

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BOD)
MINUTES OF MEETING**

September 15, 2014

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Interpretation Centre, CEF, Ottawa, 7:00 p.m.

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Dan Brunton, Barbara Chouinard, Julia Cipriani, Barry Cottam, Don Hackett, Diane Kitching, Alex MacDonald, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Henry Steger, Ken Young

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Owen Clarkin, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Eleanor Zurbrigg

1. Minutes of the June 16, 2014 Meeting

Moved by Annie Bélair/Barbara Chouinard that the June 16th minutes be accepted as distributed.

CARRIED

2. Business Arising from the Minutes

- a) Fenja said that she has received the adequate information from Trent University regarding the student who was hired to help with the CFN. The work was sanctioned by the university and the student got her credits.
- b) An updated version of the waiver for field trips was circulated by email.
- c) A survey was sent to directors over the summer to see about moving the BOD meetings to Tuesday nights. The survey showed a slight preference towards Mondays. The Exec committee decided to keep the meetings on Mondays; if there's a holiday, we will choose an alternate date.

3. Communications

- a) The OFNC received a thank you card from the municipality of Shawville for the donation of \$5000 towards the chimney swift restoration project.
- b) Dan announced that the deal on the Gervais property was finalized; the land transfer will occur on January 5. Expenses however exceeded the first estimates and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) will need an extra \$75,000 to cover all the costs. They have started a fundraiser; Dan will put a notice in the next T&L on that matter.

4. Budget for 2014-2015 – Barbara Chouinard

The draft budget for 2014-2015 was circulated by email before the meeting. Barbara thanked all the committee chairs for sending their proposed budgets on time, and with good documentation.

There were discussions on the larger items:

- a) Birds Committee – FLAP

See [#7](#) in the Birds Committee Report in [Annex 1](#).

Directors agreed with the proposed expenses.

Ken pointed out that the OFNC needs to know if the Ottawa chapter of FLAP is part of the larger FLAP organization or part of the OFNC, as this will make a difference when dealing with financial or legal details.

ACTION: Rémy to find out where the Ottawa chapter of FLAP stands as a legal entity.

b) Education and Publicity – Communications Plan

Lynn first pointed out that her committee’s budget proposal included \$10,000 for the creation of a new OFNC website. Then she explained that the Education and Publicity Committee agreed that a broader look at communication goals and target audiences was needed before trying to revise the website. She and a member of the committee, Linda Burr, therefore met with a communications consultant, Heather Badenoch of Village PR, to discuss the issue.

Heather provided an estimate of \$6780 for her services. The first step would be to conduct surveys among directors, committee chairs and members and even other club members in preparation for a 1-hour facilitated discussion at a BOD meeting (possibly during the November meeting). She could then set 3-year priorities for the OFNC, identify our internal and external communication goals, key messages, and appropriate tools and tactics for our target audiences. She said it could be completed in as little as 2 months.

Directors agreed that such a plan would help with the creation of the new website and other promotional activities. They asked to see a sample of Heather’s work.

ACTIONS:

Lynn to send samples of surveys and communications plans produced by the consultant to the BOD.

Barbara to add the estimate of \$6780 for the consultant to the Education and Publicity Committee’s proposed budget.

c) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Relocation of the Bill Cody Fern Trail and Reconstruction of the Ash Woods

The FWG Committee’s budget estimates will be finalized during their meeting on September 24.

Next steps: Finance Committee to update budget as needed; BOD to vote on final budget at October 20th meeting.

5. Committee Reports

a) **Education and Publicity** – Lynn Ovenden

The committee asked Fenja to sign the “Agreement for the Community Service Learning Program” between the University of Ottawa and the OFNC. With this agreement, an OFNC member can arrange to supervise a student volunteer who will work for 30 hours over a 3 month term on a project that meets a specific need of OFNC. The Education and Publicity Committee is offering a placement for an ecology student to write articles for the OFNC blog, Field Notes.

The Board agreed to the proposal, although Ken pointed out that the agreement states that in “the event of an injury or workplace disease, the WSIB or ACE INA procedures in place must be followed.” He said that we should find out what those procedures are.

ACTIONS:

Lynn to follow up with the university regarding the procedures in case of an injury.
Fenja to sign and return to the university.

b) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Barry Cottam

See report in [Annex 2](#).

Regarding the Bitternut Hickory that was planted in memory of Laurie Consaul: Fenja asked about including a plaque; Barry will follow up.

c) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

The first meeting of the new season was on Sept. 13; there were 14 new kids, for a total of 33.

Lynn asked Diane if for next year’s Bug Day, volunteers and even members of the Macoun Club could join the other OFNC volunteers at the OFNC display and speak to visitors. This year’s Bug Day on September 6 attracted over 2000 people; this is great exposure for the club.

d) Membership – Henry Steger

Henry announced that there are 134 new members so far in 2014. This is the largest number of new people the club has seen in 20 years.

Directors pointed out that it would be useful to ask these new members what prompted them to join.

ACTION: Fenja to write a letter to new members to ask why they had joined; Henry to forward to the new members.

e) Publications – Dan Brunton

All publications are on track.

f) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald

i. This week, Nature Canada will be releasing the name its new Executive Director.

ii. The last ‘bioblitz’ at Mud Lake will be held shortly. This will be the last one there. Nature Canada is looking for a new site; Alex said these public awareness events will now be called ‘Nature Blitzes’ as they are not truly bioblitzes.

g) Ontario Nature – Don Hackett

i. The fall regional meeting will be held in Deep River on Oct. 18.

Unfortunately, Don will not be able to attend and will ask around to find a replacement.

ii. Ontario Nature is working on buying a piece of land that stands between non-contiguous sections of the Lost Bay Nature Preserve on Lake Gananoque; it is looking for contributions to cover the last \$50,000. Don

suggested the OFNC could contribute; directors present asked to see more information on the land for sale and on the nature preserve, and asked if the Nature Conservancy of Canada was involved.

ACTION: Don to prepare an information package and share with BOD.

MOTION: That the OFNC contributes \$5000 to Ontario Nature towards the purchase of the final segment of land to complete the Lost Bay Nature Preserve.

Moved by Dan Brunton/Don Hackett

The BOD will look at the info package Don will provide and vote on this motion at the October 20th meeting,

h) Birds – Rémy Poulin

See report in [Annex 1](#).

Rémy reminded everyone that the Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) Convention will be held in Ottawa on September 26 to 28.

6. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by Barry Cottam/Don Hackett that the meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

Meetings in 2014:

Monday, October 20

Monday, November 17

Monday, December 15

Birds Committee (BC) Report – September 2014

1. 2014 Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) Convention

This event is fast approaching and will be held in Ottawa 26 to 28 September inclusive. A total of 38 volunteers have been recruited to lead 29 trips scheduled over the three-day period in Eastern Ontario and Western Québec. Most of these volunteers are members of the OFNC but the list also includes representatives from the Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais, the Pembroke Area Field Naturalists and the Kingston Field Naturalists as well as members of Bird Studies Canada. A number of youth-related activities are included on the schedule as well as excursions focusing on bird photography. Social events will be held at the Nepean Sportsplex. As of the beginning of September, 180 people have registered to attend the Convention, which, I understand, is higher than any other previous convention three weeks before the start date. Consequently, it is reasonable to expect between two and three hundred attendees this year.

2. Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP)

An Ottawa chapter of FLAP has been established and more than 25 volunteers have been recruited to date. Of these, about 15 are actively conducting patrols. More than 90 birds have been found since fall migration patrols started on August 9th and eight have been rescued. A smaller number of volunteers conducted patrols during the spring migration period and found an additional 80 birds, of which six were rescued. So far in 2014, the list consists of 45 species ranging in size from Ruby-throated Hummingbirds to a Barred Owl. Anouk Hoedeman prepared a FLAP funding proposal (copy attached). As the Ottawa chapter is an initiative of the Birds Committee, our budget request for FY 2015 includes amounts for FLAP (see para 7 below). Work is also underway to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FLAP, Nature Canada, the OFNC and the Wild Bird Care Centre.

3. OspreyCam.

The camera and associated equipment were installed this season but, due to bandwidth limitations and mobile internet connectivity problems, a live feed was not established. The two Osprey chicks were banded on July 26th in the presence of a number of observers including about 14 members of the OFNC. Of note, Mark Armstrong (Laurie's husband) was invited and attended. As the OFNC has previously agreed to financially support the OspreyCam initiative, the BC budget request for FY 2015 includes an associated amount (see para 7 below).

4. Seedathon

This year's event was held on August 24th and the team consisting of Bernie Ladouceur, Bob Cermak and Greg Zbitnew found 121 species. Pledges totalled approximately \$1030.

5. Bird Counts

Given the OFO convention in Ottawa in late September and a number of other activities in October, a Fall Bird Count will not be held this year. Another bird count will be scheduled (perhaps in the "dead of winter" or in the spring) to make up for this. The Christmas Bird Count will still go ahead and is scheduled for December 14th.

6. Bird Checklist

Technical problems have been encountered and progress has been limited. The BC, at their August meeting, appointed Bob Cermak to become the project manager and he has been asked to evaluate the work done to date and to report back to the committee with a summary and recommendations on the way forward.

7. BC FY 2015 Budget Request

The BC met on August 25th and agreed on the following submission:

a. Recurring = \$4,000 consisting of:

i) Bird Counts = \$600

ii) FalconWatch = \$500

iii) Seed Purchases = \$1,500. This year, the feeder at the Museum of Nature facility in Gatineau will be re-added to the list.

iv) OspreyCam = \$500. We have not received the final number from IPBO yet; however, this was the number that was previously suggested as the cost for the next step to getting the footage online. Should this amount prove to be insufficient, a separate motion for additional funding will be tabled at a future BoD meeting.

v) FLAP = \$900 for telecommunication services, rescue and rehab supplies, materials for creating educational displays, travel and training.

b. Non-recurring = \$3,200 consisting of:

i) FLAP = \$1,200 to cover the cost of paper bags to be used for outreach and education (sample attached separately) and the purchase of a freezer to store dead birds (see FLAP funding proposal). This is a maximum amount – options are being explored to reduce the cost.

ii) Checklist = \$2,000. This amount was previously approved by the Board but will need to be pushed to the right into FY 2015.

Rémy Poulin

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FWG REPORT – JULY to SEPTEMBER 2014

This summer has been a busy one at the FWG and for most of it I've been away. Since I'm still playing catch-up, this should be considered a draft report. A final report will be provided in the next few days.

The MC is in the midst of discussions regarding the Ash Woodlot, including finding a new name. We appreciate the interest and generous provision in the OFNC budget for up to \$25000.00 to assist in this project. It will be a major point of discussion at our MC meeting next week.

The relocation of the William Cody Fern Garden to the BYG is proceeding rapidly. An area on the east end of the BYG is being planted by Lis Allison and others. The MC will get back to the BOD re the suggested budget of \$5000.00.

Jay Ladell, former BYG manager and owner of a landscaping company, was contracted to put in a flagstone pathway through the Fern Garden. This work was completed earlier this month.

Artist Karl Ciesluk installed two art pieces at the FWG, one in the birch grove south of the Butterfly Meadow and the other incorporating the nearby Camperdown elm. Both are designed to be temporary. Mr Ceisluk is interested in creating more installations, but the MC has decided such pieces are not a good fit with the concept and purposes of the FWG. Ceisluk is an internationally known artist who is participating in the On the Edge: Artists' Gardens project, discussed in the June FWG Report.

Communications: Sandy reported on the results of the August meeting of the Communications Committee. The FWG is being added to the Cornell Yardmap project, with Ottawa U students doing the work involved under the supervision of Alex MacDonald, Nature Canada's new rep on the Board. As well, Sandy did a seed saver workshop on September 14, attended by people from the Learning Garden project at Ottawa U (who did some planting in the Ash Woodlot earlier in the summer) and some others from our Facebook group.

The MC has decided to turn the September meeting over to a discussion on the future of the FWG, focussing on topics such as spending and habitats. Henry is chairing this meeting.

Henry has developed and updated a record of actions and decisions. It has been distributed to the MC for discussion.

Butterfly Meadow: Diane reported that the weather has been slowing things down this summer, but her group did manage to continue improvements. The new triangle south of the

bridge that was prepared in June by the Kemptville Stewardship Rangers and the Pricewaterhouse Cooper group has largely been planted; it will be finished next spring or early summer. Owen Clarkin provided some trees which were planted last Wednesday, including a small Bitternut Hickory in memory of Laurie Consaul.

I was pretty much absent from the WISG this summer, but am pleased to report that the group did some innovative work in support of Butterfly Meadow. In addition to scything and clearing

DSV from around trees and shrubs adjacent to the Meadow, Geoff Rowe has been testing the use of systematic mowing to control DSV in small areas while Hedrik Wachelka has done some experimental planting of clover to see if it is useful in slowing down DSV enough to give grasses and other plants a chance. Anecdotally, it seems that DSV has been slowed significantly this summer, owing to the chilly, wet weather. Hopefully we can build on this next year. The glyphosate test area was treated on June 17. Poor conditions held up the second application but the treated DSV failed to develop any seed pods.

Brian Haddon is discussing possible plans for the New Woods with various FWG volunteers who are familiar with its history. He will report to the MC at some future date.

Stephen Darbyshire is planning a tour of the FWG for participants in the Weeds Across Borders Conference next month. A couple of presentations are slated for the IC as well.

The June Report discussed the presentation by José L. Fernández-Triana on a caterpillar / parasitoids project he is directing. A few volunteers have become involved but to date we have no relevant results to report.

Barry Cottam

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