

## AGM Minutes

**April 22, 2023, Timber River Station**

A. Call to Order- 1:05 PM

B. Introduction of Directors in attendance- Adrienne Wilson, Sara Blankert, Bud Gustafson, Hans VanVlaanderen, Paul Prince, Graham Overguard, Saige Jackson, Murray Few, Gerald Olsen, Brenda Heppner, Arlene Stevenson, Suzanne Comfort, Dale Marshall, Rayanne Alm, Larry Frischke, Linus Clark, Rick Martin

C. Approval of Agenda- Murray moved that the agenda be approved as printed, seconded by Saige.

E. Approval of the 2022 AGM Minutes- - Murray moved that the 2022 AGM Minutes be approved, seconded by Brenda.

F. Business arising from the 2022 AGM Minutes- No business arising.

G. Treasurer's report- Arlene reported that the year-end report has been filed. Financial statements are available. Sue made a motion, seconded by Gerald to approve the treasurer's report as read.

1 .Approval of audited financial Statements for year ended December 31. 2022

H. Membership report- 2022- Arlene reported 227 memberships to date, 67 of which are new. The year 2022 had 1589 memberships by years end.

I. Presidents Report- Dale Marshall (attached)

J. Other Business

1. Parks Canada Report- Vinton Lovell, YaHa Tinda Ranch manager, acknowledged the significant number of hours and effort by Rick/Dale into project to date, working alongside the AB government, Federal government groups, and Oceans and Fisheries. Complimented association on the project. Vinton reported on the federal government 30 x 30 plan, noting that a new federal government acronym: OACM recognition (Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measure). National priority is to recognize 30% of the land by year 2030 for what it contributes as far as biodiversity. The ranch supports this biodiversity. The ranch has begun an application process, and letters have gone out to stakeholders, passing on information. The recognition does not change land classification, just recognizes biodiversity at the ranch. Acres where bison are fenced is not included. Sites are assessed based on existing management regime, and confirmed by OACM. Ranch managers job is to establish a baseline (ie. wildlife in area, grassland conditions etc.) and will maintain database and review criteria and identify priorities for range mgmt., water and wildlife in the area. Public use of land will not change on the ranch.

- Discussion arose around bison fencing. Vinton encouraged feedback around safety issues and complaints around fencing as the project is still in infancy stages. Concerns around bison drift fences arose. Special permitting is no longer required to ride into bison areas. Questions around ranch tours arose. Vinton reported that there are no tours currently and they cannot allow public to enter freely at the moment.
2. Bison Project- Karsten Heur, project manager of BNP reintroduction program reported that the herd will reach 100 animals after calving, are healthy and are spending winters in valley bottoms and summers in the high country. Discussed bison drift fences built in partnership with the province which are located in the Panther, at Sawmill flats in the Clearwater, at James Pass, and at the Cable Car crossing on the Red Deer River. The intent of the fences is a deflection for bison that will let other animals through. It was a pilot/test project and can be reversible if need be. Karsten reported that the conclusion after 5 years of the Bison Reintroduction pilot project was favourable and population management will be required in the future. Parks are exploring indigenous and non-indigenous hunting opportunities in the future. The bison herd has been splitting up into smaller groups which are not coming towards the drift fences as much. The hope is that once the bison learn the home range, that fences will be removed. Dale proposed that members in attendance discuss their concerns with Karsten respectfully after the meeting. Karsten proposed that he meet with public after meeting adjournment.
  3. Proposed dates for Events in 2023:
    - Horse Expo- April 28-30 in Red Deer
    - Seven Mile/Cutoff Clean up- Cannot decide on dates due to snow but will post on our platforms once we know
    - Spring Clean-up- Bighorn/Eagle/Panther- Dates to be decided
    - Hummingbird Work Bee/Clean up- Dates to be decided
    - Annual Trail Ride/Poker Rally- Aug 19 at Eagle Creek Campground
  4. Campground Host Program- Laurel Reid reported on the success of program. Bev did the entire season at Eagle Creek last year and will return this year. Pat and Darlene looked after 7 Mile all summer and will again this season. This year, they will look after north campgrounds in terms of communication, crossover, and money transfer. Hummingbird is covered all season with lots of different hosts. The patrol cabin is used at Hummingbird if hosts want to. We still require 7-9 more shifts to be filled at Peppers Lake this season. James Wilson has all shifts open yet except for 2 weeks. Red Deer River South, Red Deer River North, and Panther will be all together with one host and is mostly covered this season. Deer creek will be grouped together and is mostly covered.
    - Hosts will be at Eagle, Bighorn (Eagle/Bighorn individual till end of Aug) Panther/Red Deer, James Wilson will be on its own. Will not have one at Wildhorse Deer Creek or Cartier Creek, Peppers/Elk Creek, Hummingbird and Cut-off/7 Mile. Laurel would like to add small portable kiosks at host sites, for people to put up messages and for announcing closures. Laurel asked for carpenters to volunteer to build kiosks.

K. Ratify the actions of the 2022 Directors- Gordie made a motion to ratify actions of directors, seconded by Sue

L. Appoint Auditors for the 2023 Books- Last year Anne Fraser and Lindsay Mathews were auditors. Both agreed to stay on again for another year.

M. Amend Bylaw (Notice of intent attached) - Sue reported that notice of intent was posted on the website and went out with the fall newsletter to change the bylaws about changing the date requirements of the AGM and changing the term of the President. Sue asked the floor for questions and objections. Graham moved that we amend the bylaws as written, seconded by Saige. All in favor

Duane Papke suggested an executive director for presidential hand off. Dale mentioned that President stays on as past president for a term.

N. Set Date for next AGM – Date TBD.

O. Nominations and elections of directors.

Thanks you

Election of new officers- Bud reported that asked existing directors have been asked of their intent to stay on board and all have agreed to stay on board. He asked of any changes of intent. None came forward. He called for nominations from the floor for directors. Hans nominated Tim Flurette, who accepted nomination. Lorne nominated Rob Purdy, who accepted nomination. Larry nominated Craig Dorne, who accepted nomination. Laurel nominated Troy Spencer, who accepted nomination. Second call for nominations, third call for nominations, none came forward. Bud made a motion to cease nominations, seconded by Brenda, All in favor. Nominations closed. It was then determined that we will have too many directors with new nominations. Bud asked if anyone would like to drop out of directorship. Rob Purdy dropped out and Graham stepped down as director. 21 directors remained. Bud made a motion that executive officers stay the same, seconded by Paul. All in favor.

New directors on board Tim Flurette, Troy Switzer and Craig Dorne all gave an introduction.

Questions arose around equestrian use at new sites acquired. Some sites are all fenced with texas gates and some need designated manure drop offs and horse access. Dale responded that we are not addressing this at this point. We have a proposal funds to fix the new sites.

Question arose around panels. Graham explained the motion that was passed to ban panels at FOESA managed sites. AB Parks are not allowing panels either and the decision by FOESA was made for liability reasons.

Graham proposed adding side guards on the bridge for equestrian crossing. Vinton will look into.

Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:24. Discussion around bison with Karsten will resume at 2:30 pm.

Attachment: Letter from the President

## **2023 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE/ACTIVITY REPORT**

We started in early January cutting trees in Peppers Lake, Elk Creek and Seven Mile Campgrounds. After the first round of brushing it was determined that we could take more trees, so once permission was granted by Alberta Parks we returned to complete the removal in March. We started groundwork in April and finished in August. We moved to the Panther in the fall to cut trees and remove stumps. Leveling and graveling will still need to be done this spring once the snow goes.

Flood Mitigation got underway at the Big Horn in January. The first phase was completed in March. We need to erect a fence to keep the traffic off of the berm. The fence will be high enough to stop people from riding or crossing the berm. There will be no traffic allowed on the berm and this will be policed by Parks and a fine can be issued if people are caught on it.

Things to finish off this year :

Construction of new sites at Panther Campground

Completion of Big Horn Flood Mitigation

New toilets at Peppers Lake, Parking Lot, Peppers Equestrian, Elk Creek Fish Pond, 7 mile Campground and Hummingbird

Time and Funds Projects :

New campsites at Hummingbird

Work at new campsites – Red Deer North, South, Day Use and Group, Deer Creek, Wildhorse, Cartier Creek and James Wilson

Scope of work will be determined by funding which to date we do not have.

Clean Up Date : to be determined once the snow goes

Cutoff Creek – need a lot of gravel moved so if someone is available with a bobcat and gravel truck or dump trailer let Dale know



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