

**Brooks Fish and Game Association
Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2016**

Attendees - Dan Buell, Rick Martin, Mac Anderson, Cliff Healy, Aaron Sawitsky, Cori Forseth, Carson McCormick, Joyce Maitland

- Dan Buell, President, called the meeting to order and distributed copies of the proposed agenda.
- *Mac Anderson moved, Rick Martin seconded, and the agenda was approved.*
- *Cliff Healy moved, Rick Martin seconded, and the June 21st, 2016 minutes, which had been emailed to the membership, were approved.*

Chair Reports:

- Mac Anderson provided a verbal Treasurer's Report. The Pheasant Festival bank balance is \$130,263, plus \$27,282 in term deposits for a total of \$157,545; and the current BFGA balance is now \$23,513. Our Society Act registration has now been reinstated, with our same Society #50311834, Mac reiterating that we are a registered non-profit society, not a registered charity.
- Rick Martin gave a Membership Report, with the current numbers standing at 269 Regular, 89 Family, 177 Dependents and 4 Youth, for a total of 539 members; about 30 more than last year.
- Trophy, Fisheries, Hunting and Pheasant Festival chairs weren't present to provide reports, with the Archery position still vacant at this time. Dan said there is someone interested in the Archery position, but they won't be available until December at the earliest.
- Regarding Hunter Education, Rick and Donna participated in a Hunter Safety & Responsibility presentation on Saturday, Sept. 17th at the Heritage Inn, with John Poole from Ducks Unlimited, the RCMP & Safe Communities. Four Hunter Ed grad students took part in a supervised one day duck hunt and had a successful, educational day.
- Cliff Healy gave a verbal Firearms Report and had several handouts for those present. He mentioned Quebec wanting to have jurisdiction over firearms, which is federal. He talked about the maximum permitted magazine capacity and the problems it's creating with the few newer firearms, with an RCMP Bulletin explaining the issues surrounding it. He talked about Bill S-223, which will hopefully not progress any further. He urged everyone to write to their MPs saying they don't want Bill C42 messed with and that Bill S-223 should be scrapped totally. He says the RFOA, CSSA and NFA need to increase their membership numbers, as current members are getting older and young people don't seem to be getting involved.
- Cliff said he and Lloyd Cook haven't been out to the rifle range lately, but Dan had and the range is looking pretty good. Another retired member, Jerome Cleary, has been helping out as well. The gongs at the 100 yard range are getting replaced every couple of months when it's busy, with the rest of them lasting longer. The gong replacement cost is only around \$200.00, so it makes it quite cost effective since the backstops don't need to be replaced as often. It was mentioned that the conveyor belt material that they are using at the pistol range seems to stand up well, and perhaps we could look into using it as well. General consensus is that our Brooks range is very good value for the cost of the annual membership. It was mentioned that Cabela's has a list of southern AB ranges, but ours isn't on it, and that Jimbo's Archery might be able to help promote our archery range.

- *Mac Anderson moved, Cori Forseth seconded, and it was passed to buy three \$35.00 Tim Horton gift cards for the three retired volunteers who look after the range.*

- Dan said the October 29 & 30, 2016 Gun Show at the Leisure Center Flex Hall is essentially sold out with vendors. Saturday is looking good for volunteers, with Sunday a little light so far. Dan will send a third email requesting help a little closer to the date. Security is looked after, with the same security hired for \$300 as in 2015. Raffle ticket sales are slower than last year, which is to be expected with the economy, but will probably sell out at the show. Domino's will once again supply pizza for the set up and tear down volunteers. Most of the advertising is in place, including in the Coffee News this year. Dan will place bigger ads in October, including the Prairie Post, and also do paid advertising and an interview on the local radio. Dan will make sure we get our name in at the new arena for the 2017 gun show, as we would be able to get more vendor tables in, with the one drawback that we won't be able to drive into the new building. We could rent an electric pallet jack if necessary.

- Cori Forseth, PR Chair, said we have 152 members on our Facebook page in under a year, but the *bfga.ca* website doesn't seem to get a lot of attention or input from members, even though our site has the #1 listing on a Google search. He suggested putting on a raffle, treasure hunt or photo contest to encourage more members to use the website. The cost of our website is now an annual fee, with every change we make incurring a cost. He prefers the Facebook page to the website because it is of no cost to us and takes no effort to go there. He suggested having a ticker on our website so we can tell how many views we have, and that Gaslamp might already have it but we don't have access to it.

- Mac Anderson spoke about the Awards Night on Feb. 4th, 2017 at the Cassils Hall. He said Fred would do the catering, as he now has Garth's back again.

New Business:

- There was talk of expanding the BFGA display/volunteer recruitment table at the gun show, but it was decided there wasn't enough time to do it this year. Suggestions included having a simulator in a side room, and/or silhouettes and air soft guns. Dan will discuss the ideas further with Chad.

- The Onoway Ladies League has offered to help us set up a Ladies League, and Dan will touch base with them saying we are interested in learning more about it.

- It was decided that there wasn't enough cost savings in doing bulk ammo purchases for our members, nor do we want to compete with our local suppliers who are big supporters of our association.

- A new shotgun sports facility at our range was discussed, and it was agreed to be only fact finding and information gathering at this stage. Cliff will give any relevant legal documentation to Dan. Cori and Dan will check into the feasibility of it for our range and report back, with Dan checking the range maps and Mac approaching the City to see if it is feasible on the archery side of the range. Asking Hanna and Bassano associations for their input was also mentioned.

- The next Zone 1 meeting will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22nd at 9:00 am at the Lethbridge Fish and Game hut. Dan and Cori will be attending and Cori will ask on our Facebook page if anyone has any ideas for resolutions.

- Mac said he is willing to co-chair the 2017 Awards Night with someone else. Rick mentioned that Donna has a list of the various jobs for the event and she will get it to Mac.

- Regarding social media promotion/incentives, Cori will look into a photo contest with Mac and Dan.

Old Business:

- Regarding volunteer recruitment, Dan reported that we still don't have a Vice President, but someone will probably take on the Archery Chair role in a few months.
- The corn at Sproule was planted in late June, so hasn't grown very well. It will probably only be stubble corn, without cobs, so won't have any seeds for next year. The idea of planting seed alfalfa instead was discussed. It will be put on the agenda for the next AGM to decide what to do next, especially if the Alberta Conservation Association isn't planning to release pheasants there in the future. It was noted that Sproule was one of the prime wintering areas for wild pheasants in the past.
- Dan still hasn't heard back from anyone regarding an Open House/Bio meeting, so will try to talk to Joel, as he hasn't had any success touching base with Mike Grube. He mentioned it is also time to start looking into guest speakers for next year.
- Our Societies Act registration has now been completed by Mac.
- The "Kids Can Catch" event on July 9th at the Brooks Aqueduct had several BFGA members volunteering for the day. Our cost was only \$50.00 to supply water bottles for the participants. No fish were caught, so it might be better to involve the Calgary fish hatchery and have a planted fish pond, similar to the kids fish pond on at the Calgary RV show. This could also be an idea for our next gun show.
- Mac brought out chicken meals from Chicken on the Way to the antelope fencing project volunteers by Patricia on July 16/17, which was much appreciated. Our cost was just under \$120.00, so well within the approved budgeted amount.
- Our next meeting date will be Tuesday, October 18, 2016.
- ***Rick Martin moved, Cori Forseth seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.***