**O.F.A.H. AGM Alan Fennell Notes and His Comments March 16 to 18 2018**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Friday March 16, 2018 - 8:00 AM**

-call to order, conservation pledge, all of the Board of Directors (BOD) and podium staff introduced, and a minute of silence for anyone no longer with us;

-copies of the 2017 Annual Report and financials distributed

-President’s Report – Kerry Coleman

 -90th and there is a need for us **(Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters - O.F.A.H.)** to

be even stronger for today and the future; **MNRF** changes; passion in hunters, trappers and

fishers for protection of our resources; deer diseases and invasive species issues worked on;

no science re “species at risk”; we were successful at getting some concessions (not all we wanted) so what would the conservation/wildlife/wild places landscape look like if there had been no **O.F.A.H.?;** the death this year of Jim McGee was a great loss;

-Executive Director’s Report – Angelo Lombardo

-a busy year; reference the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan (membership’s reference document for

behaviour and decision making) daily; the big 2017 challenge was advertising and donation

funding for in response to the Outdoor Wholesaler Chapter 11 (bankruptcy) of Remington

everyone else cut back ad budget and giving; we are still financially sound; youth outdoors is

still our priority; the staff and Board of Directors (BOD) continue to be hard working and

dedicated;

-Fish and Wildlife Report – Matt DeMille

-lots of good work accomplished on fish, wildlife and their habitat; much back story that

people do not see (the huge amount of work not usually seen); we continue to work to

enable fish, wildlife and wild places protection and enhancement; since 2010 **O.F.A.H.** has

been the only voice of the 13 on the bait management issue committee advocating for

fishers so it is no wonder only some of our desires/opinions have been included; many other

topics worked on in 2017;

-Business Development & Corporate Messaging Report – Robert Pye

 -retention of members is the most important task to keep us strong even through issues such

as gun control, bait, etc.; we are about marketing; we must have membership retention to

stay alive; we are down 6,000 in number since our high of 2012; paperless membership and 3

year renewals is helping and we are trying automatic renewing;

-Zone/Member & Club Services Report – Brian McRae

-one goal of **O.F.A.H.** is club prospecting; new clubs added but still not enough; there is a

new gun bill coming ASAP; in 2017 **O.F.A.H.** advocated for hunters, trappers and fishers in 22

municipalities; our partners and their support have been very important for our ability to

continue to advocate;

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-Treasurer’s Report – Bill Blackwell

 -a number of handouts; with explanations and details discussed 2017 actual budget income

 and expenditures; major loss in advertising revenue so we had a loss in 2017; budget

includes a 1 1/2% cost of living increase and a dues increase and cautious projection on

lottery inflow; radio host retiring in 2018 and a 1 hour format not to be in 2018; changed

credit card venders which lowered our staff card charges; the need for a huge computer

hardware and software upgrade at head office in 2018; the youth and **Get Outdoors**

programs required more staff for the safety of participants (so costs of these programs were

higher); the higher cost of the **Invasive Species** program was due to the emergency work on

**“Water Soldier”** in the Trent River; the projected membership revenue includes dues

increase (most of this increase going to pay for the new Lyme Disease coverage); **O.F.A.H.**

labled merchandise kept at minimum inventory levels and often items are only carried in

season; Ontario Angler Awards has been changed to automated to reduce workload; Ontario

**Out of Doors Magazine (OOD)** changes of hotline now integrated and pushing digital to

reduce costs; 2017-2018 income will be the 100% recovery point of the solar panels

installation; line 59 (demolition of the river front property) was funded by donations;

-the 2018 budget was gone over;

 -motion to accept 2017 actual and 2018 budget; Seconded; Vote; Carried

-Resolutions Report – Debbie Rivard

 -motion by Debbie Rivard seconded by Bill Blackwell, “that the resolutions printed in issues

of the **OOD Hotline,** on the website and available at head office be accepted.”

Vote; carried;

-Advisory Committee Reports:

 -Agriculture : loss of Jim McGee; acknowledge that without agriculture sector support our job

would be much harder; much advocacy plus much not able to do due to lack of time;

agricultural land uses effects conservation; the new high speed train initiative in

Southwestern Ontario will affect the wildlife and habitat;

 -Big Game : much time spent on the new licensing system; 2018 will be status quo **(later in**

**the conference MNRF representatives told us that as of November 23, 2018 MNRF is stopping license sales till January 01, 2019);** 2019 starting changes with tags on regular paper and we are responsible to protect them from degradation; tag must be attached same as now or if the hunter with the harvested game can be carried by hunter; mandatory reporting even if do not hunt be phased in starting in 2020; hunters will be informed and fines if do not comply; apprentice hunters own tags (cannot enter any draws); moose WMUs changes re adult tags; all moose aerial surveys that were scheduled were flown this year; in 2018 **MNRF** will continue with the barbwire hair traps for black bear; Algonquin wolf still in flux;

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**-Advisory Committee Reports: continued**

 -Firearms, Bows and Muzzleloaders : Greg Farrant retired; if you let **PAL** expire only have the

six month amnesty to March; hunter training; Liberals platform on firearms still negative; hunter education changes (online in 2019); outdoor card changes in 2019 will cause you to have to carry your PAL at all times while have firearms with you; trying to be sure the online hunter education will keep equivalence with interprovincial and international standards; did CFO and clubs advocacy; continue to work on the inconsistency on ammo/loading rules for transport of muzzleloaders;

 -Fisheries : worked on FMZ meetings, changes, committees in regards to use, issues and

councils;

 -Land Use and Access : public lands, forestry roads and forestry management plans;

 -Native Affairs : no information from the held Algonquin land claim open houses; this was the

first time the Algonquins published harvest numbers; some activity on resource use (hunting and fishing); seeing some traction on natives controlling natives (conservation and

protection);

 -Past Presidents : reviewing the constitution and bylaws; this is taking a large amount of

time; dealing with Provincial Directors At Large;

 -Small Game, Migratory Birds and Wetlands : after a decade of lobbying there are some

changes; some of the changes are good and some of the changes are bad;

 -Sporting Dogs : still working on the GPS tracking collar issue; December 2017 new **MNRF**

rules, tracking dogs new rules; working on having conservation areas open for training

 and trials;

-Old/New Business : none

-Appointment of Auditors : motion to have Grant Thornton (was McColl Turner) for the **O.F.A.H.**

2018 auditors; Seconded; Vote; carried;

-motion from the floor to accept all actions of the staff, members, volunteers and directors in the

last twelve (12) months; Seconded; Vote; Carried

-O.F.A.H. / Jack O’Dette Conservation Leadership Award : Kerry Coleman

-adjourn at 9:50AM

COFFEE BREAK

9:45 AM **-Opening Remarks and welcome : Kerry Coleman, O.F.A.H. President**

10:00 AM -**Nathalie Des Rosiers Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF)**

 -MPP since 2013 (noted that she is fluent bilingual) and was on the environment review board for many years; feels **MNRF** represents our land as we have much; must remember history when making decisions; we have good partnership (with **O.F.A.H.**) and

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- **Nathalie Des Rosiers Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) continued**

want to continue it; conservation work needs to continue; **MNRF** wants youth more into outdoor use; congratulations on 25 years fight on invasive species; learn to fish program and Tackleshare very important (new immigrants); Ontario Hunter Education Program is important (safety and teaching) good for youth and tourism (a growing industry); enhanced wild turkey hunting – setting a standard opening day; for the youth need modernization of licensing; stewardship programs to encourage conservation work;

 **-Questions & Answers**

11:15 AM **MNRF** Junior Conservation Award

Barrie District Hunters & Anglers Conservation Club Youth Program

 **O.F.A.H**. Conservation Officer of the Year Award Tim Rochette

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM **Moose Management in Ontario Panel Discussion** **Legend**

-moderated by Mark Ryckman, O.F.A.H. Manager of Policy……… MR

-Dr. Vince Crichton, Wildlife Consultant…………………………..……….. VC

-Dave Pearce, Forest Conservation, Wildlands League……………… DP

-Pierre Pellier, Regional Chief, Robinson Superior treaty Area….. PP

-Tom Ratz, Forestry Manager Ontario, Resolute Forest Products TR

 -MR commented, “…ask hard questions. I think we can all agree we want to continue hunting.”;

 -MR summarized some of the information from the **MNRF** minister’s presentation:

 -the MNRF graph claims 2000 to 2017 moose from 195,000 to 92,550

 -in Fall 2015 **MNRF** made a 2 week calf season

 -in Fall 2016 **MNRF** made a delayed season by 1 week

 -in Fall 2017 **MNRF** made a southern season the same as northern calf season

 -**MNRF** still has areas of concern

 -mandatory reporting by nonindigenous hunters now

 -MR said we will look at specific actions to make moose habitat; draw system redevelopment /

changes / modifications; many factors effect populations and some of these we have

 no ability to change or modify; board members were introduced (see above);

 -**Forestry versus Fire** –TR said this is really controlled or uncontrolled renewal (see Alberta

wildfires as negative); forestry getting better at mimicking nature; the others then spoke to the issue; felt could be/is a catastrophe somewhat due to controlled fires due to undergrowth left;

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**Moose Management in Ontario Panel Discussion continued**

 -**Impact of Aerial Herbicides** –effects browse and animals; what is the legislation controlling this;

TR stated forestry industry only harvests 0.5% of the forests and 2/3 rds of this area

herbicides are **not** applied; they have to resurrect what was there before harvest (if

hardwoods then back to hardwoods); TR said his industry shows animals return in 2 years (there was some dispute over this animal return timeline); panel felt moose decline is very in step with hardwood harvest decline; 2 of the panel want zero herbicides;

 -**Forest Access Roads** –panel stated that governments help pay to put them in; fishers, hunters &

recreational users start to depend on these roads; panel discussed “should we ban hunting in new harvest areas (forestry)”; panel felt yes, for a fixed period of time or no was the right answer; some of the board felt we need to decommission roads; forestry plan includes road decommissioning so public input is key; need regulations (time limits to use for hunting) or limits to roads (use ban); limits to roads options are decommission, close for season(s) or control what use is allowed; some of panel felt no matter what you do you cannot stop all the people if they are determined;

 -**Is There a Greater need for Indigenous Perspectives in Moose Management** –panel discussed

that there is an opportunity for collaboration; the panel felt yes but team not **MNRF** telling; panel felt moose management needs co-management; some of the panel felt that government makes this hard;

 -**How do you Balance SAR Caribou with Moose & Deer Management** –panel felt most areas

moose and deer are hunted there are no caribou; the areas of caribou have low numbers (if any) moose and deer populations; PP very upset that **MNRF** are flying caribou into moose zones; the panel felt the “Species At Risk Act” is a problem; the “Species At Risk Act” is in conflict with other legislation;

 -**Calf Hunting** –ban/limit to calf hunting is what the panel want; also PP stated that the some of

the indigenous want cow hunting reduced/banned;

 -**Conservation Closures** –to protect small herd populations do we “close” the WMUs with low

numbers; some of the panel want “time controlled” wolf hunt(s) for indigenous people; panel want conservation closures of some WMUs;

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**Moose Management in Ontario Panel Discussion continued**

 -**Does Predator Control Have a Role in Moose Management** –some of the panel say yes some say

no; the noes felt little impact because you have to kill too many of the species to have an effect on the landscape; PP said “…the spring bear hunt helped moose.” He also felt that the cost of wolf tags causes less hunting of wolves.”;

 **Questions & Answers**

COFFEE BREAK

2:45 PM **-Year in Review – Angelo Lombardo**

 -unfortunately can only give just a snapshot of what staff, clubs, volunteers and the

Board of Directors (BOD) worked on over 2017; please see the annual report available at the

back of the room, look on the website, call us, or even talk to us here at the conference; in

2017 it was 20 years of “Tackleshare”; in 2017 it was 25 years of “Invasive Species”; NASP is

an extra benefit to some kids changing from hating school; social media is exploding (see

#HERITAGEDAY and #CAMODAY for examples); 2015 was 35,000 / 2016 was 250,000 / and

2017 was 500,000;

3:30 PM -Bruno Vanden Berghe / **O.F.A.H.** Conservation Lottery Award

 -Sudbury Game & Fish Protective Association -438 books sold

 -Windsor Sportsmen’s Trophy

 -Halton Sportsmen’s Association…………………. -416 books sold

 -Bob Pope Memorial Award

 -Zone “H”

4:00 PM Adjourn

**Saturday March 17, 2018 - 7:00 AM**

-the Board of Directors (BOD) met for working breakfast;

8:00 AM **-Invasive Species Awareness Program (ISAP)**

 **-Sophie Monfette, O.F.A.H. ISAP Coordinator**

-short synopsis of the ISAP 25 year history; forms to work on prevention and monitoring; started with aquatic (Zebra Mussels); continued with work on Water Soldier, Asian Carp, Phragmites, Dog Strangling Vine, etc.; Phragmites has become problem that is moving North in the province; grows quick, early (in Spring), grows in any water and crowds out natives; it is becoming a driver vision problem at intersections due to growing in ditches;

 many and new ones all the time; on Water Soldier we are doing public and private

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 **-Invasive Species Awareness Program (ISAP) continued**

population removal by manual, mechanical and herbicide; ISAP started in 1992 and the

landscape has changed including new tools and new partners; the sighting information can

be obtained from ISAP and there is an “app **EDDMapS**” to report any sightings ASAP;

8:45 AM **-Indigenous harvesting Rights, Relationships and the Path Forward**

 **-Matt DeMille, O.F.A.H. Manager, Fish & Wildlife Services**

 -he talked to some indigenous people about rights, relationships, conservation; the

first contact was fur trade relationship (resource and trade); there are 46 treaties and 50 land

claims in Ontario as of 2018; section 35 of the Constitution Act speaks to their right to

harvest; the Sparrow test was for crown infringement of this blanket right; Howard and

Howard II clarified that the Crown is responsible to manage the resource and conservation is

paramount; conflict of the Williams treaty versus harvest rights;

-in the last 5 years has been active in the courts to get clarity on government decisions; **O.F.A.H**. is involved / interested because we are holding government accountable to their decision making, sustainability management, priorities, recognize indigenous/nonindigenous harvest, conservation, and enhancement of the fish & wildlife; section 35 has that no one is immune from government regulation and a decision by the Crown; Crown is required to define conservation and manage for all; there is recognition of “other” use (nonindigenous recreational and commercial use); conservation is paramount (all harvesting must be sustainable) and a collective responsibility; media and indigenous perceive **O.F.A.H.** not serious about wild place and wildlife management/conservation for they say we are just using the “conservation” banner to be racist;

COFFEE BREAK

9:45 AM **Cooking Wild Game -Andrew Rochon, Chef, Food Editor OOD Magazine**

 -made Venison Chili; nice because only use one pot;

 -made Walleye Granddad – smoked (potato casserole);

10:30 AM **-How Deer Respond to the Actions of Hunters and Landowners**

 **-Keith Munro, O.F.A.H. Wildlife Biologist**

 -have been doing white tail deer research for over a decade; using hunters to

 manage deer location is getting some traction; there is now some thought of using hunters

to reduce deer/human interaction (vehicle collisions or crop damage); he sent 3,500 surveys

to landowners with a minimum of 5 hectares of land; noted that non-hunted properties were

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**-How Deer Respond to the Actions of Hunters and Landowners continued**

smaller parcels; live trapped and GPS collared deer to collect travel history, time of day

activity and location duration; used two locations and placed many trail cams; placed all

hunting in 2 categories, dogging or hunting (any type using dogs / or any type with no dog

assistance) dogs exponentially increase land use when hunting; dogging or hunting drives

deer to nocturnal activity; hunting makes deer have more vigilant activity which reduces

feeding time activity; the human and our activity is the biggest action/entity to effect deer

actions;

LUNCH BREAK

12:45 PM **-New Licencing Service -What Anglers and Hunters Need To Know**

 **-Ryan Large, Manager, Licencing Automation Renewal Project, MNRF**

 **-and Jamie Stewart, Coordinator, Wildlife Program Unit, MNRF**

 **-Jamie Stewart:** regulation changes as of January 01, 2019; outdoors cards down to

one card (no longer will the card be different depending what you are doing (apprentice,

fishing, hunting, etc.); technology in the software and on the card will allow/deny purchase

of tags; must carry your PAL when you are transporting or hunting with falconry, any type of

gun or bow; this change will be on your current card renewal date or any new card after

January 01,2019; your current outdoors card is valid until your personal renewal date;

 -you will now have to have a computer and printer and/or an electronic device a CO

can scan/verify your license/tag in the field; you have to setup a distinct password; licences

and tags will be totally different; all licences you have qualified for will be on one piece of

paper/document called “a summary”; you must print this piece of paper/document yourself;

you must have this document on you at all times; all tags purchased will be also on this piece

of paper/document; every time you purchase a new licence (license to hunt deer in 2019 for

example) this piece of paper/document will change and reflect this update; you must print

this updated piece of paper/document and carry this new one that makes your prior piece of

paper/document “VOID”;

 -the tags will be totally different; each tag will carry detailed information on what it is

valid for and where (which WMUs); on each tag will be an Electronic Product Code –Radio

Frequency Identification (EPC-RFID) for MNRF confirmation even in the field (COs will have

readers); the same notch rules will apply; the tags will be printed on normal paper; there has

been concern about tag durability; the tag must be attached to the harvested animal (there

are commercially available plastic tag holders) or the tag and hunter must always be with the

animal; there is software (document security) in the document to prevent fraud by

photocopying; be sure your computer has its printer on-line plus the printer has paper and

ink - - you will only get ONE (01) chance to print your tag;

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**-New Licencing Service -What Anglers and Hunters Need To Know continued**

 -this also institutes mandatory hunter reporting; if you purchase/get a tag you must

complete that hunting activity report even if you did not hunt; you will receive confirmation

that you have completed and submitted your report; new hunters will have new

opportunities; apprentice hunters must now purchase their own outdoors card; they must

purchase their own licenses/tags; apprentice hunters cannot enter draws;

 **-Ryan Large:** the new system is on the MNRF website; more enhanced software;

because this is a new system no sales after November 22, 2018; **as of November 23, 2018**

**MNRF is stopping license sales till January 01, 2019;** there will be only one card for all

anglers and hunters; you will have the ability to download to a device; a new summary every

time you make a change (purchase a license/tag, change address, change personal data,

etc.); you must carry the most current version with you; MNRF moving to now need a

username and password; to create initially, your username and password, you will need to

use your outdoor card number and some other information; you can update personal data

and print a new summary unlimited times;

-there is provision for you to put in your email address; tags will be about 2 1/2 inches by 4 inches (6.35 cms by 10.16 cms); tag bags are commercially available; you can print tags yourself or for now go to one of the service providers **(AWF comments: I am not sure how long this will be available. I feel not very long as it is more expensive.)**; it is up to us to get/print tag; the software has provision for you to purchase multiple licenses and/or tags at one time; there is provision for your email address to request reminders and/or when your tag(s) are ready for you to print; Ryan reminded us “be sure your computer has its printer on-line plus the printer has paper and ink - - you will only get ONE (01) chance to print your tag”;

-this system will provide better reporting both up and down (to **MNRF** and feedback to license/tag purchasers); website is **ontario.ca**; the website will have hotlinks to the top topics; **MNRF** trying to move to a simpler, online customer experience; group tag applications process will be the same; the group leader will still need the individuals’ outdoors card numbers;

1:30 PM **-Genetics of Ontario Sandhill Crane Population**

**-Crystal Kelly, MSc. Candidate, Trent University, 2016 O.F.A.H./Dave**

**Ankney/Sandi Johnson Award for Avian Ecology Recipient,**

 -the Sandhill is the most popular of all the cranes; most abundant and the oldest

crane species; the populations have exploded (from 2004 to 2017 more than 300%);

scientific models did not capture the Ontario birds genetics accurately; so she travelled into

the flyways, nesting sites, and wintering sites to collect individual feathers; using the blood

on the roots of these lost feathers she did her genetics data collection; science

shows/demonstrates we must look at the Sandhill Crane as one “continental” population;

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2:15 PM **-Aquatic Algonquin Park: A History & Future for Sustaining an**

**Angler’s Dream Landscape**

**-Dr. Mark Ridgway, Research Scientist, Aquatic Research &**

**Monitoring Section, MNRF**

 -he spent 28 years on Lake Opeongo in Algonquin Park; his career has been on the

water; he made a joke with a couple of slides showing Algonquin Park with the “green”

(land) removed saying “…this blue is my Algonquin Park.”; lots of large Brook Trout

throughout the Park; many primary streams, creeks, rivers and lakes in the Park; major

reason many waters do not have aquatic invasive species is the “Boat Wash” program; the

Park has 440 lakes with Brook trout; he stated that there is a temperature change – warming;

the Park reflects the planet average warming of 1 to 2 degrees Celsius; aquatic Algonquin

Park is an angler’s dream landscape; low angler pressure; the Park has numerous access points; we are all responsible to protect this Park and its landscape;

3:00 PM -Adjourn