

Medway River Salmon Association

www.medwayriversalmonassociation.org

Time of Meeting: 7:00pm

Date of Meeting: 31 January 2017
Location of Meeting: Charleston Fire Hall

Representing: Medway River and Environs

Quorum Requirements: 15

Attendance: 17

Exec: Michael Fralic, President
 Mitchell Alexander, Vice President
 Reg Rafuse, Treasurer
 Jo-Ann Holden, Secretary

Guest: **Regrets:**

Items Recorded	(I)nformation (A)ction (D)ecision (C)omplete	Person or Group Responsible and Date
CALL TO ORDER		
1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Michael Fralic.		
2. Minutes from 20 December '16 were reviewed and approved.		
3. OLD BUSINESS		
dd/mm/yy-item #		
27.05.14-15	Michael F. will head a membership drive for the association and he will resurrect the Newsletter (or a facsimile) of the newsletter Darrell had edited and forwarded to members. Update 18 Nov.'14: Bring forward January 2015 Update 20 Jan. '15: When time is available to Michael he will pursue this project. Update 26 May 15: Work in progress Update 3 November 15: Work in progress Update 26 January 16: Michael will follow up with Bob Shortt regarding the Margaree newsletter/website. Update 31 May 16: Work in progress. Dell and Ronnie will provide Michael with pictures for a newsletter when up and going. Update 20 December 16: Mike working on newsletter for the Advance, re. New members, MRSA activities, etc. Update 31 January 17: Mike will have an article placed in the Advance in February or March.	A
		Michael

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<p>03.11.15-09</p> <p>Learn to Fish: NS Fisheries and Aquaculture is interested in the 'learn to fish' program. Horace will coordinate a 'one-day event' working with the Jr. High School students. Andrew Lowles and Alan McNeill will be kept in the loop. Update 26 January 2016: Horace will be in touch with Andrew Lowles and Alan McNeill. Update 31 May 16: Horace unavailable for meeting; therefore, no update. Update 20 December 16: Horace unavailable for meeting; therefore, no update. Update 31 January 17: Horace unavailable for the meeting; therefore, no update.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Horace</p>
<p>03.11.15-10</p> <p>New Government, New Attempt... Michael and Horace will attempt to coordinate with the Lahave River Assoc. and Gold River Assoc. to craft a letter to Bernadette Jordan, MP South Shore, to introduce the three associations with vested interest in the three salmon rivers in her riding. Once completed a copy will be sent to membership to use as guidance in submitting personal letters to Bernadette. Update 26 January 2016: A letter was sent to Bernadette Jordan, MP, at her Ottawa address. MRSA has not received a response. Michael will follow up. Update 31 May 16: Michael met with Bernadette in March. Bernadette is on the DFO Advisory Committee. An agenda has been established for the committee. The committee will begin in Western Canada. Atlantic Salmon is on the agenda slated for review this fall. Michael indicates that Bernadette is willing to push for the Atlantic Salmon. Michael will follow up, with Bernadette, during the summer. Queens County Fish & Game are preparing a letter to forward to Bernadette in support of the Atlantic Salmon. Update 20 December 16: Members of a Salmon Advisory Committee will be announced in January. Michael will extend an invitation to Bernadette to host her for a day of fishing on the Medway. Update 31 January 17: Michael met with Bernadette of 5 January. The Salmon Advisory Committee will push ahead with recommendations on Atlantic Salmon at the meeting with DFO. DFO has 3 months to respond to 'how or what will be done' regarding recommendations. Michael will update members during the next meeting. Michael and Bernadette are aiming for a fishing date during the last two weeks of April. Michael will get in touch with Ronnie.</p>	<p>A</p>	<p>Michael</p>

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03.11.15-11	<p>Rainbow Trout</p> <p>Indications are that Rainbow Trout are not thriving in the Jordan River because of the chain pickerel. A letter will be sent out to Inland Fisheries requesting that these rainbow trout be put in the lower part of the Medway River.</p> <p>Transportation of the Rainbow would fall under the Provincial 'blanket' permit.</p> <p>Moved, Seconded and Motion carried to:</p> <p>Acquire 300/400 Rainbow Trout for NS Fisheries and Aquaculture, Inland Fisheries, for distribution throughout the lower Medway, starting from Hwy 103, south to Port Medway.</p> <p>Update 26 January 2016: Horace will continue to address this issue.</p> <p>POI – The Fraser Mill Hatchery (NS Inland Fisheries) grows rainbow and speckled trout.</p> <p>Update 31 May 16: Horace unavailable for meeting; therefore, no update.</p> <p>Although not mentioned at the meeting, it was interesting to observe the numbers of fisherpersons in Shelburne Harbour trying their luck at catching a rainbow trout once it became public knowledge that the harbour was abound with fish....<i>'if you build it they will come'</i></p> <p>Update 20 December 16: Horace unavailable for meeting. Altho not definitive, it is unlikely MRSA will be able to stock the lower Medway with Rainbow Trout.</p> <p>POI – Shelburne Town Council are working towards stocking Rainbow trout.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Nothing to report. Item marked as complete.</p>	C	
26.01.16-03	<p>Fundraising Committee Report – Plans are underway for the Annual Turkey Dinner – 1 May, Charleston Fire Hall. The bottle drive is ongoing. If you have bottles you would like to donate get in touch with Cindy or Raymond. Horace will make application for the Lottery Permit: 1st prize the canoe, 2nd prize the Peter Gough print.</p> <p>Update 31 May 16: Lottery has been put on hold for now. MRSA is prepared to sell canoe outright. See item 18.11.14-15.</p> <p>Due to a conflict with the Charleston Fire Hall MRSA was unable to move forward with the Annual Dinner. The dinner has been rescheduled, tentatively, 25 September. Look for an email in the future regarding the dinner.</p> <p>Update 20 December 16: As indicated in item 18.11.14-15 the canoe has been raffled! Dinner was postponed until further notice. September date did not work for those involved in the coordination. A new date will be established during the AGM in January.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: The date agreed upon for the Annual Dinner is 7 May 2017, Charleston Fire Hall. PLEASE PLAN TO ASSIST CINDY IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE!</p>	A	Cindy

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26.01.16-12	<p>McGowan Fish Hatchery needs to be expanded. Moved and seconded, 'A letter is to be written to NS Dept. Of Fisheries, Inland Division, to express the need for more containment for hatching and growing trout at McGowan's.' Michael and Horace will put points to paper and forward to the Minister.</p> <p>Update 31 May 16: Michael has drafted a letter to NS Inland Fisheries in support of an expansion to McGowan Fish Hatchery.</p> <p>Update 20 December 16: Mike sent a letter to Keith Colwell and is awaiting a reply. The letter included an invitation to join Michael on the river for a day of fishing, as well as MRSA's expression of support for the growth of McGowan's. Further discussed was the need for policing poachers, and potential fencing at the hatchery.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: MRSA received a response from Keith Colwell, Minister NS Fisheries and Aquaculture, regarding the angling potential on the Medway and the role of the provincial hatcheries. Keith suggests a meeting with the Inland Fisheries Division staff, in late winter, to further discuss ideas. Darryl Murrant, Manager of Enhancement is to contact Michael to arrange a meeting.</p> <p>Keith is interested in enjoying a day of fishing on the Medway. Michael and</p>	A	Michael
31.05.16-02	<p>Action Required from Environmental Committee Report – Fish were released from the Charleston hatchery into Wentworth and Salters Brooks. Some trout were able to free themselves from the incubation boxes and found a home in the waterway around the hatchery; otherwise, minimal loss was sustained. Fish have been released from 3 schools involved in the Fish Friend program. The Jr. High is the only remaining school to release the fish. Ronnie received a card from Greenfield School thanking him, Dell and the Association for the program. The Fish Friend program will continue next year. Eggs will be ordered again this fall for the hatchery. There is enough room to increase the number of eggs at the hatchery by installing 3 more incubators, each having 3 layers within the incubator.</p> <p>DFO have slated a meeting for 7 June in Truro. Ronnie was invited to speak on the Fish Friend program. He has indicated that there is a small chance he may attend but it is very unlikely.</p> <p>Ronnie will coordinate a meeting with the Environmental Committee. One agenda item will be the erection of signage/posters along Medway to identify fishing locations by names.</p> <p>Update 20 December 16: Discussion on the installation of signage/posters was deferred until after the General Meeting in January.</p>	A	Ronnie
31.05.16-08	<p>Live Bait – Michael will write a letter to NS Dept. of Fisheries, Inland Division, regarding the use of live bait. It is the contention of MRSA that live bait <i>no longer</i> be used within the Medway watershed.</p> <p>Update 20 December 16: No update. Issue will be brought up during a meeting with Keith Colwell. Live bait was a topic of discussion at the RFAC, as well as the possibility of mid May becoming the open date for fishing trout on the Lahave. The issue of the chain pickerel catch, the need to tighten the regulations and the need for more enforcement were also on the agenda.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Ongoing discussion between the Darryl Murrant, Manager of Enhancement and Keith Colwell.</p>	C	

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20.12.16-02	<p>Action required from Environmental Committee Report – 7/8 members assisted in the annual adipose fin clipping at McGowan’s this fall. 12,000-14,000 fish were clipped. MRSA was the only organization assisting in this task, along with McGowan employees. Needing to reduce their stock McGown gave 15,000 trout to MRSA for release into the Medway. These were dispersed into a number of brooks. Due to labour strife between the Gov. and NSTU the Fish Friend program is in limbo. Teachers are working to rule, therefore, will not assume responsibility for the aquariums. Ronnie indicated the need to purchase ammonia, filters, etc. for the maintenance of the aquariums. If the program goes ahead this year start up will be 1st – 2nd week of February. McGown’s will provide about 350 eggs for the various schools.</p> <p>What can be done regarding the number of seals in our harbours and bays? Michael will send thank you letters to: Dennis Alexander for building a number of incubation boxes for the Charleston hatchery; and to Freeman Lumber for the materials supplied for repairs to the hatchery.</p> <p>The question arose as to whether MRSA should be asking for more trout from McGowans...response: ‘although we would accept more fish McGown’s have a responsibility to other river organizations as well.’ Billy Stevens will investigate the possibility of purchasing from private hatcheries.</p> <p>Brian Dulude will be hosting a demonstration of Fly Tying in Bridgewater at the Margaret Hennigar Public Library, Saturdays Jan. 14, 21 and 28.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Michael sent thank you letters to Dennis Alexander and Harry Freeman & Sons Lumber Limited.</p> <p>Bill investigated the purchase of trout and has indicated the Co-op in the Valley sells trout @ \$1.00/each. The trout are supplied to the Co-op by Inland Fisheries.</p>	C	
20.12.16-06	<p>Facebook. Mitchell Alexander will review MRSA’s facebook page to see how it may be further promoted. Mitchell may want to start with Horace for information. Jay and Horace were instrumental in creating the FB page.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Mitchell unavailable for the meeting.</p>	A	Mitchell
20.12.16-08	<p>Fines in violation of the Environmental Act. A Southwestern Nova Scotia contractor approached Michael regarding a fine the company was required to pay for being in violation of the Environment Act. The contractor brought to Michael’s attention, that when in violation a contractor can request of the Court Judge that the fine be paid to a charitable organization (court cost are paid to the province.) This is a program allowed under the provincial law. As a result the amount of the fine was donated to MRSA. Michael will forward a letter to the NS Road Builders Association.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Michael forwarded a letter to Dexter Construction Co. Ltd. regarding the above and requested that in the event Dexter finds their company in violation that Dexter may want to consider requesting that their fine is donated to MRSA.</p> <p>Nova Scotia Road Builders Association had their conference in January. Hopefully Dexter tabled the letter from MRSA regarding fines.</p>	C	

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20.12.16-09	<p>Nova Scotia Anglers & Hunters: Vinal, representing NSAH, requested support, by way of a letter from MRSA to the NSAH, regarding the "Recreation Saltwater Fisheries License Proposal"</p> <p>After much discussion the motion was passed by the tie breaking vote of the President.</p> <p>Motion: The Medway River Salmon Association is in support of the policy of the Nova Scotia Anglers & Hunters Association in regard to their "Recreation Saltwater License Proposal."</p> <p>Michael will send a letter to NSAH.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Michael sent a letter in support of this item.</p>	C	
20.12.16-11	<p>Brian Dulude will invite a representative from Mersey Tobeatic Research Institute to speak at the AGM in January. Topic of interest: Upper Medway Trout Creel Survey.</p> <p>Update 31 January 17: Amanda Lavers from MTRI presented an overview of the Upper Medway Trout Creel Survey that was conducted last year. Also, on topic were Blanding Turtles and Ribbon Snakes.</p>	C	
4. NEW BUSINESS			
dd/mm/yy-item#			
31.01.17-01	Treasurers Report – As at 31 December 2016 Balance \$17,385.74	I	
31.01.17-02	Environmental Committee Report – 60,000 trout eggs will be ready for pick up and deliver to the Charleston Hatchery from McGowan's on 14 February. Due to the pending teachers strike the Fish Friend programs will be on hold for the 2016-17 school year. Aquarium supplies have been purchased and will be kept for next year start up.	I	
31.01.17-03	Fundraising Committee Report – As indicated above the Annual Dinner will be held 7 May 2017 at the Charleston Fire Hall. Please contact Cindy Nauss for details.	I	
31.01.17-04	<p>Social Committee Report – Brian Dulude coordinated a 'Fly Exchange' that will take place after the meeting.</p> <p>Brian is hosting a Fly Tying course in the Bridgewater area and is looking to coordinate a Fly Tie/exchange session at Lanes Privateer Inn during February and March, Wednesday evenings.</p>	I	
31.01.17-05	President's Report – Issues as indicated in minutes.	I	

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31.01.17-06	Lime – the pH has not been tested at the Charleston Hatchery. Mike McNeil from McGowan’s Hatchery will be contacted regarding lime.	A	Ronnie
31.01.17-07	Article regarding a MRSA membership drive will be published in the Advance. See item 27.05.14-15	A	Michael
31.01.17-08	Michael will try to attend the ASF 2017 Atlantic Salmon Forum February 15.	A	Michael
31.01.17-09	2016 Fisherman’s Forum is available for viewing online at cmag-gams.org/index	I	
31.01.17-10	Will water be diverted from the Medway? Let’s keep our eyes and ears open during this time of discussion regarding new turbines on Mersey River!	I	
31.01.17-11	NS Dept. Of Environment has legislated the need for industries to correct problems with run off entering the watershed as a result of their business activities. Follow up will be ongoing with industries along the Medway.	A	Michael
31.01.17-12	Medway River is slated to be closed from 15 June to the 31 July. There is ongoing lobbying to keep the river open during this time.	I	
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	<i>PROJECTS OF INTEREST TO MRSA</i>		
	Southern Upland Collaborative Project:		Bev Davison
	Clean Water Symposium:		Bev Davison
	Wild Salmon Unlimited:		Michael Fralic
	Mersey Woodlands Advisory Committee:		George Morrison
5.	The next meeting to be at 7:00 pm 26 April 2017.		
6.	On a motion the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm		

Lewis Hinks, ASF @lhinks@asf.ca

Rene Aucoin, NSSA @nssasalmon@gmail.com