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

March 17, 2014

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

Chair: Henry Steger

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Fenja Brodo, Dan Brunton, Owen Clarkin, Barry Cottam, Don Hackett, Diane Kitching, Ann MacKenzie, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Julia Cipriani, Barbara Chouinard, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Guest: Jakob Mueller from the Events Committee

1. Minutes of the February 17, 2014 Meeting

Moved by A. Bélair/A. MacKenzie that the February 17th minutes be accepted as distributed. **Carried**

2. Discussion on the Report of the Special Board Meeting on the FWG (Feb. 17th)

The revised report was attached to the February BOD meeting minutes.

Ann also attended the FWG committee meeting on Feb. 26th. She said that some committee members were strongly opposed to the use of herbicides, which was proposed on a test basis in the report. She reported that there was however acceptance that approaches to controlling invasives need to be different from one area of the FWG to another.

FIRST MOTION: That the Board of Directors accept the revised report as an accurate reflection and summary of the February 17th special Board meeting on the FWG. **Moved by** Ann MacKenzie/Lynn Ovenden

CARRIED

SECOND MOTION: That the revised mission statement and strategic objectives stated in the report will direct the FWG Committee in its future management decisions. **Moved by** Ann MacKenzie/Dan Brunton

CARRIED

3. OspreyCam at Innes Point Bird Observatory

At the BOD meeting of December 2013, all directors agreed with the proposal to participate in the OspreyCam project. Rémy therefore drafted a memorandum of understanding and sent it to the Executive Committee for comments. Once finalized, this will be signed by all three participants (OFNC, Innes Point Bird Observatory and Nature Canada).

It was suggested that the three participants in this project discuss possible advertising on the Osprey Cam and how donations might be used. The Laurie Consaul bequest will be used to cover the expenses, therefore the directors asked Rémy to mention that we would like to call this the Laurie Consaul Osprey Cam.

The BOD asked Rémy to proceed with this project.

4. Deadline for Deactivation of Non-Renewing Members

Henry explained that the current procedure is to include members who do not renew their OFNC membership on the mailing list until the end of June. This means that they receive two free issues of T&L. He proposed to change that to the end of March.

MOTION: That OFNC members who do not renew their membership for a new calendar year be removed from the membership list on March 31st, instead of June 30th.

Moved by Henry Steger/Ann MacKenzie

CARRIED

5. Czasak Bequest / Gervais Property

At the BOD meeting in January 2014, Owen and Dan informed the directors of a unique 30.2 hectare property on the Ottawa River that is for sale. They presented this as a major conservation opportunity for the OFNC, especially because of the money available from the Czasak bequest.

Owen has since presented this to the Conservation Committee. They were very supportive of the proposal but were concerned with the property's distance from Ottawa. Some directors expressed the same concern. Dan reiterated that this is still in the Ottawa Valley, that it is on the Ottawa River, and that Violetta Czasak was an active member of the Ottawa Rowing Club. He emphasized again the uniqueness of this property, and that owner would prefer not to subdivide it.

The BOD gave its approval to the Conservation to continue with the discussions on this proposal and to keep in touch with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

ACTION: The ad hoc Bequest Committee to draft a bequest expenditure policy and present a proposal regarding the Gervais property with this policy in mind.

6. Committee Reports

a) Birds – Rémy Poulin See Annex 1 for the report that was sent by email.

b) Conservation – Owen Clarkin

- a. Owen said that Dave Seburn, member of the committee, wrote a mitigation paper on how to reduce turtle mortality rate on Roger Stevens Road in the Marlborough Forest. It recommends to the city to fence off a part of the road to help reduce the number of endangered turtles killed by cars. Dan pointed out that this should be sent directly to the mayor.
 - **ACTION:** Owen, Dan and Fenja to review mitigation paper; Fenja to sign as president.
- b. The Conservation Committee is considering organizing bioblitzes at notable sites in the Ottawa area. They would like these sites to be studied for a

whole year and a report produced at the end.

c) Education and Publicity – Lynn Ovenden

Lynn brought a draft copy of the bilingual Larose Forest Booklet the committee has produced and said they are enquiring about the printing costs in black and white or in colour.

A decision still has to be made about pricing the booklet.

Dan said that the Publications Committee must approve it and edit it if necessary before it is published.

ACTION: Lynn to send file to Dan for review by the Publications Committee.

d) Events – Jakob Mueller

Now that the monthly meetings are being held at the Neatby Building, the committee has run into a small issues with the venue. The room must be reserved and set up for the meeting, then put back the way it was afterwards. An AAFC employee must also be present per regulations and must let people into the building.

The Events Committee is proposing to give an honorarium to an AAFC student who would be tasked with the on-site coordination of the meeting. Jakob explained that Jeff Skevington and Hume Douglas, who are members of the Events Committee and AAFC employees, would be able to find one or two students and train them for the task.

MOTION: That an honorarium of \$80 per meeting be given to an AAFC student for the on-site coordination of the OFNC monthly meetings at the Neatby Building until the end of the fiscal year.

Moved by Dan Brunton/Diane Kitching

CARRIED

e) Awards – Ann MacKenzie

The nominations for 2013 OFNC awards were approved by the BOD by email between February 16 and 19, 2014.

The citations were then circulated; approval by email is due by March 21st.

f) Macoun Club - Diane Kitching

See Annex 2 for the report that was sent by email.

g) Ontario Nature – Don Hackett

The regional meeting will be held at the FWG on April 12th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Don asked for some help with organizing the meeting. The BOD pointed out that he can contact the FWG building managers, Eleanor Zurbrigg and Brenda McCrae, as well as Diane Lepage.

The BOD agreed that providing coffee and pastries in the morning and lunch would be a nice gesture.

MOTION: That the BOD approves expenses of up to \$300 for coffee with pastries, then lunch at the Ontario Nature regional meeting on April 12th. **Moved by** Don Hackett/Ann MacKenzie

CARRIED

7. Chimney Swift Restoration Project in Shawville

See item 5 in the Birds Committee report.

A group of people in Shawville are proposing to build a new chimney-like structure to replace an old, deteriorating chimney that chimney swifts have used to nest for many years.

The Birds Committee supports this idea, as does the OFNC treasurer, Ken Young. The proposed procedure is to pay for some of the construction costs.

MOTION: That the BOD approves the expenses of building a new chimney-like structure for this project for up to \$5000 and authorizes Ken to contact the Shawville group to advise them of the decision.

Moved by Dan Brunton/Diane Kitching CARRIED

8. Motion to adjourn:

Moved by Henry Steger/Lynn Ovenden that the meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: A. Bélair
Meetings in 2014:
Tuesday, April 22 (because of Easter Monday) Tuesday, May 20 (because of Victoria Day) Monday, June 16
Tentative dates for fall: Monday, September 15 Monday, October 20 Monday, November 17 Monday, December 15

Birds Committee (BC) Report to OFNC Board of Directors – March 2014

- 1. Bequest Committee. The BC representative on this committee is Chris Traynor.
- 2. 2014 Ontario Field Ornithologists (OFO) Convention. Planning continues for this event to be held in Ottawa 26 to 28 September inclusive. A draft schedule was produced and provided to the OFO earlier this month for review. To date, 36 volunteers have been recruited to lead more than 30 trips scheduled over the three-day period to about a dozen locations in the Ottawa area. Most of these volunteers are members of the OFNC but the list also includes representatives from the Club des ornithologues de l'Outaouais and the Pembroke Area 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.
- 3. Fatal Light Awareness Program (FLAP). Discussions are ongoing with Nature Canada and FLAP Canada about setting up a local chapter here in Ottawa, ideally in partnership with the OFNC. FLAP is registered nationally; therefore an Ottawa chapter could potentially operate on both sides of the Ottawa River. The Ottawa group is planning to meet again soon in the hopes of launching activities (i.e. dawn patrols) for spring migration. Nature Canada will fund a trip for Anouk Hoedeman of the BC and Sarah Kirkpatrick-Wahl of Nature Canada to travel to Toronto to see how they operate.
- 4. OspreyCam. The Innis Point Bird Observatory has purchased the camera and discussions are ongoing with the OFNC Webmaster on how best to incorporate a live stream capability on the OFNC website. As previously reported, the total estimated cost for the first season (2014) is \$5K. This includes the purchase of all the major equipment including the camera, the battery and the solar panels. Ongoing operating costs for future seasons are estimated to be on the order of \$1K annually, primarily to pay for mobile internet charges and data usage. These recurring costs could be offset by any revenue generated through advertising, donations and tours (these are preliminary thoughts and will require further discussion among all participating organizations). A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to be signed by the IPBO, Nature Canada and the OFNC has been drafted and will be distributed for review.
- 5. Shawville Chimney Swift Restoration Project. The OFNC has been approached to potentially contribute to this project. The BC supports this proposal so long as: (1) the OFNC's involvement can be done in a way that satisfies all the CRA legalities; and (2) the project has a reasonable possibility of success. It is recommended that the OFNC confirm that the local municipality is supportive and that the project plan adheres to best available advice for this sort of undertaking.
- 6. Lac Deschênes-Ottawa River Important Bird Area. There are three IBA-related items:
- a. Application for funding Nature Canada is applying to the Ontario Trillium Foundation for funding to undertake the next phase of their NatureHood program related to the IBA.

The OFNC provided a letter confirming our ongoing collaboration with Nature Canada on initiatives related to this IBA.

- b. BirdFair 2014 To highlight our local IBA, Nature Canada organized a BirdFair at Andrew Hayden Park held last May. The event attracted hundreds of people to a number of activities including bird walks, banding demonstrations, music, crafts etc. Planning is now underway in preparation for BirdFair 2014, which will be held on Saturday, May 31st. The suggestion was made last year to have a steering committee direct the efforts, and the OFNC was invited to be represented on that committee. Brenda McCrea has volunteered to be the OFNC representative.
- c. White Water Rafting At our last meeting, the BC discussed news that a white water rafting company was given the go ahead to conduct trips through the Deschênes Rapids. It was recommended that the company be approached to get more details on their plans (i.e. timings of trips, frequency, routes, group sizes, etc.) and to offer to work with them to identify sensitive areas and determine how best to minimize the potential for disturbances. Nature Canada was approached and confirmed that they are interested in joining us in this effort. As a first step, they agreed to convene a meeting of the IBA Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the OFNC and the COO as well as local IBA Caretakers that Nature Canada has recruited, to discuss this subject and other IBA "threats" identified in the Conservation Plan. The meeting was originally scheduled for March 14th but had to be rescheduled to later this week.

MFC Report, March 17, 2014

On January 25, we had the first "great Macoun give-away" from our collection of rocks and minerals which we unable to store. Rob showed us various specimens from his own collection, together with the notebook in which he recorded the types of specimen, where they came from, and when/how he acquired them. Everyone was given a notebook to be used for recording their own rocks and minerals. This was a very popular activity, and will be repeated in April. On Feb. 1, Laura Cowie held everyone's attention as she talked about some of the wildlife on Madagascar and described the research that she and others conducted there. On February 8, marine biologist and former Macoun member Michelle Caputo described her research on brook trout in Gros Morne NL for a master's degree, and then gave us a preview of what she hopes to learn about dolphins for her doctorate. Our last meeting was on March 1, when Rachel Vallender of the Canadian Wildlife Service gave a fascinating talk about how, using genetics, researchers are tracking the decline of the Golden-winged Warbler and its hybridization with the Blue-winged Warbler.

We had only two field trips in February, one to the Study Area and one to Pakenham. We saw lots of animal tracks and left behind our own much larger ones, thanks to the use of snowshoes. Because of March break, our first and only March field trip will be on March 29th.

Diane Kitching