

# MEETING MINUTES

## MARGAREE SALMON ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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Date: October 24<sup>th</sup> 2024

Time: 7 P.M.

Meeting called to order by: Paul MacNeil

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### IN ATTENDANCE

Joel Robinson, Aaron Allen, Paul MacNeil, Greg Lovely, Pat Wall, Euguen LeBlanc, John Stinson, Rob Hanchuck, Kris Hunter, Patty Poirier, Bill Haley, Lloyd Withers, Jean Haley, Rod Bird, John Stub, Richard Donald, Peter Mancini . Rankin MacDonald (the Oran).

### CALL TO ORDER

President Paul MacNeil called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Association acknowledge that we are holding the meeting on the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq nation.

### PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The President welcomed folks to the meeting on a rainy night. He thanked the work Crew and the two technicians and Aaron Allan who worked for the Association who were responsible for a lot of the good work that was done this year.

The President reviewed the major events of the year for the membership

**March:** We held an all day meeting of the Board to set priorities.

We were made aware that DFO were not planning to do a kelp capture, so the association made an application. We had 6 fishers and angled a number of fish.

We received funding from our grant applications . some of the organizations helping to fund the association were : NSSA,ASF ,FCAs, Inverness County, Dalhousie University, U.N.I.R. and the sustainability Fund. We were partnering with a number of these groups in various projects.

We participated in the annual trade show in CBRM and raised \$800.00 on raffle tickets.

**May:** we participated in a clean up with Live Life in tents.

We assisted DFO to set up a trap net, but we did not have a smote wheel this year.

We worked with a group from the University of Windsor who were studying invasive species in the South West part of the river.

**June:** work on the swimming hole was completed. This was a completion of a major project.

We worked with U.N.I.R. at the hatchery.

**July:** We began dealing with the temperature closures of the river. The temperature exceeded the allowable limit for several weeks. We met weekly with DFO and other interested groups to assess the opening of the river. Discussions involved not only water temperature but also water levels.

**Other events and work:** The Association purchased a drone and have been using it for thermal imaging. This will help us identify cold water spots in the river, and we can work with that information.

We have been taking EDNA samples. This is part of a large study being done by Dalhousie University to find out DNA of species in the sample areas.

We organized World Rivers Day. This year it was held at the Cranton Community Center. It was a success.

The Association has conducted Electro fishing surveys.

The newsletter has been published regularly this year and is available on line.

We continued our long standing support and work with the Fish Hatchery by participating in brood stock collection, fin clipping etc.

We worked to assist other community groups: i.e. our crew cleared debris from the visitor information center and painted a portion of the Salmon Museum.

### **Discussion following the President's report:**

The membership discussed the warm water protocol. The Discussion centered on why the upper part of the river was open when the other sections were closed. Paul Macneil explained that the upper portion of the river was always cooler than the main body by at least 3 degrees.

There was discussion about the spring capture program. Of the 76 fish captured, 8% were identified as from the Margaree Hatchery. The membership felt that the small number of hatchery fish shows that the river is maintaining a good level of wild salmon. We don't know if the hatchery salmon migrate at a different time from the wild salmon.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes were read from the October 2023 AGM. Motion to approve Mancini/ Lovely. Carried.

### **Items raised by members from the 2023 AGM:**

In 2023 members suggested there be cooperation with other groups. As reflected in the president's report we worked with several groups in 2024, including MADA; Live Life in Tents; the Salmon Museum.

In 2023 there were some questions about communication of river closures. This year we put notices on the web site, and the signs posted have a barcode on them that can be scanned. Last year the membership welcomed the placement of a fishnet at one of the pools, and we will try to do more in the future.

## **BUDGET**

The budget was presented by Bill Haley. The membership reviewed the budget. Motion to accept the budget : Mancini /Lovely carried.

## **REPORTS**

### **Committee reports**

- Resolution committee: no new resolutions had been submitted by the membership

### **Election of officers:**

Joel Robinson gave a summary of the offices and terms. As of October 2024, there were 3 director positions open, Rod Bird; Keith Christmas and Joel were all prepared to re-offer. There were three calls nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

There were 2 positions on the executive open: John Stinson was nominated as treasure and Pat Poirier offered to sever again as Vice President. Nominations were called for from the floor three times. there were no nominations from the floor.

Motion to elect the members of the Board and Officers: Mancini/Lovely. Carried unanimously.

### **Cormack Award:**

The President awarded the Cormack award to Bill Hailey. Bill served as President for 6 years and continued to be very active, stepping up when ever his help was needed. The award was well deserved.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup>

Motion to adjourn was made at 3:15 p.m. and was passed unanimously.