

Margaree Salmon Association
Annual General Meeting
7 PM, Oct. 7, 2016
St. Pat's Hall, NW Margaree

Pres. Lester Wood called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and opened the meeting by asking attendees for a few moments silence remembering departed friends.

Wood asked if there was a quorum and VP Haley informed the meeting that there were 22 members, 3 guests in attendance as well as 4 proxies. Quorum is 15

Wood acknowledged the presence in the audience of Darryl Murrant, NS Fisheries, Rene Aucoin, representing NSSA and Patrick Wall, Wild Salmon Unlimited. Regrets received from DFO Science people and Emma Garden. UINR.

Wall also introduced our coordinator, Nicholas Baker and commented that he had served as the backbone for the association. Alex Breckenridge commented that he was a great liaison for MSA.

Wood went on to discuss the past year's board, starting off with 13 directors but 3 resigning for various reasons: Del Muise, Rob Kanchuk and Mike Allen. He went on to comment that Kanchuk would be involved with the auction and Allen was a very active volunteer.

He asked that the agenda, as circulated, be adopted.

MC

President's address: Wood commented that his address was pretty much outlined in the Fall 2016 Newsletter and he did not have a lot to say at this time. He went on to say that he felt his role was to direct and encourage but to allow committees and their chairs to do their work and we would hear from them, not him. He felt the board worked very well together and we would hear from the chairs as the meeting progressed.

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. There being no errors or omissions noted he asked for a motion to accept and it was moved by Patrick Wall, seconded by Greg Lovely, that the minutes of the 2015 AGM be accepted as circulated.

MC

Questions arising: John Hart had a question regarding a 'removal clause'. He noted MSA now had a bylaw allowing removal of a board member, but nothing to force removal of a member if found in contravention of the fisheries regulations, for example. He felt, as a conservation group, we should have such a bylaw.

VP Haley explained that we did have a bylaw in place to remove a Director for dereliction of duty but felt it was not our role to ban anyone from membership. However, he went on, if someone felt strongly on this matter they could send a note to the board and board could reconsider.

Evelyn Bruce had a question regarding resolutions but Haley suggested that would be better addresses in the Bylaws and Resolutions portion of the agenda.

Treasurer's report: Pres. Wood again explained that, up to now, MSA did NOT have a treasurer and he was acting in that role. The report presented was the financials in place at our year-end, March 31/16.

Wood went over the report, explaining some of the figures and asked for it to be passed. Rob Kanchuk moved, seconded by Anita Coady that Treasurers Report be accepted as presented.

MC

(Report is attached at end of minutes).

Endowment: Wood then brought the membership up to speed on what had occurred since Jan. 2016 when we received a letter from Cambridge Trust, Newark, regarding a possible bequest to our association from Dr. James Wallace. This bequest, in the end, amounted to about \$2 million Canadian.

He then asked Stinson to discuss what had been done with these funds. Stinson presented the following report:

Endowment Report *The Margaree Salmon Association has received a bequest from the Estate of Dr. James W. Wallace of Massachusetts, for approximately \$2M. Dr. Wallace visited and fished the river many times over the past several decades, and clearly valued his time spent in Margaree.*

The bequest has been setup as an Endowment for the Association, allowing it to fund operations and activities for many years to come.

*The Board of Directors of the Association has adopted a formal **Investment Policy Statement** that will serve to provide a systematic approach to documenting objectives, outlining constraints, and setting governing mechanisms.*

*The **Investment Policy Statement** also establishes the process for selecting, monitoring, and reviewing professional investment management.*

*A **Request for Proposal** ("RFP") was issued and attracted 10 expressions of interest. Of the 10, we selected 6 for further interviews and ended up actually interviewing 4 firms. In the end two were chosen and the monies divided between them. Both are fully insured institutions, as required in our By-Laws.*

By operating in such a manner, the Association will move forward with a clear set of responsibilities and procedures, and establish professional accountability. Pertinent information regarding investment of the Endowment will be presented annually in the Association's financial statements.

On a question, Sec. Stinson informed the members that the two firms chosen were Scotia Wealth and Edward Jones.

The money was brought into Canada in US funds originally. The equivalent of \$50,000 CDN had been removed from the total and placed in savings in the local Credit Union. The remaining funds had been divided between the two firms.

Anita Coady commented that she felt the board had done a wonderful job and handled this matter well. Patrick Wall concurred.

Reports from Other Bodies:

Darryl Murrant, NS Fisheries gave a brief overview, mainly on what was happening at the hatchery. They are carrying out expanded trout stocking and also are stocking lakes NOT in the Margaree watershed.

He commented on a possible winter trout fishery, (Feb.), being done in other areas that could possibly be considered here.

A barrier free fishing area is being considered and there is money available, as there is for boat launches.

Learn to Fish programs exist but currently there is no Sport Fishing Development Officer.

Fish Friends program is being reviewed and looking for money to buy new units or repair old ones.

He explained that a great deal of renovations and repairs had been done at the Hatchery, the river had been seined, (as late as that morning at the hatchery), and he appreciated MSA's assistance and they would be looking for it in the future.

Rene Aucoin, NSSA informed the membership that NSSA had @ 1100 members and discussed three (3) core programs.

- 1) West River Acid Rain Mitigation Program: due to acid rain, most buffers had leached out of the surrounding soil and now Aluminum and other elements were getting into watershed of rivers along south, (Eastern), shore of NS. Program has been going on for 10 years and province had finally stepped up to help. The hope is that, if conditions improve enough for Salmon to return, this work could be a model. Helicopters have been used latterly, to dump buffer on the woodlands along the river.
- 2) Adopt a Stream: He indicated that part of the Salmon License fee was directed to habitat restoration and that the NSLC was partnered in raising funds for AAS, putting up \$100K for last 5 years, and recently extending for another 4.
- 3) Fish Friends. Ongoing. He noted it was sometimes difficult to get this up and running, and keep it going.

As well, of course, there were the normal 'day to day' issues involving aquaculture, the Alton Natural Gas Storage project, etc.

Finally, he mentioned that the next NSSA meeting would be in Margaree on Oct. 29/16.

Aucoin answered a few questions regarding the leaching and explained our geology in Margaree differs greatly from the S. Shore.

Pat Wall, WSU: began by commenting that the first president of WSU, Bob Shortt, was also in attendance.

Wall's comments:

Thank you Mr. Chairman and thanks, to all of you, for the opportunity to tell you what "Wild Salmon Unlimited" (WSU) has been up to.

First, for those of you who may not be familiar with Wild Salmon Unlimited: It was born in 2013 and is headquartered in Margaree Forks.

Its Mission: To fund the restoration of wild Atlantic salmon to their native rivers. To date, we've raised close to ¼ million dollars with commitments for considerably more. Our sub-title is: "From the wild to the wild": A term we associate with our methodology which is called "smart stocking" and involves the use of kelt re-juvenation and the conditioning of smolts in hatcheries.

It's been a slow start in terms of kelt-rejuvenation this year so we've changed course temporarily and are currently working on projects with two of our Cape Breton affiliates: Richmond County Wildlife Association (Grand River Project), and the Inverness South Angler's Association (Graham's River Project).

Grand River Project:

The plan was to collect kelts this past spring but we were unsuccessful. That brought into question what the salmon population of the river really was so a change of course evolved: It involves a broader research project involving the Grand and nearby rivers.

The objectives of the research are:

to obtain info on juvenile salmon densities and distribution in these rivers.

to evaluate salmon habitat.

to collect tissue samples for genetic analysis.

The info from the research will add to the bank of information currently available and help advise on future recovery plans for these rivers.

Our Partners are UINR, DFO, Richmond County Wildlife Association and the U of Sainte Anne

At this date, we're still awaiting the results of our work from DFO.

Note: It's possible that the salmon of the Grand are extirpated and we'll need to investigate whether progeny from donor rivers could be used for brood stock.

GRAHAM'S RIVER:

Partners: ISAA, Adopt a Stream, UINR, DFO, RFCCP

This program involved considerable habitat work, including the installation of stone

structures and deflectors. About one mile of an important fry and parr habitat tributary was cleared of debris and channel restoration using bank rock was carried out. A Rivtemp thermograph was installed earlier in the year. It will be removed and the data will be available in January 2017. Brood stock collection will take place the end of October and the progeny will be raised at the Margaree Hatchery.

WSU's contribution to this project, so far, has been considerable and we anticipate equal efforts in 2017 and 2018 if all goes well.

In closing, we, at WSU, would welcome MSA as an affiliate. The cost is only \$200. Moreover, if MSA becomes an affiliate organization its members are entitled to a personal membership in Wild Salmon Unlimited (WSU) for a mere \$15. Together we all win.

Again thank you for your invitation and interest. Good luck with all the good work you do for the Margaree River and for salmon. For more information, please visit our website at: www.wildsalmonunlimited.com

John Hart had a question regarding Wall's comments about NO kelts being seen on the Grand and the possibility of using Salmon from a neighbouring river for restocking. Hart was of the opinion that DFO would never allow this. Murrant commented that there had been some 'give' on this by DFO and there was a possibility. Wall ended by saying, in the end, it WAS DFO's decision.

CABIN: Emma Garden not in attendance, Director Greg Lovely gave a report, explaining the Acronym and detailing how work is carried out, where it was carried out and very preliminary findings. He ended a detailed report by commenting that, it was felt, the Margaree would 'score' well and, ultimately, the River was NOT the problem. For info on CABIN, visit the Federal Dept. of the Environment and Climate Change website at <https://www.ec.gc.ca/rcba-cabin/>

MSA Committee Reports:

Adopt a Stream, (AAS): Paul MacNeil began by informing the group that the crew had worked for 14 weeks. He expressly thanked the crew supervisor, Edsel Hart, (in attendance), and his crew for their commitment.

He went on to say that 29 structures had been constructed on Captain Alan's, Marsh and Scotch Hill/Mill brooks and debris removed on Lake O'law and Ingrams Brooks.

He continued that, this past year our AAS funding had been reduced to \$10K but we did receive notification of \$26K coming from RFCPP for three years.

He acknowledged the great help Nick Baker had been and Baker described that several sites had been looked at for next summer, including Gallant Brook, (opening into Barrack).

Watershed: Greg Lovely detailed the background and history and discussed in some detail the reason we had hired the Baechler Group to undertake what they referred to as Phase 1.

We are in the early days, he said. Work would continue through AAS in protecting and enhancing the tributaries which are our nurseries for young fish stocks, but before we do any major work on the river we want to make sure we have predictability through science before we do more harm than good.

John Hart commented that, at one point, we were looking at getting historical data and overlays on whether work done in the past had been positive or negative.

Edsel Hart commented that too often he had heard complaints that it was “too bad we couldn’t get proper rock” or “too bad we had to do this in such a hurry”. He had spoke to people from other areas and had come to believe that eventually we would have to involve a fluvial geomorphologist in any decisions to do major work on the main river.

Public Relations: Member Mike Allen was not in attendance, so Board Member Jack Aikens read his report.

Report on Media- Mike Allen

In 2016 the Association revived its presence on Facebook. We are followed by 604 people. Our total reach last month was 14,038 views, with 16,153 post engagements. Our largest post (about the dinner/auction) reach was 1,600+ views. All our posts are “organic” meaning we have attracted our own followers and not paid any fees for this service. Many thanks to John Stinson for his editorship and daily monitoring of this excellent media vehicle.

*We held a **public meeting** on the River Watershed at St. Patrick’s Hall on July 9th, and attracted about forty attendees. This was well received, and stresses the importance of public face-to-face meetings.*

Many thanks to Greg Lovely and Nicholas Baker for their hard work making this event happen.

*We have placed a webcam on the river at the **Brook Pool**. We have placed the output on the Association’s Webpage and push occasionally on Facebook. We get approximately 20 views per day. Facebook offers a better reach; our largest one-day view of the webcam was 417.*

Capital costs for the webcam were just under \$300. There is no charge for the video hosting through YouTube or the direct link to our Webpage.

Many thanks to members Duane and Karen Tingley for the generous donation of access to their property and assistance of donated data delivery.

Our Webpage has been well tended by Rene Babin, our webmaster, who has provided prompt, excellent service at a minimal cost. Thank you Rene!

We issued two newsletters last year, both in digital and print format. Our reach for the Fall 2015 newsletter was 1,100+ and the Spring newsletter was 1,200+. We expect approximately the same for the Fall 2016 newsletter. We have increased the number of advertisers in our Fall issue, and hope that part of our newsletter success can be a means of helping our community business partners.

There was no cost to our digital newsletter. We thank artists Joy Laking and Cindy Creighton for their generous donation of artwork for our covers.

Our most recent print edition, that are mailed to members with no Internet connectivity, (or have none that we know of), was 31 copies. The cost of printing these copies is relatively high, approximately \$200. As can be seen with mainstream media, print as a vehicle is rapidly declining in popularity and use. It will be my recommendation to the Board that we do not issue a print format in 2017.

There was some concern about members who are not “connected” NOT getting updates. Stinson acknowledged that this, currently, is a problem because MSA is using e-messaging almost exclusively. He went on to say that NOT printing a newsletter had not yet been decided by the board but the latest newsletter, with relatively few copies, cost \$5 each, and this did NOT include mailing. One partial solution would be to mail out the newsletter in ‘point form’, a single page with topics being sent.

Evelyn Bruce commented that one of her friends had not received newsletters of late...Stinson asked her to forward details and he would look into it.

Dinner Auction: Paul MacNeil, chair, informed the meeting that it was a ‘sell out’.

Membership: Stinson stated that memberships were always in a fluid state; as of Oct. 6 there were 77 Regular Members, 45NS, 11, Rest of Canada, 21 US LIFE members: 96, 46NS, 16 Canada, 37 US and 3 others however, since then payments had been received for at least 8 plus another life Member.

It would be nice, he commented, to increase membership and attract younger people.

Parking: Jack Aiken reminded those assembled of the problem brought to the meeting last year concerning parking on the Cabot, along the straight stretch west of St. Patrick’s church. The former parking area/access had been cut off. In the end, he had been asked to contact Jack Miller and the rest is history with the Miller family taking it upon themselves to build a road back into the river, for access to the Swimming Hole and other pools.

Other areas were now being considered and possible solutions.

Cormack Award: The membership were informed that, due to this wonderful gesture by the Miller Family, the Cormack Award would be given to the Miller Family and Cecile, Jack and Marguerite would be in attendance for the dinner, to receive.

The assembled were very much in agreement!

Policy and Resolutions: Bill Haley introduced a motion

Resolution

Whereas much concern has been expressed about the lack of young people being involved with angling;

Therefore be it resolved that the MSA, with funds available in the recent large grant, (some of which are designated for education), initiate a program to work with school boards to provide interested students with guided tours of the Salmon Hatchery and the Margaree Salmon Museum and that courses be provided for instruction in fly casting and fly tying.

Much discussion on the pros and cons but generally thought to be a good project to take on.

John Hart felt that teaching 'stewardship' of the river was also very important.

Edsel Hart commented on involving a fly equipment company. Alan Moore suggested there were likely many who would have equipment to donate. Another commented that guiding groups would likely assist.

Moved by Haley, seconded by Anita Coady that resolution be accepted.

MC

There was a question as to why some submitted resolutions were brought forward and others not, and a reference to last year where a resolution NOT passed at AGM was adopted by BOD. Haley pointed out that this was allowed in the bylaws. He also commented that there was a process involved and each submitted resolution would be responded to.

Nominations: Mike Allen not being in attendance, VP Haley presented the nomination committees report:

Lester Wood had finished his term but volunteered to stand again.

Bev MacMillan had volunteered to serve as Treasurer

Liam Fraser had agreed to serve as a Director at Large.

Haley called, three times, for more nominations. There being none, Pat Wall, seconded by Susie Moore called for nominations to close. **MC Unanimously.**

New Business:

Meeting adjourned at 9:28

MARGAREE SALMON ASSOCIATION
Financial statement for the year ended March 31st 2016

PAGE ONE

1. Statement of Receipts and Expenses.

	2015	2016
	\$	\$
RECEIPTS;		
Grants		
- Adopt a stream	22,000	21,020
- River restoration	54,551	117
Donations	225	205
Fundraising	9,992	7,978
Membership	3,503	3,600
Miscellaneous	4,358	905
TOTAL RECEIPTS	94,629	33,825
EXPENSES;		
Habitat restoration and enhancement	81,379	39,645
Benches	750	0
Donations	300	0
Fundraising	2,791	1,486
Membership	333	255
Printing & supplies	709	1,679
Travel	1,593	356
Office	3,231	3,784
Insurance	4,735	1,508
Computer and communications	723	648
Meetings	820	79
TOTAL EXPENSE	97,364	49,440
NET Revenue/(Loss)	(2,735)	(15,615)

OPERATING EQUITY FUND

- beginning balance	28,121	25,386
- closing balance	25,386	9,771

MARGAREE SALMON ASSOCIATION
Financial Statement for the year ended March 31st 2016

PAGE TWO

2. OPERATING EQUITY FUND comprising;

	2015	2016
	\$	\$
Bank Accounts; General operating	2,484	2,482
Project	19,295	2,799
Investment	198,115	199,359
In Trust Accounts		
Accounts receivable –hst refundable/	3,607	4,534
TOTAL	\$223,501	\$209,174
Less		
Restricted Accounts		
Deferred	198,115	199,403
NET TOTAL EQUITY	25,386	9,771
TOTAL	\$ 223,501	\$209,174

EXPLANATORY NOTES;

Receipts2016

- Fundraising \$7,978 (Auction \$6,535), Advertising (\$600), Saleables (\$843)

Expenses2016

- Habitat restoration of \$39,645(\$37930) for personnel,(\$1,715) for materials and equipment.
- Fundraising expense of \$1,486 is in respect of the annual dinner auction.
- Office expenses of \$3,784(Rent \$3,220), Finance Charges(\$350) Mail (\$214)

Accounts receivable:

- Comprise a 50% Hst refund (\$297) which is claimed on all qualifying expenses, outstanding AAS contribution (20% \$4,204),Misc (\$33)

Subsequent Period,

- A deceased member left a significant endowment to the Association. At the time of closing the net amount and any taxation liabilities had not been clarified.

LESTER WOOD.
President

JOHN STINSON.
Secretary

DATE; September 13th 2016