Lethbridge Fish & Game Association
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
General Meeting Minutes

Location: LFGA Hut, 7pm-9pm
Meeting Called at to Order at 7:01pm

Chair: President Ken Peterson
Executive Present: Vice President Doug Mickey, Treasurer Leah Brown; regrets Secretary Darcey Stoutjesdyk
Board of Governors: Dan Chapman; Jay Mackenzie, regrets Andy Cumming
Sign in Sheet available
Quorum was met.

1) Approval of the Agenda

   a) **MOTION** 20260225.01 THAT the agenda be adopted as distributed – Marilyn Peterson/Tom Hopkins - **CARRIED**

2) Minutes from January 12, 2026

   a) **MOTION** 20260225.02 THAT the Minutes from the previous general meeting, January 12, 2026 be adopted as emailed – Marilyn Peterson/Vic Stasiuk – **CARRIED**

3) Business Arising from the Minutes

   a) Range Report – deferred to Chair Reports
   b) Security Quotes
      i) While the elected executive does not possess specialized expertise in security, the immediate resignation of the previous security provider prompted, in accordance with current bylaws, a consultation with three external security firms for quotations and recommendations.
      ii) All three firms identified significant deficiencies within the existing security system.
      iii) The executive subsequently selected the security professionals who provided the most prudent fiduciary guidance to address the security needs of the facility. From the three security quotes received Guardian Security Solutions from Lethbridge was selected as the successful bidder.
      iv) The Security provider will give a full report.
      v) **MOTION** 20260225.03 TO approve $40,000.00 to pay for the remainder of the security requirements of the quote from the Range operating account. – Jay Mackenzie/George Fairs – **CARRIED;** none opposed

   c) Range Safety Officer Course

   The AFSS range safety officer (RSO) training course was conducted and the LFGA has 10 fully qualified trainers to provide a new updated safety course to members.

d) Awards Update

Nominations received for club service awards are being reviewed by the Board of Governors. Recipient's names and awards will be announced at the annual fundraising dinner and awards night on March 21, 2026.

4) Correspondence

a) Feedback received in correspondence from the AFSS Instructor, Neil Handford, complimented the club in having a variety of competent members with a vast array of experience to teach the course going forward.

5) Treasurer's Report (report attached)

a) GST and Tax Update – The LFGA must collect GST for membership sales, range rentals, range day passes, hut rentals, event tickets, and other items. CRA has been contacted and the club is seeking clarification and direction regarding years of payment required, etc.

b) Financial Report –
   i) The club refund policy has been updated and is now in effect.
   ii) Invoices and expenditures for the month were presented.
   iii) The Wild Apricot subscription was extended/purchased for another two years.
   iv) Waiting for the Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) invoice for affiliation fees.
   v) The financial report due to Alberta Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis is being completed and will be returned by the March 31 deadline.
   vi) The updated LFGA budget will be presented to the Executive for review prior to the March financial AGM for approval.
   vii) **MOTION** 20260225.04 THAT the Treasurer's Report be approved as presented. – Leah Brown/Greg Bird – **CARRIED**

6) New Business

a) Rick Blakeley is currently not a member in good standing. Legal counsel has been retained. No further discussion. The membership is reminded that Ken Peterson, President of the Lethbridge Fish and Game Association, is the organization's only official spokesperson unless otherwise stated.

b) Range 2S Update – The City of Lethbridge has been contacted numerous times regarding the structural failure of the baffles on range 2S. The President and other members of the Executive Board had a meeting at the range with the City Engineer, and their sub-contractors, to inspect the damage. LFGA is awaiting a response from the City on how the matter of repairs is going to be addressed.

c) LFGA Email Addresses – Our IT provider, Altis, has set up and provided new Microsoft Outlook club email addresses (i.e., president@lfga.club; secretary@lfga.club, etc.). Please use the new addresses to communicate with the LFGA Board. The addresses will be linked on the club website soon.

d) Refund Policy – The club refund policy has been updated, approved and is now in effect.

e) Website Quotes – The current LFGA website is outdated and in need of a facelift and overhaul. The Board will be seeking quotations from three or more website developers to develop a new updated look and feel/user-friendly site, along with maintenance services. Preliminary research has determined that it could cost between $15-$20K.

MOTION 20260225.05 THAT approval to given to the LFGA Board to spend up to $20,000.00 for new LFGA website development and maintenance. – Jay Mackenzie/Marilyn Peterson – **CARRIED**

f) Volunteers Hours – As part of the lease with the City of Lethbridge, and for grant application submissions, the club keeps track of volunteer hours annually. All Executive Board members and event coordinators are encouraged to submit volunteer hours sooner rather than later so a running total can be kept current. Volunteer hours for 2025 are due to Sheila Ferguson (historian@lfga.club) and/or Leah Brown (treasurer@lfga.club) by March 20.

g) Range Tree Enhancement – An update regarding the trees planted at the range was provided. A total of 70 shrubs donated by Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) were planted in 2024, 300 more planted in 2025, and more tree planting is being planned for 2026. Even though hardy area-appropriate tree varieties are being planted there are watering challenges. The trees need 1-2 gallons of water weakly and the high sodium content of the well water at the range is not good for the trees. Rain catchment, water hauling, drip irrigation, fabric and more is being proposed. Trimming and weeding are also reoccurring expenses.
It was requested that Dave provide the plan in writing and the matter was tabled until financials can be reviewed.

h) Indoor Shooting/Archery Range Proposal – Ken Peterson was contacted by an individual interested developing an indoor shooting range and working with the LFGA. Ken invited him to present his proposal at the March Executive meeting.

i) Archery & Grant Update – Tom Hopkins advised that a year-end report has been completed to provide details regarding the funding spent, accomplishment and achievements. Not only is the report for the membership but also useful for grant applications.

Tom and Sidney Shapiro are currently working on a grant submission for $75K, due March 12, to obtain funding for pathway and accessibility improvements at both the range and LFGA Hut. If the application is successful the LFGA would need to provide combined funding in the amount of $20K.

MOTION 20260225.06 THAT the LFGA will provide $20,000.00 in funding if the grant application to CCPG, Stream A is successful for grant monies designated for improvements at the LFGA Hut and range. - Sidney Shapiro/Tom Hopkins – **CARRIED**

Tom Hopkins, Sidney Shapiro and Darla Cooke will be working as a team and pursuing further grant application opportunities as they arise.

7) AWF Conference Updates

a) A requirement of club delegates attending the annual AWF Conference and AGM, held in Calgary this year, was to provide a written report. An opportunity was given for those in attendance at the meeting to also give a verbal summary before their reports are made available to the overall membership. All delegates are very appreciative for the opportunity from the club to attend conference.

Jay Mackenzie provided highlights from the Range Forum. A mandate of the Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) is to protect firearms rights, including sport shooting. The organization is considering hosting in 2028 a world-class continental or international shooting event to promote a wide exposure to shooting sports, gun safety, etc. Funding in different ways, including applications to Tourism Alberta.

Sidney Shapiro/Marta Gerasymchuk – Noted that it was very interesting to hear about what other clubs in the province are doing. There is a need for more engagement between fish and game, youth and secondary students. Sidney gave a quick highlight on the variety of presentations, such as: Women in Conservation programming, a university student study on methods for estimating Bighorn sheep lamb over winter survival, pronghorn movement studies, a University Wildlife Society focused on outdoor experiences for students, wildlife diseases, Veterans healing in the wild, ACA walleye stocking at Travers, habitat restoration and more.

Gene Schalk – Passed along that the name Antelope will no longer be used; Pronghorn is the official reference now. Gene provided a quick summary of the ACA Pronghorn movement studies. Helicopters with net guns are being used to capture and GPS collar pronghorn. In 2024, 106 were collared and 76 survived; in 2025 156 collared. Using data from the geofence, typically there are only 7 pronghorn that are crossing Highway 1, which is a major barrier for the animals. Overpasses are being planned.

Miyah Clarke – Provided a presentation to the conference delegates on Alberta Habitat Fund properties. The LFGA has supported this AWF flagship program in the past. With the help of many fish and game clubs, members and other organizations over 50,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat has been preserved and is accessible to all Albertans to experience and enjoy.

7) Chair Reports

a) Banquet – The fundraising dinner and awards banquet is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at the Lethbridge Trade & Convention Centre. Tickets are only available online through the LFGA website. Purchase your tickets before Wednesday, March 18. It will be a fun evening with a great menu, silent auction, raffles and door prizes. Donations of new items and sponsorships are being accepted. Contact banquet@lfga.club.

b) Big Game – Sponors have been found for all the award categories.

c) Bird Game – Sponsors have also been secured for all the bird awards. Working on a possible pheasant shoot this fall and other activities.

d) Board of Governors – Reviewing club service award nominations. Work is continuing on addressing current club needs.

e) Casino - Volunteers participated in helping out at the recent casino. Funds to organizations are distributed quarterly. Estimated the club may receive $30-35K.

f) Community Relations – not available.

g) Fish – The fish, bird and big game chairs will be meeting with Jim Clarke to share ideas, pass along information and reinvigorate the membership.

h) Habitat - The club has significantly contributed over the years to habitat-related projects. Mike will be putting a report together which summarizes LFGA's contributions to different projects.

i) Hut – not available.

j) Membership – Approximately 2,200 members.

k) Photography – not available.

l) Range – Jeff extended a thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the booth and selling raffle tickets at the gun show. Sales for the gun raffle tickets are good.

There have been some issues with gate cards not working. Some member cards are 10-12 years old. Replacement cards are available and will be issued to those experiencing issues; contact range.operator@lfga.club. You will not be allowed access to the range if cards are forgotten.

Thank extended to Nick for safety office course offered; and a thank you extended to Jeff for all his hard work and dedication at the range.

m) Archery – Report had been completed and is available for review.

n) AWF Firearms & Range Strategic Caucus – Jay Mackenzie provided a quick update in his conference summary.

o) Alberta Habitat Caucus – not available.

8) Adjournment – 8:45 pm

Recording Secretary
Deb Clarke