

# November 20th, 2023 Agenda

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Adoption of Agenda – Jeff Deuschle moved to accept the Agenda.  
Greg Bird seconded.

❖**CARRIED.**

## 1. **ELECTIONS: Board of Governors (Marilyn Peterson)**

President: Rick Blakeley

Vice President: Jeff D

Secretary: Michelle Sylvestre

Treasurer: Madeline Balla

Board of Governors:

3<sup>rd</sup> Year: Marilyn Peterson

2<sup>nd</sup> Year: George Fairs

1<sup>st</sup> Year: Joel Rigby

Sheila Ferguson will provide orientation to the Board of Governors.

## 2. **Approval of Minutes from September 2023**

Michelle Sylvestre moved to have the minutes adopted as presented.

Seconded by Jeff Deuschle.

❖**CARRIED.**

## 3. **Business Arising from minutes.**

### **3.1 Awards & Categories (Revising the awards system for bird, fish and big game) (Vic Stasiuk)**

Justin Rozell & Riley will be a co-chair moving forward. George Fairs, Joel Rigby, Vic Stasiuk decided LFGA will follow AFGA rules for Bird, Fish and Big Game awards. Instead of hunter of the year there will be bird of the year. Highest closest to provincial awards will get bird of the year. 1<sup>st</sup> cash prize, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> will get honorable mention.

Measuring Day is January 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. George Roth will be selling memberships. Deb Clarke asked if the rules can be posted. Vic stated they are on the website.

### **3.2 Banquet (Deb Clarke)**

Wild game cannot get cooked at multiple venues. Deb has been in conversation with Agri food Hub and the Coast Hotel. The Agri Food Hub wants to work with us, special gourmet menu. Coast can only do a traditional menu. Deb toured the Agri Food Hub facilities, great sound system, brand new, lots of parking. Sheila Ferguson asked if we paid a deposit (at the Coast). Deb and Rick Blakeley are pretty sure we have not. No contract signed.

### **3.3 LFGA Participation in Lethbridge Cottonwood Reforestation (George F)**

City believes we will have water from the baseball diamond. Evolving conversation. City extremely excited. George is in conversation with the city and Rick Blakeley and will coordinate with members.

### **3.4 Swag (Michelle S.)**

Swag will be available on the store before Christmas.

#### **4. Correspondence**

None.

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

Madeline moved to accept as presented. Seconded by Nadine Grand'Maison.

❖ **CARRIED.**

#### **6. New Business**

**6.1 Raffles (George Fairs)** – Raffles at the Measuring Day event. George Fairs announced the following raffles taking place during Measuring Day:

1. Tag Soup Drop – 1 entry/person. Can win some meat.
2. Guess score of deer. 50/50 draw.
3. Rifle Raffles. George will get a Gaming licence for gun draw – under \$10,000.

#### **6.2 Orientation and Education (George Fairs)**

Sheila Ferguson explained when bringing on new members she wants to have orientation for them with other executive. Orientation is critical for new members.

#### **6.3 AFGA Meeting (George Fairs)**

If members want to attend AFGA (AWF) meetings there is reimbursement available for fuel and food upon receipt (see budget).

#### **6.5 Budget (Rick Blakeley)**

Jeff Deuschle motioned to adopt the LFGA Club Operating budget as presented. George Fairs seconded.

**Amendment:** Added Wild Turkey under bird for \$5,000.

Added \$5,000 for the Wildlife Trust Fund: Deb Clark and Jim Clarke are on the board of AWF she added purchasing wildlife habitat in all parts of Alberta is important, foot access only, anyone can access it. Thank – you!

#### **Discussion:**

Ken Peterson asked if there would be resistance to raising the Range membership. Rick Blakeley range rentals can improve revenue rather than membership raise. Deb Clarke asked if the range has a separate budget and bank account? Rick Blakeley noted yes, the range operates on its revenue. Deb Clarke said a budget should be presented to the membership. Rick said the range cannot predict what its revenue

would be. Deb Clarke said the range can present a similar budget. George Zuffa said we used to have a range operator budget. Rick asked for a vote on this motion then we can discuss an Operating Range Budget.

❖**CARRIED.**

### **6.6 Range Operating Budget**

Deb Clarke motioned for a Operating Range Budget for 2024 to be presented at a General Meeting. Justin Rozell seconded.

#### **Discussion:**

Madeline Balla noted that yes it is possible to forecast. Usually in a budget you add a 2% increase on expense and keep the income the same. Rick Blakeley noted there are cases that cannot be predicted and when we do not have meetings over the summer, it can stifle range operations. All other chairs have ability to run their area. Rick Blakeley communicates with Madeline Balla on a regular basis. Everything is reported in the books. If we go over our budget it is usually because we are doing projects. Volunteers are treated to dinners.

Deb Clarke added that it is about accountability to the membership. We appreciate what has gone into the range and we are truly proud of it. Everyone should be accountable. A budget does not mean there can't be changes. Understandable that expenses happen. Need to have a standardization and knowledge.

❖**REJECTED.**

### **6.8 Corporate Sponsor Highlight (Madeline Balla)**

Madeline Balla and Rick Blakeley will communicate to get the information together then will pass it onto Scott Sweetman and Michelle Sylvestre to put out on the website, social media, and email. Other chairs can send info in as well.

### **6.9 Outdoor Show (Joel Rigby, Rick Blakeley)**

A promotions company is bringing an outdoor show to Lethbridge. LFGA will have booth space. A fish pond, accepting donations. Promotions company doing advertising.

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

**7.1 Conference:** The AFGA(AWF) conference is in Medicine Hat this year. LFGA has 10 Voting delegates available.

**7.2 Brooks Banquet:** Brooks did a fantastic job with their banquet, Sheila relayed info to Deb Clarke. Brooks charges \$70.

**7.3 AFGA Exec meeting Dec. 8/9:** Zoom is available. The board has an in person meeting with government on Dec. 8, first time since before Covid. Several committees are in place. AFGA has open positions to fill.

**7.4 Provincial Awards:** Provincial awards nominations are open.

**7.5 Zone:** Last Zone meeting presented on Big Horn Sheep. Hoping to get Jim to talk about the Turkey Program and Ian Gazeley to talk

about Big Horn to public. Rick 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of AWF. Rick and Sheila are spokes people that bring issues to government.

## 8. **Chair Executive Business**

### **8.1 Membership (Nadine Grand'Maison):**

2,271

Memberships will be sold at the Hut:

Nadine Grand'Maison: December 16<sup>th</sup>

George Roth Jan Measuring Day

Nadine Grand'Maison motioned to have memberships remain at the same price. Joel Rigby seconded.

❖ **CARRIED.**

### **8.2 Range (Rick Blakeley):**

Rick Blakeley spoke about a member that was unsafe at the range with guests. Proposing to terminate his membership. Rick described the encounter. Jeff D and Rick will arrange to meet with this person. Rick Blakeley would like to gain support from the general membership for the executive to deal with the situation.

Greg Bird asked if it will be turned over to the police for investigation? Rick said no, not at this point. Rick Blakeley said we can act before deciding if it gets investigated.

Joel Rigby moved that the exec undertake investigation according to our bylaws to view whether his membership should be expelled.

Dave Fisher seconded.

Discussion: Nadine, if it happened last year why did we wait. Rick said he gave the member a year to contact the President/Range Operator.

❖ **CARRIED.**

#### **Opposed:**

Ken Peterson

Greg Bird

Sheila Ferguson

Deb Clarke

Brett Ficuir

#### **8.2.1 Membership Fee Reallocation:**

Leah Brown moved to change the range membership from \$25 to \$33 and CIP from \$20 to \$12 to cover the \$20,000 CIP each year and allow for the Range to absorb the amount above \$20,000.

Amendment: Any shortfall will come from the range account.

Dave Fisher seconded.

Discussion: Rick Blakeley remarked that it is a reallocation rather than an increase.

Ken Peterson: Rick, Allan, Ken and City Hall met to get the range reopened. It was always planned to have this money to go towards range relocation.

Ken Peterson believed these funds would be used for legal fees or relocation. The \$60 and \$20 are a grey area but it was always meant

for the range. Ken believed it is owed to the range. What is necessary for the range to stay in operation. Rick Blakeley: The sustainability started when Rick was President with the intent to move the range. LFGA has been active in politics, making sure council is aware of our presence. Requested \$18 Million from the city to move the range. They refused at that time.

\$1.7 million dollar project – increased sustainability fund to \$60. \$1 million will eventually be paid back to the city (\$20,000/year to the city). In order to move the range, we would need a substantial amount in the sustainability.

How much certainty do we have past 2041 lease date? We will renew before that. Making it difficult for the city to move us.

12 For

5 Opposed

❖ **CARRIED.**

### **8.3 Banquet (Deb Clark)**

Agri Food Hub at Exhibition Grounds. No wild game. Venues will not prepare wild game. Miya, Deb have met with head chef willing to do a special gourmet menu. Waiting for a contract to sign. Committee members have been working hard. Banquet Committee: Deb Clarke, Miyah Clarke, Jonn Kerber, Eric Trudell, Justin Roszell, Sheila Ferguson, Brett Ficiur, and George Roth. February 10<sup>th</sup>. Watch for promotion. Banquet tickets will be available before Christmas. Looking for donations.

**8.4 Fish (Joel Rigby)** – outdoor show, giant pond, by donation for kids to fish in. Fly tying for youth and adults available once organized.

A youth Fishing Derby grant is being applied for.

**8.5 Bird:** Pheasants released 6 times. ACA pheasant release program. This is year 7, government was going to terminate, ACA picked it up. Mike Uchikura big thanks to LFGA volunteers that contributed to the release. Deb Clark noted LFGA used to raise birds.

Nadine Grand'Maison called for adjournment. Marilyn Peterson seconded

**Adjourned at 8:13PM.**