

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

April 20, 2015

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

Chair: Fenja Brodo

Directors Present: Annie Bélair, Julia Cipriani, Barry Cottam, Ted Farnworth, Diane Kitching, Louis L'Arrivée, Alex MacDonald, Karen McLachlan Hamilton, Lynn Ovenden, Rémy Poulin, Jeff Saarela, Henry Steger, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Directors Absent: Carolyn Callaghan, Barbara Chouinard, Owen Clarkin, Ann MacKenzie, Ken Young

1. Minutes of the March 16, 2015 Meeting

The second half of the last sentence in Annex 2 (Investment Guideline Policy) was missing; Annie will correct.

Moved by Annie Bélair/Louis L'Arrivée that the March 16th minutes
be accepted with the correction mentioned above.

CARRIED

2. Action Item from the March Minutes : Possible donation towards the purchase of the final section of the Alfred Bog by the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC)

Frank Pope sent some information to the directors following the March board meeting, but they felt it didn't address the question of the value of purchasing this last section as it is already surrounded by protected land. Directors felt they still don't have enough information on the situation and on the necessity of protecting this section of land to make a decision.

Another issue is that after the purchase of the Gervais property by the NCC, the OFNC learnt that \$25,000 of the \$200,000 donation it made towards the purchase was not used; the NCC suggested using it to purchase another piece of land for conservation, namely the last section of the Alfred Bog. Directors were uncomfortable with this procedure and felt that since the donation was for the Gervais property, it should have been used for that.

ACTION: Fenja to contact Gary Bell to discuss the procedure used by the NCC with the \$200,000 donation for the Gervais Property, and contact Frank Pope to ask for more information on this last piece of land for sale in the Alfred Bog.

3. Communications

- a) In October 2014, the BoD agreed to endorse Dave Seburn's proposal on turtle nest protection research he wanted to submit to the Canadian Wildlife Federation's Endangered Species Fund. Dave recently told Fenja that his proposal has been accepted.
- b) The Ontario Court of Appeal has reversed a lower court decision in the Ostrander Point Crown Land wind project; this means that the wind turbine project has been halted, but

legal procedures might not be over.

4. Committee Reports

a) Awards – Eleanor Zurbrigg

The Awards Night took place on Saturday April 18th; the next step is to send the citations to the CFN.

b) Birds – Rémy Poulin

- i. The Birds Committee is considering organizing a bird count in late August or September.
- ii. Rémy sent a funding request by email prior to the meeting: the FLAP group would like to buy materials (such as a tablecloth, a table runner with logo, a donation box and a high-quality presentation board) to upgrade their display for public events. The total requested is \$550.00. Rémy also mentioned that FLAP has received donations through our Club to further its work.

MOTION: That the OFNC allocate the amount of \$550.00 to the Ottawa wing of FLAP to help them upgrade their display to be used at outreach events.

Moved by Rémy Poulin/Julia Cipriani

CARRIED

c) Conservation

At the last meeting, Barbara Chouinard said that she would send more information on the issue of the Burnt Lands Alvar, where the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists (MVFN) have appealed to the Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) to stop a planned housing development that would destroy a portion of the alvar. The MVFN are raising funds to cover the legal fees to go forward with this appeal to the OMB, and asked the OFNC for a donation.

Directors discussed the information received. It was noted that there are already a few houses on Golden Line Road.

MOTION: That the OFNC donate \$5000.00 to the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists to help cover the cost of the appeal to the Ontario Municipal Board to stop a planned housing development that would destroy a portion of the Burnt Lands Alvar.

Moved by Diane Kitching/Barry Cottam

Vote: 11 in favour; 1 abstention

CARRIED

d) Education and Publicity – Lynn Ovenden

- i. The committee has a new member who is interested in helping with publicity.
- ii. The Ottawa Regional Science Fair took place on March 27 and 28. Lucy Patterson and Kathy Conlan were there to award the OFNC prize to two or three projects that “demonstrate a knowledge of some aspect of natural history, field ecology, or wildlife conservation”. This year’s winners were Shamus McCoy and Allan Leveille.
- iii. Applications for the 2015 Youth Summit for Biodiversity and Environmental Leadership are now available. A notice will be sent by email to OFNC members, and the Education

and Publicity Committee will look into putting an announcement in community newspapers.

e) Events – Julia Cipriani

- i. The Awards Night on April 18th went very well; Julia estimated there were about 80 attendees. Yet she says the number is still too low for the amount of volunteer work that is required. The BoD is reserving time at their meeting in June to discuss the future of the Awards Night.
- ii. Julia also reminded everyone that if they want to organize an event for July, August or September, they must send the info to Karen before the end of May for it to appear in T&L.

f) Fletcher Wildlife Garden – Ted Farnworth

- i. See report in [Annex 1](#).
- ii. The FWG committee has replaced the phone in the interpretation center and has switched to a different phone company.
- iii. All directors are invited to the FWG volunteers' spring potluck on April 26th.
- iv. A ceremony to dedicate the new bird feeder to the memory of Charlie Clifford is being planned.
- v. The FWG is still looking for more volunteers.

g) Macoun Club – Diane Kitching

See report in [Annex 2](#).

h) Publications – Jeff Saarela

Jeff reported that the call for proposals for our first Research Grants competition has now been distributed widely, and that Dave Seburn took the lead on the distribution. One application has been received so far. All are encouraged to send it to anyone they think could benefit from this new fund program; the deadline for applications is May 15.

i) Nature Canada – Alex MacDonald

- i. Nature Canada is busy advertising for the Bird Fair on May 30. Alex brought publicity bookmarks for all to distribute.
- ii. They are also organizing a Migration Parade on May 13 with 6 schools to celebrate and bring awareness to the birds', butterflies' and dragonflies' migration. Some embassies of the western hemisphere will be involved in the event.

j) Ontario Nature – Barry Cottam

Barry attended the regional meeting on April 18th, hosted by the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists; he said he will share some of his notes with the BoD.

5. New Business

- a) Louis reported that for the action/sales table at the Awards Night, Tony Beck and Nina Stavlund donated a package of 8 greeting cards, said they should be sold for \$40, and

asked for an income tax receipt. As the request for an income tax receipt was unusual, Louis asked Ken for information. In an email conversation prior to the board meeting, Ken explained that it is not the club's practice to give receipts for gifts in kind but that the Board of Directors must approve any requests for such receipts. He said that the club doesn't have a policy on this matter and offered to prepare a discussion paper. The discussion was deferred to the next board meeting as Ken was not present at this one.

- b) Eleanor, who is co-manager of the FWG Interpretation Centre, pointed out that they will be doing a spring cleaning in the backroom, and asked anyone who is storing items there to take them away or label them properly.

6. Motion to adjourn

Moved by Diane Kitching/Barry Cottam that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

CARRIED

Recording Secretary: Annie Bélair

Meetings in 2015 at the FWG:

Tuesday, May 19

June 15

September 21

October 19

November 16

December 14

Fletcher Wildlife Garden Report

1. Upgrade / replacement of telephone in the Interpretation Centre: The new system does most of what the Bell line did at about half the price; there is no number listed in T&L at the moment.
2. New bird feeder in the Back Yard Garden
3. Annual plant sale (June 6)
4. Volunteer Spring Fling (April 26) - members of the OFNC board are welcome to participate
5. FWG is participating in Native Plant Days - Friday June 19th to Sunday June 21st 2015; enjoy a stroll through Ottawa's native plant gardens! Learn about wildlife gardening and landscaping with indigenous flowers, trees and shrubs. Enjoy opportunities to discuss the best native plants for your garden with knowledgeable gardeners.

NOTE: Spring cleaning at the IC. Since other Committees also store items in the IC, we would request that they check their storage, purge any unwanted items, and generally clean up (e.g. any mouse droppings in drawers/boxes, etc).

Ted Farnworth
FWG Management Committee

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Macoun Field Club Report

We were on March Break from March 14 through the 21st, resuming our regular programming on March 28th for a meeting on insects, but then we were off again for the Easter weekend. On March 28th, our new volunteer, Vinko Culjak Mathieu, gave us a fascinating and entertaining overview of insect orders, and we expect that there will now be considerable interest in discovering and identifying the insects we find on field trips.

On April 11th, we went to the Study Area for five hours, a place where we haven't been for what seems like a long time – the extreme cold made the Pakenham hills area, where we could build fires to keep warm, seem like a better destination. It also gave us plenty of opportunity to practice snow shoeing. In the Study Area most (but not all) of the snow was gone, and the sun was warm enough in the study tree woods that we found several garter snakes and saw a Mourning Cloak and a Green Comma. Elsewhere we were welcomed by Red-breasted and White-breasted Nuthatches and, of course, Chickadees. The ponds were still mostly ice-covered, and we hypothesized that the many dead frogs and sticklebacks we found around the edges of one pond probably suffocated from a lack of oxygen caused by the ice cover and rotting vegetation.

On April 18th, Rob talked about various aspects of bird life and bird study in North America, touching on historical and contemporary topics such as hunting, conservation, protection, introduced species, habitat loss, etc. He also described bird classification, and for this we used copies of the latest Peterson Field Guide that the Club purchased with some of the donated funds we have been given. In the evening several members attended Awards Night. Morgan and Gabriel each did a project (bones, birds of New Zealand respectively) and our president, Ulysses, spoke about what a great time MFC members have, learning about nature through talks and walks. Some (edible) creatures on the food table were very popular....

Diane Kitching

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