

# FRIENDS OF HULLETT

## MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

September 25, 2025 @ 7:30 PM – FoH Office, HPWA

**Present:** Mat Shetler, Steve Dalrymple, Mario Coniglio, Donna Taylor (online), Craig McDonald, Mark Penhale, Ryan Bayne, Duane Inkpen

**Guests:** Justin Johnson, Ben Elliott, Scott Austin

### Meeting called to order – Duane Inkpen: 7:28 pm

1/ Review minutes from previous meeting, 08/26/25

- Minutes from the August 26, 2025 meeting were approved.

### Action Items from August 26 meeting

**ACTION:** Justin will get stickers made up that have the correct code. Three signs are already placed in the marsh. There will be a total of 10 signs. - COMPLETED

**ACTION:** Justin will apply for funding when we have an accessibility plan for the 1-20 Parking Lot initiative- COMPLETED

**ACTION:** Staff retention initiatives will be discussed at a future Board meeting (probably October) – Mat - - PROGRESS (IN CAMERA DISCUSSION, THIS AGENDA)

**ACTION:** Donna will provide link to the AODA training board members are required to take. - COMPLETED

**ACTION:** Donna will initiate the process of developing FoH policy related to AODA requirements- PROGRESS

**ACTION:** Justin will set up a shared Google Drive space for this. - COMPLETED

## Action Item from July 29 meeting

- AODA legislation regarding if AGM meeting on Teams satisfies requirements – Mat – COMPLETED. Board will ensure printed material is AODA compliant, and Board will work with anyone who approaches us to ensure they can participate in the AGM.

### 2/ Treasurer's report – Ryan Bayne.

We need a full report on the progress of Communication with CIBC for signing authority.

Also, overall report on communications between all three participants in the financial system.

Ryan reviewed financial report sent separately prior to this meeting.

- Income is up from last year by \$99,302.32
- Expenses were up to \$25,847.64
- But our overall net income is up \$73,454.68 over last year

Ryan will continue to work closely with Justin, and increasingly with Scott in the future. No issues with communications were identified. Ryan is reaching out to Janice as needed.

### 3/ Report from the Marsh, (See Marsh report posted this week)

Review AODA policy

**September 18, 2025**

**September Marsh Report**

→ **Designates points of clarification/amplification related to submitted Marsh Report**

#### **Stewardship**

##### *1. TD FEF Turtle Project*

- Coordinating replacement stands/panels purchasing; to be completed soon.
- Remaining TD funds will be used for nesting mounds pending reallocation.
- Turtle release at Morrison Dam was great exposure for FoH!
- Invited to ABCA event in Varna, then to larger event in Stratford
- Stratford event hosted by Huron Land Trust Conservancy

- Adam Shoalts to speak; 200+ people expected

## 2. Grassland Restoration

- Flynn cut Prairie Grass Fields on September 15<sup>th</sup>, moving ahead with conversion.
- Justin to discuss 1-20 Parking Lot plans with Fire Chief Jeff Lipskie
- ➔ Discussion to include opportunities for training

## 3. Phragmites Control

- *Phragmites* control has begun; FoH to take on control without ABCA this year
- Will coordinate aquatic control of *Phragmites* with ABCA next year

## 4. Capstone Mowing

- Friends of Hullett to be paid \$2700 for the management of the Capstone Grassland

## Hunt Management

### 5. Pheasant Challenge

- 444 tickets have been deposited to date (\$4,400.16 after PayPal fees).
- Generally, on pace for ticket sales at this time of year
- The disclosure of release dates to membership has generated some new members
- There have been two members who have spoken out against the decision
- Dates have been confirmed with Royal and Creekside
- Volunteers to deliver and release the birds
- ➔ Thanks for Steve and Craig for their help with release

### 6. OFAH Community Project Fund – Accessible Hunting Blind

- Construction of the blind complete, requires a few final touches
- ➔ Shell racks, gun holders
- Ben to build shell racks and gun holders as in previous blind
- Signage to be ordered and installed from Artech to thank OFAH
- Railing along ramp to be built; add signage to identify blind as “H2”

### 7. Trappers

- Four trappers applied for the vacant spot; Everett Smith was selected.
- Everett and Justin will work together to get final approvals from MNR.

### 8. Mallard Pool Hunting Stakes

- Stakes were redeployed to their new locations ahead of Early Goose season.
- May require additional movement/reconsideration of placement (Stake 5).

### 9. Youth Waterfowl Clinic

- Justin to discuss; clinic to occur in the interim of Marsh Report and BoD Meeting.
- ➔ This event was a success, it was well-run and obtained positive feedback.

## 10. Science

- The MarshReach Project is now live! Hullett is the inaugural site for the project
- Generates both passive public engagement and environmental monitoring data.
- Three sites have been deployed, the remaining seven to be deployed following mowing.

## **Maintenance**

### **11. Property Maintenance**

- Merner's to complete the improvement of the Ag access off Burns Line.

## **12. Financials**

- General Donations to Date - \$3720
- Membership Donations to Date - \$6474
- Donations to Pheasant Release Program to Date - \$180
- Summer students removed from insurance policies; \$848.92 returned to FoH

## **Outreach/Communications**

### **13. Hullett User Guide**

- New user guides have been printed and will be distributed throughout Hullett

### **14. Ontario Woodlot Association Workshops**

- OWA workshops are ongoing; ~10 participants in course
- ➔ There are two workshops remaining
- Next workshop Oct 27 – demonstration of Biochar Kiln for Buckthorn disposal

### **15. Tour with Lisa Thompson**

- Ben and Justin met with DUC and Lisa Thompson for a tour of Hullett on September 10th
- Lisa invited DUC and FoH to be demonstrators at next year's International Plowing Match
- DUC has offered to co-run a booth with FoH at the event in Walkerton

**ACTION:** Replace aging Hullett display – add to asset management plan for next year - Justin

### **16. Newsletter**

- In final production, distributed for review by the BoD
- Will be distributed to membership within the next few days

## **Fundraising**

### **17. Birds Canada Community Grant**

- Justin is drafting a proposal for the grant; deadline for submission is September 29th
- Proposed project to focus on volunteer-run grassland bird monitoring at Hullett

## **Other/Staffing**

### **18. BoD Google Account**

- Account set up for storage of BoD documents; to be managed by Justin
- Account Information:
  - Username: [hullettbod@gmail.com](mailto:hullettbod@gmail.com)
  - Password: Goldeneye1998

#### 4/ Reports from the OMNRF/Ducks Unlimited,

I see from mini report D.U. has made a visit and repaired reported issues.

Ben took Fred Maning on a tour of the marsh to look at all of the water structures. A repair was made to one of the water structures.

#### 5/ Website, Newsletter & User Guide

HUG has been released.

Website updates ongoing with opening days next week.

#### 6/ Pheasant Challenge, Youth Waterfowl Clinic.

Ticket sales ongoing.

Clinic will be run this weekend with 10 Participants.

#### 7/ New Business,

Spring Dinner, are we doing it? Need to secure dates and caterer.

Discussion: Board agreed to proceed with the Spring Dinner. It did well last year, was well received by membership but was a lot of work. We need to focus on membership for donations rather than business.

We need to select a date – it will probably be April 11 or 18. Pineridge is a good venue and we will proceed accordingly.

**ACTION:** Justin will talk to Derek at Pineridge to determine the best date for the event.

**ACTION:** Justin will get quotes for buffet from Devin Taber as well as from Derek at Pineridge.

#### ROUNDTABLE

**Mat:** updated the personnel policy and asked board to review it and make suggestions for any changes.

**Mat:** forwarded the AODA policy that Donna worked on.

**Steve:** initiated discussion on the letter concerning pheasant releases that Justin was working on. The safety issues were clarified. **ACTION:** Steve and Mario to work on next draft to reflect points raised in the discussion.

**Craig:** asked if we could bring back the snowshoe hiking event – it was well-received in the past.

**Ben:** conversed with Brandon Guest – discussed email re. streamlining of draw for blinds.

**Justin:** suggested reaching out to Doug Gordon to fill for a partial term the missing Board spot vacated by Barb. **ACTION:** Justin and Duane will collaborate on the plan to reach to Doug Gordon

**Scott:** concerning KPI #7 – is working effectively with Justin and Ben, and will continue to work on the the operations document.

**Donna:** AODA form is mostly filled out. **ACTION:** Donna will work with Justin to refine details further on the AODA document

8/ In camera issues, Yes, we will be meeting in camera.

Minutes in separate document.