

ARA Directors Meeting     Sunday Jan.15 Deverness Stables

Attendees: Tim Handforth, Sandy Horne, Sandy MacLeod, Charles MacInnis, Don Wescott, David MacNeil, Nick MacInnis, Darryl Murrant , Gerry Doucet. Virtual: Bruce Wheadon, Brent Locke, Branden Lapointe DFO

Call to order: 1:03

Approval of Agenda: Approved

Minutes: on the website: Approved

President's Report: Tim updated the proposed projects for the summer Of 2023. Tim reported that there is still fly-tying materials and rods that will be auctioned in March. We will keep the storage locker for the interim and decide when the auction is finished. Gerry volunteered that he should have some storage space that we can use in June.

Treasurer's Report: Christine sent her regrets as she is out of the country. Tim reported that we are maintaining our two employees for the winter. Insurance and the land lease payment for Cameron Lake are due. Sandy MacLeod asked about liability insurance. Tim will check and confirm the details. Some discussion followed concerning insurance for Directors and Cameron Lake. We have Director insurance but haven't found a policy for Cameron Lake. Darryl will followed up with Jason LeBlanc to see what the province did for Learn to Fish. Darryl will report back.

Activities:

Salmon Dinner: Bruce and David updated the webpage to reflect the new dinner format. Gerry advised that St. F. X. switched Homecoming to our traditional weekend so we are considering the weekend of September 28 or October 19. Some discussion followed concerning dates and venue. The points raised point to Oct.19 as the best choice. We will proceed with Oct. 19, 2024 as the operating date.

February Derby: Discussion is that there is no ice and little likelihood of safe ice so discussion followed to move our derby to the June Free Fishing weekend as an alternative and perhaps the best long-range possibility.

River Projects: Tim reported that he had emailed out the project applications for the rivers. Bruce and Bailey did the applications. There was discussion concerning the damage from Tropical Storm Fiona especially in the area of Bruce Thompson's land. Allison will return on April 1. Four people will be on the team pending funding. Applications are out to ASCF and (through NSSA) for federal funding. Nick reported that the ARA did more restoration work and watershed planning than any other association with significantly less funding.

Website: Bruce updated his progress on the dinner page, membership page and picture update.

Fly tying: Dave reported that turnout was good, video worked out and we had a good turnout of young people.

Instagram Account; We discussed setting up an account. Nick suggested that the watershed coordinator take over the set up and posting of items. Bruce and Allison will look after this.

Next Meeting: Feb. 12

Branden LaPointe was invited to give a DFO update:

Branden reported that a Salmon App has been developed by DFO. It has a geo-mapping feature that allows for officers to pinpoint the location of salmon pools and areas of the river system which need monitoring. This will assist the DFO staff, who are mostly new to the area, to have knowledge and better monitor fishing. The app allows for lots on information such as access, use etc. The new officers are not familiar with the area so this will be a great aid. Branden reported that he knew Charles and the habitat work being done and he encouraged reporting of any issues such as siltation, damage etc. DFO is increasing its community outreach and the members hope to meet anglers and especially young people to promote conservation. Branden offered to share the app and information on its uses with a slide show at a future meeting. Gerry added that members would be happy to accompany officers to tour the pools and priority areas. Branden reported that Atlantic salmon is a priority species this year and that the Margaree would be the primary focus for this year..

Meeting adjourned 2:00 p.m.