

Meeting Minutes

Date: September 17, 2025

Location: Crystal Shores Beach House

Chair: Club President : Matt Zazula

Prepared by: James Litwin

1. Call to Order

- Meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 PM.
- Chair welcomed members back after the summer break.
- Reminder: meeting to conclude by 9:30 PM; members asked to help stack chairs and tables afterward.

2. Special Presentation - Elk Management in WMU 212 & 312

- Presenter: Joe Baranyay (Club Member & Zone 2 Wildlife Chair, Alberta Wildlife Federation)
- Background: Government and landowner concerns over rising elk populations in WMU 212 and surrounding areas.
- Population Trends: WMU 212 grew from ~200 to 2,600+ elk; WMU 312 estimated at 1,200+ elk.
- Past Management: Trapping and relocation (stopped during COVID), extended archery/primitive weapon seasons, landowner access programs.
- Issues: Restricted access, crop and fence damage, landowners requesting more control over tags.
- Government Proposals: Extended primitive weapon seasons, landowner-specific tags, possible center-fire rifle use.
- Alberta Wildlife Federation Response: Support selective draw licenses, caution against landowner-only allocation, promote ethical insured hunters from clubs.

3. Discussion Points Raised by Members

- Concerns over hunter safety with large elk herds and high hunter concentration.
- Fairness of landowner-only licensing debated.

- Suggested systems: centralized access list, club-managed programs; concerns about administration and fairness.
- Consensus: balance needed between landowner rights, hunter access, and herd reduction.

4. Alberta Wildlife Federation Updates

- Ongoing dialogue with government on regulations.
- Changes: bow draw weights lowered (45 → 35 lbs), tracking dogs allowed on leash, youth hunting rules clarified, firearms regulations updated.
- Cougar hunting: request to reinstate non-dog hunting opportunities.
- Advocacy for more shooting range approvals across Alberta.

5. Club Business & Reports

- Annual Banquet (June): raised ~\$5,000; next banquet 2026, date to be determined – volunteers needed.
- Summer Family BBQ: ~30 attendees, included raffle (274/1000 tickets sold). Decision pending on raffle for 2026.
- Upcoming Conference: Alberta Wildlife Federation Annual Conference, Feb 19-21, 2026, Carriage House Hotel, Calgary. Clubs asked to support youth program.

6. Communications

- Club Facebook page launched; members encouraged to share stories, updates, and photos.

7. Adjournment

- Meeting concluded around 9:15 PM.
- Thanks extended to presenters and members.
- Reminder: assist with cleanup before leaving.

Action Items

- Upload government presentation slides to club website.
- Recruit volunteers for banquet committee.
- Decide on raffle strategy for 2026.
- Follow AWF updates on elk management, cougar hunting, and firearms regulations.