

**Board of Director's Meeting 29 May 2016**

**FOH Office**

**Meeting called to order: 9:10 AM**

**Present:** Ryan Bayne, Mike Cardinal, Dale Ann McKichan, Jim Bayne, Wade Beaudoin, Mat Shetler, Danica Rush, Bill Dineen

**Guests:** Scott Austin, Diane Schwier, Sarah Hubbert

**Absent:** Duane Inkpen

**Meeting called to order by Ryan Bayne 9:10 AM**

- Discussion on proposed disposal of band saw and engine that we have no use for. It is agreed to offer them to membership in attendance at the AGM.
- Update was presented by Diane grasslands - regarding winter 2015 report.
- Diane reported that the MNRFP plans on restoring the condemned Interpretive Centre barn. There is a drainage problem around that building and that will have to be corrected.
- Safety training - Training will be provided for our summer staff 6-7 July in Guelph. This will cover WHIMIS, harassment, etc.
- SAT 9 pond - on the 7th June we will take a canoe out to inspect the overflow pipe. There is a disagreement as to the problem with the pond drainage - if their a discharge pipe problem, or is there a plugged drain problem?
- Post Hole Digger - What would be better - to buy or to rent? How much do we expect to use it? We need to research the cost of rental vs to own one. It needs to be a 3 point hitch hook up. Mike and Scott research this and it is important that this is dealt with right away.
- Viewing stand roof - Colour approved is a dark brown completely new roof. Motion by Bill D, seconded by Mike, all in favour. Passed. Bill to call our contractor to get this in motion.
- Discussion on moving Sanctuary pond back to where it was. Wade raised the issue of the current location of stake 3. Discussed locations and the infringement on attached private land. Is there another location that would be completely clear of private land? The moving of it will improve six more stake successes as it will change the duck's flight paths. This has been approved in principle.

- Trapping discussion - One item brought up was that there was an otter caught in one of the trap lines. We did not know there were otters found in this area. We discussed the fact that it appeared the trappers were not living up to managing their trap lines as there appears that they are less aggressive than they could be regarding efficiency. It is agreed that they need to be a better job at their winter trapping. We've decided that we need to meet with our licensed trappers to discuss this.

***Meeting adjourned - 9:58 AM***

***Annual General Meeting  
Driving Shed  
26 members present at the meeting  
Meeting called to order at 10:12 AM by Ryan Bayne***

**1.** The meeting began with Ryan Bayne introducing the Board of Directors and the FOH staff.

**2.** Scott began with some key points about "Hullett". It was incorporated 16 December 1998 as a self sustaining entity.

He covered some of the accomplishments since last year's AGM, such as:

- the creation of the RED Trail.
- New equipment - Bush Hog, a top of the line mower that will speed up our mowing efficiency by a big margin.
- This year's staffing - 5 new summer positions under the Canada Summer Jobs Program.
- Sarah Hubbert's hiring.
- A new privy at the Sugar Bush trail, under construction.
- The Youth Waterfowl Clinic.
- Private land signs and their placement.
- Purchase of a new UTV for staff transportation.
- Re-numbering of all our hunting stakes.
- 2 new 4 X 8 Partnership Signs.
- Our roads and parking lots are receiving maintenance in the amount of 500 Tons of gravel and graded.
- Hosting of an Archery 3D Event in June.
- Replacement in progress of the roof on the Main Viewing stand.

**3.** Sarah Hubbert spoke to the membership about her upgrading of our site maps, creating activity specific maps, upgrading our social media publications, and the importance of our Volunteers to the success of the marsh.

**4.** Scott reported that 2015 benefitted by the 1350 hours of volunteer work. The 2016 goal is an increase by 2000 hours. He also said that we've made our membership expiry date the 31st of December each year. There were 222 members for the year of 2015.

**5.** Mat presented the financial report.

- revenue up
- expenses are down
- the debt we had is paid off
- we are enjoying a surplus this year.
- 2016 budget
- trust dollars have been separated out to reduce confusion of assets ownership between the FOH and MNRF.
- the values are conservative as a buffer for yearly expenses.

**6.** Diane made a presentation beginning with saying her service with the MNRF has been 29 years.

- She introduced our 2 Conservation Officers present, Melanie and Dean.
- spoke of the funding for our summer students and how they will benefit from this.
- training for summer students will be provided by the MNRF.
- She updated our environmental assessments.
- The MNRF is looking at restoring the Interpretive Building.

**7.** Conservation Officer, Melanie Kotulak (482 2352) make a short presentation:

- Zone A - briefly discussed user guide hunting regs, specifically that guns are to be unloaded and encased to and from our duck blinds.
- Zone B briefly discussed with some reminders on regulations.

**8.** Ryan gave credit to those specifically who helped out above and beyond what is expected.

- he reported on the successful nesting sites with some estimated percent

quantities.

- brief outline of Ag Contracts - our partnership with adjoining land owners and moving forward with them on property borders by signage.
- The Vanessa Palmer Award was presented to Ellen Glavin.
- Past board members were given a commemorative knife; one to Dan Kilby and one to Linda Dale & Family.
- We now have a brass memorial plaque to be mounted on the property dedicated to the memory of Lee C. Howley, Sr. who was a champion of waterfowl conservation and past president of Ducks Unlimited Inc.
- We are moving forward in our Tree Dedications, which is a tree planted on the marsh property for people that have passed, who, through their dedication to the marsh, are worthy of this living tribute. Their names are on a memorial plaque in the office and not on the actual tree for vandalism reasons.

### ***From the Floor***

Ed Allen, representing the Waterfowlers Association that was created to direct their work towards bettering this habitat. Some of their members got ice training to accomplish this.

Their long term goal is to improve roosting habitat problems, which are being used as paths to hunting stake areas.

- Whitetail Swamp is flooded too much due to beaver dams.
- The association wants to take part in Waterfowl Heritage Day and are interested in adding two additional non-water hunting stakes as it was in the past. There are two areas: one behind Homestead and the other off Burns Line, north of the Red Trail (in harvested fields).
- The BOD has already agreed to this in principle.
- Another project is to move one of the two baited areas. Pintail Pool was moved to Mallard Pool five years ago to keep the baited area within the Hullett Marsh. The association wants to move it back to Pintail Pool.
- This work will be done by their volunteers, which we approve in principle as we prefer it be done by the Waterfowl Association.
- Dean Waite, Conservation Officer spoke on what to enforce regarding through these baited areas: Are travelers disturbing baited birds to drive them into hunted area?
- Dean prefers these areas to be governed by a "NO ENTRY" rule.
- Scott needs to give Sarah specific instructions as to the boundaries and signage. Mike Cardinal referred to the Constitution of the MNRF requiring their name be

on this signage.

***BOD Election process:***

Ryan spoke the election and re-election situation as it stands now. There are 4 vacancies and 4 applicants.

Each applicant had their turn to speak.

Mike Cardinal spoke for our chairman, Duane Inkpen saying that he would be hard to replace and he is excellent at making tough decisions.

Mat Shetler cited that he's been on the board since 2010.

Mike Cardinal spoke for himself, as he's been on the board since its creation.

Danica Rush is the only new applicant and spoke a little of herself; moving into the area, began as a hiker on the property, then a volunteer and says that one of her best skills is community networking.

***Further from the floor:***

- the question was raised about what we are doing about the dangerously invasive Phragmites. Ed Allen voiced an idea by trying a "swabbing programme". This is a very important item to address while we still have a relatively small infestation.

- Hogweed was also brought up, and this has already been discussed at the board level.

- The Waterfowl Association is willing to take on this project. Maybe Diane could get funding or approval at the very least.

- Gordon McKye commented that the Board and Staff were doing a great job!

***Meeting adjourned at 11:55 AM***

Following the meeting, a presentation was made by Lynn Eves of the Bluewater Centre for Raptor Rehabilitation, located in Lampton County, near Wyoming. Lynn began this over 25 years ago and began it at her own personal cost. She now is a registered charity organization so accepts donations. There is a local veterinary clinic that treats injured birds as a volunteer though Lynn pays for antibiotics herself. She presented a lovely slide show and spoke at length of her struggles and successes and is obviously dedicated to do her part in protecting and preserving our native wildlife.

***Things wrapped up at 12:36 PM and a barbecue followed***