

MINUTES OF 2018 UFRCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday August 5, 2018
Dokis Community Centre
Dokis First Nation

1. Call to Order

Sam Goodwin (President) called the meeting to order at 10:46 AM. Members were welcomed to the meeting and thanks and acknowledgements were offered to Dokis First Nation.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: That the Agenda be approved as circulated to the members previously. Moved by Kaely McDermott; seconded by Lynn Smith. Carried.

3. Approval of the Draft 2016-17 AGM Minutes

MOTION: That the draft Minutes of the 2016-17 AGM be approved as circulated to the members previously. Moved by Mary Somers; seconded by Paul Cormier. Carried.

4. Remarks from Guests

The members were welcomed to Dokis First Nation by Deputy Chief Rolly Restoule. He offered greetings on behalf of the Council of Dokis First Nation, and expressed regrets on behalf of Chief Gerry Duquette, who was unable to attend. Deputy Chief Restoule provided the members with an update on recent developments with respect to the Hydro project and the fish hatchery, including challenges associated with unusual water levels this year. He also advised that logging was underway just off the Dokis Road and that members who are driving should watch for logging trucks.

The members also heard from Matt Bell, of Alberta Wildlife, who was the Fire Information Officer for the Parry Sound 33 fire. Mr. Bell provided an update on the latest status of the fire, noting that significant progress had been made and that fire fighters were cautiously optimistic. He noted that crews had utilized over 300,000 feet of hose so far to surround the fire. In response to questions from the members, Mr. Bell emphasized the importance of preventative measures such as keeping trees away from buildings and having sprinklers around the camp.

The members also heard from Philippe Geoffrion, a Field Officer from the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, with the Ontario Ministry of Safety and Correctional Services. Mr. Geoffrion emphasized the importance of being prepared and that all members

should develop their own fire evacuation plans (including pets) and pay attention to proximity of trees, combustible materials around the site, keeping fire extinguishers charged, and personal “grab and go” emergency kits. He noted that members could find more information at www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires .

Joanne Savage, Mayor of West Nipissing, also addressed the members and expressed thanks to the fire emergency crews. Mayor Savage noted that plans to transition to OPP contract policing for West Nipissing had been delayed but are still proceeding and would likely be in place by February, 2019. She also expressed appreciation to former police chief Chuck Seguin, who recently retired. A member asked about the OPP reinstating off-season visits to cottages. The Mayor indicated that it would be possible to have the OPP at next year’s AGM if that was of interest.

5. Introduction of the 2017-18 Board

Sam Goodwin introduced the Board members that were present at the meeting and expressed regrets on behalf of those who were not able to attend:

- Holly Waters
- Amanda Derks
- Liz Gribbon (regrets)
- Peter Rooney (regrets)
- Jeff Hamilton (regrets)

Former Board member Wendy Kennedy-Sadler provided an update on the mapping project. She asked whether members in the unorganized District of Parry Sound would be interested in unofficial red emergency number signs for their properties. She noted that the map and numbers were primarily for the use of members to assist other members, as not expressly as a guide for first responders.

6. Photo Contest

Sam Goodwin and Bill Diehl offered thanks to the judges:

- Jeffrey Hirtz (Pittsburg, Pennsylvania)
- Erin Greggs (Birmingham, Alabama)
- Laura Gilkey (Maplewood, New Jersey)
- Kara Rappolt (Columbus, Ohio)
- Mary Kozlowski (Willoughby Hills, Ohio)

The following winners were announced:

- *Nature* – first place: John Bacha; second place: Steve Nicholls
- *“Oh No”* – first place: Tom Kurtz; second place: Jimmy Abbott
- *French River Life* – first place: Tim Murdoch; second place: Tom Kurtz
- *Best Overall* – first place: Leo Lepore; runner-up: Bob Sinclair

7. Financial Report

On behalf of Treasurer Peter Rooney, Sam Goodwin presented the 2016-17 Income and Expense Report and proposed budget for 2018-19 (see attached), noting that the overall approach remained consistent with previous years.

MOTION: That the 2016-17 Financial Statement and proposed 2017-18 Budget be approved as presented. Moved by Dave Minden; seconded by Larry Smith. Carried

8. Election of Directors: 2018-19

Sam Goodwin noted that a number of Board members were retiring and offered thanks on behalf of the membership for the valuable contributions over the years of:

- Holly Waters
- Liz Gribbon
- Peter Rooney

Sam Goodwin announced to the meeting that, in recognition of his incredible record of 25 years of services as a UFRCA Board member, and of having served in every capacity, Peter Rooney was being awarded the UFRCA Lifetime Achievement Award. It was noted that this is only the third time that this award has been given and that as token of the UFRCA's appreciation, a donation of \$700 would be made to the Northern Cancer Research Fund in memory of Laurie Rooney.

The meeting was advised that the following Board members would be standing again for election to serve in 2018-19:

- Amanda Derks
- Jeff Hamilton
- Sam Goodwin

It was also noted that Jeff and Sam had indicated that 2018-19 would be their last year on the Board.

Nominations to the Board from the floor were received for and accepted for the following:

- Jeannie Palmer
- Bonnie Witmer
- John Bacha

MOTION: That the proposed slate of 2018-19 Board members be accepted. Approved unanimously by the members present.

9. New Business

Website and Newsletter Changes

Dave Minden, who volunteered through 2016-17 to manage the UFRCA website, briefed the membership on potential changes that would be coming in 2018-19. The recommendations were made in order to simplify and streamline the work involved in managing the site, as well as to expose more people to the UFRCA. He noted that over the next year, he and Sam Goodwin would be working on changes to reduce the size of the website and amount of information that has to be maintained. He indicated that this would involve closing some parts of the website and, in particular, sections that are not visited very often.

Dave also noted that the “members only” section would be eliminated – in part to reduce the workload associated with password management, but also to make the UFRCA more open for potential new members. Similarly, the newsletter would be open to all – again, as a way to communicate more effectively what the UFRCA is all about and hopefully attract new members. Dave asked whether this would be acceptable to the members and while no formal vote was taken, support was expressed by those present.

Chaudière Fish Fry

Bill Diehl reminded the members that Chaudière Lodge would be holding their fish fry that evening – Sunday, August 5 and that tickets were available. He noted that there would be live music, provided by the UFRCA.

10. Closing Remarks/Adjournment

Sam Goodwin thanked Brian and Tin Lariviere of the Dokis Community Centre for the excellent food and other arrangements that had been made for the meeting.

**MOTION: That the 2017-18 UFRCA Annual General Meeting be adjourned (12:06 p.m.).
Moved by Phil Witmer; seconded by Paul Cormier. Carried**