

ARA Meeting Minutes

January 30, 2022

Prior to our meeting, Stephen Thibodeau from Inland Fisheries gave us an informative presentation on some of the roles played by the Provincial hatcheries in the province of Nova Scotia. These include Fraser's Mills, in Antigonish County, MacGowan Lake in Queens County, and Margaree in Inverness County.

- Fraser's Mills is the primary hatchery for the province, producing some four million eggs per annum.
- Fish enhancement programs include fish stocking with speckled, rainbow and brown trout, as well as Atlantic salmon derived from brood stock collections in conjunction with various River associations.
- Inland fisheries are also involved with stocking and participation in some fifty annual events, learn to fish programs, barrier free sites for mobility challenged fishers, workshops for women, and programs for schools.

Many thanks to Stephen for his presentation and a huge thanks for all the assistance we receive from Inland Fisheries on a regular basis.

Present: Tim Handforth, Leo Callahan, Dave MacNeil, Gerry Doucet, Sandy MacLeod, Ken MacAulay, Don Wescott, Allison White, Mark Dort, Steve Thibodeau

1) Call to order, 13:15 by Tim Handforth

2) Approval of agenda - Approved by Dave, seconded by Ken

3) Minutes from November 22, 2021 - approved by Dave, seconded by Leo

4) Presidents Report:

- Nick and Allison working on grants for 2022
- We have \$10,000 from town of Antigonish for ongoing work on the James River
 - This will be the last year
- NSSA will provide \$22,000 for the River Coordinator position
- Allison will be working until the end of March at which time Bruce Wheaton will be taking her place.
- Pay Pal - we can leave as is, no cost to us
 - Tim will check account occasionally for action
 - Ken will look into increasing our limits on the account

5) Treasures Report

- Available to all as it was forwarded by Sandy MacLeod
- We have a positive account balance
- A lot of that money belongs to the Cameron Lake Project
- Discussion on what we would have to do to become tax exempt

- Could be a potential opportunity for us with the possibility of hiring a professional if we can see something to be gained. Let's keep the conversation going

6) Activities Report:

- Salmon dinner: going to conflict with homecoming weekend at St.F.X.
 - Presents problems for accommodations and parking.
 - Gerry, Jim and Dave to discuss moving to an earlier or later date. Stay tuned.
- On line auction:
 - 32 Auctions approved
 - A lot of good items received so far and more promised
 - Items do not have to be totally fishing related; other items welcomed
- Fishing Derby:
 - Not likely happening this year due to Covid restrictions
- Trout Brood Stock:
 - Project won't happen this year as there is not enough room at the hatchery
 - Our salmon eggs are doing very well.
- Fly Tying:
 - Not a go as of now due to Covid - Possibly later if restrictions allow
- Web:
 - Many thanks to Allison for keeping things updated
 - Allison will tutor Bruce to keep it going for us
 - James Smeaton has offered to assist as well
- Cameron Lake Project:
 - The dock has been purchased
 - Funding partners have committed \$49,000
 - We should have signed approval from the Government in a couple of weeks
 - Most likely a large picnic shelter will be purchased
- Berkeley:
 - We will ask for more "clear your gear" units
 - Local wharves should be utilized for unit placement
 - Any other suggestions for locations welcomed
- Membership:
 - Thanks to Don Wescott for keeping up to date
 - Actually, a decline in membership
 - Maybe we should consider moving to free membership, possibly with different levels of support according to individual means - warrants further discussion.

Next meeting will be held February 27th., 2022. Tim will be in touch with the particulars.

Moved to close by Gerry, seconded by Leo.

Meeting adjourned by president Handforth at 14:15

**and we all got to watch football!