



Date: January 4, 2023 | **Location:** Chicken Delight, Beausejour | **Time:** 7:30pm
Facilitator: Jason Combe | **Note Taker:** Anika Evans

1. CALL TO ORDER - 7:27pm

Everyone is welcome at BRGFA general meetings. Only members in good standing may vote on motions. All BRGFA announcements and news go to members via email and are posted on the website. Please make sure your info on file is correct. If you do not have online access or if you have any questions or issues, please talk to an executive.

2. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Call for additions, deletions, revisions. Kelly Bourns calls for clarification on page 2, that Ben Husthwaite coaching will be August 5-8, not just the weekend. Approval of minutes (from December) – Motion: Dawn Scarfe – Second: Bob Austman.

All in favour – Carried

3. NOVEMBER TASK CHECK-IN

COMPLETED: Anika Evans – give all resolutions to Kelly Bourns

COMPLETED: Mark Miller – write up range rental contract and send to secretary for proof-read. (Some confusion here – some execs received, some did not. Everyone will check again.)

4. EXECUTIVE & CHAIR REPORTS

4.1 EXECUTIVES

President (Jason Combe)

- Held exec meeting, then holidays, so not a whole lot! Calling for talk with Execs after meeting.

Vice President (Brett Steffes)

- No initial report. Kelly Bourns asked about grants. No further info. Have confirmation that applications went in. 20,000 grant for 25K project. (BRGFA would need to put up 5K towards 25K project.) Award is variable, do not know how much could be awarded.) Talk more as execs. *Brett send Anika applications for records.*

Treasurer (Kelly Bourns)

Comprehensive printed hand-out with secretary files

- RBC: Dec 4 statement: 26,261.14. Outstanding cheque for \$2,583.02, plus membership fees, minus other expenditures. Balance Jan 4 is \$29,601.12.
- Sunova: \$12,625.31 plus \$275.00 float

- Overall assessment is that we're "in fairly good shape"
- Discussion of another purchase of clay thrower by BRGFA from the Bourns, as per previously worked out plan.

Membership (Dawn Scarfe)

- As of Dec 22 we have 56 members paid and registered for 2023 including 3 new members
- Memberships taken before this January 4th meeting.
- Discussion of proposed "range master key kit". Decided in favor of keeping status quo.
- Kelly Bourns wonders whereabouts of large key ring and spacers from last year. No one thinks they have them in possession, but Dawn will check at home just in case. If they can't be found we will pay Bruce Carter-Squire to replace these rings.
- Dawn will set up 2022 key return box at range.

Secretary (Anika Evans)

- Intercepted and forwarded a few emails to membership; No other activity of note.

Range Officer – Rifle (Brent Steliga)

- Absent – no report

Range Officer – Handgun (Mark Miller)

- Cleared road into range and parking area by clubhouse.
- Moved snow off rifle and handgun firing lines and cleared trails to both ranges target backstops.
- Road is passable by truck, 4x4, etc.

Range Officer – Shotgun/Sporting Clays (Dale Bourns)

- Not much happening given winter.
- Kelly working on updating sporting clays website for this coming year.
- Husthwaite booked for August 5th – 8th. Will be asking for \$100 deposit on \$175/hour lesson slots from those who have expressed interest. Email will be going out to those who have booked time.
- **Motion from Dale Bourns: \$2,500 to come out of BRGFA account to purchase one used clay thrower from Dale and Kelly Bourns in line with previous agreement. Second: Bob Austman.** Discussion: At present club owns 14 traps, this would make 15. Dale and Kelly own 22 traps on the property. **Dale and Kelly abstain from voting. Rest in favour, motion carried.**

4.2 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Sponsorship – (April Obriek)

- Gearing more towards Ladies Learn To efforts
- Plans to revise Cabela's sponsorship applications
- Larger entities (e.g. Walmart) donate to registered charities
- Paul Millan puts for that the local community foundation will fund grants for entities like BRGFA.

- Dawn Scarfe reports that she secured items to be used as prizes and learning tools from Black Earth Grills, Summit Racing, and Hermann Firearms earmarked for LLT.
- Paul Millan and April will get together around banquet sponsorship.

Wildlife Conservation & Hunting (Bob Austman)

A full written version of the report is available at the end of this document

- Bob started off with a show of hands as to who filled whitetail tag this season.

Archery – Chair Vacant – No report

Training & Education (Jason Combe & Kelly Bourns)

- If anyone has suggestions for a course, or wants to teach a course, please reach out!
- Ladies Learn To... Anika wrote up letter to instructors – not just looking for females, but that is ideal. Still looking for instructors – have 4 currently. Taking applicants thru January 15th. Paul Millan has idea for instructor.

MOTION TO ACCEPT REPORTS AS GIVEN: Dawn Scarfe. 2nd: April Obriek. All in favor, Carried.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Bruce Carter-Squire sent an email to confirm that the gate lock was changed.

6. NEW BUSINESS (none)

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1 - Banquet (Presenter: Paul Millan / Action date not set)

Haven't had meeting since Nov 27th, but Paul has started putting together plan. Call for volunteers. Can reach out to Paul, Brett, Ray, Ryan if interested. April 22nd is date. Caterer is confirmed – Evolve caterer is booked. Large side of Legion Hall – Beausejour room -- has deposit for that date. Hopeful to have set up before, but it might not be possible. Jason asks about invite letters, Paul will take care of that. Music? Have ideas, maybe Jim or Louie? Kelly and Dale would like to do short presentation of sporting clays thru the years, maybe present Long Bird Challenge plaque to 2022 winner at banquet. No recognition for BRGFA activities for 3 years now. Could collect photos of accomplishments of members for Power Point presentation for "covid years". Call for sponsorship and prize items.

7.2 – CCFR National Range Day (Presenter: Jason Combe / Action date not set)

1st Saturday June. Events will focus on intro to rifle/handgun. Invite people to check out facility, hopefully new members will come of it. Kelly and Dale will do shotgun intro. Jason and Brent for sure as volunteers, call for more to help.

7.3 - Ladies Learn To... (Presenter: Kelly Bourns / Action date not set)
Covered in Training/Education report

7.4 – Bylaws/Constitution review (Presenter: Kelly Bourns / Action Date not set.)
Execs have been provided with copy of bylaws and constitution for revision. Deadline is Jan 25th, will present at February meeting.

7.5 - RM Land south of BRGFA (Presenter: Bob Austman / Action date not set)
Would like to engage RM about land south of range. RM is “intense” in land use currently, keeping “green space” is important for ecosystem. Plot could be used for peat moss mining, which would damage it. Having that space would also be good buffer for ranges. Call for discussion on how to approach RM, what our plans are, financial commitment. Wants to gauge membership feelings on 25 year lease of land. Paul asks if there's any other option besides a lease?

When Jason and Brett went to council last year there was no interest in moving forward with it, but mentioned that if they were faced with proposal they would have to act, but there's no serious desire to do anything with it now. Perhaps first right of refusal? Don't know how that might work. Jason points out longevity is an issue.... Perhaps get together with another association? Brett's concern is that interest by BRGFA might shed unwanted attention on the space and it could actually drive the destruction of the space. Also problem of access and range use conflict concerns by CFO. Call needs to be made to CFO to make sure that range won't be compromised. Keep as undeveloped land in perpetuity in name of BRGFA? Would be impossible to buy land. Would have to be lease. Could tie it to current lease? Need to examine zoning. What happens with insurance? Perhaps BRGFA sponsors keeping it as green space? Need to strike committee, who will reach out CFO, etc.

Motion to strike committee to consider wetland property and involvement by BRGFA. Bob Austman will Chair. Dawn Scarfe 2nd. All in favor, Carried.

8. EVENT REPORTS (NONE)

9. ADJOURNMENT & NEXT MEETING

Motion to Adjourn, Dawn Scarfe. Adjourn 8:38 pm.
Next Meeting: February 1st at Chicken Delight.

10. BEARPIT (Open Discussion)

ATTENDEES:

Brenda R.
Paul Millan
Jason Combe
David Wilton
Robert Bissett
Bruce Freeman
Dianne Freeman
Nick Scharer
Brett Steffes
Bob Austman
Mark Miller
Dale Bourns
Kelly Bourns
Dawn Scarfe
Anika Evans
Ray Schirle
Gary Dancho
Don Sedo
Ron Mozel
April Obriek
Charlene Baert
(two more late arrivals)

REGRETS:

Brent Steliga

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND HUNTING REPORT

Submitted by : Bob Austman, January 4, 2023

- 1. Hunters who submitted their deer heads this season are asked to check the provinces website to see if their sample came back negative for CWD. This should be done before the meat is actually consumed, although there is no evidence at this point that Chronic Wasting Disease can be transmitted to humans.**
- 2. At this point in Manitoba, only 7 Mule Deer have been found that tested positive for CWD.**
- 3. To decrease the chance of CWD spreading from the epicenter in western Manitoba, hunters are now eligible to hunt Mule Deer this winter, with a bag limit of 3 animals.**
- 4. Over the last several years hunters have been voluntarily submitting deer heads to be tested for Brainworm, a parasite that does not cause harm to White-tailed Deer, but is fatal to moose and caribou. The final report given by Eastern Region biologist Daniel**

Dupont shows that 85% of the samples were infected with Brainworm larva. This does not bode well for the moose population in Eastern Manitoba because their ranges do overlap. The same situation has led to complete closure of moose hunting in Minnesota, and reduced hunting opportunities in northwestern Ontario.

Brainworm is transmitted from White-tailed Deer to moose when they ingest snails that carry the larvae of Brainworm while feeding on aquatic vegetation. Snails are the intermediate host of the Brainworm. Upon ingesting them, the larvae develop into adult worms, migrate to the fluid between the skull and the brain, and then begin destroying brain tissue, causing blindness and eventual loss of coordination. In White-tailed deer, the adults simply live off the fluid between the brain and the skull, causing no harm. (there's your Biology 101 lesson for today)

- 5. Discussions with hunters have indicated that they saw fewer deer overall, and they spent more time filling their tag, and that there was more than the usual sign of predators like wolves and coyotes. The Wildlife Branch relies on feedback from us so please fill out the on-line survey. This will help provide information to establish next year's seasons and bag limits. Some hunters wondered out loud if it would revert back to bucks only next year. Time will tell.**
- 6. The province has allocated \$1.7 million dollars to provide better personal protection and communication devices to our Natural Resource Officers.**