

ARA Board Meeting

February 12, 2023

Deverness Stables, Antigonish

Called to order 1:00 p.m.

Agenda approved

Minutes from last meeting approved

Presidents Report

. Mi'kmaq Mainland Confederacy has placed signage at Cameron Lake depicting life cycle of American eel. Details have been forwarded to all.

. Final report to the Community ACCESS-Ability submitted which included our invoices and account of our expenditures as they provided \$10k towards project.

. Gulf River Project is now in its fourth year and will receive \$18k from NSSA “ to support project coordinators to increase capacity for watershed restoration planning, geo-database, temperature and other data collection and management.”

. NSSA holding a workshop at the Inverary Inn on March 9th to review the progress of all the organizations involved in the Gulf Priority Rivers Project. Contact Tim if you're interested in attending.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer out of town , will have Report at the AGM

Please pay your membership if you haven't already done so, as we are trying to have everyone pay on a yearly basis in January.

Activities Report

. Salmon Dinner- October 5th, 2024 most probable date. Venue still undecided. The dinner committee will convene regarding these matters when Mr. Doucet is available.

. Fishing Derby - Rescheduled for June 4/5 weekend, pending availability of volunteers.

Let Tim know if you are interested. Permit needs to be applied for by March 31st.

. On Line Auction- Dave said he hopes to have auction some time in March, drawing primarily from within our own resources. He will keep us updated.

. Brood Stock Collection- Steve Thibodeau informed us that the collection of brood stock for 2023 will focus on the Waugh's River in Colchester county and the South River in

Antigonish county, angling being our first option. The West River, Antigonish County, will not be on the agenda.

. River Projects - Nick reported that Bruce and Bailey are working on the watershed restoration plan. They are also working in conjunction with Margaree, Mabou and Inverness Salmon associations on the Gulf Rivers Priority Project.

They are developing monitoring plans for the South and West Rivers, including surveys on Habitat conditions and temperature probes. This year, restoration will be coupled with electro fishing to determine the density of all juvenile species. This will include key spawning areas of the Brierly and the James. At the end of the year, a monitoring report will be made available to us . ARA is introducing more science and aligning monitoring with restoration. Three or four years of solid evidence to account for spending and restoration, along with our results, should position us well for receiving future funding.

. Online Web and Instagram - thanks to Bruce for keeping site updated. We now have an Instagram page as well. Bruce will be following up with NSSA (Brent) on producing a promo video for ARA. NSSA is keen on producing a video with us and would like our ideas on content for presentation asap. Cost sharing may be possible.

There will be a Swift Water Rescue course available May 18-19 in Waverley and there is an opening . This course is primarily targeting work crews. There is an on line component which must be completed first. Contact Nick if interested.

. Fly Tying- Very well attended with 12-14 people per week. Some new tiers, which is good to see. Dave motioned to buy six new tying kits when they go on sale. Seconded by Sandy, motion approved.

. Cameron Lake Project - completed, no further discussion. Insurance required.

. New business- Does ARA require a position on the proposed oyster farm in Antigonish Harbour? The subject was discussed and ARA will maintain a neutral position. It is not our privity but we maintain contact with NSSA and the Ecology action committee. Our mandate is restoration and preservation.

. Other- NSSA will be presenting a Wild Salmon Symposium on April 20th at the Agricultural college in Truro. The full agenda will be out soon for interested parties. Let Dave know and he will make sure you get on the list.

Also, on May 25th, NSSA will be presenting a film festival with eight films, one of which is Canadian. Event will be held at the Halifax Central Library from 7-10 p.m. Includes drinks, smoked salmon, raffles and door prizes. Tickets are \$35 and can be obtained on line from Show Flicks or from Brent at NSSA.

Some new hats will be ordered soon, brown colour.

Next meeting will be March 19 at 1 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 14:05