



**Alberta Wagon Trekkers Association
Annual General Meeting
April 20, 2024**

Held at Saddle Completions Office, Sylvan Lake

Meeting Chairperson: Duane Papke
Members Present: 30
Guests Present: 4

1. The Annual General Meeting was called to order at 1 pm by Duane Papke, who welcomed everyone present and thanked Saddle Completions for the use of the venue to host the Meeting.

2. Guest Speakers

- a) Duane Papke read a letter from the Honourable Jason Nixon in lieu of his attendance at the meeting, congratulating the AWTA as being an essential association that supports the vision of Alberta's government for responsible recreation and trail planning, and supporting our endeavours to improve the existing wagon trail networks all over Alberta.
- b) Jay Mills showed us a slide presentation on the construction of the Panther Trail in 2014, pointing out areas of the trail that were not completed and areas where grades were not done to spec; he showed maps of where the original trails were before the flood (2005 and 2013), and then overlaid a map from after the flood (2021). Discussed classifications of trails - Panther being a non-motorized multi-use trail for hikers, skiers, horseback riders, and wagons; what is needed to make changes this year to make it safer on the hills, turnouts on corners to give the horses a break or if meeting someone on the hill; the grades coming in and out of rivers. Jay answered questions from the floor regarding ideas and options of moving forward.
- c) Marvin Bjornstadt, President of Ironhorse Trail gave us the history and background of the Ironhorse Trail, where the 288 km of trail runs, how the old rail line developed, and how it was built; working with municipalities, oil

companies and power companies; volunteers operating a multi use trail; involves monthly meetings, oil company easements (1000), 300 adjacent land owners, lots of user groups; different interests. Classified as multi-use trail, motorized (off-road) and non-motorized.

Marianne Jenke is the only staff for this Trail and discussed dealing with the 10 municipalities, public works, volunteer organizations; changes to municipalities, re-evaluating intentions and what it was supposed to do; all 10 municipalities have to agree to the Master Agreement (blueprint); any changes would require 100% unanimous agreement from the municipalities.

d) Questions arose for the guest speakers and discussed.

----- 15 Minute Break -----

Meeting reconvened at 2:45 pm. Brett stepped in to help chair the meeting.

3. Amendments/Additions to Agenda/Adoption of Agenda

Brett Fulford asked if there were any errors or omissions, or additions or changes to the agenda. Art Terpsma requested an addition to the Agenda be put right after d) callout for Member volunteers;

Moved by Chris Perkins to adopt the amended Agenda. Seconded by Darrel Macgregor. Motion carried.

4. As this is our first AGM, the Minutes of our very first Meeting are copied here for approval as Written.

Moved by Dale Marshall to accept the Minutes as written. Seconded by Kathy Fulford. Motion carried.

5. Director's Reports

a) Chris Perkins led a discussion on the two Proposals:

- Talks began two years ago with Forestry. The Panther River Trail was made top priority as per Jason Nixon's request.

- We found out a month before the cut-off date when the grant proposals had to be in. Blake Christensen and Lisa Schraeder asked us to get a proposal together and submit it. We submitted a proposal on what we thought should be approved, and ultimately it is up to Forestry to approve it. AWTAs and Forestry will be having at least 2 more meetings before we have consent to go out and do the work in these areas.
 - Approval has been given for the Panther, and we have til June 1 to come up with a proposal that they approve for the Clearwater. A subcommittee will be going to the Clearwater in May with members of Forestry to build a plan that can be signed off by them.
 - Proposed date is August/24, but waiting for permits from Oceans and Fisheries.
 - Going forward, at each AGM, members will suggest trails that need work, the Directors and Forestry will go into the field to check the trails out and a proposal will be drafted and sent to Forestry for approval. Each area of Alberta will have two directors and some local Members to scout out the work that is needed to be done.
 - Forestry wants us to work with horses as much as we can due to the environmental impact of trucks - "wheels out of the river".
 - Volunteers will not be paid; we will pay for teams and wagons, and sub-contractors with heavy equipment.
 - Signage: the government will put up signage at least a month in advance, letting users know that the trail is closed for construction. A CO will be in attendance.
 - You must be a paid member of the Association in order to be covered by our liability insurance. Commercial entities will have their own insurance. We are researching the best and most comprehensive insurance available.
- a1) -
- Art Terpsma gave some history on how the West Country Harness Club put in a proposal for Clearwater in partnership with old snowmobile club
 - questioned Special Resolution; reminded us that he has been a strong supporter of AWTAs - came up with the logo and the name of the Association, and donated \$1000.

Moved by Art Terpsma that the AWTAs authorize the six AWTAs members to coordinate and implement the work as described in the Application with the support of Forestry and Parks.

Discussion ensued regarding the Motion and it was tabled to a later time in the Agenda. The Motion was later withdrawn.

- b) President speaking on Sponsorships and thanking Sponsors: Emile & Tye Teske donated \$1000 to AWTa; (Brian Coleman) Eaglesfield Percherons donated a seminar as a prize for membership draw for memberships that are sold at Horse expo; Saddle Completions donated a chainsaw as a second prize for membership draw; Tom Picherack, vet at Carstairs, donated his time for a week as Vet as we are doing the work, worth \$1000; Saddle Completions has donated office space. Wayne Saunders donated \$1000; Canlin Energy will be donating \$500 - \$1000; Coleman Forest Products will be donating. Donors will be getting a Sponsorship banner to hang in booth;
- c) Jan Newport gave the Financial Report (April 1/23 to March 31/24) for the last year of business.

Revenue for 2023 was \$4090 which was generated from Membership sales

Operating Expenses: \$3349.10, which included advertising, office expenses, travel and hotel expenses and website design and maintenance

Net Profit: \$740.90; Bank balance as of March 31/24 is \$2174.55 with no outstanding invoices as of that date.

Moved by Darrel McGregor that the Financial Statement be accepted as presented. Seconded by Bill Coady. Motion Carried.

- d) Callout for Member volunteers for various Committees

If there is anyone that want to get involved on any of these committees, please reach out.

Panther, Clearwater, and Willmore; looking for committee members to work with Directors in these areas;

- Grant Applications: Chris Perkins and Duane Papke
- Panther Trail: Duane Papke and Chris Perkins
- Clearwater: Dale Marshall and Brett Fulford
- Willmore: Mike Macnab and Ken Kingdon

Update from Ken Kingdon (Willmore) – contacted Steve Bradbury, director for Recreation, Eco Systems and Public Lands based out of Edson; in a couple months they are going to start working on their trail plans for public lands and Willmore is near the top of the list; looking

for input from all users; we should contact him in 2 months if we don't hear from him.

Unfinished Business

- a) Finalize setup and schedule for Horse Expo 2024
 - We need one or two volunteers for the Horse Expo to sit at the booth and represent the Wagon Trekkers Association; Please contact us if you can help out.
- b) Brett will update us regarding a Banner for the booth
 - Art has two banners for the booth; We are tweaking the original logo; Craig made up new logo to put on banners that are better quality, for hats, shirts, buckles, etc. Logo is now 4-up hitch with Tom's wagon; Craig is getting the banners made for the AWTA.
- c) Hay is being donated by Bar Ag out of Olds; are donating 48 compact bales for events, mountain trips; and will get more as needed;
- d) Promotion discussion re: sponsorship, recognition. Already covered.
- e) Donation of prizes for booth for membership sales. Already covered.
- f) Discussion: Committees for Promotion and Funding; Trail committees; Government and Grant Affairs Committee. The president should also be included in the Government and Grant Affairs Committee.

New Business

- a) Nomination for Director and Treasurer:

Dale Marshall presented Jan Newport with a pommel bag in appreciation of the work she has done for the last two years.

Chris Perkins nominated Kathy Fulford for the position of Treasurer. Kathy has accepted the nomination.

Motion by Brett Fulford that Mike Macnab and Mike Brochu be appointed as Directors and not be elected. Seconded by Art Terpsma. Motion carried.

John Wells nominated John Semotiuk as Director. John has accepted the nomination.

Brett Fulford nominated Brian Hallock as Director. Brian has declined.

Moved by Darryl McGregor that nominations cease. Seconded by Kathy Fulford. Motion carried.

- b) Discussion re: each Director having a profile as to the experience they have, their background, what they can offer the association to be put on website.
 - c) Elections: Voting in of one new Director and a Treasurer. John Semotiuk has put his name in to stand as a director, and Kathy Fulford is standing as Treasurer.
6. Next AGM Meeting: One Year from now in April 2025 at Saddle Completions Office, Sylvan Lake.

Art Terpsma withdraws the motion he made earlier, due to his misunderstanding of circumstances.

7. Meeting adjourned:

Moved by John Semotiuk that the meeting be adjourned at 4:30 pm. Seconded by Dave Rookes. Motion carried.