

Lethbridge Fish and Game Association

General Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2025, 7:00 PM – 9:00PM

Presiding officer – Rick Blakeley – President

Quorum with ---- Members Present – 32 Members present, Zoom meeting attendance – 9 members

1. Adoption of Agenda as distributed
 - a. **MOTION** 250325:01 THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed and amended be approved – Joel Rigby.
 - i. **CARRIED**
2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting as presented via website.
 - a. **MOTION** 250325:02 THAT minutes of previous meeting be approved – Darcey Stoutjesdyk
 - i. **CARRIED**
3. Business Arising from the minutes.
 - a. Approval of Minutes from November 18, 2024
 - i. **MOTION** 250325:03 THAT minutes of November 18, 2024 be approved – Darcey Stoutjesdyk
 - ii. **CARRIED**
4. Correspondence
 - a. AWF 2025 Conference Reports (on the website)
5. New Business
 - a. Executive Motion: THAT the Audit Committee Report be accepted as presented
 - i. **MOTION** 250325:04 THAT the Audit report be approved as presented – Jay Mackenzie
 - ii. **CARRIED**
 - b. Bylaw Committee (Andy)
 - i. Continuing to meet
 - ii. Will present to the Executive when complete and then to the membership in a Special General Meeting
6. Treasurer's Report: Executive Motion THAT 2024 Annual Financial Report be accepted as presented
 - i. **MOTION** 250325:05 THAT the 2024 Annual Financial Report be accepted as presented - Leah Brown
 - ii. **CARRIED**
7. Chair Reports – presented verbally (See notes below)
 - a. Banquet (Deb) presented by Deb Clarke
 - b. Big Game (Riley Olson)
 - c. Bird (Vic)
 - d. Community Relations (Scott)
 - e. Fish (Wayne)

- f. Habitat (Mike)
- g. Range (Jeff)
 - **MOTION** 250123G:07 to recommend to the Range Committee THAT to donate \$10000 to the CCFR from the Range Sustainability Account– Kevin Cudmore
 - **MOTION TO TABLE** 250123G:07T - THAT to table this to the next meeting - Pippa Goodfellow – **CARRIED**
- ii. **MOTION** 250325:06 **THAT MOTION** 250123G:07 be removed from the table and considered. – Kevin Cudmore
- iii. **CARRIED**
- iv. **MOTION** 250123G:07 to recommend to the Range Committee THAT to donate \$10000 to the CCFR from the Range Sustainability Account– Kevin Cudmore
- v. **CARRIED**
- h. Membership (Pippa)
 - i. Our membership is at 2067
- 8. AWF Report and Correspondence (Deb), see notes
- 9. Time 9:03 pm
 - a. The meeting was adjourned.

NOTES:

Banquet Chair: 2025 LFGA Banquet Report

The Lethbridge Fish & Game Annual Banquet & Awards Night was held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at the Lethbridge & District Exhibition Agri-Food & Trade Centre Hub. Other than a casino every few years, the annual banquet is the largest fundraiser for the club.

There were 170 people in attendance (11 of those life members) and all enjoyed the special menu which included smoked brisket and duck legs. The event included trophy award presentations for big game, birds and photography, and special recognition with Certificates of Merit for some of our dedicated member volunteers. Missing this year were fish awards... no entries. Reminder that fish entries, however big and small, can be entered throughout the year during the regulated angling season.

There were also raffles and silent auctions for attendees to participate in, and guests found the short update presentation on the Alberta Wild Turkey Relocation Project, given by Jim Clarke (LFGA Life Member, Zone 1 Hunting Chair and AWF Turkey Committee Rep) very interesting.

The silent auction and raffles raised a total of \$13,946.00 for conservation, education and youth, and from the LFGA 2025 Operating Budget there is a surplus of \$7,107.30 remaining. Two silent auction items were designated by the Banquet Committee for special projects. The first being the Alberta Wild Turkey Relocation Project for which \$1,525.00 was raised from the sale of the 22" Barrel Browning X-Bolt Action 243 Win donated by Alberta Hardware Ltd. and Alberta Firearms. The second amount of \$800.00 was raised for allocation to the LFGA Women's Mentored Pheasant Hunt through the sale of the Stoeger M3500 12 Gauge Shotgun donated by Schwartz Reliance Insurance.

The Banquet Committee cannot say **Thank You** enough to all the donors and banquet attendees! The evening would not have been possible without the new and continued support.

A big thank you to the Banquet Committee members (Brett Ficiur, Justin Roszell, Eric Trudel, Travis Johnson, Jerrid Lelek and Miyah Clarke) for all their help planning and coordinating all involved for the annual banquet, seeking donations, banquet set-up, event coordination and take down! Special shout out and thank you to Michelle Sylvestre, Scott Sweetman and Fleur Sweetman, for taking care of the social media, ticket sales and handling payments the night of the event.

Overall, a great time was had by all with many saying they will be attending again next year. This was just a quick summary. Should anyone have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me for more details.

Deb Clarke

Lethbridge Fish & Game Association

Life Member & Banquet Chair

Big Game (Riley Olson)

Wildlife Act Announcement

On March 12, 2025, Alberta's Minister of Forestry and Parks, Todd Loewen, introduced Bill 41, the Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025, which proposes significant updates to Alberta's Wildlife Act. The amendments aim to modernize wildlife management practices, improve accessibility for hunters, and streamline enforcement. Key changes include:

Hunting Regulations

- Allowing hunters to kill black bears and cougars for meat without preserving the hides
- Permitting the use of laser-guided rifle sights (without illuminating the entire animal)
- Reducing the minimum draw weight for bows from 40 lbs to 35 lbs
- Allowing the use of leashed dogs to track wounded big game animals
- Enabling hunters to shoot waterfowl from stationary motorized boats

Accessibility and Modernization

- Updating definitions for vehicles used by mobility-challenged hunters
- Introducing electronic licenses, tags, and permits
- Establishing a six-month residency requirement for hunters and trappers

Wildlife Management and Safety

- Enhancing enforcement capabilities for fish and wildlife officers
- Implementing new regulations on wildlife attractants and feeding
- Allowing the transportation of certain injured animals to veterinarians or rehabilitation facilities without a permit
- Prohibiting the presence of domestic sheep or goats in certain hunting areas to protect wild sheep populations

Stakeholder Support

The proposed changes have received support from various stakeholders, including the Alberta Wildlife Federation, Safari Club International, and the Alberta Professional Outfitters Society. These organizations view the amendments as necessary updates to align with modern practices and technology while supporting sustainable wildlife management.

The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2025, represents a significant update to Alberta's wildlife regulations, aiming to balance conservation efforts with hunting traditions and accessibility improvements.

Bird Report

We have received approval of the ACA Education grant supporting the Women's Mentored Hunt. This will span 6 weeks and will start in the 1st Week of September. Watch for this to be advertised in July.

Community Relations

Scott provided an update, and the Communication Group will be focusing on the federal election.

Fish

Currently have a fly-tying workshop on the go which started February 26/25 running until April 2/25 Instructed by Ryan Cook. Eleven of the Twelve seats available were filled with one cancellation.

- There is an upcoming Zone 1 spring meeting in Picture Butte on April 12/25

Habitat

Mike reported that not much has happened.

Range

20250325 Range Report

Alberta Conservation Grants

We have applied for, and will receive support under a grant from Alberta Conservation Association for a women's mentor Hunt organized by Vic Stasiuk and youth rifles and ammunition to the tune of \$6,000.

Odd Jobs Squad (Range Committee)

- The Odd job squad has been busy planning and preparing for the busy season.
- Brad's crew has worked on drainage on range two
- Fred has completed some major roadwork which has been important in reducing the amount of mud, etc.
- This is the group that plans budgets and does the work to make the range one of the best in Southern Alberta. We come together every Tuesday to work together completing odd jobs and enjoy a meeting with food and beverages.
- The Odd Jobs Squad has allocated \$10,000 plus fees to the Canadian coalition firearms rights and is seeking the general membership acknowledgement of this at the General Meeting.
- Understanding this is a federal election members need to be involved and change needs to happen and be supported by all of us.
- Darla will be highlighting the volunteers
- Jay and Rick are on the AWF range group. AWF has committed to firearm advocacy and have changed their mission to include hunting and sports shooting.
- We will have open range day on June 7th, save the date.
- We are also going to have an open range day for women as well. Watch the calendar for other events at the Range.

Archery

The archery revitalization project is progressing under the leadership of Tom Hopkins. At the meeting he presented a progress report.

Rifle

There are going to be two streams and range two this year one for bench rest organized by Dave Fisher, and one for marksmanship Kevin Cudmore. We are in the

planning stages for programs for youth organized by Dean Weger.

Action shooting

We are in the process of planning events and support for activities through Chinook Country Shooters club. The IPSC Nationals will be held in Taber and the CCSC members are organizing the event.

Justin Thomson will be competing internationally.

Marc Henderson, President of CCSC added some of their plans for events.

Range 7

Will see major upgrades as it is rebuilt to accommodate our agencies. Rental income should be increasing because of increased agreements. Rick has met with a number of agencies. this should have set any requirement for increases.

Shotgun

There are activities planned around Trap skeet and Sporting Clays. There is increased interest trap. We have purchased a new trap machine and will be rehabilitating our north trap field.

No progress has been made with the City regarding the issues on Range 2S. This has been going on for almost a year.

The Hut

The Hut comprises two meeting rooms, a small kitchen, men's and women's washrooms, an office, and a basement.

The LFGA uses the building for workshops, meetings and storage. AWF Region 1 uses it up to 4 times per year for meetings. The total number of uses by LFGA is about 24 – 30 days per year.

Since the Hut is situated in Kinsmen Park in London Road Neighborhood, we are nurturing our relationship with them and provide the Hut to them rent free 12- 14 times per year. The City and the school board request use of the building occasionally which we honor at no charge.

We rent the facility to about 7 regular users monthly. These groups collectively pay about \$350-\$400/m. In addition, we recruit 3-6 other one-time users each month and charge \$60/use. My business is the largest consumer with expenditures ranging from \$120 to \$180 per month. However, I am currently ranked sixth in priority based on seniority. Five regulars pre-date me and get first choice of dates. Taking care of our terrific regulars is obviously job #1!

In the past fiscal year, we replaced the fridge and outdoor sign, made cosmetic changes inside the building, cleaned the ducts, cleaned the floors twice with a commercial cleaning company, replaced old chairs, and added folding tables to our resources. With the changes in bookkeeping, we will ask the treasurer next year to give us a Profit and Loss report to include with this commentary.

This year we plan to investigate the potential to upgrade the interior lighting, consult with A/V professional regarding replacing the old video projector, and continue to watch for old water damage. Other considerations are painting the exterior, improving our marketing to individuals or groups for weekday or evening use, and renewing dialogue with the City regarding purchasing the building.

We have historically kept our rental fees incredibly low. We have increased rents for all our regular renters and intend raise them again no later than January 1, 2026. One-time users all pay \$60 and this fee will be increased gradually until we sense we are near the maximum.

Current marketing efforts include adding LFGA.Hut.Rental@gmail.com to the outdoor sign and redesigning the Hut webpage on the LFGA website. Although we do not yet have the data to confirm the effectiveness of these changes, it appears that inquiries have increased, along with subsequent rentals.

A long-standing challenge has been to improve and maintain the cleanliness of the building. We are finding success with two initiatives. Firstly, we initiated dialogue with our regular users about expectations. This resulted in immediate cooperation and improved cleanliness. Secondly, when the building deserves a little extra attention and specific cleaning “into the corners”, we hire one of our regulars and pay them to give the place a shine once or twice per month. This motivates all our users, and I have noticed our one-time renters have also left the place exceptionally clean.

Two other changes seem to be producing outcomes at very little cost. We now leave the fridge stocked with water and pop. Users are invited to bring what they need, use ours if they need to and leave anything they don't use from their supplies. It's fascinating to see how generous our clients are. The other thing we are trying is to provide the A/V (75" TV and video projector) complimentary. It seems to generate additional good will with no downside so far.

Sorry for the length of this report. If you read this far, thanks. My goal is to provide you all with a sense of the value of this asset and my approach to its management on behalf of the members.

I appreciate your confidence,

Tedd Walcott

AWF Report and Correspondence (Continued on the Next Page)

Hi Everyone,

Just a reminder that the spring Zone 1 meeting is scheduled for **Saturday**, April 12, 2025 at 10:00 am and will be held at the Picture Butte Fish & Game Archery Building (464 Crescent Avenue, Picture Butte).

Stay tuned... more information will be sent out in the next few days with regard to cervid hunt preserves, membership benefits, previous meeting minutes, draft agenda and more.

Congratulations...100 Years! 🎉 If you haven't already done so, purchase that lucky ticket and promote the Hillcrest Fish & Game Protective Association 50/50 Raffle in support of their Centennial Gala happening this Saturday, March 22, 2025 in Bellevue. The raffle closes at 8:30 pm (MDT) on March 22 and the winner will be announced at their sold-out Centennial Gala. Here is the link to buy tickets <https://www.rafflebox.ca/raffle/hfgacentennial>, information can also be found on their Facebook site.

Thank you.

Deb Clarke, Zone 1 Director

Alberta Wildlife Federation

13045 - 156 Street | Edmonton, AB | T5V 0A2

www.albertawildlifefederation.ca | deb.clarke@albertawildlifefederation.ca

Office: 780-437-2342

Cell: 403-477-1800

AWF Correspondence

From: Alberta Wildlife Federation communications@albertawildlifefederation.ca
Subject: Alberta Wildlife Federation opposes the proposed Cervid Harvest Preserves in Alberta
Date: January 30, 2025 at 1:45 PM
To: Deb Clarke zone1@albertawildlifefederation.ca



**ALBERTA
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

NO!!! TO PENNED SHOOTS OF ELK AND DEER

EDMONTON, January 30, 2025 - The Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) is opposed to the concept of Cervid Harvest Preserves (CHP's) referred to as "Hunt Farms" or "Shoot Farms" in Alberta.

Recently the Alberta Agriculture Minister has decided to push forward with the legalizing of CHP's to save what he and many game farm operators term as a "dying industry" referring to the practice of game farming.

Legalization would enable game farms to sell so called "Hunts" to clients for large sums of money giving them a guaranteed shoot of a Trophy hand raised domesticated elk or deer in an escape proof, high fence enclosure called a Cervid Harvest Preserve. Some critics liken this to "Shooting fish in a barrel."

In a meeting between the AWF and Minister Sigurdson and his staff, the Minister, a hunter himself, admitted he would not participate in one of these so called "Hunts." We were told by staff that there would be no requirement for the shooter to take the meat if the antlers and head was all they were interested in having. The meat could then be used for dog food, we were told.

AWF Wildlife Chair John Clarke states, "True hunting when approached ethically fosters deep traditions, connections across generations and lasting memories tied to shared values and respect for the natural world. Harvesting an animal is viewed as a possible outcome of a meaningful experience, not the sole purpose of it."

There are no Ethics involved or any concept of Fair Chase used when shooting a domesticated big game animal in a high fenced, escape proof enclosure.

The number of game farms in Alberta has dropped from a high of over 600 to 133 today. This is due to a diminished meat market and a collapsed velvet industry brought on largely by Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which is a prion disease introduced to Saskatchewan and Alberta from CWD infected game farms. CWD now has a strong grip on our wild big game populations through-out much of Alberta and Saskatchewan and has the potential to seriously affect the Province's traditional livestock and grain industries.

Previously, game farms would ship their large antlered animals to "Shoot Farms" in the USA or Saskatchewan, but that market is also shrinking and the USA has now closed its' border to imports of these animals as of January 1st 2025.

If, as the Minister stated, "Every agriculture industry matters no matter how small or large," then maybe his Department should seriously look at closing down the whole game farming industry as other Provinces and States have done already instead of bolstering it with CHP's and their high fence "Hunts."

The Alberta Wildlife Federation, previously known as The Alberta Fish & Game Association represents hunters, anglers and the outdoors interests of all Albertans in the wise use and conservation of our fish, wildlife and habitats.



**ALBERTA
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

72% OPPOSED TO LEGALIZATION OF SHOOT FARMS

Alberta Government's Own Supporters in Opposition to Legalizing Shoot Farms in Alberta According to Survey

EDMONTON, March 10, 2025 – The Coalition of Conservation Groups welcomes the results of a recent 800 person INSIGHTRIX survey commissioned by the Alberta Wildlife Federation (Alberta Fish & Game Association) which shows Alberta Voters are clearly opposed to the legalization of shooting domesticated game farmed elk and deer inside of high fenced escape proof compounds called Cervid Harvest Preserves (CHP) commonly known as shoot farms.

Among those polled that were in favour or opposed to this legalization, 72% of Alberta Voters are opposed. Among those that identified as being UCP supporters, 68% are opposed to the shooting of game farm raised domesticated elk and deer on these shoot farms. These numbers mirror the results from over 20 years ago when then Premier Klein called the practice of shooting fenced in animals "unfair and inhumane" and that he found the practice "abhorrent". His government did not approve the same proposal then that we are once again faced with now.

In a recent meeting between the Alberta Wildlife Federation reps and the Alberta Agriculture Minister and his staff, the Minister said he was concerned with how Alberta voters felt on this issue. As he is the one introducing this Bill to legalize these shoot farms to the legislature, we call on him to listen to what the Alberta voters and the supporters of his party have said. 72% opposed is a pretty clear majority of opposition.

The INSIGHTRIX survey was undertaken after it was brought to our attention that the current Agriculture Minister was pushing ahead with the legalization of shooting domesticated elk and deer in an effort to save the dying industry of game farming in Alberta. Currently there are 133 operating game farms in the province from a high of about 650 over 20 years ago. The survey of 800 Albertans was conducted between February 24th and 26th of 2025. The survey was taken from all across Alberta with an even representation of rural and urban as well as male and female respondents. The survey is deemed accurate within + or - 5% and has a 95% confidence level.

The coalition opposed to the legalization of these Cervid Harvest Preserves consists of the Alberta Wildlife Federation, the Alberta Wilderness Association, the Alliance for Public Wildlife, the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation and the Canadian Wildlife Federation. These are conservation organizations concerned about the future of wildlife and the environments they live in.

For further information, please contact the Alberta Wildlife Federation CHP committee reps:

Rod Dyck 403-820-0731 or

Curtis Reed 403-638-7412



**ALBERTA
WILDLIFE
FEDERATION**

The Honourable Amery, Mickey
Minister of Justice
Executive Branch
424 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6
ministryofjustice@gov.ab.ca

March 18, 2025

Delivered Electronically

Dear Minister Amery,

On behalf of the Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) I wish to thank you and the Ministry for the initiative and efforts to enshrine in law the rights and means of the use of firearms for Albertans.

As the principal advocacy agency for Albertans right to hunt and fish, our 12,000 plus members and 61 clubs support in practice and in principle the changes you have championed. The addition of clause (g) the right to acquire, keep and use firearms in accordance with the law, under Bill 24 Alberta Bill of Right Amendment Act, 2024 is a strong statement that, in our consideration, upholds a fundamental right.

We are encouraged by the clarification under the Alberta Firearms Act Statutes of Alberta, 2023 Chapter A-18.5, of the role of the Alberta Chief Firearms Office. It is our intentions to align with the Chief Firearms Office and the CFO, Dr. Teri Bryant to work collaboratively as a partner to advance firearms and range use within the province.

We are thankful for the support and dedication of Dr. Bryant and will be reaching out to the CFO to prepare a Memorandum of Agreement that will help to consolidate our mutual efforts related to firearms and range use in accordance with the law.

Sincerely,

Paul Short

President, Alberta Wildlife Federation

CC:

Lavoie Malcolm, Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Minister of Justice

Bryant Teri, Chief Firearms Officer, Alberta Chief Firearms Office

Alberta Wildlife Federation Executive

Alberta Wildlife Federation Firearms and Range Working Group



(780) 437-2342



www.albertawildlifefederation.ca



13045-156 Street NW
Edmonton AB T5V 0A2



**ALBERTA
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FEDERATION**

The Honourable Malcom Lavioie
Deputy Minister and Deputy Attorney General
Executive Branch
424 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2B6

March 18, 2025

Delivered Electronically

Dear Mr. Lavioie,

The Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF), representing 12,000 + members and 61 clubs, has written to the Minister of Justice regarding our support for recent legislation affecting the firearms rights of Albertans and clarification under the Alberta Firearms Act Statutes of Alberta, 2023 Chapter A-18.5, of the role of the Alberta Chief Firearms Office.

The AWF wishes to register with the Department as a stakeholder of record with the Alberta Chief Firearms Office. We see this as an important step to continue to advance the needs and interests of our members for use of firearms and ranges.

We have met with the Chief Firearms Officer, Dr. Teri Bryant who has been a key presenter at the past two Annual General Meetings of the AWF. The AWF most appreciates the work of the Alberta Chief Firearms Office and Dr. Bryant.

In addition to being recognized by the Department as a key stakeholder it is our intention to work with the CFO on a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will codify and support the efforts of our members and the CFO in advancing the legal use of firearms and ranges.

We trust that this is in keeping with the interests of the Department and that we will have your support for this work.

Sincerely,

Paul Short

President, Alberta Wildlife Federation

CC:

Bryant Teri, Chief Firearms Officer, Alberta Chief Firearms Office
Alberta Wildlife Federation Executive
Alberta Wildlife Federation Firearms and Range Working Group



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13045-156 Street NW
Edmonton AB T5V 0A2