

Okotoks and District Fish & Game Association

Meeting Minutes – Regular Meeting

1. Meeting Details

- **Date:** December 3, 2025 (inferred from recording timestamp – please confirm)
- **Time:** Call to order at 7:00 p.m.. 7 people in attendance
- **Location:** Okotoks, Alberta

2. Call to Order & Agenda

The following items were reviewed on the agenda:

- Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) conference and youth program
- Club donation to the youth program
- Conference delegates from Okotoks
- Family Day “Kids Can Catch” fishing event
- Wildlife & regulations report from Zone 2
- Club finances and spending priorities
- Events and outreach
- 2026 Wild Game Banquet & fundraiser
- Membership and communications
- Horn Scoring Day
- Other business

3. Alberta Wildlife Federation (AWF) Conference & Youth Program

The annual AWF conference will be held in Calgary, providing a good opportunity for southern clubs to attend with reduced travel costs.

A youth program will be held in conjunction with the main event. Zone 2 has agreed to operate the Youth Program, supported by Zone 2 clubs and headed up by the Calgary Fish and Game Association. Zone 2 is collecting donations to reduce the cost to the youth attendees.

The club discussed using its youth/program funds to support this initiative.

Motion 1 - Donation to Youth Program

Motion: Mark A moved that the Okotoks and District Fish & Game Association donate \$1,000 to support the Zone-run youth program at conference. Seconded by Siegfried H. Motion carried.

Action: Treasurer to arrange a \$1,000 donation to Zone 2 for the conference youth program.

4. AWF Conference Delegates

The club can send two delegates to the AWF conference. Registration and hotel costs are expected to total around \$1,000 for each of two delegates.

Names discussed as delegates were Mark Anderson and Glenn Matheson.

Motion 2 - Delegates & Expenses

Motion: Siegfried H moved that the club send two members as delegates Mark Anderson and Glenn Matheson to the AWF conference and reimburse their registration and accommodation expenses. Motion carried.

Actions:

- Secretary/Chair to submit Mark Anderson and Glenn Matheson as Okotoks delegates.
- Treasurer to reimburse registration and reasonable hotel expenses.

5. Family Day “Kids Can Catch” Fishing Event

The club will again host a Family Day “Kids Can Catch” event. Mark Anderson will coordinate, with the event typically running from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

- Previous years saw around 400 registrations, with attendance affected by weather.
- The club holds about 140 rod combos; more are required to support up to 500 participants.
- Past pricing for combos was approximately \$25 each; the club aims to purchase roughly 50 additional combos.

Advertising & Registration

- Registration will be through the Alberta Conservation Association (ACA) online portal.
- The club website and email list will be used to promote the event once the ACA link is available.

Actions:

- Mark Anderson to coordinate logistics and obtain updated pricing for equipment, and purchase 50 additional rod combinations
- James to post event details and registration links on the club website.
- Members to recruit volunteers to assist on event day.

6. Zone 2 Wildlife Chair Report - Joe B

- AWF is establishing a range committee to provide guidance on range development and shooting sports safety and related issues
- A May meeting at Millarville focused on primitive weapons antlerless elk seasons; recent changes now allow any legal center-fire rifle during the December and January antlerless elk season.
- Concerns were raised about land access, posted land, and maintaining positive hunter-landowner relations.
- The club remains opposed to hunt farms on ethical and disease grounds.

Action:

Circulate the Zone 2 Wildlife Chair updates to the club email list and report at future meetings.

7. Events & Outreach - Calgary Boat and Outdoor Show

- The Calgary Outdoor Show is scheduled for February 22. We have an opportunity to have a booth at no cost
- A previous booth produced minimal returns and required long volunteer shifts.
- Given existing commitments and limited returns, there was little appetite to commit to a booth this year. We will decline the offer

Action:

Chair to inform the show organizers that the club will decline a booth.

8. Club Finances & Spending Priorities

- The Treasurer reported significant funds in the operating account with minimal interest earnings.

- Members discussed prioritizing meaningful projects, particularly youth and community-focused initiatives, rather than accumulating funds without clear purpose.

9. 2026 Wild Game Banquet & Fundraiser

- The banquet is the club's main annual fundraiser, but 2026 plans are not yet confirmed.
- A small core of volunteers has carried the event in the past, raising concerns about burnout.
- Costs at the Ridge include high per-plate charges and hall/tent rentals, with additional heating costs.
- Options discussed included continuing with a revised format, exploring alternative venues, scaling down, or skipping the banquet for 2026.

Outcome:

No formal motion was passed. The club will call for banquet committee volunteers and reassess feasibility based on volunteer numbers and updated cost estimates.

Actions:

- Chair/Executive to issue a call for banquet committee volunteers with a decision deadline early in the new year.
- Interested members to investigate venue and catering options and gather approximate cost estimates.

10. Membership & Communications

- Membership has declined compared to previous years due to non-renewals and members moving away.
- The club discussed difficulties in converting event participants into long-term members, particularly youth and families.
- The local newspaper's "date book" and the club website can be used to promote meetings and events.
- The club announced a Membership Incentive program for 2026. All members purchasing or renewing a membership prior to January 31 2026 will have their names entered for a draw. The draw will be for a \$100 certificate to a local business.

Actions:

- James to continue posting events and announcements on the club website
- The membership Incentive draw will be shared through email and social media

11. Horn Scoring Day

- The club plans to hold a Horn Scoring Day on January 31 2026
- Several accredited scorers in the Calgary area may be available.
- The event will require venue booking and advertising via website, email, and local media.
- Mark Anderson offered to coordinate this year's horn scoring

Actions:

- Club Chair to arrange a venue
- James/Communications to promote the event once details are finalized.

12. Other Discussion Items

- Members shared various hunting experiences and stories.
- Ethical hunting, disease concerns, and fair chase principles were discussed.
- Potential collaboration with other clubs in the region was noted.
- The ongoing need for more volunteers for all events and initiatives was emphasized.

13. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by James L. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

14. Summary of Motions

- Motion 1 - Donation to Youth Program: Donate \$1,000 to support the AWF/Zone youth program at conference. Status: Carried.
- Motion 2 - AWF Conference Delegates & Expenses: Send two delegates (Mark Anderson and Glenn Matheson) to the AWF conference and reimburse their expenses. Status: Carried.
- Motion 3 - Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting. Status: Carried.