

Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters
Zone F
Annual General Meeting
Perth Legion and Zoom
Meeting Minutes
14 December 2023, at 6:00 pm

Call to Order:

Kerry called the meeting to Order at 6:00 pm.

Conservation Pledge:

The Conservation Pledge was recited by all those present.

Introductions by members present.

Members present introduced themselves for attendance.

Chair's Report:

Kerry Coleman delivered the chairs report, covering some of the highlights of Zone activities of the past couple of months.

Kerry mentioned the Zone's web page and we are always looking for new content in terms of stories, pictures, or accomplishments. If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding hunting, fishing, access, or Zone activities don't hesitate to contact a zone executive.

We are also looking to reach out to more clubs in the new year to hear about concerns and activities.

He also mentioned, we are always looking for volunteers to help with the zone activities and projects.

Kerry mentioned the OFAH is going through a reorganization. One thing that has changed temporarily is funding conservation projects. A club or individuals can still apply for funding to the zone. We will still review the project. When we are satisfied the project qualifies for funding, we will forward your request to head office for final approval. Head office will issue the cheques for approved projects. We always encourage clubs to submit requests for conservation projects. Conservation was a primary reason the OFAH was formed in 1938 and still a big reason why we exist today.

Acceptance Vote:

Acceptance of the Chairs Report was moved by Bob Emery, 2nd by Merrill Elliot.
CARRIED.

Secretary/Treasurer's Reports:

Minutes of General Meeting: October 12, 2023.

The minutes of the Zone General Meeting of October 12, 2023, was presented.
There were no questions or business arising from the minutes.

Acceptance of the minutes was moved by Ed Giffin, 2nd by Brandon Ross.
CARRIED.

Financial Report:

Ben reported the zone continues to be in a good financial position. Outstanding commitments relate to the payment for the AGM meeting and our storage locker. Ben also provided a brief update on the financial implications of the reorganization. Namely all expenditures will be controlled by head office and all accounts will have to be returned to Head Office to consolidate in a general fund.

There was several questions and discussions on this issue. Consensus was members were concerned about this action. They did not like the removal of local interest and input into project funding decisions and did not like the fact our sound financial management will be lost to Head Office activities.

Acceptance of the Financial Report was moved by Melissa Dakers, 2nd by Jim Tye. CARRIED.

Correspondence

There was no Zone correspondence to present.

Informal Supper Break:

There was an informal Supper Break for an informal pizza break.

Advisory Committee Reports: (all committee reports are posted on the Zone Website)

Agriculture Liaison Committee - Kerry Coleman.

CWD:

Kerry noted they had a meeting on October 23rd, covered many topics one of them being CWD. Kerry outlined the different variants of CWD, (scrappies, Mad Cow, BSE, etc.), It is present in Alberta, Saskatchewan, western Manitoba, it was present in Quebec in one instance. MNRF is monitoring southwestern Ontario and other units. They require the head of an animal to test for the disease. It is very resistant to any combat efforts. It takes time to test, but health officials are recommending not eating an infected deer.

Wildlife Agricultural Conflict Group:

This group discusses several issues such as livestock predation losses. Avian Influenza and some research being conducted to deal with this issue. The ministry is urging hunters to exercise caution and protection efforts when cleaning birds. They also discussed Wild Pigs; it is now illegal to have Wild pigs in your possession. MNR has a special group that responds to capture entire sounders. This is a significant concern in Western Canada and southern United States.

Big Game – Kerry Coleman delivered the report for Donn MacMillan

Moose:

Kerry provided some background on the moose aerial survey activities. MNRF is making plans for this winters program. Zone 65 is not on the list. He also mentioned the continued concern over unclaimed tags. Tags are distributed in the 1st draw or 2nd draw, but some are tags are not claimed, i.e.: remote unit, calf tags. However, it depends very much on where or what type of moose the tags are for. Some consideration is being given that if an unclaimed tag is accepted that would not mean you would lose your points, but no decisions have been made.

CWD and EHD:

Kerry mentioned that Manitoba has introduced mandatory testing for all deer in the western portion of the province to test for CWD. EHD is another fatal disease for ungulates (mainly deer). There were a couple of cases reported around Kingston a couple of years ago, but no new cases have been reported. MNRF is encouraging people to report sick animals.

Controlled Deer Hunts:

OFAH has been asking for a review of this program, as it affects mainly southern Ontario units and units around Toronto. This is in an effort to control hunter numbers to reduce conflicts.

Firearms – Ed Giffin

Update on Court Appeal on Bill C-21

The CCFR along with other Gun rights groups have launched an appeal of the court decision of October 30, where federal judge ruled the Federal Government's did not exceed its authority or abuse the process by which it implemented Bill C-21. Bill C-21 was the bill to outlaw the possession of pistols and "assault style" firearms and allow for their confiscation. The issue of concern was the amnesty and buy back provisions were to expire on October 30th and no viable program has been established or implemented putting owners in a precarious legal situation.

Implementation of Bill C-21

Other parts of bill C-21 are still before the Senate and deal with prohibiting semi-automatic centrefire firearms which hold more than 6 rounds. This also allows an evergreening option of prohibiting other firearms without parliamentary approval.

Comments on Bill C-21:

Most representatives to the committee that dealt with the bill either opposed the bill or suggested significant amendments be made to the bill in order to improve the bill, but all were rejected by the government representatives. There was no meaningful consultation or consideration of the representative's input by the government. The general representation was that the bill will have no meaningful effect on firearms crime in Canada, either ghost guns, smuggled firearms, or firearm trafficking. Instead, it focuses entirely on the continued restriction and vilification of legal firearms owners engaged in legal hunting or shooting activities. The Fraser Institute estimated the cost of the buy back will cost between 2.6 and 6.7 billion dollars.

Fisheries - Merrill Elliott.

Merrill indicated there was not a whole lot to report as several of the zones have not met recently.

Jade Perch aquaculture:

Merrial noted the FAC made a comment against the proposal to allow Jade Perch as an allowed species for aquaculture. They are present in Australia and can be a very invasive species if established in the wild.

Gravel Point Development: Palmerston Lake

Adam Weir from Head Office sent a letter to MNRF about the Palmerston Lake Cottages association regarding concerns about a development at Gravel Point. The FAC sent a letter to North Frontenac Council stating deficiencies in the appraisal of the application with respect to fish habitat and impacts on the environment. To date there has been no response by the township to the committee's concerns.

Fish Sanctuaries on Opinicon Lake and Charleston Lake:

The proposed fishing sanctuaries on these two lakes will go into effect this year. This information is posted in the new fishing regulations that are now available on the Ministry website. The restrictions will be seasonal and in place for a 2-year period. They are meant to protect bass during their vulnerable nesting season. Results will be studied by researchers from Carleton and Queen's universities. It stems from research findings undertaken during Covid that showed significant increases in Bass survival when they were not removed from their nests by angling pressure. A funding request from Dr. Cooke has been submitted to the Zone to help support this research to ensure the sanctuaries are located in the right spot.

Indigenous Relations Committee:

Ed reported that this not been active for some time. There is no new information outside of the creation of the White Duck Provincial Park. There was previous information regarding compensation. The AIP back in 2012 determined 300 million as settlement amount. Some recent court settlements with respect to Land claims have well exceeded this amount. Most settlements are now reaching into the billion-dollar mark and expanding their rights in terms of water rights.

Land Use/ Trails/ Access - Bob Emery.

Bob presented a report on the Trout Lake Forestry project and the effects of the new Caribou Management Strategy.

Woodland Caribou:

Woodland Caribou are native to Northern Ontario; however, they are listed as threatened due to habitat disturbances caused by forestry operations, fire, habitat loss and road access. There are 12 distinct ranges across the northern portion of the province.

The management policy determines roads should be decommissioned as soon as they complete their function (i.e.: once forestry extraction is completed) most decommission is done passively although some are completed through active deconstruction efforts (bridge, culvert removal).

This policy pits business and social uses such as recreational users who desire roads and road access with the caribou who are sensitive to pressures related to roads.

There are recognized knowledge gaps with the Caribou management. How accurate are the population estimates, what are the issues regarding predator / prey relationships, what is the relationship with moose and how do the two species interact on altered landscapes. What will the impact of lessened pulpwood demand have on caribou habitat.

New version of Environmental Impact Assessment:

There is a new version of the Environmental Impact Assessment Policy which aids in the implementation of Provincial Parks and Conservation reserves. The new policy removes many of the requirements for project evaluations regarding campground enlargements or buildings under 400 square feet. The new policy also substantially increases ministerial powers.

Borel Forest Medieval Villages:

Several communal type communities have been appearing across northern Ontario on Crown land around Kirkland Lake, Swan Lake, and Long Lake. Officially these are unorganized townships, however concern is raised about water supply, sanitation, and environmental damage. This issue is being looked at by the Northern Ontario Municipalities.

Canadian Wetland Roundtable:

This is a multi-stakeholder partnership industry, government, and conservation groups, to improve the management of Canada's wetlands, Chaired by Ducks Unlimited, and the Peat Moss Association. OFAH has been invited to contribute to comments on developing a National Wetlands Policy

Prince Edward Point and Monarch Point:

South Shore Joint Initiative is a local NGO aiming to protect the south shore of PEC by restricting "undesirable activities", such as hunting access to PEC and Monarch Point. A management committee is being formed to manage Monarch Point Conservation Reserve, OFAH will seek representation on the committee.

Pretty River Provincial Park

There was concern over the elimination of roadside parking within the park that will eliminate access to the river for fishing. Park Staff have contacted OFAH to assure them the closure was safety relate and a separate parking area is being renovated to serve the community.

Comments to the Environmental Registry (ERO)

Bob reported the Committee made a number of comments on files to the ERO, on legislative issues ranging from Black Ash protection, floating accommodations, Lanark County pits, and Provincial Planning Statement.

Small Game - Kerry Coleman.

Small Game Management and Decision Making:

The committee heard a presentation from Steven Mills, Acting Manager of the Wildlife Section and Dr. Hubert Patrick Chief Biologist, Wildlife Section. They outlined the framework that guides the formulation policy for small game species. They also discussed, the shortened snowshoe hare season and the impact on the Northern Ontario communities. The problem is MNRF have not shown any interest in implementing any of the framework.

The committee also discussed the presence of Wild Turkey's on Manitoulin Island and the possibility of establishing a season. MNRF were reluctant to start a season as the birds were unsanctioned releases. They don't want to reward those efforts that might encourage other such releases.

Tundra Swans:

Policy staff along with Delta Waterfowl sent a letter to CWS asking them to consider the possibility of a Tundra Swan season in Ontario. The committee does not view this as a high priority as Tundra Swans frequent areas used by birders and other wildlife viewers. They are also very difficult to distinguish from Trumpeter Swans and mute swans. The cost of advocating for such an iconic species is not worth the benefit that would be accrued.

Duck Stamps:

CWS will be looking at increasing the cost of Duck Stamps, but this is still pending, and it is unsure what the amount would be and when it would be implemented.

Black Ducks:

Black Duck limits will be increased to 6 per day for next season, except in Units 88 and 85 where it will remain 3.

Delta Waterfowl Partnership:

This has been discussed informally but there is no formal agreement presented. The two groups work closely together on many issues with a common cause and will continue to do so. The committee reiterated any work with other agencies needs to meet OFAH goals and benefit our members.

Avian Influenza Update:

There has been a significant drop in infections being reported this year, but Kerry mentioned the disease can be spread to mammals so people should watch their dogs when retrieving birds as well as humans should be careful when cleaning or handling their harvest.

Sporting Dogs - Kerry Coleman.

Conservation Authorities Land for Dog Training:

The sporting dogs committee have formed a special committee to advance this topic and engage with CA's Board of Directors and Conservation Authority Ontario to allow use of their lands for sporting dog/retriever trials on their lands.

Train and Trial Areas:

The Ontario government recently passed new legislation to allow the construction of new Train and Trial areas and to allow the transfer of existing licenses to new owners. A 90-day period for new applications will be opened sometime in early 2024.

Big Game Blood Trackers:

The current regulations only allow tracking wounded big game animals with a trained dog on a leash during legal shooting hours. Blood Game Trackers are working with the Sporting Dog Committee to adjust the wording to allow tracking after dark. The adjusted wording was presented to the Big Game Advisory Committee and approved by the OFAH Board of Directors on September 7, 2023. Wording will be reviewed by OFAH staff and then presented to MNR for consideration.

Eastern Ontario Deer Advisory - Kerry Coleman.

There was no report provided.

Eastern Ontario Youth Hunt Collaborative. Kerry Coleman

This has been running several years it will proceed again this year, they are looking for more candidates for this year. They help kids get their hunter education and firearms certification. They get an upland hunt, a waterfowl hunt, and a trapping day.

A motion to accept all the committee reports was moved by:
Bob Emery, 2nd by Bruce Hutchinson. CARRIED.

Club Reports:

Lanark Fish and Game Conservation Club: Jim Tye

Bottle Lake Road Access: This file is on hold at the County for now.

Expansion of the Cavanagh Gravel Pit at MacDonald's Coners.

They are very concerned about the expansion of the Gravel Pits in the Macdonald's Corners areas with pits proposed to go below the water line, the high presence of uranium in the area the Long Sault Brooke Trout habitat in the area. Letters of opposition to the proposal have been circulated.

Watershed Canada: Melissa Dakers

Melissa outlined Watershed Canada's latest project to improve Walleye Spawning habitat with the Big Clear Lake. They aim to place several loads of gravel on the ice this winter to have it deposited during spring melt. They have presented an RFF to the Zone for funding assistance with this project. The group provided some helpful hints on getting the gravel to the site.

West Carleton Fish and Game Club: Warren Backler

Warren reported on his clubs' activities to help introduce young people to the shooting sports and provide training to improve their marksmanship.

Wayne Stephenson provided a report on his club's experience in dealing with the city and access to their private property in Marlborough Forest and the restrictions on ATV access to the forest.

Old Business

Plot Mule Status:

Kerry gave an update on the issue of the Plot Mules. The zone has 6 units, hosted around the zone and available for members to use. They designed to be pulled behind an ATV to disk land to prepare a food plot. The units are quite old and in need of repair or replacement. We are currently investigating new models as replacements. This will need to be clarified with Head Office considering the administrative changes.

Elections of Officers for 2024:

Ed Giffin came forward to act in the position of Election Manager.

Election of the Chair:

Ed called for nominations for the position of Zone Chair. Kerry Coleman was put forward on a nomination by Bob Emery seconded by Melissa Dakers.

Ed asked three times for additional nominations there were none.

Kerry Coleman was acclaimed to the post of Zone Chair.

Election of 1st Vice-Chair (Director)

Ed called for nominations for the position of 1st Vice-Chair (Director)

Merrill Elliot was put forward on a nomination by Ben Storey seconded by Jim Tye. Ed asked three times for additional nominations there were none.

Merrill was acclaimed to the post of 1st Vice-Chair (Director).

Election of 2nd Vice-Chair (Alternate Director)

Ed called for nominations for the post of 2nd Vice-Chair (Alternate Director).

Radiq Tallim was put forward on a nomination by Merrill Elliot, seconded Kerry Coleman. Ed asked three times for additional nominations there were none.

Radiq Tallim was acclaimed to the post of 2nd Vice-Chair.

Election of 3rd Director:

Ed called for nominations for the post of Director. Bob Emery's name was put forward on a nomination by Ben Storey, seconded by Brandon Ross.

Ed asked three times for additional nominations there were none.

Bob Emery was acclaimed to the post of Director.

Election of Secretary Treasurer:

Ed called for nominations for the post of Secretary/Treasurer. Ben Storey's

name was put forward on a nomination by Bob Emery, seconded by Bruce

Hutchings. Ed asked three times for additional nominations there were none.

Ben Storey was acclaimed to the post of Secretary / Treasurer.

Motion to destroy the ballots:

There were no ballots to destroy.

Zone F Executive for 2024:

Kerry thanked Ed for his services as Election Manager. The Zone F Executive for 2024 is comprised of:

Zone Chair:	Kerry Coleman
1 st Vice-Chair	Merrill Elliot
2 nd Vice Chair	Radiq Tallim
Director:	Bob Emery
Secretary Treasurer:	Ben Storey

New Business:

Suggestions on how to make On-Line Meetings better:

Kerry asked those who are attending on-line if they could provide suggestions on how we can improve the on-line experience. Kerry suggested we need to acquire a mike for the middle of the room easier to hear others. Please drop us an e-mail with other suggestions.

Secretary/Treasurer Honorarium:

The secretary/treasurer's Honorarium as agreed to be the same as last year.

A motion to accept the secretary/treasurer's honorarium was moved by: Bob Emery, 2nd by Jim Tye. CARRIED.

Appointment of Auditors:

The secretary was directed to engage an auditor for the 2023 accounts, subject to direction from head office.

A motion to direct the secretary/ treasurer to engage an audit of the 2023 accounts was moved by: Bob Emery, 2nd by Merrill Elliott. CARRIED.

Request for Funding

Ben reported that we had a banner year for requests for funding with 11 RFF requests.

- i. RFF 2021-01: Tri – County Water Festival: They had a very successful festival)
- ii. RFF 2023-02: Grenville Fish and Game (They have not received their new pontoon boat as of yet.
- iii. RFF 2023-03: Eastern Ontario Youth Hunt: We are still awaiting the report on this activity.
- iv. RFF 2023-04: Peter Larmand Fishing Tournament. They had a very successful fishing tournament.
- v. RFF 2023-05: Glengarry Fish and Game Fishing Tournament. They also had a very successful fishing tournament and sent in a thank you card.
- vi. RFF 2023-06: Dog and Cranberry Lake. We received a report from them for their signage efforts on the Bass Sanctuary.
- vii. RFF 2023-07: University of Western Ontario Mourning Dove Research. This research utilizes isotopes to track data on Morning Doves, this is an on-going research project.
- viii. RFF 2023-08: Canucks Wildlife Service: on-hold
- ix. RFF 2023-09: Delta Waterfowl, they hosted a very successful youth hunt activity.
- x. RFF 2023-10: Watershed Canada: requested \$9,450 for a Walleye Restoration project, this is currently on-hold.
- xi. RFF 2023-11: NSASP Schools: request \$1,000, this is currently on hold.
- xii. RFF 2023-12: Dr. Steve Cooke Bass Sanctuary Research.

Ben outlined that given the reorganization of the organization all funding expenditures have been placed on hold by Head Office. A new process has been developed where funding request will be sent to Head Office and the Community Conservation Fund. Jim Tye asked if the Zone still get to vote on the Requests. Kerry indicated he would prefer if the Zone looked at them first to screen them for eligibility and then vote to recommend the funding, but not the zone would not get the final vote.

Based on discussion the members requested to hear about the outstanding RFFs to vote on recommending them to head office.

Ben presented the details of the RFF 2023-12 and the Bass Sanctuary Research request. The research proposal qualifies under our criteria for funding. The request is looking for \$12,000 over 2 years for funding this request. The group then had an opportunity to ask questions related to the request.

Questions centred on:

1. When do we have to give a decision, Dr. Cooke was looking for an answer by January so he could use this funding to leverage other funding sources.
2. How much does this request measure against other RFF requests. Ben indicated we usually spend about \$10,000 for all funding requests in a year. So, an ask of \$12,000 was significantly the largest we have had. We have the funds.
3. Bruce raised the question why MNRF doesn't do more in terms of science and management of resources. This project is something they should be doing.
4. Ed raised the issue that by centralizing the approval in Head Office that would remove the Zone's responsibility in approving this funding.
5. Ben raised the issue that Watershed Canada also had viable funding request for significant funds that we had also put on hold. Kerry indicated that there were concerns about it in terms of some of the expenditures being included in the request. (i.e.: staff salaries), not so much the rock or volunteer time.
6. Bob raised the issue of public access on Opinicon Lake, as public access is a key element for funding projects. The only public access to the lake is through the Rideau Canal launch sites. Kerry indicated that this is more for a research project that could be applied to other lakes, so the limitations on public access should not discount this project from consideration.

Kerry summarized the discussion that it is a worthwhile project, and the question is do we support the full amount or a lesser amount. We would support the project through a letter of recommendation and justification for this support.

Ed Giffin proposed a motion to recommend to Head Office to provide \$6,000 to support the cost of acquiring the telemetry trackers that would be used to identify the spawning areas as proposed by RFF 2023-12.

The motion was seconded by Jim Tye.

The motion was carried.

RFF 2023-10 Watershed's Canada Walleye Spawning Bed restoration.

The meeting then turned their attention to discussion regarding this RFF, to expand the spawning shoal on Big Clear Lake. The discussion on the proposal indicated the project is good. Typically, the zone would help with costs of the materials. There was some discussion on the cost of materials. If more information on the division of costs the group would recommend this project.

Other Business:

The Door Prizes were then distributed via random tickets draw.

Upcoming meetings in 2024.

Kerry mentioned the following proposed meeting schedule:

- Thursday March 7th, 2024, at 6 pm
- Thursday June 6th, 2024, at 6 pm.
- Thursday September 19th, 2024, at 6:00 pm
- Thursday December 12th, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjournment was raised by Merrill Elliott at 9:35 pm.

Ben Storey, Secretary

Date

Kerry Coleman Chair

Attendance:

Present: Kerry Coleman, Bob Emery, Merrill Elliot, Ben Storey, Ed Giffin, Jim Tye, John Palmer, Steven F. Base, James Lariviere, Jason Quinn. James Hay, Wayne Davidson, Art Ferguson, James Riva, Blake Rankin, Steve Rankin, Melissa Dakers, Warren Backler, Brandon Ross, Bruce Hutchings, Wayne Stephenson

On-Line: Dan VanExan,