

FRIENDS OF HULLETT

MINUTES FROM BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 28, 2025 @ 7:30 PM – Activity Rm, Mitchell Arena

Present: Mat Shetler, Steve Dalrymple, Mario Coniglio, Donna Taylor, Craig McDonald, Ryan Bayne (remote), Doug Gordon

Regrets: Mark Penhale, Duane Inkpen

Guests: Justin Johnson, Ben Elliott

Meeting called to order – Mat Shetler 7:32pm

1. Review minutes from previous meeting, 09/25/2025

- Minutes from the 09/25/2025 meeting were approved (unanimous)

Action Items from September 25 meeting

ACTION: Replace aging Hullett display – add to asset management plan for next year – Justin
→ PENDING - will target the Central Huron Donation Fund, estimated \$1500 to upgrade display.

ACTION: Justin will talk to Derek at Pineridge to determine the best date for the event
→ COMPLETED – will get tickets printed soon, everything is on track for this event.

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

ACTION: Steve and Mario to work on next draft the letter concerning pheasant releases to reflect points raised in the discussion.
→ COMPLETED

ACTION: Justin and Duane will collaborate on the plan to reach to Doug Gordon.
→ COMPLETED

ACTION: Donna will work with Justin to refine details further on the AODA document.
→ PENDING – will involve mainly filling in information provided by Justin
→ Mat reminded directors to complete online AODA training.

New Action Item from Oct. 29 meeting

ACTION: Justin will look into Google Docs further to sort out issues with director access to files.

2. Treasurer's report – Ryan Bayne.

- Documents provided prior to meeting
- \$35k positive compared with this time last year
 - For 2.5-2.7 employees – wages are up but this is expected

3. Report from the Marsh – Justin Johnson, Ben Elliott

October 23, 2025

October Marsh Report

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

Stewardship

1. TD FEF Turtle Project

- MarshReach stations (10) have been established throughout the Marsh.
- See all station locations here: [MarshReach | Hullett Marsh](#).
- Remaining funds to be reallocated when approved (nesting mounds).

→ **ACTION:** Justin is still attempting to contact TD

2. Grassland Restoration

- Justin reached out to Fire Chief Jeff Lipskie, awaiting response.

3. Invasive Species Control

- *Phragmites* control is complete for 2025; Buckthorn control has begun.
- Will coordinate aquatic control of *Phragmites* with ABCA next year.
- As part of funding from the Invasive Phragmites Action Fund through ABCA<<Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority>>; FoH to receive \$2,112.55 for phragmites control in the Marsh this year.

4. Shrub Buffer Transplanting

- Shrubs to be planted to establish buffer zone around wet area of Field 61
- Ben and Justin transplanted ~200 stems of dogwood and willow

Hunt Management

5. Pheasant Challenge/Releases

- 638 tickets have been deposited to date (\$6,262.48 after PayPal fees).
 - Generally, ahead of pace for ticket sales at this time of year.
 - Members have appreciated receiving advance notice of pheasant releases.
 - Has generated interest in Hullett and many new memberships.
- Ticket sales now closer to 650

6. OFAH Community Project Fund – _Accessible Hunting Blind

- Final reporting complete and submitted to OFAH; second OFAH payment pending.

Fundraising/Development

7. Habitat Stewardship Program

- Designing application for three-year project to improve stopover habitat for birds.
- Species-at-Risk: Lesser Yellowlegs, Red-headed Woodpecker, *etc.*
- Funding would be used to hire dedicated HSP Technician responsible for: Habitat Mapping, Habitat Creation, Outreach and Communications associated with the project
- Funding from ECCC <<Environment and Climate Change Canada>> needs matching, looking for 30k per year from FoH.
- Mix of cash and in-kind support; technician can also support non-HSP tasks

8. Wildlife Habitat Canada

- Grant application submitted in partnership with Ontario NativeScape.
 - Goal of creating/restoring 50ac of grassland/meadow within HPWA over three years
 - Former Tallgrass Prairie and Fallow Field in Zone A (next to Homestead) targeted.
 - \$107k to come from WHC, matching with in-kind FoH support and \$57k ONS cash.
 - Access issues, required mulching, cool season grass mix considered in application.
- ➔ FoH putting in \$35k, whole project will be \$214k

9. KC's Streeteats Fundraiser

- Kerri and Colin of KC's Streeteats in Walton would like to help support Hullett.
 - During controlled hunt week, \$2 of every fry sale to be donated to FoH!
 - Justin to deliver User Guides to Walton for distribution through fundraiser.
 - Colin interested in potentially bringing truck to Marsh for one day of shotgun week.
 - **ACTION:** Can Colin serve food at the Marsh as part of an FoH fundraiser?
- ➔ Board discussed appropriateness of having a commercial operation within the marsh. Suggested that Kinburn Hall could be a better venue.
- ACTION:** Justin will tell KC's to check with Kinburn Hall to see if that could work

10. 2026 Charity Dinner and Auction

- Bluewater hosting FoH again on April 11th, 2026.
 - Devin Tabor of Bon Vivant has been hired on to cater; \$1,000 deposit due Jan 2.
 - Richard Lobb has agreed to be our auctioneer again; tickets to be printed shortly.
 - Please begin searching for items and support for the dinner!
 - **ACTION:** BoD should assign members to 2026 Dinner Committee.
- ➔ Board members were encouraged to start thinking about finding items for the auction, will have to get volunteers signed up to assist with various aspects of the dinner/auction.

Maintenance

11. Ag Access at Burn's Line

- Merner's have completed the work, we are expecting to receive the invoice soon.

12. Meeting with Drake Jefferson

- Justin met with Drake on October 2nd to discuss a variety of small jobs in Hullett.
- Drake is willing to assist with mulching if FoH covers fuel and overhead costs.

- Drake also willing to assist with culvert expansion at Red Trail if required for WHC
- Could potentially assist with beneficial ditching at Sanctuary Line.
- Cost to FoH \$225/hour and fuel for required equipment

13. Financials

- *General Donations to Date* - \$4,239.70
- ➔ This is a bit higher than normal for this time of year
- *Membership Donations to Date* - \$9,454.18
- *Donations to Pheasant Release Program to Date* - \$738.10
- BOD executives have completed RBC signing authority
- Scott has asked the BOD executive to complete the financial update for: \$5000 VISA credit limit increase
- Payroll increase over the \$5000 threshold
- Final steps will help Janice and Scott perform their respective duties into 2026

Outreach/Communications

14. Ontario Woodlot Association Workshops

- Two workshops remain: October 27th and October 30th.
- Costs (food) to be split between OWA and FoH.

15. Tour with Minister Mike Harris

- Steve and Justin met with MNR and Minister of Natural Resources Mike Harris.
- Minister was unfamiliar with Hullett, impressed by opportunities provided by the Marsh.
- Minister asked about the roles DUC and Delta Waterfowl play at the Marsh.
- Minister spoke about creating opportunities for new hunters, the role of OFAH.
- Steve spoke about the pheasant program, success both at Hullett and Conestogo.
- Event was a success, FoH was thanked for coordinating a pheasant release for Minister.

Other/Misc

16. Meeting Venue

- **ACTION:** Would the BoD wish to book the Activity Room again for 2026 BoD meetings?
- ➔ **ACTION:** Board agreed this is a great venue for meeting and we should book it again for 2026

17. Trumpeter Swan Shooting

- Swans shot on October 10th, MNR is still seeking leads in the case.
- Justin interviewed by Cottage Life Magazine about the swans at Hullett Marsh

18. Potential White-nose Syndrome found at Hullett

- On October 22, Ben found a dead bat with white lesions on nose in the workshop
- Bat to be sent to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative in Guelph for testing

19. Ferma Energy Project

- Mun. CH Council has announced Ferma Energy is pursuing other projects at this time.
- No formal requests with respect to the project were submitted to Council.

4. Reports from the OMNRF/Ducks Unlimited

a. Minister's tour

→ Nothing new to discuss on this item

5. New Business,

a. Personnel Policy adoption - Mat

1) Board discussed various points Mario raised in the draft policy.

ACTION: Mat and Mario will fine tune document further and report back to Board

2) Service Awards

Moved (Steve) and seconded (Craig) that the Service Award for Chris Abrose would be a gift certificate from Clinton Sporting Goods and the same value as what was given to Trevor Latta. Passed unanimously.

Moved (Steve) and seconded (Mario) that the Service Award for Barb Orchard would be a gift certificate from Clinton Sporting Goods and the same value as what was given to Trevor Latta. Passed unanimously.

[From email exchanges following the meeting, it was determined that the value of the Service Award was \$200. It was determined that Barb did not complete a full term, and Steve suggested that the gift certificate amount could reflect that. Mat indicated that the above minutes and decision should be left as decided at the October meeting and the Board will revisit the topic at the November meeting.]

ACTION: Review the gift certificate amount suggested for Barb - Mat

3) Board discussed the letter from Jason Moon complaining about the advance notice of pheasant releases. It was agreed that Jason Moon's experience was not a widely shared and the advance notice practice was mostly appreciated and would continue for this year, and be reviewed in the future. Justin already followed up with a response to Jason, acknowledging his letter and that it would be brought to the Board's attention.

4) Bank will get back to us re. the raised credit limit.

5) Payroll token

ACTION: Mat will send information to Scott Austin and have him purchase the payroll token (\$50).

6. In camera

Minutes in separate document.