



Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education  
Association

Annual General Meeting Agenda

Saturday January 23, 2016

River Park Centre, Lumsden, SK

In attendance (25) : Maddie Bemrose, Linda Dodd, Janet Galger, Lee Anne Balliett, Barry Mitschke, Valerie Mitschke, Andrea Nelson, Jeff Moore, Zoe Arnold, Taniya Heuchert, Merrissa Karmark, Crystal Palmer, Tara McKinley, Karen McIver, Leah Japp, Jason Grayston, Steve Abbott, Nathalie Brunet, Norm Henderson, Paul Stinson, Crystal Stinson, Sky Stinson, Grayden Stinson, Rod Figueroa, Brooklyn Berrns

10:01 AM - Called to order and introductions

10:10 AM - Approval of Agenda

**Linda Dodd/Jason Grayston (motion/second/carried) to approve the agenda with the following changes: remove Franny Rawlyk from the slate of officers and update 2015 events to 2016 events.**

10:15 AM - Approval of Minutes from 2015 AGM

**Crystal Palmer/Tara McKinley (motion/second/carried) that the minutes from the January 24, 2015 annual general meeting be approved with the correction of Jason Grayston's name spelling and Steve's name is listed twice (should be spelt Abbott).**

10:15 AM President's Report - Karen McIver -see below

**Jason Grayston/Brooklyn Berrns (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that the president's report be accepted.**

10:25 AM - Treasurer's Report - Brooklyn Berrns

Balance Sheet

- TD bank account \$7,943.50
- PayPal \$-2,812.51
- Mutual Funds \$35,912.49

Income Statement

- Income
  - Thanks to Sask Lotteries and Trust Fund for \$54,770 for 2015. We also received a Leadership Grant of \$1,500 to update the SaskOutdoors Strategic Plan.
  - Held two Canoe Certifications, one in Saskatoon and one in Regina.
- Expenses
  - We appreciate all the work that Leah has contributed to SaskOutdoors and saw the opportunity to make Leah an employee of SaskOutdoors. There were some additional expenses that the organization took on in relation to this that were not originally budgeted for (employer portions of CPP, EI, etc.).

Questions:

- Why is the dollar amount different on the back of the poster (financial statement) than the dollar amount for income? The dollar on the back of the poster financial statement is revenue dollars not income dollars

**Rod Figueroa/Sky Stinson (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that to approve the draft financial report for 2015.**

Audit isn't ready so looking for a committee from the membership to review the statements when they are prepared. This can be done by e-mail. Audit will be shared with entire membership.

**Norm Henderson/Jason Grayston (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that Karen McIver, Nathalie Brunet, Rod Figueroa, Brooklyn Berrns,, Taniya Heuchert be appointed the subcommittee to review and approve the audited financial reports when they are available.**

2016 budget

- Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust Fund was approved for \$56 450.
- Mostly based on last year's spending

**Andrea Nelson/Rod Figueroa (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that the 2016 budget be accepted.**

**Brooklyn Berrns/Tara McKinley (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that Frank E Garrett CMA (Priority-One Business Services Ltd) be SaskOutdoors' auditor for 2015.**

Review current fees. These fees were set in consultation with Dave Mitchell in late 2013. Journal Subscription \$15, Membership \$25, Subsidized Membership \$15, Organizational Membership \$50, Lifetime membership \$300. You will also recall that the memberships will now all expire in September 2016.

**Norm Henderson/Maddie Bemrose (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that the membership fees for 2016 are: Membership \$20, Family \$30, Organizational Membership \$50, Lifetime membership \$300**

10:51 AM – **Education Programs Report** – presented by Leah Japp

- In February formed a partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Federation to be provincial hosts of Project WILD, Below Zero and WILD about Sports. Trained 10 facilitators.
- Wide range of Saskatchewan – Nipawin, La Ronge, Prince Albert, Regina, Saskatoon
  - Project WET 2.0: 7 workshops with 120 people
  - Growing Up WILD: 2 workshops with 29 people
  - Flying WILD: 2 workshops with 52 people
  - Project WILD: 1 workshop with 20 people
  - TOTAL: 12 workshops with 221 people (210 in 2014)
- There were also presentations and displays (Sciematics, SPEA Conference, Secondary Science Forum, one education class at the University of Regina) and one youth event at Prairie Sky School.
- Through June 2016 we have 10 workshops scheduled
- Watch for big things from Project WET Saskatchewan in 2016! CWRA-SK received a grant from the Ministry of Environment to support Project WET through June 2016! A significant portion of these funds will be used to provide Project WET 2.0 workshops and on-going Facilitator follow-up for teachers in six northern schools who are already working with Saskatchewan Environmental Society on a [Boreal Watershed Monitoring Project](#). The teachers will also receive cross-reference guides between Project WET 2.0 and the new high school Saskatchewan Science curricula. In addition, the teachers will be familiarized with the Project WET water quality supplement, Healthy Water, Healthy People. The schools will receive class sets of Healthy Water, Healthy People Field Monitoring Guides to extend the students' learning. Other funds will also reduce the registration fees for participants in southern workshops, making the workshops more financially affordable for many, including pre-service teachers. It is anticipated that workshops will be offered in all seven teacher education programs between now and June, including the programs for indigenous teacher education. A small portion of the funds will be used to complete additional cross-reference guides linking Project WET and the Saskatchewan Curriculum. SaskOutdoors is pleased to be working with the Saskatchewan Environmental Society, CWRA-SK and the Ministry of Environment on this important water initiative!

**Leah Japp/Nathalie Brunet (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that the Education Programs Report be accepted as presented.**

10:5 AM – **General Manager Report** – presented by Leah Japp

- Members - memberships are renewed in September of each year
  - o 80 individuals/families
  - o 16 organizations
  - o 14 lifetime members
  - o 25 Melanson Award Winners
  - o 1 Cydney Weir Award Winner
  - o Total of 136 members
- Emerging Trends Grant to update website
  - o Ended in March 31, 2015 and involved the redesign of the website and addition of resources section
- Leadership Grant
  - o Received to update strategic plan

**Andrea Nelson/Brooklyn Berrns (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that the General Manager's report be accepted as presented.**

10:58 AM -Break

11:13 AM **Presentation of Strategic Plan** - Steve Abbott and Jeff Moore

Thanks to everyone to attended the planning session.

Committee was Steve, Jeff, Rod and Leah.

See strategic plan posted [www.saskoutdoors.org](http://www.saskoutdoors.org)

11:00 AM – **Approval of Final Report**

**Maddie Bemrose/Tara (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that the final report be approved.**

11:05 AM – **Nominations: Slate of Officers** – facilitated by Leah Japp and Valerie Mitschke

In 2015 the SaskOutdoors constitution was updated to have 2 year board positions with half of the positions being elected each year. We didn't implement this last year so this year half of the positions will be elected for 2 years and half for 1 year. Nominations are not accepted from the floor. The board can appoint board members to fill vacant positions at board meetings throughout the year. Half of the board member must be member of the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation.. After your terms is up you can rejoin the board (don't need to take a break).

Past President – Karen McIver (1 year)

President – Rod Figueroa (2 years)

Vice President – Steve Abbott (2 years)

Program Director – Crystal Palmer (1 year)

Treasurer – Nathalie Brunet (2 years)

Members at Large: Maddie Bemrose (1 year), Brooklyn Berrns (2 years), Jason Grayston (1 year), Merrissa Karmark (2 year), Kyle Lichtenwald (1 year), Jeff Moore (2 years), Andrea Nelson (1 year)

**Valerie Mitschke/Linda Dodd (Motion/Seconded/Carried) that slate of directors be appointed as presented.**

11:10 – Other Business:

Acknowledged that Lyle Benko, a long time SaskOutdoors members and Melanson Award winner is not well.

2016 Events

- Project WET Workshop in Saskatoon February 5
- Below ZERO Workshop in Regina February 6
- Project WILD Workshop in Prince Albert February 9

- Duck Mountain Ski Loppet February 26-28
- Project WET Workshop in Prince Albert March 3
- Growing Up WILD Workshop in Saskatoon March 4
- Flying WILD Workshop in Prince Albert March 24
- Paddle Canada Canoe Certification in Saskatoon May 21-23
- NatureCity Festival in Saskatoon May 23-29
- Wings Over Wascana Nature Festival in Regina May 28-29
- Sustainability Education Research Institution Conference June
- Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) Conference at the International Peace Gardens (south of Brandon) August 25-28
- Nature Retreat October
- Winter Camp December

**Steve Abbott (M/C) that meeting be adjourned.**

11:32 AM – Meeting Adjourned

---

**President's Report:**

Dear SaskOutdoors members, supporters, funders, and other guests,

First of all, I would like to acknowledge the Treaty 4 lands that we are meeting on and the agreements made that allow us to peacefully assemble in this place. I would also like to acknowledge the plants and animals and insects and fungi that live here and that are sharing their space with us. Thank you also to our organizers for today, Leah and Crystal, for organizing the space, the food, and the program.

2015 brought several important highlights that our members should be proud of. The one I would like to highlight first, is that thanks to the hard work of our Vice President, Rod Figueroa, SaskOutdoors became a Professional Growth Network with the Teachers' Federation. We are looking forward to have a closer connection to Saskatchewan educators and to have our programs more accessible to educators around Saskatchewan.

We are also proud that we shifted our wonderful staff person, Leah Japp, from contract worker to an employee. We are so grateful for the work that Leah does and the way that she contributes to our organization. We consider ourselves lucky to have a dedicated and skilled staff person who is so personally committed to our mission and vision.

In relation to our mission and vision, we are also very proud of 2015 for being focused on developing a strategic plan. We got extra funding from the Saskatchewan Parks and Recreation Association - to develop a strategic plan. We began with having a visioning weekend retreat in September at Lumsden Beach Camp with our contractor, Wayne Hellquist, and some past SaskOutdoors members, current board members, and key partners, to think through what our priorities are as an organization. After that, a small committee of board members including Jeff Moore, Steve Abbott, Rod Figueroa, and Leah Japp met regularly and came up with the wonderful Strategic Plan we have here. We will hear more about it later, but it can be found on our website as well.

[www.saskoutdoors.org](http://www.saskoutdoors.org)

The Five Strategic Priorities in the document include:

1. Facilitating and providing varied outdoor experiences for people.
2. Increasing public awareness and involvement.
3. Building a viable and sustainable organization.

4. Developing partnerships and alliances.
5. Influencing outdoor education policies and curriculum.

We are looking forward to report on this at our next Annual General Meeting.

Some more highlights include our programming, which we are well-known for around the province. We gave out 21 grants to schools and community groups reaching approximately 640 youth and adults. Projects ranged from canoe trips, to school gardening, to Treaty Education. We partnered with the Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication by supporting our General Manager to sit on the board of directors for the organization and to contribute to planning their 2015 conference, which took place in Canmore, AB. 4 of our board members and several additional SaskOutdoors members attended.

Our Environmental Educator Training Programs, including Project Wet, Project Wild, Flying Wild, and Growing Up Wild trained 221 educators. These are programs that support educators to teach in, about, and for the environment. Many of the educators are located in Northern Saskatchewan.

Our other programs, which focus on skill building that took place this year include: 2 canoe certification workshops, cross country ski loppet, winter camp, nature retreat, wilderness first aid, cross-cultural reconciliation canoe trip, and the Core Neighborhood Youth Coop outdoor program.

We also continued to support Wings Over Wascana and this year added support to the Nature City Festival in Saskatoon. We are excited about our Of Land & Living Skies: A Community Journal on Place, Land, and Learning and are grateful to our contributors, volunteer editors, advisors, and partners U of S Sustainability Education Research Unit and The U of R Faculty of Education. We produced two issues in 2015.

We were pleased to announce our 2015 Melanson Award Winner as Lizabeth Nicholls, a dedicated SaskOutdoors member and outstanding environmental and outdoor educator. We were also happy to announce our very first Cydney Weir Award winner for youth environmental leadership to Sky Ann Stinson. Sky is the daughter of one of our long time board members Paul Stinson, and she has done incredible organizing at her young age around environmental education.

Lastly, our board and our members were saddened by the tragic loss of Vinessa Currie-Foster. Vinessa was owner and operator of Clearwater Canoeing, and our partner and leader for the Leave No Trace Master Educator program. She was also an amazing mother to twin boys and to a very young daughter. The loss of Vinessa was a big loss to our environmental education community, and we will never know how to fill it. Our thoughts go to her family.

Our board members this year were super committed to their roles and brought so much energy and passion to our organization. They made being the president easy and for that I would like to thank each and everyone of them. Thank you Andrea, Nathalie, Dennie, Crystal, Maddie, Brooklyn, Merrissa, Franny, Steve, Jeff, Jason, Kyle, and Rod. You all, in various ways, live out SaskOutdoors' mission and values and for that you make this organization strong. We are sad to see long term board member Dennie Fornwald step away from the board but have been very lucky to have her commitment for the past several years, including her role this year as Past President. She is moving her volunteer time to be more involved with helping new mothers through becoming a La Leche league leader. We are also sad to lose Franny Rawlyk but hopeful she will be able to come back and join us in the future. She is busy teaching the outdoor school program in Saskatoon.

We enter 2016 with a passion for working towards putting our strategic plan in place, and with some extra grant money to do an exciting little side project, of profiling our Melanson Award Winners, and finding out more information about each of them.

Thanks to each of you for coming and showing your commitment to SaskOutdoors. We have a rich history, of over 45 years, and a promising future.

Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen McIver