

Okotoks and District Fish and Game Association

Meeting October 11, 2023

Meeting held at the Crystal Shores Beach House in Okotoks. Call to order at 7: p.m. 15 people were in attendance.

A summary of the 2023 Banquet and Fundraiser was provided. We sold out the 120 seats. The meal was fantastic, and the evening raised just over \$10,000 for the club. The banquet chair and committee were thanked for the great work.

Planning is beginning for the 2024 banquet. The date is tentatively set for June 8, to be held at The Ridge once again. We're looking for a committee chair and more committee members. We're also reminding our members that if they have a successful hunting or fishing season to consider setting aside some of the harvest to donate to the banquet.

Guest Speaker Stephanie Briggs, Zone 2 Director with the Alberta Fish and Game Association, addressed the meeting:

- AFGA is seeking people to sit on the provincial Habitat Caucus group, similar to the Fisheries Caucus group
- AFGA is looking for a provincial Finance Chair. Anyone with an interest and some knowledge of financial processes should put their name forward
- AFGA is selling hunting and fishing licences. Contact the office at (780) 437-2342 during business hours. The AFGA makes some money on each licence issued, so consider supporting.
- AFGA represented on the Mule Deer Management Committee with AEPA
- Zone 2 meeting is being held in Drumheller October 22
- AFGA program to address Recreational Access issues on agricultural lease land
- AFGA Service Award nominations are due early December. Info will be circulated
- Conference and AGM will be held in Medicine Hat Feb 22-24 2024. Zone 2 will have a booth and display, so send some pictures of club events.
- AFGA rebranding process is still underway.

Stephanie answered questions from the group. She was thanked for her attendance.

Our members helped out with numerous Antelope Fencing Projects this year, exceeding the \$500 allocated in the budget. Motion by Jaren / seconded by Todd that we increase the amount to cover full reimbursement of volunteer gas and hotel costs. Motion Carried. The Treasurer will issue the reimbursements.

Area Fish and Game clubs are holding some cooperative events. In recent months, Sarcee F&G has had speaker series events and Calgary F&G has held a shooting event, and our members were invited. Keep an eye on future events, and participate if you like. These are free to our members.

A recap of club meetings and events in 2023 was done. Some were very successful, others were not. Some discussion took place about events for 2024. Some suggestions for topics included a session on 'Fair Chase' and what that means in today's world, ammunition handloading, and a possible sportsman sale where our members could sell used outdoor equipment.

Discussion about recreational access to public grazing leases. A presentation included leaseholder responsibilities, user responsibilities, and the process to follow if a conflict arises. A major local issue is access changes to the Spruce Grazing Reserve. Members were urged to follow through with the Alberta Government rangeland agronomists and local settlement officers if they have concerns. Also, we should submit concerns to the AFGA through the website so AFGA can compile a list to take forward to government.

The AFGA Conference and AGM for 2024 will be held in Medicine Hat on Feb 22-24 2024. We are entitled to send 3 voting delegates. Delegates will be selected at the November meeting, with preference given to executive and active members. Interested people should email the ODFGA expressing their interest.

2023 Fundraising Raffle draw was held. Draw was made by "Abby" (Beach House employee). The winner of the main prize was Junior Nicholls of Okotoks. The winner of the consolation draw was Dan Marsh, also of Okotoks. The president will contact the winners, and the treasurer will issue the prizes. Thank you to everyone who helped to sell tickets and who supported the club by purchasing tickets.

Next meeting will be at the Beach House on Wednesday November 15 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.