

FRIENDS OF HULLETT
MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - ZOOM
30 June 2020 7:30 PM

Present: Mike Cardinal, Bill Dineen, Ryan Bayne, Duane Inkpen, Wade Beaudoin, Jim Bayne, Chris Ambrose, Steven Zingaro

Absent: Mat Shetler

Guests: Scott Austin, Alex Morrow, Lorraine Moir

Meeting called to order: 7:30 PM

Review May Minutes: several items sent to me by Mat

Zoom Discussions:

Executive positions....All will remain as is as passed by the board.
May Minutes adopted with a few minor typo corrections.

Treasurers report:

Nothing is happening that needs to be addressed. There are some normal variations in our accounts due to outstanding bills etc. A few big bills pending for the tractor repairs. The Door guy is coming tomorrow regarding the shop roll up door replacement. We've spent about \$1500 for mower parts. There are several things coming up to be paid.

Marsh Report:

Pheasant Challenge - This will be our 20th annual Pheasant Challenge. Scott is trying to come up with some ideas for this year's challenge. Suggested that we be able to get some tee shirts or hats to go with our 20th anniversary of this event. These items are given as a prize for a successful hunt.

Staff is working smoothly without events going on so we may get more caught up on our regular work: mowing for instance. Summer staff are doing very well. We need an air conditioner for the workshop as it's very hot in the shop. Scott to get prices on a window type unit. We will see if a window unit can handle it. Will discuss later.

There was some conversation with the trappers. We again discussed the possibility of getting more trappers as our beaver problem is not being looked after well enough. The CO's were included in these discussions. There were some good results, because

we targeted certain areas but, the trappers should be looking after the populations without us doing that research for them.

Hullett User Guide – comments? Might be prudent to talk about the Covid situation in our guide. It should be a message from the Board and also from FOH to back it up. Another item could talk about our 20th anniversary for the Pheasant Challenge. So, to move on the Pheasant Challenge we need to sell tickets to keep this going. Some places have stopped their pheasant programme this prior to this year. Something about this would be good to be put into the user guide. It's good to keep people informed. Most of our former supporters are again submitting things to our User Guide, which we're grateful for. Several people have submitted ideas for things we can do. Cutting plants is prohibited...should we change that policy somehow. MNRF does not have that policy as ours is now. An updated policy needs to be specific to what we may or may not allow. Our policy is a blanket statement...we don't want commercial operations coming in to harvest things. The user guide statement should be adjusted. There is something about plant harvesting coming out from the MNRF in the fall. We can look at what that says, and start from there to make a new policy.

Water controls – all the little sub-meetings have taken place and things are well in hand. Woody pool; maybe we need a water control there. The structure was looked at but nothing came out of that. If we have a concern, we should put that forward to the MNRF for that. We had more washouts this year. DUC are talking of a rebuild for the Blue Wing pool...to address the mud damage, etc. We could make suggestions on water levels and what they should be. Make sure this is documented if we have suggestions or if things are done. Woody should not be done before other more serious problems are repaired.

We should be looking at our agricultural agreements and we like the commitment to rotational crops. Discussion had on what is planted and the order of the rotation of crops.

Should we think about renting a mulcher to clear out some of those woody areas that are taking over some of the marsh? We could get one that runs off the PTO of the tractor. Should we do it ourselves or contract it? These can take down 6 – 8 inch trees. Would that be a priority over logistical things. What are the things we need to look at...can we operate it, for instance? Or, should we hire someone? Ryan showed us a machine and what it can do. It's a tractor attachment. We have the horsepower in our tractor to handle this. We'll do some research.

Huron hospice sponsorship proposal. We prefer not to donate.

Geese have been brought to the property. Our population has dropped in recent times. That would be good for us. We don't know if it's a one time thing. The donator wants to come in to have a meeting with us. In the past people just brought them to us without any kind of permit or agreement.

Whitetail needed some gravel there due to the washout. There was a beaver dam above the concrete dam that contributed to this. It gets more water because of this small beaver dam.

Lorraine – mentioned that last meeting that they are working at home, at least till September, doing permits, etc from there. They don't have full access to their internal system. Things are changed in how they do things and it is changing constantly. Getting authorizations out is difficult so they're working hard on that. Talked about the barn and silo removal on Thursday with a consultant. The tender was looked at and they have to do everything again because it's been over 6 months. There is more money involved. Drainage problem is to be looked at as well. It will be delayed and we hope by December something will be decided. Lorraine will be the contact person on this project. We will get the minutes from her meetings. It's a good thing that will be done. Scott said that the driveway never got repaired after their last time here. Will the cement pad be removed? It's a very good place to park things and we hope it is left. Lorraine will look into that and put it forward. The Operations Meeting...DUC will be able to finalize their section on what they will put into our operational plan. Lorraine will send this to us to make sure what they are saying is in line with what we want.

Web site issue? We get 600 hits a week. The BOD should visit that regularly to see if all is okay.

Youth Water Fowl Clinic. It probably will not happen this year. We need to cancel it. Conservation Day in late August...Maybe we'll just have a few kids for that. It won't be an event for sure. There was a lot of time put into that in other years. We have some money that people have sent to us. We're trying to think of something else to do with it. It could be just rolled over to next year as an idea. Regardless, we'd like to do something else this year. Some suggestions were talked about.

Back to the dinner...some of these prizes can remain and used for next year.

New business.

Jim asked; when will they come in to work on the dikes? We don't know, but Scott can check. There is some work that could be done. Some backhoe work for sure.

For opening day, what will be do? What about draws? We could probably manage as there is lots of room at our parking lot spot. We just need our social distancing. We have no running water and not washrooms available. Privy's remain closed. Also, to show how people obey signage, many people drive in to the office area in spite of the signs posted. And, the try doors, etc, so thus contaminate things. Scott is constantly sanitizing things.

Duck Opener – At this point we will leave things as is and follow provincial guidelines. We should assume that this even may not happen at the Marsh this year. If we do, maybe not do the intense surveys on the ducks and just look at totals. We may not allow the on site camping. But, rather, we may have to limit employees and parking spaces. There is no camping at Hullett already. We'll leave this now and think about it.

Wade questioned how we'll handle the Goose Opener as well as the Pheasant Opener? How will we deal with ticket sales and procedural issues before the day arrives? Lots of procedures are not going to be able to be done as it has in the past. We have to be sure we do things in a safe way and deal with the ones who don't co-operate. There may be some uncomfortable decisions. The public often find ways to not do what we ask for. We have to deal with that, and think about it before it happens. Scott will have to figure out how things will be done.

Scott – Discussion on the DUC grasslands approached to mow the 39 acres by the office, that didn't get mowed. What should be done? (Lorraine to find out) DUC should be asked what has been mowed. Some confusion on what has and hasn't been done. Scott would like to do it and we can charge for it. Scott to inquire.

Next mtg 28 July

No further business adjourned 9:02.