



Annual General Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2020 at the Innisfail Legion

- A. The meeting was called to order on February 15, 2020 at the Innisfail Legion at 1:10 p.m. with at least forty members in attendance.
- B. The current directors present introduced themselves. Laurel Reid, Keven Graham and Linus Clark were unable to attend.
- C. Murray Hagel moved the agenda be accepted, Sec. By Chelsey Jensen, All in favor
- D. **The 2019 AGM Minutes** were read by acting Secretary Suzanne Comfort. Dale Marshall moved the minutes be accepted as read, Sec. by Bud Gustafson, All in favor.
- E. **Business Arising from 2019 AGM Minutes:** There was no business arising from the 2019 AGM Minutes
- F. **Treasurer's Report:** Chelsey Jensen moved the Audited Financial Statements for year ended December 31, 2019 be accepted as distributed, Sec. by Murray Few. All in Favor
Arlene Stevenson presented the financial information for January 31, 2020. Ralph Jensen moved the report be accepted as read, Sec. by Dale Marshall, All in favor
- G. **Membership Report** was presented by Suzanne Comfort. For 2019 there were 547 members which was a slight increase over 2018. There are 114 members for 2020 prior to today.
- H. **President's Report** – Larry Frischke has reached the end of his term and will be stepping down. He stressed a sincere Thank You to the Executive and directors that have been of great assistance through his time as President. Larry reported that there are many projects to be completed. Things have moved ahead this year, but we have had difficulty over the last few years.
- I. **Other Business**
- a) **Parks Canada Report – Rick Smith**

i. **Hunting Registration** - Rick Smith reported the following:

- Signage had been erected with two of the signs requiring replacement
- Patrols are done twice a day
- The registration sheets have places for 4 signatures and appear to have been very successful and well received.
- He reported an incident free hunting season meaning, no poached animals or game shot and left

ii. **Bison Project** – Our furry friends seem to be behaving themselves. There are now 35 in the herd and staying within 30 km of the pasture. They have not fed them for the last year and a half. Three of the bulls left the pasture in the summer, with one being put down and the other two being relocated. There is also one more calf that is deceased due to what they expect is natural causes.

iii. **Bighorn Campground** – Although the number of people in the campground seemed lower during the summer, when the horse days were counted it was over 8500 horse nights and was a good year overall.

b) Future of the Bighorn Backcountry – There is a totally different attitude compared to the prior year. We are now able to get approvals and move forward with projects as well as get answers to questions. We have returned to the initial direction of the North Saskatchewan Regional Plan which is a very well thought out and organized plan.

c) Report on Provincial Government Activities

i. **The Government Grant** – Only about \$52,000 spent in 2019, but we have been granted an extension until November 30, 2020 to expend the balance of the funds.

ii. **The “Stop Work Order”** – Is virtually still in place and we hope to have our OH & S manual approved later this month. We were also advised that if we are working for Alberta Parks, we can complete projects by working direct to crown. To do this, we need the project to be approved by AB Parks, have a scheduled date for project completion, etc. the government then assumes the responsibility for the workers. There has been indication that if we are doing projects for ESRD that if we are happy with the contractors’ credentials we can proceed, but FOESA would be held responsible should there be an issue.

d) Report on 2019 Projects and Events:

i. FOESA Annual AGM & Banquet – Feb 23 – we had a sold-out crowd which netted \$18,609

ii. The Mane Event – Booth – April 25 - 28 - sold 69 memberships which netted \$2,390.50 including donations

iii. Seven Mile & Cutoff - Spring Clean Up – May 11 - heavy snow prior to clean up therefore we were unable to complete the clean up at that time and it was done by Larry Bishop and crew

iv. Bighorn, Eagle & Panther - Spring Clean Up – May 25 – we had a good turnout and completed general clean up and maintenance. Firepits were cleaned just after the August long weekend by

the Junior Forest Wardens. Graveling of the high lines was completed later in the year. High lines were repaired during the summer when the contractor was available.

v. Annual Horse Trail Ride – Aug 17 – we had 156 participants raising \$14,174.90

vi. Service Toilets – Panther/Eagle/Bighorn – Oct 23 & 24 was completed by Capital Pressure and Larry Frischke

vii. Service Toilets – Cutoff/Hummingbird – Oct 23 was done by Cassel Vacuum and Duane Papke. Duane suggested that we should complete this earlier in the year as the truck had to chain up to get around due to the weather conditions.

e) Meetings Attended in 2019:

i. **Directors Meetings** - Jan 24, Apr 15, May 7, June 18, July 30, Sept 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Dec 17

ii. **Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee Meetings** – Jan 24, June 13, Oct 3

iii. **Bighorn Backcountry Proposal Townhall Meetings:** Sundre Townhall Meeting – Jan 14 - CANCELLED, Bighorn Backcountry Standing Committee Members Meeting - Jan 22, Rally Opposing the Bighorn Backcountry Proposal – Red Deer - Jan 31, Bighorn Backcountry Proposal Sundre Open House Meeting – Feb 4

f) Ongoing Projects from 2019:

i. **Northeast Relocation of Bighorn Campground** – Current MOU expired March 31, 2018. Parks Canada is working on a ten-year plan, but it isn't complete. Rick Smith, Ranch Manager, advised that they intend to extend the current MOU for another two years. Currently we are not proceeding with any capital projects until we know what Parks Canada's long term intention. We are only doing the annual maintenance.

ii. **Completion of Highline Project at Hummingbird** – currently on hold until restrictions on activities is determined

iii. **Routine maintenance and clean ups on all campgrounds** – For the last couple of years only activities that don't require equipment has been completed. Anything requiring equipment has been hired out to contractors.

As per Government Grant Application in 2019:

iv. **Trail maintenance** – partial completion in 2019 by RE Miller Cat Services Ltd. with the intention to complete more in subsequent year

v. **Refurbish the camp kitchen at Seven Mile Flats** -When we approached Alberta Parks about refurbishing the camp kitchen, they indicated that they felt that these were just a liability and should be removed as no one used them. We disagree and as custodians wish to refurbish in 2020

vi. **Road repair and graveling at all campgrounds** – partially completed however we do have some gravel stockpiled and are sourcing more for future use as this is an ongoing project

- vii. **Fire pit repairs and upgrades at all campgrounds** – Duane and Nick built fire pits and installed them from the donated pipe, but they are very heavy. Duane and Hans both have a line on truck rims to build some more lighter weight ones. Shell donated some meshing to use for a partial grill on top of them.
- viii. **Removal of manure from Panther, Cutoff and Hummingbird** – Wayne Crocker has indicated that this should not be FOESA's issue but rather something that ESRD should be dealing with, however, to date we do not have a firm location to put it. It was suggested that perhaps a couple more manure drop offs could be made at Hummingbird.
- ix. **Haul gravel to restock all sites** – John Tchir has indicated that sourcing gravel should be their issue and not ours although at this point, we have no confirmation of where we will get our allotment going forward.
- x. **Reconstructive work to re-open the James Lake Trail** – There has been several tours to source and map trail possibilities, but this will be a slow process as there are many hoops to jump through. The process is currently underway by the government, however there is no date for completion

g) Proposed New / Ongoing Projects for 2020:

- i. **Panther Staging Area** – clean up area, remove stumps and level, build and install new outhouse and grade road to Panther Crossing – May - June
- ii. **Eagle Creek Campground** – construct several back- in campsites off the west loop and improve access to the SE corner of campground – May - June
- iii. **Routine spring campground clean ups** – May - June
- iv. **James Lake Trail** – reconstructive and constructive work to open the trail – after July 1
- v. **Trail Maintenance** – May to October
- vi. **Completion of Highline Project at Hummingbird**- Clean up usually done by ATRA so hopefully we can complete this at the same time weather permitting
- vii. **Refurbish Camp Kitchen at Seven Mile** – May – June
- viii. **Manure removal from Bighorn, Cutoff, and Hummingbird**
- ix. **Stockpile gravel where needed**
- x. **Signage** – A lot of the signage in various outhouses etc., need to be updated to reflect the current costs of memberships. Etc.

h) Proposed Dates for Events in 2020:

- i. The Mane Event – April 24 - 26
- ii. Seven Mile / Cutoff Work Bee / Clean Up – June 6
- iii. Spring Clean Up – Bighorn / Eagle / Panther – May 23
- iv. Hummingbird Work Bee / Clean Up – June 13
- v. Annual Horse Trail Ride – August 22

i) Campground Host for Bighorn, Eagle & Panther: This is a pilot project. The guidelines have been posted on the website. We are hoping to have the schedule filled by the end of February. It was suggested that we should add the toilet cleaning to this in the future

j) Creating a position of Past President on the FOESA Executive: Murray Hagel made a motion that we increase the number of directors from eighteen to twenty-one to include an executive position of Past President. Sec, by Gordon Aaskow. Bud Gustafson moved that we waive the notice of motion to proceed with the motion initiated by Murray Hagel, Sec. by Ralph Jensen. Vote on Bud's motion was held first and passed unanimously. The vote on the first motion was then held and passed unanimously.

k) YMCA sponsorship of the FOESA Camp Gray Jay Student Award: This opportunity is donated by the camp to FOESA. The details for participants are posted on the website and Facebook

l) Possible relocation of venue for Annual AGM / Banquet: Points to ponder as for the last two years we have been sold out. This year we did no advertising and still had a waiting list two weeks prior to the event.

J. Ratify Actions of 2019 Directors: Murray Hagel motioned we ratify the actions of the 2019 Directors, Sec by Dale Marshall. All in favor

K. Appoint Auditors for the 2020 Books – Tyler Holinski agreed to continue to do the audit and Terry Stigings will be his assistant

L. Set Date for Next AGM – February 20, 2021

M. Nomination and Election of Directors

i) Larry thanked Lorn Anderson and Hans VanVlaanderen as they are stepping down

ii) Election of Directors: Murray Hagel nominated Dale Marshall

Dale Marshall nominated Murray Hagel

Larry Frischke nominated Brenda Heppner

Hans Van Vlaanderen nominated Graham Overguard

Further nominations were called for three times with no further nominees. Murray Hagel moved nominations cease. Sec by Gordon Aaskow. All in favor.

All nominees received in vote as follows: Larry Frischke voted in favor of Dale Marshall, Murray Few voted in favor of Murray Hagel, Arlene Stevenson voted in favor of Brenda Heppner and Hans Van Vlaanderen voted in favor of Graham Overguard. These names will be added as directors.

N. Election of Executive: (just took bold font off)

President - Murray Few nominated Dale Marshall

Vice President – Dale Marshall nominated Suzanne Comfort

Secretary – Laurel Reid has agreed to stay on and there were no further nominations

Treasurer – Arlene Stevenson has agreed to stay on and there were no further nominations.

At each position further nominations were called three times with no additions. All in favor

O. General Suggestions for Consideration

- a) Larry Bishop suggested we initiate a conversation with Alberta Parks to have consistent information on our website. Currently AB Parks website states that camping costs are \$0.00. We should also have a consistent set of guidelines
- b) Perhaps we could have stickers for campers' windows to indicate the year that they were effective for
- c) Lorne Hindbo suggested that perhaps we could work in conjunction with the Alberta Outfitters to get trails cut as outfitters are in fact responsible for maintaining the trails in their area

P. The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 by Tyler Holinski
