



Saskatchewan Outdoor & Environmental Education
Association

Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday January 14, 2017

Beaver Creek Camp, SK

Present: Rod Figueroa, Kyle Lichtenwald, Ceara Bogan, Sean Brandt, Paul Stinson, Danica Lorser, Jana Miller (and Reid), Christine Thompson, Paul Levett, Ken McLeod, Karen Krug, Alana Krug-McLeod, Linda Dodd, Steve Froese, Steve Abbott, Raea Gooding, Nathalie Brunet, Leah Japp (18)

10:48 AM Called to order by Rod Figueroa

Introductions from everyone

Nathalie Brunet/Ceara Bogan (motion/second/carried) to approve the agenda with the addition of Steve speaking for 5 minutes after Danica.

Kyle Lichtenwald/Linda Dodd (motion/second/carried) that the minutes from the January 23, 2016 annual general meeting be approved with addition of Tara's last name (McKinley); "add board" to half must be STF Members.

President's Report – Rod Figueroa - Appended

Kyle Lichtenwald/Nathalie Brunet (motion/seconded/carried) that the president's report be accepted.

Treasurer's Report – Nathalie Brunet

Linda Dodd/Paul Levett (motion/seconded/carried) that to approve the draft financial report for 2016.

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 email. Audit will be shared with entire membership.

Sean Brandt/Steve Froese (motion/seconded/carried) that Nathalie Brunet, Leah Japp, Jana Miller, Ceara Bogan, Paul Levett be appointed the subcommittee to review and approve the audited financial reports when they are available.

Steve Abbott/Sean Brandt (motion/seconded/carried) that the 2017 budget be accepted.

Steve Froese/Paul Levett (motion/seconded/carried) that Frank E Garrett CMA (Priority One Business Services Ltd) be SaskOutdoors' auditor for 2016.

2016 are: Membership \$20, Family \$30, Organizational Membership \$50, Lifetime membership \$300. Members receive discounts and perks. There is a suggestion from the Saskatchewan Teachers' Federation about having free memberships for teachers (details are still in the work).

Kyle Lichtenwald/Sean Brandt (motion/seconded/carried) that the membership fees for 2017 are: Membership \$20, Family \$30, Organizational Membership \$50, Lifetime membership \$300.

Education Programs Report – Leah Japp

- Flying WILD, Project WET, Project WILD, Below ZERO, Growing Up WILD, Wild about Sports
- La Ronge, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Regina, Edmonton, International Peace Garden
- Flying WILD – 4 workshops for 68 people
- Below Zero – 1 workshop for 20 people
- Project WILD – 1 workshop for 8 people
- Project WET – 6 workshops for 136 people
- Growing Up WILD – 6 workshops for 97 people
- TOTAL: 17 workshops for 329 people

Through June 2017 we have 9 more workshops scheduled.

A Project WET and Growing Up WILD Leadership Workshop was held in La Ronge for 14 people. Thanks to Reid Dingwall and Deborah Gibson-Dingwall for organizing and facilitating it.

Canadian Water Resources Association – Saskatchewan Branch, SaskOutdoors and the Ministry of Environment partnered for a significant Project WET initiative from January to June 2016. Lizabeth Nicholls coordinated the program and has prepared, but not shared final information. Teachers were trained in Project WET and Healthy Water, Healthy People in 5 northern Saskatchewan Schools. Training was done by Cara Greyeyes and Brenda LaRoque-Hill both of Meadow Lake. This grant helped reduce the cost of Project WET workshops for participants all over Saskatchewan. Janna van Kessel completed and updated Project WET cross-reference guides that are posted on our website.

Leah Japp/Nathalie Brunet (motion/seconded/carried) that the Education Programs Report be accepted as presented.

General Manager Report – Leah Japp

- Members
 - Memberships are renewed in September of each year
 - December 31, 2016
 - 80 individuals/families (same as in 2015)
 - 14 organizations (14 in 2015)
 - 15 lifetime members
 - 29 Melanson Award Winners
 - 2 Cydney Weir Award Winners
 - Total: 140 Members

Christine Thompson will be the interim General Manager while Leah is away on Maternity Leave (effective January 20, 2017 through January 31, 2018). Christine has 18 years of experience in the community service sector in roles ranging from program delivery to senior leadership. She has extensive experience planning, implementing, and evaluating community-based programs and strongly values collaborative, community development, and team approaches in her work. Christine is also passionate about building stronger connections between people and nature in our beautiful province. She especially loves connecting with her young daughter outdoors, through camping, walking, and exploring along the river and in urban forests near their home in Saskatoon.

Leah Japp/Kyle Lichtenwald (motion/seconded/carried) that the General Manager's report be accepted as presented.

Heritage Research Project Report - Danica Lorier

- Storyteller and tell stories about the past of the organization and give us a path to move forward
- Narratives are important to share.
- Paper archives, online research including Bernie Melanson

Visual of engagement across Saskatchewan - Steve Abbott

- Has created a map of Saskatchewan with points of engagement

Nathalie Brunet/Paul Stinson (motion/seconded/carried) that the final report be approved.

Nominations: Slate of Officers – Kyle Lichtenwald

2017 Slate of officers

Past President – Rod Figueroa
President – Steve Abbott
Vice President – Sean Brandt*
Program Director – Crystal Palmer*
Treasurer –
Members at Large: Karen McIver*, Nicole Freeden*, Aron Knudson*, Merrissa Karmark, Jeff Moore,
Andrea Nelson*, Taniya Heuchert, Stephen Froese*, Emma Bugg*, Tara McKinley*

* Are up for election for a 2 year term. Others are starting year two of a two year term.

Kyle Lichtenwald/Nathalie Brunet (motion/seconded/carried) that slate of directors be appointed as presented.

Other Business and 2017 events:

- Project WET Workshop in Saskatoon February 3
- Below ZERO Workshop in Regina February 4
- Project WET Workshop in Meadow Lake February 8
- Project WET Workshop in Prince Albert February 16
- Project WET Workshop in Regina March 4
- Flying WILD Workshop in Meadow Lake March 29
- Flying WILD Workshop in Prince Albert March 30
- Child and Nature Network Conference in Vancouver April 18-21
- Canadian Network for Environmental Education and Communication (EECOM) Conference in Wolfville Nova Scotia May 18-21
- Paddle Canada Canoe Certification in Saskatoon May 20-22
- NatureCity Festival in Saskatoon May
- Wings Over Wascana Nature Festival in Regina May

Nathalie Brunet (motion/carried) that meeting be adjourned at 12:16 pm.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear SaskOutdoors members, supporters, funders and other guests,

First of all, I would like to recognize and acknowledge that we are meeting today on Treaty Six territory and home of the Métis and for that we give thanks.

I would also like to acknowledge all the members of the board for their hard work, dedication and commitment to this wonderful organization. I am proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of this 45-year-old non-profit organization. I believe that the reason for the longevity and the success of this organization is due to the diverse people who make up SaskOutdoors. Everyone here in this room is dedicated to our mission statement: to connect people of Saskatchewan to the outdoors and inspire a sense of discovery and play within our natural environment by passionately delivering programs and services that promote awareness of outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship.

Lastly, this event would not have been possible without these dedicated organizers: Nathalie, Leah, Merrissa and Crystal. Thank You!

We had 10 board meetings in 2016; Our Annual General Meeting was on January 23 at Riverpark Campground in Lumsden, and one board visioning retreat in September at the Shekinah Retreat Centre. We supported our board to participate in professional development opportunities including taking workshops and trainings and attending conferences. We have ensured that SaskOutdoors has the tools to enable programs to reach a wide range of current and new members and supporters across the province, especially within the Saskatchewan Teachers'

Federation. Our administration has us maintaining a healthy, stable organization.

We have one part-time General Manager who helps facilitate programs and initiatives. Leah provides administrative support to board and working group members, maintains organizational bookkeeping, and accounting records, and provides direct support and communication to our members. We've been able to meet our action items in a timely fashion. Our board is pleased with the General Manager's performance. The General Manager is satisfied with the communications with board members and the work environment. This position maintains continuity as board members change. Leah will be going on maternity leave on February 1st and will be replaced by Christine Thompson. We want to wish Leah and her baby all the best! We also want welcome Christine to our organization. Welcome!

Our board and executives have been able to stay engaged and the sharing of information within our organization has been functioning well. More people seem to recognize who SaskOutdoors is and the programming that we offer. We now have 648 twitter followers and 1,226 Facebook followers and counting. There are many reasons why the numbers have increased but I believe it has to do with exposure. We have reached out to the public in many different forms.

Here are some of the highlights:

SaskOutdoors attended the Sustainability Education Research Institute conference in June 2016, including co-leading a pre-conference session with Janet McVittie entitled: "Celebrating Nearby Nature and Engaging Students in Community". There were 137 participants at the conference including international scholars in Environmental Education. The 2016 Bernie Melanson Award was awarded to Jim Taylor of Saskatoon. The Cydney Weir Award for Youth Environmental Leadership was awarded to Ryan Poelzer of Balgonie. The 2015 Bernie Melanson Award was awarded to Rhonda Phillips of Lumsden.

SaskOutdoors continues to publish "Of Land & Living Skies". In 2016, two journals were published with each edition reaching 259 individual and organizational members. The journal continues to be a valuable outreach tool and is well respected and read. The journal is also available free online.

We continue to maintain our website and participate in tradeshow type events. Our vice-president, Steve, undertook a promotional road trip and offered interactive activities at several provincial parks in early July. We hosted a winter camp event, we ran two canoe certification courses, resulting in 17 newly certified educators able to take students out on the water. SaskOutdoors has supported 23 outdoor education/environmental education programs and initiatives. Examples of projects include camping trips, canoe trips, greening of school grounds, water education units, and other recreational activities. Reports are still being gathered but so far this action item has reached 274 adults and 610 youth.

The Nature Retreat had 29 participants, including many children. Attendees were able to learn about the natural area, took part in guided walks, a wilderness garden tour, a session about bats, campfires, storytelling, and other activities. Participants enjoyed touring around the Ness Creek site and forging new or stronger relationships with our members who attended. In addition, SaskOutdoors hosted a Spring Camp at Cypress Hills Provincial Park for 27 participants, a Birding and Canoeing event at Last Mountain Lake for 12 participants and a Whittling Workshop in Regina for 10 participants. As part of the two day Wings Over Wascana festival we passed on environmental education directly to roughly 200 students, and over 900 community members. The Nature City Festival reached approximately 250 community members.

We facilitated courses resulting in 220 trained and certified educators. Our GM is a member of the Canadian

Association of Environmental Education and Communications (EECOM) board. She attended the EECOM conference in 2016 and brought back information for the board to share. We also organized both a Standard and Advanced Wilderness First Aid Course.

Lastly, I would like to thank the board members again. This organization would not be possible without your contributions. You have made my time as President productive and enjoyable. I thank you all for your commitment. We are sad to see the following members leave our board: Maddie Bemrose, Nathalie Brunet, Brooklyn Berns, Kyle Lichtenwald and Jason Grayston. Your contributions, passion and commitment will be greatly missed. We wish you all the best and please know that you will be always be welcomed to join us again.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rod Figueroa