

Minutes approved at the Oct. 5/18 AGM
MSA 2017 AGM
St. Patrick's Parish Hall, N.E. Margaree
Friday Oct. 6/17

President Bill Haley called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM asking for a moment's silence in memory of departed comrades.

He then asked Director Paul MacNeil if there was a quorum of at least 15 members. MacNeil replied that there were in excess of 29 members in attendance.

President's Address: Haley began by thanking Past President Lester Wood, (who could not be in attendance), for his role directing the association through some rather exciting times. Wood had opted to step down as President and Haley was asked to complete the last two years of Wood's three-year term.

Haley commented that he was staying the course, established by the Board, of looking at the Science and building partnerships with other stakeholders.

Commenting on the Provincial Ministry of Fisheries, Inland Fishery Dept., he specifically mentioned the Kelt Fishing program in the spring and the Brood Stock collection for the Margaree, Baddeck/Middle River and the Mabou/Graham's river systems. MSA is also cooperating with that department towards possibly establishing a spot for barrier free fishing.

With DFO he mentioned the placing of a fish trap in the estuary, that some of the Adopt A Stream personnel had and were assisting with, and that 15 Salmon had so far been tagged, plus a number of striped bass. The placing and locating of Water Temperature meters was described with the comment that the water temperature where these meters were placed, had NOT gone over 20 C this summer.

MSA also perused funding for a Fluvial Geomorphological Study and a CABIN study on the river and both had been completed and final reports would be tabled shortly.

Our Adopt a Stream crew did stellar work again this year.

Haley then mentioned the various meetings that MSA takes part in, commenting specifically on the Cape Breton Collaborative Salmon Initiative, (CSI-CB), spearheaded by the Unima'ki Institute of Natural Resources, (UINR). Further, he explained, MSA had invited Shelley Denny, Director of Aquatic Research from UINR, to come to a board meeting to explain the history of Treaty and Natural Rights.

MSA also is involved with other regulatory meetings that DFO holds.

MSA also met with Port Hawkesbury Paper who outlined their 5-year plan and members have visited their current cutting site.

Haley concluded by thanking the board for their support and work.

Minutes of Last AGM: Secretary Stinson commented that the minutes of the last AGM were posted on our website and copies had been distributed prior to meeting. No errors or omissions were noted but there was a question from John Hart re: how resolutions put forward to the BOD that do not go forward to the AGM were handled.

Haley answered that the Resolutions Committee considered all resolutions and that a letter was sent out explaining the reasons why a particular resolution might not go forward. This had been done for the other resolutions presented at the 2016 AGM: a letter was sent to the individual who proposed any resolutions.

Bill Jollymore commented that he had put forward these resolutions last year but had ONLY received a post from a contact in BC, with the letter scanned, within the last month. It ensued that, apparently, the letter had been sent to the wrong address or, at least, a FORMER address of Jollymore's.

Admin Assistant Julie Lovely and Pres. Haley apologized for this.

There being no errors or omissions noted Stinson asked for a motion to accept minutes as presented and it was moved by David Fram, seconded by Greg Lovely, that the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted as circulated. **MC**

Treasurer's Report: Haley asked Treasurer, Beverley MacMillan to present her report. MacMillan began by reminding attendees that the report covered only up to our year-end, March 31/17. Copies had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Being no questions, she asked that the report be accepted as presented. Pat Wall seconded. **MC**

Membership: Haley asked Membership Chair John Stinson, to present his membership report. Stinson explained that last year at this time we had 77 Regular Members and 96 Life members and that many memberships do come due this weekend, so numbers might vary slightly after the weekend.

However, as of Sept. 25, we have 117 members, (76 NS, 14 ROC, 27 US) This represents an increase of over 50%. This is likely due, in large part, to our presence at the sportsmen's' shows in Halifax and Glace Bay.

Life members, as of this week we actually added one more, and now have 106, 45 NS, 16 ROC, 41 US, 4 other.

He went on to discuss Social Medan and our Face Book presence and that the page we are using is the one with the flies as the ICON, (NOT our MSA crest). You ONLY have

to like the page, not ask to join. As of this a.m. we have 791 LIKES or people following the page.

He also mentioned our website and that we attempt to keep the website updated with the latest major events, such as the newsletter, but that the website is a bit more problematic because we do have to go through our Webmaster.

As to the newsletter, it goes out mainly in a digital format, with only about 20 copies having to be mailed to those not able to access on line, (mostly Life Members) and that printing will continue for the foreseeable future but there has been some discussion on doing this in a magazine format.

Stinson then asked Newsletter Editor Mike Allen if he had any comment. Allen explained that, although the association had about 200 members, over 1500 read the newsletter on line.

Technical Committees: River studies. Greg Lovely was asked to bring the members up to date with the CABIN and the Matrix Fluvial Geomorphological Study (FGM).

Lovely began by explaining what the CABIN study meant and the process. When completed, the report would be disseminated and be put on our website but, in brief, except for some pollution on Lake O Law Brook and near the Hatchery, our river was “fantastic” as far as CABIN measurements are concerned.

FGM Lovely went on to do the same with the FGM initiative, explaining that we had started by approaching 3 companies and the process involved. He had **just** received a 93 page report, had not had time to really digest it yet and told those assembled that the BOD would be meeting with Ron Jenkins, who was in charge of the study for Matrix, shortly.

He did read a brief executive summary to the group and ended by suggesting that this report was about protecting and saving Salmon and Trout habitat, not about providing pools for fishers.

He concluded by suggesting, in all likelihood, when the Board had time to go over the document, this report would also go on line as well.

Adopt a Stream: Leonard Forsyth was asked to give the report on the AAS and began by saying that the current board was primarily looking at the ‘nurseries’, the tributaries to do work in, rather than the main river. Work this year had been carried out on the Capt. Allan, Mill and Marsh Brooks with some attention to the Nile Brook. As well, maintenance was performed on former structures.

He discussed a couple of problematic areas: Big Brook, a section of the Lake O Law Brook and a severe gravel bank erosion problem on the Ingram (Hatchery) brook. All may need to be addressed.

He thanked the AAS crew for a job well done.

David Fram and Anita Coady both congratulated the AAS crew and the Board for the work they were doing!

Nominating Committee: Haley asked Mike Allen to take the floor and handle the nominations. Allen told the group that there were two nominees for the board.

Due to Lester Wood stepping down from the President's chair, and Haley taking on that role, Paul MacNeil was being nominated for Vice President and, to fill Paul's role on the board, Joel Robinson had been nominated.

Allen gave the members some background on each individual.

Moved by Patrick Wall, seconded by Anita Coady that nominations cease. Haley called for a vote. All in favour, 1 opposed, **MC**

New Business: There being no new business, Haley asked **Daryl Murrant, Inland Fisheries** to say a few words and he did so, mentioning that it was in March of 2007, that the province had taken over the Margaree Hatchery, so this was the 10 year anniversary.

He went on to explain in some detail the role of the department but, as important, the role of the Hatchery in supplying trout and salmon to the watershed and, indeed, to Cape Breton Island.

He commented there is a three-year plan submitted for replacing the various pools and raceways at the hatchery.

He thanked MSA for their assistance in the various projects, including fin clipping.

Pat Wall was then asked to say a few words on behalf of **Wild Salmon Unlimited, (WSU)**. Wall began with the comment that WSU had been in existence for 4 years now and that the group was essentially a fund raising organization. He went over some work being done with Inverness South Anglers and Richmond Wildlife Associations as well as some work being done on the Middle River.

He informed the group that WSU was embarking on a study on the value of Atlantic salmon stocking and enhancement policies with Dalhousie University.

He concluded by telling the group he had been appointed as a NS adviser to Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation.

Questions:

Pat Muloney had a question on the temperature gauges, suggesting they were inaccurate and not correctly placed and he felt MSA should monitor temperatures and, at least, 'suggest' the river not be fished when certain water temps reached.

He also had a question on licenses and felt that Salmon Licenses be mandatory for anyone fishing the river, as is done in other jurisdictions. It was felt these issues should be raised with DFO when attending their regulatory meetings.

Wide ranging discussion ensued, with Darryl Murrant commenting that a one-day Salmon license might be initiated. In the end, Haley agreed to bring the concerns expressed back to the board for discussion.

John Hart had a question and suggestion that MSA approach DFO about announcing a 5 year moratorium on Salmon retention fishing--, that the catch and release for Salmon, as now imposed, remain for 5 years.

Again considerable discussion ensued, including the fact that DFO uses data to make these decisions but concerns were expressed that this data was problematic because only about 20% of license holders return their fishing stats, even though it is conditional to being re-licensed.

In the end, Moved by John Hart, seconded by Kay Robertson that MSA write a letter to DFO, asking for a 5-year moratorium on retention fishery for Atlantic salmon on the Margaree. Motion was carried with some against. **MC**

Cormack Award: Haley then presented the Cormack Award to John Stinson. Stinson thanked the board and membership for this undeserved honour and explained, although he did not fish the river, he was a lover of rivers and what lived in them. He also commented it had been a pleasure working with the board.

On a motion by Dave Fram, meeting was adjourned at 8:29 PM

Treasurer's Report...approved but this copy not signed.

Financial Statement for the year ended March 31st 2017

1. Statement of Receipts and Expenses.

	2016	2017
	\$	\$
RECEIPTS:		
Grants:		
-Adopt A Stream	21,020	14,204
-River Restoration	117	2,700
Donations	205	7,565
Investments	0	62,220
Fundraising	7,978	13,778
Memberships	3,600	3,960
Interest	905	10,220
 TOTAL RECEIPTS	 33,825	 114,647
 EXPENSES:		
Habitat restoration and enhancement	39,645	64,630
Benches	0	300
Special Projects	0	16,113
Fundraising	1,486	4,277
Membership	255	794
Printing & supplies	1,679	1,424
Travel	356	491
Office	3,784	428
Insurance	1,508	2,948
Computer and communications	648	1,083
Meetings	79	
Rent	0	3,000
 TOTAL EXPENSE	 49,400	 95,488
 NET Revenue/(Loss)	 (15,615)	 19,159
 OPERATING EQUITY FUND		
-Beginning Balance	25,386	9,771
-Closing Balance	9,771	28,980

MARGAREE SALMON ASSOCIATION
Financial Statement for the year ended March 31st 2017

-2-

2. OPERATING EQUITY FUND comprising:

	2016	2017
	\$	\$
Bank Accounts: General operating	2,482	3,630
Project	2,799	14,747
Investment	199,359	182,648
Endowment	0	1,943,633
In Trust Accounts		
Accounts Receivable-HST refundable	4,534	1,733
TOTAL	209,174	2,146,391
Less		
Restricted Accounts		
Deferred	199,403	2,117,461
NET TOTAL EQUITY	9,771	28,930
TOTAL	209,174	2,146,391

Signed:

Bill Haley
President

Beverly MacMillan
Treasurer

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

Receipts:

AAS: 2016-(\$4204)2017-(\$10,000)

Donations: (Cabin-\$3000),(Trout & Salmon Foundation-\$1935) (Fed of Fly Fishers-\$1939),(General-\$691)

Investments: (New-Dr. Wallace-\$50,000) (transfer from savings- \$12,220)

Fundraising : (Auction-\$10,406), Advertising-\$545, Saleables-\$1437)

Expenses:

AAS: \$64,630—Personnel-\$61,562, Operating-\$3068

Special Projects: \$16,113—Cabin-\$1295-River Study-\$14,818

Fundraising: Saleables-\$1144-Shows-\$768-Auction-\$2365

Rent : A meeting room/office is rented on a monthly basis at Cranton Crossroads Community Centre.

Investments: An endowment of \$2,006,558 was received from Dr. James Wallace. \$50,000 of this was moved to the operating account. The remainder was invested, and at March 31, 2017 the endowment stood at \$2,032,271.

The Board established a Financial Policy and Management Committee.