

Friends of the Blindman Meeting, Forshee Hall

January 6th 7pm

Attendees: Assar Grinde, Haleigh Sanderson, Roger Van Haren, Kim Wiggins, Ryan Nichols
Tony Blake, Myrna Pearman, Connor Layton

1. Call meeting to order at 700. Motion to adopt agenda as amended. Mover Haleigh
Seconded Kim
2. Motion to adopt December's minutes as circulated. Mover Ryan Seconded Haleigh
3. Public Forum - no public members in attendance.

4. Earth Day – Bron Ibbitson asked if Friends was interested in co-hosting an Earth Day event at the Beatty House in Rimbey. Ryan suggested bringing up the topic at the AGM and advising then about whether we can be involved.

5a. Tabled logo discussion as revisions haven't been received yet. The company is aware that it is needed by the end of February.

5b. Incorporation updates: Assar gave an update of modifications and corrections required to satisfy requirements for incorporation as a Society. A new form will be signed and submitted. The new application was signed and will be submitted by February 1, 20

6. AGM planning – Wednesday, February 25. Doors open at 5:00, Pizza served, Meeting starts at 5:30, speakers to follow. it would be ideal to have an outside person act as the MC (Assar will approach a member about this).

1. Business Agenda will consist of:

a. Annual Report (include history of the group) Assar will present draft at next board meeting

b. Approve bylaws

c. Elect Directors – Assar asked all members present to recruit board members. Assar suggested that we try to recruit a local member from local companies. Conner suggested that a retiree from one of the companies.

d. Two auditors will be elected during the AGM, Assar will approach some members ahead of time to let their name's stand.

e. Voting system - need to have someone appointed as a Returning Officer in case voting will be required. Assar will approach someone to fill the position.

2. Speakers – three speakers have been confirmed. Only Jason Unger will require speaker expenses. Kim will get gifts from West Country Mills. Conner will get three jars of honey. \$50 approximate price for each gift. Tony will contact the speakers once the topic

details are finalized by Assar and Haleigh. Assar suggested that the group should have one or two prepared questions for each speaker.

3. Logistics - Myrna will bring projector and screen, Ryan will bring his music speaker system to the next board meeting to test it out.

4. Advertising: Haleigh outlined the preliminary AGM details and press release.

5. Pizza and Refreshments – Myrna will handle the pizza (and bring paper in case a vote will be held), Ryan will bring water. Details will be confirmed closer to the date.

6. Registration Table: Ryan and Haleigh

7. Grant Application: A grant application will be submitted to RDRN by the Medicine River Watershed Society on behalf of Friends of the Blindman, to cover the expenses related to the AGM.

8. New business:

1. Some temperature probes were lost last year. RDRWA had funds available for a CABIN sampling initiative. May be pursued next year, done in early fall.

2. Roger Van Haren update:

(i) In December the Medicine River Watershed Society was awarded the Lacombe County Environmental Stewardship Award. Congrats to them.

(ii) In late December the Medicine River Watershed Society wrote a letter and asked the nearby municipalities to endorse their letter requesting a meeting with several senior government ministers to discuss the water shortage in the region. Lacombe County council has endorsed their request for a meeting but decided not to endorse their statement requesting an immediate stop in industrial water diversion during the current water shortage advisory. The Medicine River Watershed Society will likely receive other feedback and endorsements from the remaining municipalities in the next couple weeks.

3. Discussion on funding opportunities: Alberta Coalition for Watershed Security is an initiative of Alberta Ecotrust that can fund water conservation initiatives. FWCC

9. Next Meeting: February 5, 2026.

10. Adjournment at 8:26 PM