

**THE OTTAWA FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS (BoD)**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Monday, May 13, 2019**

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

**Chair:** Jakob Mueller

**Directors and Ex Officio Members Present:** Annie Belair, Henry Steger, Gordon Robertson, Bob Cermak, Catherine Hessian, Elizabeth Moore, Ann MacKenzie, Bev McBride, Diane Kitching, Owen Clarkin, Ken Young, Anouk Hoedeman, Eleanor Zurbrigg

**Directors Absent:** Diane Lepage, Fenja Brodo, Ted Farnworth, Jeff Saarela

1. Approval of the Agenda - approved as circulated
2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 15, 2019. - **Moved by** Elizabeth Moore, seconded by Gordon Robertson, acceptance of the April 2019 minutes. **CARRIED**
3. Business Arising from Minutes - none
4. Communications – several publications had been received and were circulated. A batch of letters had been received from Cambridge Street Public School pupils and their teacher, expressing thanks for OFNC funding of transport to MacSkimming Outdoor Centre. It was suggested that some of these letters might be published in T&L.
5. Treasurer's Report – Ann reported that the Pelee trip had covered its costs and the Club was in a position to refund those individuals who had cancelled. The terms and timeframes for cancellation and refunds are currently unclear. **Action: Jakob and Ann will review refunds for this trip and develop a clear policy for future trips that will be stated in advance.** It was suggested that a waiting list should also be considered for future trips. Jakob suggested that it would not be unreasonable to make a small profit on future trips. He noted that a neighbouring club had offered a three day trip for approximately the same cost as the OFNC's four day trip and that the Club's currently comfortable financial position will not persist indefinitely.
6. Issues for Discussion/Decisions
  - a) Proposed changes to the Ontario *Endangered Species Act* – The Ontario Government had previously initiated a broad conversation about possible amendments to the Act to "make it easier and more **efficient** to do **business** with the province". The Club had submitted a letter emphasising the importance of the Act. More concrete proposals to remove protections have now been outlined. Particular concerns expressed by members of the BoD were that, rather than affecting individual species, the changes will affect habitat which will affect numerous species and that species at the limit of their range will not be protected which will have serious consequences when ranges alter in response to climate change because species members at extremes of their ranges are better adapted to changing conditions. **Action: Jakob, in collaboration with Owen, will draft a letter for comment/approval by BoD and will submit letter by comment deadline**

**of May 18.** The BoD discussed possible strategies for educating the public about the importance of the environment both in the short and longer terms. Suggestions included: developing teaching materials and activities to point out to people what natural history exists in different areas: focusing on activities for children to raise awareness in families: creating an OFNC Award for environmentally conscious “developer of the year”: encouraging a move away from the term “development”, which is seen as a positive, to a term such as “habitat conversion”

## 7. Committee Updates

a) Awards - nil

b) Birds - nil

c) Conservation – Owen: members are focusing on herps this year, especially trying to find species in areas where they have previously not been documented. Owen and Jakob visited Warwick Forest Conservation Area near Avonmore - finds included eastern garter snakes (not previously recorded), leopard frogs, wood frogs, and spring peepers. They also visited the Orleans ravine forest system - 7 species were found in total, including 3 salamanders, wood frog (not recorded recently), common toad, spring peepers. The yellow spotted salamander (not previously recorded) was found. Blue spotted and yellow spotted salamanders in the same area suggest a healthy forest. They will return to these sites and are planning visits to other sites. They are interested in encouraging other participants in these visits.

d) Education and Publicity – Gord: Lynn and Gia Paola had staffed a booth at the Wildlife speaker series. Jane’s walk at FWG was very well attended - 110 visitors - almost double last year. A new scavenger hunt has been developed for trail 51. Spring story boards are up. The Ontario Nature Youth summit has been publicised. Annie reported that All Saints High School had contacted her regarding involvement in their bilingual nature club and she had attended on April 24.

e) Events – Jakob: committee will be meeting soon. New members are needed. The Pelee trip had been a success. Jakob thanked Bob for organising the leaders. He will ask for feedback. The committee will be considering the suggestion of not listing/not listing in detail events in T&L. Date changes and cancellations are a frequent issue and advertising events on the website and by email only would save paper and costs. Planning events so far ahead to meet publication deadlines is difficult.

f) Finance – Ken asked committee chairs to start thinking about budget proposals. Year-to-date financial data will be distributed by Ken and Ann at the June Board meeting. Committee chairs and others will then develop budget proposals for submission to the Finance Committee (by August 1). A draft budget will be tabled by Ken at the September Board meeting, for final approval at the October Board meeting.

g) FWG - Gord reported that the Spring Fling had been rather poorly attended. It had been decided to cancel the internet connection. An enriched student group had come in to do some potting with Sandy. Another fire extinguisher is needed and there are no smoke detectors. Jakob suggested going ahead and purchasing these as there has been no response from AAFC. Tony Denton and Chris Mark have volunteered to join the committee.

**Moved by** Gordon Robertson, seconded by Bob Cermak, that Tony Denton and Chris Mark be accepted as members of the FWG Management Committee. **CARRIED.**

h) Macoun Club - Diane: on April 27 the club had a drawing workshop. There had been a field trip to Stoney Swamp. Jennifer Doubt had given a talk and demonstration on mosses. Upcoming are a talk on the Triassic and, on June 8, a field trip to the Ste Anne de Bellevue Ecomuseum. It was suggested that it would be nice to have reports of some of these events in T&L.

i) Membership – Henry noted that, although MailChimp is free for 2,000 notifications or less to members per month, costs will be incurred if this is exceeded.

j) Publications – Annie reported that the Biodiversity Heritage Library has scanned all volumes of CFN. They have also done 23 random T&Ls. She has now started scanning the remaining issues at the library at the Museum of Nature, with the help of another volunteer, and has uploaded some of the issues to BHL. They will keep working on this as time permits. There is a link on the T&L webpage to BHL, where the digitized issues are available.

k) Safewings – Anouk: new paper bags with illustrated instructions have been produced. May is very busy with migration season. City of Ottawa is still working on bird friendly design policy. Trying to get OC Transpo to review LRT stations and consider murals on bus stations. They have been contacted by the Chateau Laurier to comment on the new design for their extension.

7. Adjournment – **moved by** Jakob, seconded by Henry, that the meeting be adjourned.  
**CARRIED.**

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

-----  
Upcoming Meeting Dates

May 13, 2019

June 17, 2019

September 16, 2019

October 21, 2019

November 8, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diane Lepage  
President  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth Moore  
Recording Secretary  
Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date