

MSA AGM held Oct. 9 at St. Pat's.... A primer for those not able to attend

In recent years the AGM of your association has occasionally had problems assembling enough members for a quorum. For that reason, this year there was a real effort to get proxies for our recent AGM.

The Executive need not have worried... 32 members were in attendance, plus 9 proxies!

President Wood opened the meeting by sharing that the resignation of some directors early in the year had reduced the Board of Directors to 3 local members and one wintering away. To put it mildly, Wood went on, the summer had been busy! Those involved did feel a lot had been accomplished; however now, with new members coming on to the board, we were looking forward to even better times!

Wild Salmon Unlimited

Wood then introduced Pat Wall, Vice President of Wild Salmon Unlimited. In his introduction, Wood commented that Wall had been the second president of MSA, the sitting president when it was first incorporated.

Wall described the objectives of WSU and asked MSA members to consider joining WSU. He also asked the board of MSA to consider affiliating themselves with WSU or, at least, provide a letter of support. Information on WSU can be found at their website, www.wildsalmonunlimited.com. Wall's presentation seemed to be well received by the audience and several questions were fielded.

By Law changes

Bill Haley, Vice President, then led a discussion on changes to our Bylaws and why such changes were necessary. After some discussion, these bylaw amendments were passed by an unanimous vote! Details can be found on the website, listed as Draft. (Until Joint Stocks approves, bylaw amendments are not officially in effect.)

Bill Jollymore's resolutions

Haley then went through three resolutions that had been sent by Bill Jollymore, a Life Member, for consideration of the membership at the AGM.

The first two resolutions were defeated.

Haley then introduced Jollymore's third resolution. In the preamble, Jollymore stated that, in the past, both the Margaree Salmon Association and the Nova Scotia Salmon Association had passed resolutions and forwarded them to the government agencies responsible for licensing. These resolutions had recommended and asked the licensing bodies to make it mandatory that, when Salmon season is open from June 1st to Oct. 31st, any person fishing any river in Nova Scotia that maintained a run of Salmon, regardless of the fish count, would have to possess a Salmon license whether a retention season was in effect or not.

The licensing agency had never acted on these recommendations.

Therefore Jollymore asked the following resolution to be discussed and voted upon: “Be it resolved that the Margaree Salmon Association, if need be in cooperation with other groups, maintain pressure on the licensing agency to establish this as law.”

A good deal of discussion ensued and on this resolution as well as the cost of a Salmon license and the suggestion was made that, if a salmon license was necessary to fish the Margaree, perhaps the cost of said license should be reviewed. A vote was finally called that showed the membership was essentially in favour of this resolution and the BOD was directed to do some further investigation.

Membership Report

John Stinson, Secretary and Membership chair, then informed the meeting that there were currently 101 Life Members and approximately 80 on the roles paying yearly membership fees. This latter figure, he commented, was constantly moving as memberships expire or are renewed.

Projects

Haley was then asked to discuss the various projects that our association had been involved with over the summer: the Kelt Fishery, the Striped Bass stomach content study, the Adopt a Stream program. He described how the first two projects were done under the aegis of the DFO, and were examples of MSA members assisting DFO in some research studies. He went on to discuss how MSA, with the large charitable donation we have received, are now in a position to assist DFO in future projects, (smolt wheel, traps, counting fences).

Cormack Award

Wood then read out the criteria for the Cormack Award. This year it was presented to Edsel Hart, who has not only been one of MSA employee involved with and managing the Adopt a Stream crew, but is the owner of River Trail Cottages and known to many.

Nominations for Board members

Robert Kanchuk, chair of the striking committee was then introduced to nominate new board members. He began by naming the current board and the time remaining in their ‘terms’...

Lester Wood, President, 1 year remaining,
Bill Haley, 1st Vice President, 2 years remaining,
John Stinson, Secretary, 1 year remaining

Kanchuk then read the members appointed by the board during the year.

Bert Hart,
Michael Allen,
Eugene LeBlanc,
Robert Kanchuk,
Greg Lovely,

Wood asked that these nominations be ratified. This was done by the membership

Finally, Kanchuk informed the membership that Leonard Forsyth was being nominated as 2nd Vice President and he nominated four other directors:

Paul MacNeil,
Delphin Muise
Wayne Cleveland
Jack Aitkens.

The membership voted in favour.

Kanchuk ended by pointing out that from 4 directors, earlier in the year, we now had a board of 13!

Questions and comments from members

Pres. Wood then opened the floor to the members for questions, comments and suggestions. Several members did take advantage of this opportunity. Their concerns and suggestions have been duly noted and will be addressed by the board.

At 9:18 PM the meeting was adjourned and a social time followed.

Summation:

Generally, it must be said, many commented on the energy of the meeting, the quality of our recent newsletter and the number and kind of projects being undertaken. Several expressed interest in volunteering in the future.

The executive and board are looking forward to next year being as eventful as this one but, hopefully, less stressful!

The next evening, Sat. Oct. 10, was our annual Dinner/Auction organized, this year, mainly by President Wood and Director Kanchuk, with most members of the BOD pitching in.

From all accounts, the dinner and auction were huge successes. Almost a sellout, 85 meals were sold out and the auctions, both silent and with bidding, went over very well. Although the net profit is not yet available, the gross income exceeded \$6000.

The committee will have a debriefing session shortly and then will begin planning the 2016, with the hope of making it bigger and better. Be sure to mark Oct. 8, 2016 on your calendar: MSA dinner/auction at St. Pat's Hall, Margaree!!!!