

Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday April 18, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

Chair: Jakob Mueller

Present: Annie Bélair, Bob Cermak, Owen Clarkin, Ted Farnworth, Catherine Hessian, Kerri Keith, Diane Kitching, Diane Lepage, Ann MacKenzie, Janette Niwa, Gord Robertson, Ken Young, Eleanor Zurbrigg

Absent: Elizabeth Moore

1. Approval of the Agenda

Approved as circulated.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from March 21, 2022

Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Annie Bélair, that the minutes of the March 21, 2022 meeting be accepted.

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

a) Compound Microscope Donation

– still waiting for feedback

b) Aly Hyder Ali

Aly has become a member and is therefore eligible to be a Director.

Aly works for Nature Canada but would not represent Nature Canada. He would be an at-large director.

Moved by Diane Lepage, seconded by Ann MacKenzie, that Aly Hyder Ali be appointed to the Board of Directors as a member-at-large.

CARRIED

c) Sponsorship for Ontario Field Ornithologists' Young Birder Event

Bob circulated an email (see Appendix 1) providing an update on the Alan Wormington Memorial Camp, designed to give youth (13+) an immersive experience of nature activities in Algonquin Park.

Preference would be given to Macoun Club members, then to children of OFNC members.

Moved by Ken Young, seconded by Bob Cermak, that \$800 be made available to support a participant at the 2022 Alan Wormington Memorial Camp.

CARRIED (12 in favour, 1 opposed, 1 abstention).

Action: Bob will contact Jeff Skevington, one of the leaders, to ask for information needed for a notice to members.

4. Communications

Details of mail received were circulated by email.

5. Treasurer's Report (Ann MacKenzie)

Nothing to report.

6. Issues for Discussion

a) Six Month Financial Update

Ann explained the purpose of the financial update. It is an opportunity to take stock of the financial situation. Ann circulated a spreadsheet (see Appendix 2) showing revenues and expenses for the first six months of the fiscal year, compared to the budget and the previous year. She noted the reasons for items that are high or low related to their budget.

On the revenue side, we received a bequest, and significant donations to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden and to SafeWings.

On the expenses side, there is nothing unusual.

In response to a question, explained that she tries to let committees know about large donations. There is no formal system to do so, partly for donor privacy reasons.

Action: Ann will provide Ted with background information about the donation to the Fletcher Wildlife Garden.

Ann asked Jakob to find out why there has not been an invoice for Nature Network affiliation fees.

Action: Ann will provide information to Jakob so that he can check on the missing Nature Network affiliation fee.

b) Cooperation with the Sanctuary for Butterflies and Pollinators

Diane Lepage was approached by Pete Dang of Biodiversity Conservancy International, best known for its work on the Pinhey Sand Dunes. Diane is a member of their board. Pete is looking:

1. to form a partnership with OFNC in order to learn from each other and, for those willing, to offer assistance with our sanctuary project in terms of planting and providing information on planting.
2. to have members of the OFNC who are interested to do butterfly/pollinator watches to observe and record the species present on the dunes.
3. for the OFNC to help spread the word about the events and programs that we are offering.

It was agreed that we will help publicize their events, and generally cooperate with them.

Action: Gord will put the information on our website.

It is not clear what further relationship they want. Peter Dang will be the speaker at our June monthly meeting, and can speak about what he would like from us at the meeting. They are welcome to ask for the help of our members at the meeting. Owen and Diane both offered to liaise with them.

7. Committee Updates

a) Awards

Eleanor: nil to report

b) Birds

Bob discussed the Innis Point Bird Observatory with Bill Petrie regarding access to the IPBO. Bill said that Public Services and Procurement Canada

and DND negotiated an access agreement with them. Bob thinks that this is a model to explore concerning access to the Shirleys Bay causeway (as opposed to dealing with the City of Ottawa).

Action: Bob will follow up with PSPC.

Concerning the Osprey Cam at IPBO, which the OFNC has subsidized: PSPC will not allow cameras of any kind on crown land so the cam is being moved to the Nepean Sailing Club where an osprey platform is being set up.

c) Conservation

Owen reported that Jakob is the Principal Investigator for a salamander project at Voyageur PP. He recently found a Spotted Salamander, a new record for the park. Jakob's efforts at Voyageur have so far resulted in records of Spotted, Blue Spotted, Redbacked, Newt, and Two-lined salamanders. There is also a record, first since 1989, for Red-bellied Snake.

There is a request from Ontario Power Generation to do a bioblitz of the Morris Island Conservation Area in 2022. Owen, Janet Mason (Ottawa Stewardship Council) and Roger Magoon (Macnamara FN) attended a meeting with OPG to discuss how to do this. The Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority is also involved.

All parties are interested in doing this. However, we propose having a kick-off one-day bioblitz in June, followed by continuing inventory work through the next 12 months, to cover seasonal species – 6–10 visits. We will need to provide some of the people for this project, and possibly some money.

Action: Owen will take the lead on this on behalf of the OFNC.

d) Education & Publicity

Gordon reported that a meeting was held on 22 July, with 8 members present – a record. Two new members present: Leo Van Der Wouden and Hannah Delion. Need to check on OFNC memberships.

Moved by Gordon Robertson, seconded by Diane Lepage, that Leo Van Der Wouden and Hannah Delion be appointed as members of the Education & Publicity Committee.

CARRIED

Deb couldn't attend but I spoke with her about the Naturehood project. She agreed to send me a revised version. She has decided to go forward without Joan Harrison. I received the revision but haven't reviewed it yet. Joan has subsequently written to Gordon but he hasn't responded yet.

Commissioned 5 new "spring" stories to fill our storyboards. Lloyd Mayeda and Gordon replaced 7 stories last Friday.

Owen, Lloyd, Diane and Gordon selected and reviewed (online) 7 Science Fair projects. Four were selected for our prizes. When we have their addresses we'll send them their cheques and certificates. We'll need \$400 to pay for the prizes (up from \$300 in budget. Gordon indicated that for next year's budget, he will propose that the Science Fair prizes be \$200 per prize.

We have agreed to help out at the Jane's Walk at the FWG and to give a tour for Scouts on 3 May. COVID protocols will be respected. There will not be an open house at the RC.

e) Events

Whether people working for governments should be given an honorarium was discussed.

Action: Jakob will check with the people involved.

f) Finance

Ken - nothing to report.

g) Fletcher Wildlife Garden

Ted circulated the following report by email:

COVID restrictions are in place. Entry into the Resource Centre requires wearing a mask, and a form attesting to vaccination status must be signed. The maximum number of people in the RC is 10.

The Fletcher will once again be the site of a Jane's Walk this year. Lynn Ovenden is the lead. On May 8, small groups of visitors will be taken on short walk around the property by FWG volunteers.

The official start of the volunteer outdoor season has yet to be announced. This year we will have a Tuesday group led by Sandy Garland, a Tuesday evening group led by Elizabeth Powles, A Friday morning group led by Chris Mark/Pam Johnston, a Saturday morning group led by Pam Johnston and a flex time/day group led by Catherine Shearer.

Diane K asked if the Macoun Club could return to meeting at the RC. Ted said that they could, as long as they met the conditions above.

Some trees have fallen down or are in danger of doing so.

Action: the FWG Management Committee will identify trees that are a hazard.

h) Macoun Club

Diane K reported that there have been a couple of meetings. One to Brewer Park is planned for May 7.

i) Membership

Kerri reported that everything is working fine. Henry is a great help.

The issue of people who make duplicate membership payments was discussed. It was agreed that if such members cannot be quickly contacted, the duplicate payment should be refunded. These almost always happen on PayPal, so the refund process is simple.

There was a discussion of how the membership/donation page on our website could be improved.

Action: Ann will contact Gillian Marston to see if she can help.

j) Ontario Nature

The semi-annual regional meeting was held April 9. Jakob could not attend and is waiting to hear from Diane Holmes.

Action: Jakob will contact Diane Holmes.

k) Publications

Annie reported that issue 56(2) has been mailed. May 1 is the next deadline for T&L.

l) Safe Wings Ottawa

Janette emphasized two things.

1. Avian flu has become a big problem. Rescues of gulls and waterbirds are prohibited, and there is a caution on carrion-eaters. This is creating a lot of work for the rehabbers, and also the Wild Bird Care Centre.
2. Deb is working on the Naturehood project, which will be put before the Board in May.

Her full monthly report, circulated by email, is:

Communications

- Avian Influenza: have published several social media posts about it, discussion with WBCC about the situation, trying to manage the public panic, noting which birds are likely to have it and which can be helped.

Volunteer activities/update

- Trying out a new volunteer scheduling software, Sign Up Genius
- Naturehood/Britannia Woods Community House (BWCH): Deb has refocused the partnership to work with the OFNC, discussions with Gord and Ann to finalize a revised proposal; pending decision by OFNC.
- uOttawa update: 3 new volunteers will be patrolling; hoping to start another window mural soon/for fall.
- LRT reports sent OC Transpo, the City of Ottawa and our Stage II contact.

Collision Data

- Josée is still finalizing last year's data.

Annual display, specimens

- No update; SW needs someone to coordinate this event.
- 2022 specimen storage: have 2 new freezers (Vars and Orleans)
- Looking for someone in a central location to take another freezer and be a drop off resource/site.

Other events

- CSE/Green Mobilization Network April 21: Willow and Anouk are presenting.
- Jane's Walk May 7: Janette and Josée will do it again this year.
- World Migratory Bird Day May 14: at Ron Kolbus centre; Janette and Josée will man our table display.

Advocacy update

- No update yet from ECCC on our submission for 200 Kent.
- Sent information on Bird Friendly strategies to several new buildings.
- The City has shared a one-year report on the Bird Friendly Design Guidelines; some progress but the guidelines only apply to buildings that were approved after the guidelines were passed.
- Carleton are making some changes; they will be using dBird to report window collisions.
- City of Victoria, BC has recently passed Bird Friendly guidelines.

- We are always looking for new volunteers for this sub- - please let Willow know if you are interested.

Rehab update

- Avian influenza has massive impact - we have drastically altered operations:
 - Cannot accept any ducks, geese, gulls or other water birds.
 - Working with the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to develop plans for ducklings and what to do with birds that need to be euthanized that do not have avian flu.
 - Questions or concerns? Call Anouk, Sue or Christina.
- Central drop off/ Rehab help:
 - As of July, Anouk will not be available as a rehabber or a drop-off point.
 - Need a location close to downtown where birds found on patrol can be left until they can be transferred to the WBCC.
 - Let Anouk know if you can help.

OFNC Board update

- Deb made a presentation to the OFNC regarding the potential partnership with Naturehood; awaiting their decision.
- The OFNC is considering a centralized communication resource/system. Would this benefit or support SW?
- Bird Friendly Ottawa – the Bird Team is working on the criteria; next step is to develop a strategy on how to engage city councillors.

Strategic planning

- Report from our last session summarizing some of the key points will be used this to prioritize our activities over the next year or so.
- We will post on Google Drive; interested volunteers can come forward.

8. Other Business

a) Threat to the Burnt Lands

Diane reported that the Mississippi Valley Field Naturalists are concerned about development pressure on the Burnt Lands. Both Lanark County and the City of Ottawa want to open the area to housing development. The OFNC needs to monitor the issue.

b) World Migratory Bird Day

Joan Harrison has arranged an event at the Ron Kolbus Centre on May 14. SafeWings will be represented.

c) Earth Day

Owen is leading a walk on April 23 for the Hunt Club CC at McCarthy Woods.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned

Recording Secretary: Elizabeth Moore

Minutes Prepared by Ken Young

Upcoming Meeting Dates

May 16, 2022

June 20, 2022

Appendix 1: Alan Wormington Memorial Camp for Young Birders and Naturalists

Email from Bob Cermak to the Board, 8 April 2022

Hello all,

At last month's meeting I mentioned I would provide information about OFO's Alan Wormington Memorial Camp for Young Birders and Naturalists in Algonquin Park July 3-10.

At this month's meeting I will suggest that we consider sponsorship for Macoun Club teen(s) (and OFNC members?) 13+ to attend this camp.

I have just learned that the cost of the 7 day camp is \$700 per youth. The camp is limited to only 14 participants, 9 youth have registered to date. Registration is open now at <https://of025.wildapricot.org/event-4729940>

About the Camp

This year's OFO's Alan Wormington Memorial Camp for teen birders and naturalists will take place from Sunday, July 3 to Sunday, July 10. Campers must be 13 years old at the time of the camp.

Led by professional scientists and guides, the camp is designed to give campers an in-depth experience of the birds, moths, dragonflies, snakes, mushrooms and ecology of the park. Campers will participate in the Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas, contributing their finding to the atlas database. Campers will also have an opportunity to learn from the active researchers at the station and practice their wildlife photography skills.

Itinerary

July 3: Arrival at the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station (WRS)

July 3 - 6: Stay at the WRS

July 7 - 8: Backcountry camping in the east side of Algonquin Park

July 9: Overnight at the WRS

July 10: Departure

Accommodation

Campers will stay at the Algonquin Wildlife Research Station in the heart of the park. Situated beside a small private lake in an untouched forest, the station is a hub for wildlife researchers and a perfect base for exploring the Algonquin Park natural environment.

A two night camping excursion is planned for the east side of the park. Campers will explore the unique habitat at the east side by canoe and on foot.

For more very interesting information see:

<http://www.ofo.ca/content/young-birders/camp>

Appendix 2: Six-Month Financial Update

Email from Ann MacKenzie to the Board, 15 April 2022:

Directors

Attached is the six-month report on the club's finances with comments as needed.

For the keeners who pull out last year's six-month report you will notice that the numbers shown for last year on this report are a bit higher. This time I have included what our accounting software states was in the first six months of the previous year which would have included a few extra entries that came in after the report was prepared last year. It will be the same this year. Some of you have been known to get invoices to me several months after the expense was incurred ;)) That is why the invoice date on the requisition for payment is important. If there are several small receipts I just use the date you send me the claim. For this mid-year report it is not critical in the same way it is for our year-end at Sept 30th.

OFNC Six-Month Financial Update to March 31, 2022

	6 mon th Actu al	Annu al Budg et	% of Bu dg et	6 mon th 202 0-21	Comm ents
Income					
4005 Membership	20,165	27,000	75 %	20,035	
4030 Sales FWG		6,500	0%		
4030 Sales Other	223	500	45 %	477	
4105 Donations General	3,956	5,000	79 %	7,942	
4106 Donations FWG	7,181	1,500	47 9%	1,740	\$4,515 from Civic Hosp Parks
4107 Donations Seedathon	575	400	14 4%	400	

	6 mon th Actu al	Annu al Budg et	% of Bu dg et	6 mon th 202 0-21	Comm ents
4109 Donations SafeWings	15,5 49	7,500	20 7%	6,98 1	A \$5k donati on for compu ter system and \$2.5k from Human e Society
4120 Bequest	9,47 1				Betty Marwo od estate settled
4200 CFN Subscriptions	19,0 91	23,00 0	83 %	19,3 71	
4220 CFN Author's Charges	18,5 48	30,00 0	62 %	20,4 20	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 94,7 59	\$ 101,4 00	93 %	\$ 77,3 66	
Expenses					
5001 CFN Expenses	27,6 04	59,00 0	47 %	23,0 10	2 full issues this year vs about 1½ previou s
5105 T&L Expenses	8,05 5	24,00 0	34 %	10,3 79	Printin g of latest not include d

	6 mon th Actu al	Annu al Budg et	% of Bu dg et	6 mon th 202 0-21	Comm ents
5202 FWG Habitat	942	8,500	11 %	3,726	Previou s year high becaus e of Pollinat or Works hop
5203 FWG Fundraising	660	500	13 2%	-	
5230 FWG Centre - phone, cleaning	1,290	2,350	55 %	877	Include s \$430 for dehumi difier
5230 FWG Centre - pubs		900			
5305 Awards Cttee	371	450	82 %	-	
5306 Awards Night	-	1,200	0%	-	
5310 Birds Cttee	2,116	3,050	69 %	1,372	Rare Birds data entry (\$ 1,200) this year
5311 Safe Wings	2,724	12,000	23 %	3,297	
5315 Macoun Club	-	700	0%		
5325 Educ & Pub	-	3,100	0%	-	
5330 Events	400	1,550	26 %	300	

	6 mon th Actu al	Annu al Budg et	% of Bu dg et	6 mon th 202 0-21	Comm ents
5335 Membership	1,006	600	168%	377	New computer system for new chair
5340 Research Grants	2,175	15,000	15%	1,500	
5605 Affiliation Fees	175	450	39%	423	No Nature Network fee this year
5615 Bookkeeper	4,035	8,200	49%	3,476	higher prices
5620 Club Admin	849	1,100	77%	439	Dymon storage (\$189) and ON Bus Reg (\$170)
5620 PayPal & 5690-Bank Fees	878	1,800	49%	980	
5670 Donations	1,000	5,000	20%	10,000	\$1k for Wolf Grove, previous \$10k for Alfred Bog
5685 Insurance	1,920	1,900	101%	1,865	

	6 mon th Actu al	Annu al Budg et	% of Bu dg et	6 mon th 202 0-21	Comm ents
5710 Professional Fees	6,288	6,500	97 %	5,820	
5784 Travel	-	-			
5790 Website	23	400	6%	23	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 62,5 11	\$ 158,2 50	40 %	\$ 67,8 64	