

Margaree Salmon Association 2023 AGM, Friday October 6, 2023, 7 pm (Doors open at 6 pm), St. Patricks Hall, Margaree, Nova Scotia.
(DRAFT MINUTES ONLY)

Attendees:(Sign in sheet): John Stinson, Aaron Allen, Bill Haley ,Keith Christmas, Paddy Poirier, Peter Mancini, Gioia Stanley-Usher, Blair Parady, Wayne Grant, Joel Robinson, Nicholas Baker, Paul MacNeil, Greg Lovely, Rod Bird, Eugene LeBlanc, Lester Wood, Anita Coady, Pat Wall, Suzi Moore, Alan Moore, Kris Hunter, Deirdre Green, Susan Gesner, John Stub.

Regrets:

Proxy Votes:

-Call to order and the President's Address

Welcome- Pjila'si

Paul MacNeil opened tonight's meeting at 7:07 by acknowledging that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1725.

Thank you's:

- Attending Members
- MSA Board
- MSA Instream CREW:
Donald Fortune, Peter Poirier, Emmitt Daley, Tommy Gaudreau
- MSA Coordinator: Aaron Allen

Moment of Silence for those members who have passed in the last year especially for Wayne Cleveland, one of our MSA Board Directors.

Activities Since our Last AGM

- Late 2022 completed Rock Bank Work below Doyle's Bridge
- Spring Kelt Capture to support DFO
- Sydney Mines Sportsmen Trade Show
- UINR Salmon Ceremony at Hatchery (130 attendance)
- 30 temperature loggers installed in watershed
- Habitat Suitability Index Monitoring Program started
- CABIN Analysis completed by ACAP
- eDNA samples taken and sent to Guelph for analysis
- Wild Salmon Watershed Launch event held
- World River Day event held at Library property
- Swimming Hole project
- Winter and Summer Newsletters produced

- In streaming crew work:
 - Pathways cleared and benches placed
 - Tributary Inspection
 - NSSA Habitat Improvements
 - Community work, signage-parks, etc

Cormack Award:Paul told the membership that Covid through a wrench into the Cormack Award the past few years.That has been corrected and here are the recipients.

2020:MSA Board

2021:Rudy Ciecko

2022:Gordie MacKinnon

2023:Greg Lovely

- Adopting of the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting:motion(Greg)...second(Joel)...mc

Business arising from the 2022 AGM minutes:Paul told the membership that all the following topics brought up at last year's AGM were discussed thoroughly by the Board

A member asked us to consider lowering the temperature threshold for the Margaree River Warm Water Protocol to 19 C.

For now,science says 20C is fine, however, if in the future a lower temperature must be considered ,we will adapt.

Also he would like a lower water threshold as read by the hydrometric station to be considered when deciding to close the river to recreational angling.**(These secondary parameters are already in the Warm Water Protocol)**

Would we consider resurrecting the River Watch Program.**(MSA is still looking into this, but we would need partner funding to accomplish this)**

Susie Moore wondered if large nets for netting salmon could be left at pools along the Margaree river to help land Atlantic salmon. **(We have begun this program with a net at the forks Pool and hope to greatly expand to many pools)**

A suggestion of garbage cans along the river might help prevent the build up of garbage along the river.**(MSA decided against this idea)**

-Receiving and adopting of the Treasurer's Financial Statement:John made himself available to go over the MSA financials in detail if they wish at his house and also circulated a written copy to all those members at tonight's meeting.After going over some key points of our year end(March 31,2022),there was a vote to accept his report.
motion(John)...second(Eugene)...mc

-Report of the Resolutions Committee and call for adoption of each resolution:No resolutions were received this year

-Receiving of the report of the Nominating Committee and call for further nominations from the floor (three times)

Joel Robinson informed the membership that 3 MSA Board members have completed their terms of office and have offered their names for election as Directors. They are; Eugene LeBlanc, John Stinson, and Greg lovely. A new candidate has also been nominated and his name is Blair Pardy. Joel then asked three times if there were any additional names from the floor for nomination for Director positions. There were none. A vote was then taken to elect these directors by unanimous decision.

-Election of Officers: Greg Lovey (Secretary) and John Stinson (Treasurer) have each stepped down at the end of this meeting, having served their 2 three year terms and Peter Mancini has been nominated to take over as Secretary and Bill Haley has been nominated to take over as Treasurer. Joel explained as per our bylaws that officer positions can only be filled by Directors who have served for the previous 12 months. Joel then asked three times if there were any nominations for these 2 positions. There were none and the membership voted unanimously to accept these 2 nominees.

-New Business (Discussion from the membership): Many topics were brought up and will be discussed further at future MSA Board meetings.

Wayne Grant suggested that because it is so inexpensive to fish the Margaree River that a crest be developed by MSA for say \$50 and that those wishing to fish the Margaree river need to buy one so that the money can go directly to our projects.

Susi Moore had 3 items for MSA to consider

#1. Cooperation amongst users of the Margaree river (Kayakers, tubers, canoers, swimmers and fishermen.

#2. Better ways to convey river closures to members and other anglers on the river.

#3. Nets at as many pools as possible and research who is best to buy from. Wayne Grant said we should try our best to support and promote local.

Paul MacNeil was asked to bring up mandatory guides to fish the Margaree river.

Greg was asked by many anglers why we don't open the Sanctuary Area to recreational angling. The MSA will continue to discuss this, however to this point we do not feel it is a good idea. All the hard work to achieve a sanctuary area would likely be lost forever if we gave it up.

Paddy Poirier and Wayne Grant both discussed receptacles to hold leader materials placed at all benches up and down the river and there may even be government program funding available. Paddy is still researching this.

-Guest Speaker - Deirdre Green (Regional Director of ASF in Nova Scotia)

Deirdre started her presentation by thanking the Margaree Salmon Association (MSA) for inviting her to speak tonight and thanked MSA for all their conservation efforts. It is these passionate

values of conservation that have guided Deirdre to the job she has now. During this her first year in this position, Deirdre has been busy attending many meetings including a recent international NASCO meeting where many groups including First Nations expressed their concerns about Atlantic salmon. Also a meeting at Dalhousie University where alternatives to open pen Atlantic salmon aquaculture were discussed. Visiting many organizations, swift water training, meeting with all levels of government, and even some habitat remediation has kept Deirdre very busy. Wild Salmon Watersheds, an ASF fresh water initiative was started roughly 2 years ago and a launch for the Margaree and Cheticamp rivers took place along the Cheticamp river this year. Also a larger meeting involving organizations from Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia was recently held here in Margaree. This program hopes to help promote long term planning (100 years) to keep rivers that have healthy Atlantic salmon populations thriving. To this point much of the conservation work that has been done is reactionary. The goal being promoted now is with good planning to prevent or minimize problems before they end in catastrophic declines in Atlantic salmon populations. This is ASF'S 75th year anniversary and will continue with it's work on negotiating decreased harvest of Atlantic salmon in Greenland and it's ocean tracking to help figure out at sea mortalities, which is having an effect on salmon returns everywhere.

- Adjournment of Business Meeting: motion (John Stinson)