. There can conservatively be at least 148 vendors, more than we could previously book, so the table cost will remain the same at \$35.00/table for sales and \$20.00/table for display only. The Field House has 3 doors, 9'3", 10' and 4', with ramps still being required and everything walk in only. Cliff Healy suggested getting larger carts, similar to those at the Consort Gun Show. We currently have two bigger carts but they have a terrible turning radius. Cliff mentioned needing around 50 registration packages and posters before Easter weekend to bring with him to other shows. Hans reported emailing 50 vendors and mailing registration packages to several more so far. Dan mentioned needing to purchase the guns soon locally, obtain the lottery license, and then print the gun raffle tickets.

- Hans Kiefaber moved, Mac Anderson seconded, and it was passed to purchase two guns for the gun raffle at a total cost of \$2,500.00.

- Public Relations - Cori Forseth wasn't present and had nothing to report to Dan prior to the meeting. Dan said he would create an Event under Group for the Gun Show and Raffle on our Website.

Awards Night Committee – The committee has nothing to report to date.

New Business:

- Dan gave a brief report of the AFGA AGM in Edmonton. He enjoyed it and encouraged others to attend if they can, as there is a lot of information from government agencies presented during the convention. It will probably be held in Edmonton again next year. He gave an overview of resolutions that were passed at the AGM including: support of spear hunting; requirement for decontamination certificates for boats coming into Alberta from other jurisdictions such as MT, ON and SK; allowing the use of noise suppressors for rifles on ranges; putting the pheasant season back to a November 30th date unless it's a release site; disclosure of the number of walleye tags allowed in each lake per draw.

Other information Dan relayed from the convention included: Fish habitat protection will be back under the Fisheries Act mandate again; new elk seasons in WMU 132 and 136, released pheasants don't have to be banded & can be hunted after 2:00 pm at Provincial release sites; government is trying to simplify the hunting regulations; now estimate approx, 3,800 elk at Suffield; the entire allocation policy is being reviewed and up for negotiation; there were 296,000 licensed anglers in 2016, not including youth and seniors; and 138,800 wildlife tags. Margo Pybus gave a presentation on CWD, with 549 cases of CWD in 60,000 animals tested, or approx. 3% of the population testing positive, with the Red Deer and Battle River watersheds more highly concentrated. Two years after infection, the animals will die. It is more prevalent in male mule deer than white tail, with only one Suffield elk and one road kill moose by Red Deer also testing positive. There are still mixed messages about the edibility of CWB meat. Dan mentioned that Margo would be a good person to have as a guest speaker in Brooks.

- The Girl Guides have asked Dan for the use of the Archery range again on May 7th for their senior girl guides 15 and up, as well as the leaders, with approximately 10-12 persons. They will once again provide proof of insurance.

Jerome Cleary moved, Hans seconded, and it was passed to close the archery side of the range on Sunday, May 7th for the use of the Girl Guides.

- Dan mentioned the LFGA Kids Fishing Tournament for under 18 year olds in mid June with \$12,000 in prizes, and it was agreed that he send the information out via email, without any additional incentives from our Association. The information he has received from Stephanie of the LFGA for the Hooked on the Outdoors courses for youth 7 – 15 will be passed on to the membership via email as well.

- Banking Charges - Mac Anderson told of his problems and displeasure with the TD Bank and reasons for wanting to switch banks. He said the bank is now charging us for deposits, including cash deposits, as well as increasing the fees for our merchant services. In July, 2016, he verbally requested our maturing Pheasant Festival term deposit be put into the general account. Instead, they renewed the term deposit at 1% for 3 years and it cannot be cashed prematurely without penalty. He and Brian Petersen, our new Treasurer, are now researching costs at three other banks and will get back to us.

- Meeting Rooms - Cliff mentioned that there is a large boardroom available upstairs at the Leisure Centre at a cost of \$30.00 per hour, the Medicine Hat College has rooms available free of charge, and we are still able to use rooms at the Legion for free. Dan said he has permission to use the EID boardroom free of charge as well.

Old Business:

- Volunteer Recruitment – Volunteers are always needed, and Dan welcomed and thanked Carson for volunteering to become our new Hunting Chair.
- Shotgun Sports Facility – Cliff had sent Dan the guidelines for trap shooting. In December, 2016, the County passed an amended 2.4 km rule for the distance to be from the range to the nearest landowner. We have the EID lease to the north. A single trap house could be on the existing range, but it would have to be mobile and pulled in and out. Mac will look into the City area to the south of the range.
- Pheasant Habitat – The AFGA owns a 40 acre piece at Long Pump.
- 2018 Awards Night – The next Awards Night will be held on Saturday, February 3, 2018. The Duchess Hall is quite costly, at \$900.00 for both Friday and Saturday, plus \$300.00 damage deposit/clean up. Another option would be paying only \$450.00 for all day Saturday, plus the damage deposit/clean up. In comparison, the Cassils Hall was only \$250.00, and the Tilley Hall \$600.00 for both days and \$250.00 for clean up.
- Open House/Bio meetings – Tuesday, April 18th is the new date for the Fisheries Open House meeting, as Emeric Janssens couldn't make it on May 16th. Dan has booked the Legion for 7:00 pm. and is taking questions from the membership by email to pass on to Emeric prior to the meeting. He has received three questions to date besides his own. The open house meeting will also be advertised in the newspaper. He still has had no response yet from Mike or anyone else on the Wildlife side.
- Indoor Archery Feasibility – Dave McNalley is still researching it.
- The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, it is a Fisheries Open House meeting.
- ***Cliff Healy moved, Lester Janker seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.***

ADDENDUMS:

VIA EMAIL:

On January 10, 2017, Patty Green moved, Chad Williams seconded, and it was passed to spend up to \$1,000 towards the purchase of two guns for the gun raffles, and up to \$1,000.00 to purchase miscellaneous prizes for the various bucket raffles, silent auction, etc. for the February 4th, 2017 Awards Night.

On January 22, 2017, Patty Green moved, Donna Martin seconded, and it was passed to donate \$300.00 towards the transportation and various fees for the youth activities under the Youth Program at the February 23-25, 2017 AFGA conference.