

**Brooks Fish and Game Association
Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2015**

Attendees - Dan Buell, Patty Green, Rick Martin, Hans Kiefaber, Joyce Maitland

- Dan Buell, President, called the meeting and distributed copies of the proposed agenda.
- ***Patty Green moved, Rick Martin seconded, and the agenda was approved.***
- Copies of the June 16th, 2015 minutes, which had been emailed to the membership, were available. ***Rick Martin moved, Hans Kiefaber seconded and the minutes were approved.***
- Mac Anderson wasn't able to attend the meeting, but had provided Dan with a brief written Treasurers Report. As of August 31, 2015, the Pheasant Festival reconciled bank balance was \$135,958.13, and the current BFGA reconciled bank balance was \$17,794.33. Mac will be presenting a report on 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, by our December meeting at the latest.
- Rick Martin reported a total of 509 members, with 284 regular, 72 family, 148 dependents and 5 youth to date.
- Rick Martin gave a brief Hunter Education update, stating that another course would be underway again this winter.
- Jonathan Pool, Fisheries Chair, was absent, but had provided an emailed report to Patty: To summarize, there is a blue-green algae bloom advisory for Lake McGregor, and many water closures throughout the region and southern Alberta due to warm water temperatures. Four boats required a 30 day quarantine period due to contamination of zebra mussels, all of which were coming into Alberta from BC. It is verified that Jensen Reservoir is also completely packed with Prussian Carp.
- Trophy, Pheasant Festival, and Firearms chairs were all absent and no reports were available.
- Dan mentioned that both the Hunting and Archery Chair positions are still vacant.
- Gun Show - Dan reported that the show is sold out, with 108 vendor tables and 4 tables for our association. This is only down about 15 or so tables from previous years. Gun raffle ticket sales have been slow, with Sportside just selling their first two books. Sales should start picking up from now on. Dan put an ad in the final issue of the Chronicle and will be running ads weekly in the Brooks Bulletin. He usually spends about \$2,000 on advertising each year. He said four or five new volunteers have signed on to help with the event, but a few more are needed for set up, which will run from about 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on the Friday. Tear down usually takes less time on the Sunday afternoon. Domino's has once again volunteered to supply pizza for both the set up and tear down crews, which is much appreciated. Chad and Dan will still meet to go over final details.

New Business

A discussion was held around the number of meetings to be held each year, with consensus being a full regular meeting every other month and executive meetings in between. The need to plan our guest speakers for 2016 was brought up by Dan, with several suggestions coming forward: Fisheries biologists, Conservation Officers, turkey callers, rattlesnake researchers, archery and gun maintenance, government survey system, and CWD (Chronic Wasting Disease).

- Mac & Dan have been discussing the possibility of raising membership fees, as there have been quite a few costs associated with improvements to the gun range these past couple of years. Also needing to be factored in is what the AFGA is planning for their portion, as it may be increasing. Any increase to our membership fees would have to be done as a motion at our AGM and would take effect the following year.

- A new Chair position for the web page was deemed necessary by the Executive, and is to be called a Social Media PR Chair. Anyone with suitable computer skills interested in this new position is welcome to contact Dan. In the meantime, we will continue to have the web page design company maintain our site on a monthly basis.

- Dan gave a brief update of the Awards Night Banquet survey, with 38 responses in total, or about 10% of our adult membership. It was relatively inexpensive to conduct, with a total cost under \$100.00 using Survey Monkey. The overwhelming number of respondents (94%) wanted to keep it as both an Awards Night and Banquet. Most (68%) were happy with how it has been done so far, with the majority (63%) wanting to keep it being held in February, in Tilley (52%), a combination of awards and a banquet with wild game (75%), and focusing more on families and children (89%). Five members (25%) offered to volunteer when completing their survey (much appreciated and noted), while 75% said no or maybe. The survey results will be kept by Donna Martin for now.

There is a need for new volunteers, as it would be optimum to have separate Chairs for the Venue, Meal, Donations and Activities. The banquet is usually held on the first Saturday in February, which will make it Saturday, February 6, 2016. Patty Green offered to see if the Tilley Hall is available for that date and the forms would be sent to the BFGA mailing address. New ideas include having two gun raffles, as they are always popular, and an antler scoring event held prior to the evening, with results announced at the banquet. A Celebrity Shoot and Trap Shooting are possible future events to be held at the Gun Range, with the legalities having to be researched first.

- The Boy Scouts contacted Dan and asked to use the archery range on Sunday, September 27, 2015. This was vetoed by the Executive, as it would have meant closing down both ranges at a time when members would be busy sighting in for the fall hunting season.

- There will be another Zone meeting on October 17th in Lethbridge. Dan will be attending from our Association and Rick Martin may go with him as well.

Old Business

- Our website is now active (www.bfga.ca) and the design company has been paid in full. Members are encouraged to check it out and feel free to make suggestions for improvements. AFGA is also aware it is active. Improvement possibilities include a merchandise page, a chair position page, photo gallery section with Hunter Ed pictures, etc. It was mentioned that the EID has many excellent photos of the local area that could possibly be utilized.

- Dan reported on the Rifle Range. The fairly new, larger sea-can is fully set up, with all the contents transferred from the old one, which was sold for \$1,800.00. Dan built shelving units and put misc. Association stuff in them, such as plastic plates, cups, etc. There are 42 plastic and 15 wooden tables all upright in the new sea-can, which take up less room stacked that way and still leaves space for more. There are also shelving units in the archery sea-can. Dan has sent a wheel move motor, hose and mouldy unassembled carts to the auction. The new style posts and gongs are working well. According to the Range Officer, the berms need to be built up a little more or the spacing in between needs to be tightened up. We need up to a dozen more sandbags at the range, cloth ones could be made at Fix –It Upholstery. It was suggested by Cliff Healy that a new sign be posted at the gate stating that you can buy memberships at Sunley Home Building Supply and Sportside Source for Sports.

- The wedding to be held at the range this past July, by a member couple from Medicine Hat, was cancelled by them due to unforeseen family circumstances.

- The Antelope Creek fencing weekend and BBQ was a success, according to Dan. Fourteen people volunteered, with Dan being the only one from BFGA. Mac and his company, Rafter 9, supplied the roast and veggies for the BBQ, and BFGA supplied snacks and drinks. The total spent was about \$320.00.

- The next meeting will be an Executive one, to be held October 20, 2015.