

**Brooks Fish and Game Association
Meeting Minutes
December 8th, 2015**

Attendees - Dan Buell, Patty Green, Cliff Healy, Donna & Rick Martin, James Unchelenko, Lester Janke, Mac Anderson, Hans Kiefaber, Joyce Maitland, Guests – Francesco Marchet & Jordan Besenski, Fish & Wildlife.

- Dan Buell, President, called the meeting and distributed copies of the proposed agenda.
- *James Unchelenko moved, Lester Janke seconded, and the agenda was approved.*
- Copies of the October 20th, 2015 minutes, which had been emailed to the membership, were available. *Mac Anderson moved, Rick Martin seconded, and the minutes were approved.*
- Mac Anderson provided a written Cost Summary of Expenses from 2013 – 2015, as well as a 2016 projected Budget. The Pheasant Festival bank balance is approximately \$132,000 plus another \$27,000 in term deposits, and the current BFGA bank balance is approximately \$21,000. A discussion was held regarding the annual costs of maintaining the membership and the range, and how much is actually covered by the current membership fees after the AFGA is paid their share.
- Lester Janke talked about options for pheasant habitat land purchases, including possibly 60 acres of brush belonging to Sundial Ranches. Patty Green was to call Brad Fenson regarding AFGA help with a potential purchase.
- Rick Martin reported a 2015 total of 540 members, with 310 regular, 74 family, 150 dependents and 6 youth.
- Rick Martin gave a brief Hunter Education update. They had picked up 8 - 10 names at the Gun Show, and Francesco mentioned he also knew of a couple of people interested in taking the course this winter. He said they already had a deer in the freezer for the field day.
- Cliff Healy gave a brief Firearms report. He said with new AB and federal governments, the RFOA will be lobbying and educating again. He reported that it is acceptable within our range bylaws to have restricted rifles at the range, providing the owners have the legal paperwork for them. Currently no hand guns are allowed on the range.
- Range Report - Cliff and Lloyd will change the combination on the lock at the gate for 2016. Cliff's name isn't on the sign any longer, and was replaced with Dan's phone number. There is a sticker on the sign stating where memberships can be bought in town. The gongs have been really popular; the outhouse was emptied this past spring; and people still aren't picking up their brass. It was suggested to put up a "Members Only, No Trespassing" sign at the gate. Francesco has noticed numerous vehicles parked before the gate, so they are obviously non-members walking in and could be charged with trespassing.
- Our Fishing chair was absent, and Dan mentioned the Hunting and Archery Chair positions are still vacant, although someone had mentioned at the gun show that he may be interested in the Archery position. He announced that we fortunately now have a PR Chair, Cori Forseth, a BFGA family member living in Airdrie, who spends a lot of time at the range. Since volunteering to take on the position this fall, he has been active in getting our Facebook page up to date, and is

learning the new website as well. He has done up notices for our AGM, and Dan had copies with him, which can be put up around town.

- Gun Show - Dan reported the show was well attended, with approx. 1,100 - 1,200 people going through. The 500 tickets for the gun raffle sold out very quickly, with a local winning the Tikka rifle and someone from SK winning the Beretta shotgun. For next year, he is thinking of adding a .22 rifle and printing 750 tickets. As long as the proceeds stay under \$10,000, the rules are still the same. Even with the economic downturn, vendors seemed pleased, and only one knife vendor said he won't be back. For next year, Dan wants to purchase a megaphone, as the sound system was terrible, and an attendance clicker. He has already booked the Flexhall for next year's show, slated for October 29th & 30th, 2016.

New Business

It was discussed that there was a large, rented propane tank at Vern Potiuk, which should be removed as it is no longer necessary. It could cost up to \$800.00 to empty the propane and get the tank removed. It was originally installed by BFGA to move the pump wheels. Donna Martin offered to make some inquiries, and Patty Green will check to see if the tank is owned by Superior or Canadian.

- February 6, 2016 Awards Night - Mac Anderson will sign the contract for renting the Tilley Hall, and send them a cheque, as well as contact Tracy Deforge of Near & Far Catering, Garths and the Brooks Hotel for final meal quotes. He will also reconfirm prices for the bar and bartender staff with Brooks Hotel. The ticket price is dependent on meal cost, and Mac will have the costs finalized in the next two weeks, before the membership letters go out in late December/early January. It will probably remain the same as previous years, at \$25.00 per person, with no discount for seniors or children. Children 13+ will have different raffle buckets than those 12 and under, who have free bucket raffles, including one for a pellet gun, which helps make up for their meal cost. Lloyd Cook will be in charge of wild meat donations. It was mentioned that, if approved, we might have a Suffield elk donated to our association, which we could use for the banquet and give any excess meat to needy families. The Fish and Wildlife officers have had to dispatch five or six elk so far. Mac and Patty have offered to help sell tickets at the banquet, and Pete will help set up the silent auction and bucket raffles. Rick will be at the door and selling liquor tickets as well. Donna will be the Overseer and a list of volunteers can be put up somewhere easily visible. A Donor List was passed around, with everyone at the meeting volunteering to drop off donation request letters to various businesses listed. The list of remaining businesses will be emailed to the membership, along with a copy of the official request letter, asking for help in obtaining donations. Dan will purchase the guns for the raffles, and Donna will purchase the other raffle and bucket items.

Rick Martin moved, Mac Anderson seconded, and it was passed to spend up to \$1,000.00 on Awards Night raffle items.

- The AFGA Conference in Edmonton, from February 18- 20, 2016, was discussed once again. We are eligible to send up to six delegates, with confirmation so far from: Patty & Pete Green, Mac Anderson, Rick or Donna Martin. Registration is cheapest before December 15th, with prices increasing as the conference gets closer. Dan will email the executive and membership for names of anyone else interested in going, and Donna will register those who are confirmed.

- It was mentioned that Lloyd Cook and Cliff Healy are our gun range representatives, and are frequently out at the gun range checking and cleaning it up on their own time and at their own expense.

Mac Anderson moved, Lester Janke seconded, and it was passed to purchase two \$50.00 Tim Horton's gift cards for Lloyd Cook and Cliff Healy to use for coffee and/or lunches.

- There was a discussion around membership fees; the increasing costs of maintenance and improvements at the gun range; and the likelihood of the AFGA increasing their portion in the near future. Other clubs have two tiered memberships, for those who use the gun range and those who don't, but that was considered too complex to manage at this time. A fee increase of \$15.00 for both single and family memberships was discussed for 2017. Since this has to be approved at an AGM, Mac Anderson will draft a resolution to present to the membership at our January 19, 2016 AGM.

Old Business

- Our new PR Chair, Cori Forseth, is in discussion with our web page designers to have training and access to providing updates and making changes to our BFGA website.

- Francesco Marchet and Jordan Besenski agreed to arrange for guest speakers at our February 16, 2016 open meeting. Dan will ask members for input as to what specific topics they would like to see discussed. It would be good to our Fisheries biologists at a meeting as well.

- Our next meeting will be our Annual General Meeting on January 19, 2016

- Francesco gave a brief Fisheries update: Due to terrible fall index netting results, in 2016 Crawling Valley, Badger Lake, Jensen & Little Bow Reservoirs will all see a 0 limit for Pike as well as Walleye; Tilley B is producing smaller sized fish and will be reduced to a limit of 1 instead of 3. Report a Poacher calls are down. The Suffield elk hunts have had a total of 1,100 elk taken so far, with three more venues in January. The goal is to take 700 bulls and 1400 cows. The morals and ethics displayed by some hunters this year has been very poor, with the officers having to put down several injured and abandoned elk.

Dan thanked Francesco and Jordan for attending and the meeting was adjourned.

NOTE: VIA DEC/2015 EMAIL: Cliff Healy moved, Chad Williams seconded, and it was passed to spend up to \$4,400.00 + taxes purchasing a total of six guns for the Awards Night, Field Day and 2016 Gun Show to obtain maximum discounts from suppliers.

Shortlist includes: Weatherby 12 Gauge & Savage .243 c/w scope for Awards Night; Remington Youth 12 Gauge & left handed Savage .22 for Field Day; Tikka .270 c/w scope &