

Feb 20th, 2024 General Meeting

1. Adoption of Agenda Moved by George Zuffa. Seconded by Leah Brown.
Amendment:
3.6 SWAG
3.7 Reforestation.
❖**CARRIED.**

2. **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting.**
Presented via email (November 20th, 2023).
Moved by Michelle Sylvestre. Seconded by George Zuffa.
Amendments:
Deb Clarke noted clarification of Wildlife Trust fund (Habitat Fund) \$5,000 and Wild Turkeys \$5,000. Additional names of Banquet Committee added.
❖**CARRIED.**

3. **Business Arising from minutes.**
 - 3.1 **Banquet Summary (Deb Clarke)**
 - Thank you for everyone that attended the banquet. Thank you to Mike Uchikura for his ACA Presentation. Thank you to the banquet committee. Thank you to sponsors, donors, and contributions.
 - Raffles brought in \$3140.20
 - Silent Auction brought in \$9,784.00.
 - 210 total Attendees.
 - Leah Brown asked what happens to the money that is made at the banquet. Deb Clarke answered it will be distributed to club activities. Raffle money will go to separate raffle accounts.

 - 3.2 **Measuring Day Summary (Justin Roszell)**
 - 2 days, 5 & 6 of January, measured over 45 sets of horns.
 - Advertising was great, and the posters went out before George Fairs stepped down.
 - Tag soup was popular.

 - 3.3 **Education for Executive (Sheila Ferguson):** Sheila will organize a date in April for the Exec and Chairs education session in the aim for job descriptions review, modernization, and update to assist chairs and exec so everyone understands their role. What resources are needed for chairs to do their job.

 - 3.4 **AFGA (AWF):**
 - Conference: 12 LFGA Voting Delegates attending the AFGA (AWF) Conference. The LFGA Voting delegates will discuss the resolutions and vote in the best interest of LFGA.

- Madeline asked Justin Roszell to take good notes during the Membership Forum at the AWF Conference.
- Scott Sweetman and Michelle Sylvestre helped fix an area in Wild Apricot to help Madeline report more efficiently to AWF.

3.5 Awards Weigh Scale (Vic Stasiuk): Scale needs to be government approved. Vic Stasiuk will deal with this.

3.5 Cottonwood:

- Jeff Deuschle spoke with George Fairs who will continue with this project.
- The main concern is a source of water. Working with the City possibly get water from baseball valley. George Fairs, Jeff D and Rick Blakeley will continue to work together.

3.7 Swag (Michelle Sylvestre): Fully Promoted swag, George Zuffa was wearing one of the branded baseball hats. He spoke of a few technical issues but was happy with the outcome. Michelle will follow up.

4. **Correspondence**

None.

5. **Treasurer's Report** (Madeline Balla)

Madeline Balla presented the financials for the 2023 fiscal year. Treasurer's Report available upon request.

Madeline Balla moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Seconded by Jeff Deuschle.

Discussion:

- GST: Madeline will work out the details and follow up.

❖**CARRIED.**

6. **New Business**

6.1 MOTION:

Deb Clarke moves that the Lethbridge Fish and Game Association 2025 Annual Fundraising Banquet and Awards night be set for Saturday, February 8th, 2025 with the location and meal to be determined by the 2025 LFGA Banquet Committee.

George Zuffa Seconded.

❖**CARRIED**

Opposed:

Joel Rigby

Madeline Balla

Jeff Deuschle

Doug Balla

7. **AFGA Report** (Sheila Ferguson)

- Rick Blakeley AWF is in a good place as far as government, meetings with Government 25 – 30 officials met, rebranding is

going well. Want to be an organization that advocates for their members.

- Sheila Ferguson: Medicine Hat this year. It's great that new people coming to the conference. Great representation Gerry Pittman past president, Deb Clarke Zone 2, Jim Clarke and Sheila Ferguson served on the AWF Exec.
- April 21st Sunday Zone 1 Meeting.

8. **Chair Executive Business**

a. Community Relations (Scott Sweetman)

Thank you to George Roth, Jeff Deuschle and Michelle Sylvestre for volunteering for the Gun Show.

b. Fish (Joel Rigby): LFGA has Fishing Equipment and supplies if anyone is interested in talking on fish activities.

c. Bird: (Vic Stasiuk): Vic hoping to get more entries for Birds. Will be on the website, some elements will change for next year.

d. Big Game (Riley Olsen): None.

e. Habitat and Environment (Mike Uchikura): Thank you to Mike for his presentation at the Banquet. Mike said it was a great opportunity to present at the banquet. Wants to connect people with projects, education is key!

f. Range (Rick Blakeley):

- Range Presentation available upon request. Rick presented the Range's development over the years, construction of ranges, baffles, buildings, classroom, BBQ shelter, CIP Fund, steel etc. He also described some incidents that occurred on the range that were concerning. Our range cameras caught the incident but they were on the range for almost an hour before being escorted off the range. Charged with trespassing.
- Rick described the grants that we have received thanks to Tom Hopkins for his consultation expertise.
- Rick listed the 2024 plans for the range and the focus moving forward. Thanks to the odd job squad for their work.

Motion: Leah Brown motions that a line of credit up to \$40,000 be extended to the Shooting Sports Facility Operating Account from the Sustainability Account on a needs basis for the 2024 fiscal year.

Riley Olsen seconded.

Amendments accepted.

Discussion:

- Is this like a loan? Rick Blakeley: there is a cash flow issue at the range, this would allow for the Range to take money out as needed. The amount borrowed will be paid back by the end of

the 2024 fiscal year. This allows for flexibility to the needs of the range.

- Eric Trudel asked who is making the decision? Rick: Mostly, on decisions the Range Operator will consult the President, Vice President, Treasurer, & Secretary. Sheila Ferguson would like the BoG involved in the decision-making. Straw vote from the membership in attendance wants the BoG to be consulted as well.
- Deb Clarke asked how the line of credit will be paid back and what are the consequences if that is not paid back? Rick Blakeley said it will come to the general membership. At the end of the year Rick will bring it back to the membership to get paid by the general funds. Rick said he hopes that events, raffles, donations, and community partners will allow the range to pay this back.
- Eric Trudel understands the cash flow in a typical year that this cash flow would not be a problem? Rick said yes. Sheila Ferguson stated Rick is thinking worst case scenario. Sheila stated that if this seems like a possibility then the range can talk about running programs etc. to earn money to pay it back.
- Roy Remus, how do you know it is \$40,000 that you will need? Rick said this is an educated guess based on experience on being a Range Operator.
- Leah Brown asked what do we typically do now? How has it worked over the past years with these sorts of issues? How have we managed the cash flow? Rick answered, him and Tom looks for grants, events and raffles, donations and community partners. Worst case scenario is at \$40,000, Rick believes it won't come to that amount. Sheila wants to make sure there is a follow through and a plan to pay it back. Rick: if we don't borrow the money then the range can't operate. The \$40,000 would allow for operations flexibility and priorities are being met. Rick can't predict what this year will bring, he is doing everything in his power to make sure no member is injured, that no bullets leave the range and keep it open.

❖ **CARRIED.**

MOTION: Leah Brown moved that any surplus funds collected in 2024 into the CIP Payback account be transferred to the Shooting Sports Facility Operating Account at the end of 2024.

Dave Fisher seconded.

- Deb Clarke asked if the motion should clearly state the \$37,000 in the motion. Leah asked if the treasurer has to manage the accounting of the accounts, Madeline would make sure the \$37,000 would be paid back before anything would be moved to the Shooting Sports Facility Operating Account.

❖ **CARRIED.**

g. Casino (Madeline Balla): 2 years until next casino, about \$2,000 in casino account remaining.

h. Hall (Madeline Balla): Hut rentals are up.

i. Membership (Nadine Grand'Maison):

To January 31, 2024:

2,064 members comprising of 1,662 male (80.52%) and 402 female
Range members: 1,716 paid and 56 comps for a total of 1,772 or 85.85% of total membership

Regular members 1,370

Family members: Therefore 1,873 voting adults in elections

Co-ordinator 261

Spouse/partner 242

Children < 12 76

Children > 11 115

Newbies

Regular 42

Family plus depends 30

j. Banquet (Deb Clark): If anyone wants to join the committee for 2025 please contact Deb. Donations starting now!

k. Photography (Michelle Kennedy): Pictures of awards winners etc. will be on the website soon.

l. Volunteer Coordinator (Rick Blakeley):

- April 5th – 7th The Outdoor Show needs volunteers. At the expo. More information coming soon. Should be a significant event for the club (fundraiser). 10 Booths – giving some to local clubs and sponsors. CFO would appreciate a booth at the event. The Fishing Pond cannot be used because of the drains. Working on a new plan.
- Dave Fisher members at the Gun Show were asking if having a buy, sell, trade page forum on the LFGA website would be possible. Michelle Sylvestre answered that it would take volunteers to monitor and manage it, if anyone is interested please contact her.
Rick asked if we could have tents at the Open Range Day for this activity? This will be discussed and decided by the volunteers running Open Range Day.

Sheila Ferguson moved to adjourn.

Adjourned at 9:24 PM