

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friends OF Hullett – Virtual Meeting (Microsoft Teams)

February 25th, 2025 @ 7:30 PM

Present:, Mat Shetler, Steve Dalrymple, Ryan Bayne

Regrets: Barb Orchard, Chris Ambrose, Mario Coniglio, Mark Penhale, Duane Inkpen

Guests: Justin Johnson, Ben Elliott, Scott Austin

Meeting called to order: 7:30 pm

- Minutes from the January 28th meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report:

- Sent by Chris to BoD – see email dated Feb 22 2025:

Only 1 month into F2025 so passed on uploading full GL details.

Cash is exactly where I would expect it to be, based on 2025 Cash Flow.

Year-end work is in progress - I hope to present the 2024 Financial Statements at the March board meeting.

- Scott reported that there were many questions from Takalo & Burt this year regarding tax returns (HCWP, SLED)
- Tax returns are ahead of schedule

Marsh Report:

- Huron Clean Water Program
 - Our fund reallocation request for spray equipment was denied by the HCWP committee
- Exterminator Training
 - Ben and Justin completed their Landscape and Core Exams on Feb 25th
- Mallard Tubes - All Mallard Tubes have been deployed ahead of 2025 nesting season
- Duck Boxes - 50 Duck Boxes (~41%) remain
- Titley Acoustic Monitor Loan Program - Requested 3 Ranger, 1 Walkabout Unit
- OFAH Community Conservation/Community Projects Fund
 - The Community Projects Fund is new for 2025; supports recurring education programs - regular equipment/supplies for Youth Waterfowl Clinic

- Funding priorities for Community Conservation Fund have shifted to habitat enhancement - Spray equipment, Improve Duck baiting
- The board discussed the possibility of applying for both projects
- Justin to contact Chris Robinson for guidance on the application's potential

Key Performance Indicators (KPI's):

- Five KPIs were identified for focus:
 - Convert the Tall Grass Prairie fields to a hay crop Meadow management
 - All agricultural access points are mapped and their condition (Poor/Fair/Good/Very Good) assessed. Results and recommendations for next steps will be shared with the BoD
 - Prune and cut limbs and brush from the perimeter of at least 4 agricultural fields
 - Bluebill and Butterball canoe channels are monitored monthly from May – October and debris removed as discovered
 - A proposal to improve the meadow area next to the 1-20 parking lot is presented to the BoD and the BoD votes on a course of action
 - Knowledge transfer from Scott to Justin and Ben
 - Create a survey to gauge public interest in interpretive programming at HPWA and present the results to the BoD with recommendations
- Mat distributed KPI's to board for review and comment.

MNR, Ducks Unlimited:

- The operations agreement has been signed.
- Operations meeting scheduled for April 23rd, 2025
- Concerns or discussion topics should be brought to Duane to rely with MNR/DUC

Website, Newsletter, and User Guide:

- The newsletter has been distributed, and the website is being updated.
- The board discussed the upcoming elections and the need to communicate the available positions to the membership.

Pheasant Challenge/YWC/YPH

- Lotto report has been submitted, no additional updates at this time

New Business:

- Ryan – Discussed an automatic baiting system for regular distribution of corn throughout the week to improve availability of feed to ducks.
 - Recommendations for duck feeding is 50lbs of corn for 500 ducks per day
 - Automatic feeders have a 300lbs capacity
 - 5 units with 3 dock systems will cost \$20,000 to \$25,000.
 - FoH to review funding response from OFAH and adjust plan on total number of feeders to be installed

- Justin - inquired about the preference for Teams versus Zoom for remote meetings.
 - The board agreed to continue using Teams
 - The board discussed the possibility of meeting in person again in March
 - Justin will coordinate in-person meetings in Mitchell beginning in March
- Mat - mentioned the need to update the personnel policy and hiring policy

Meeting adjourned @ 8:21 pm