2025 AWF AGM and Conference

Overall, an excellent use of our funds. There’s a great amount of information and material both presented as well as learned through discussions and networking. Currently we have 11 votes so we should budget for 11 people which should be at least our chairs but if chairs can’t make it, volunteers should replace them.

The AWF has heard our complaints as well as complaints from other clubs that the AWF needs to be more active in the fight against gun control. The AWF now strives to be the #1 Collaborator with the Alberta CFO and will be preparing a Memorandum of Agreement with the Chief Firearms Office to further the needs of firearms development. They are creating a Firearms and Range Working Group (FRWG) whose goal will be to provide guidance and implementation of the Provincial Firearms Approach. The new president Paul Short expressed to me personally more than once that he is ready to push back or take action when appropriate and needed. He and the AWF recognize that gun control affects all gun owners and that we are at the 11th hour. We must fight back. For a more comprehensive understanding of the subject please see my report entitled “AWF, LFGA and Gun Control. A call to action.”

I will again express that “at current membership level”, we get excellent value for our membership with AWF. However, the current formula used by AWF to process membership fees may appear to be inequitable if we grow substantially in the next 3 years. Some members may feel value waning as we grow from current levels. Should this happen, LFGA members may wish to open a discussion with the AWF around this subject. We are not the first organization to broach this subject with AWF. Membership with the AWF is and always will be a benefit to LFGA and early, open dialogue will be key to keeping all parties happy. I had discussions on this topic with a few leaders in the AWF. Should that time come, I have found all leadership of the AWF to be extremely approachable and open to dialogue on any subject.

I attended mostly fishing related presentations. Efforts including aeration and the use of Alum to improve over-wintering are being made in several locations and the AWF is asking for stocking numbers to increase in several species and locations. The one other presentation I wish to highlight is the replenishment of Wild Turkey efforts in Southwestern Alberta. Numbers are low and it’s proving to be no easy task. Old methods of raising and releasing don’t work. Transferring wild turkeys from BC and Quebec are proving to be more successful however there are still several obstacles that need to be overcome during this process. Engaged parties are learning as they go and adjusting accordingly. Success is on the horizon however there are years of work still ahead before we can claim victory. Please feel free to reach out to myself or better yet, Jim Clarke for more information around this subject.

Guest Speakers were excellent. 2 topics.

1. “The North American Model of Wildlife Conservation”. We have a lot to be proud of. We are a continent which was almost obliterated of wildlife during the 1800s but through conservation, we have turned the tides and are a worldwide example of how to manage wildlife and preserve for future generations while harvesting ethically.
2. “Chronic Wasting Disease” Be aware. Learn more about it. At present, it resists everything we use against other diseases, and we don’t know how to stop it.

The biggest benefit in attending an AWF Convention I believe lay with the networking and the meeting of great likeminded people from all over our province. The information gathered over coffee, drinks and or dinner can prove to be invaluable. We all can gain great insight from each other and the atmosphere created at convention is a dream come true for anyone wishing to expand and share their knowledge and find comradery, support and understanding with wildlife and gun sports enthusiasts from all over. On a special note, LFGA is the envy of many clubs for our quality of leaders (many of whom sit in leadership positions on the AWF), membership numbers and our shooting facility. We should all be very proud.