

Friends of the Blindman Meeting

March 5 2026

In person attendance:

Assar Grinde, Daniel Iseli-Otto, Kim Wiggins, Josh McMurray, Connor Layton, Haleigh Sanderson, Mike Byzitter, Myrna Pearman

Online attendance: Kristy Klinger, Tony Blake

1. Called to order at 7:04 pm. Approval of agenda - motion by Josh, seconded Connor, passed.
2. Adoption of February 5 2026 minutes. Motion to approve by Haleigh, seconded Kim, passed.
3. Introduction of Board Members
 - a. The board members introduced themselves.
4. Election of Officers
 - a. Assar acclaimed as President
 - b. Connor acclaimed as Vice President
 - c. Daniel acclaimed as Secretary
 - d. Ryan acclaimed as Treasurer
5. AGM Review
 - a. Meeting expenses were \$1552. Lower than expected.
 - b. Feedback
 - i. Generally good.
 - ii. Discussion surrounding future meetings and potential to have increased political and government representation so that there is a community outlet for frustrations.
 - iii. General discussion surrounding communications and issues with both the meeting and the society.
6. Bank Account Decision
 - a. Myrna motions to open a bank account at Servus for the Society that can be signed by Assar, Ryan and Connor. Seconded Josh. Passed.
 - b. Assar motions to allow the treasurer to both pay and receive via etransfer out of the bank account. Seconded Daniel. Passed.
7. Discussion on 2026 Priorities
 - a. Earth Day Event at Beatty House, Saturday April 25th
 - i. Discussion of having a table and getting a pop up thing for the table. ii. Myrna will talk to RDRN about material they may have that we could borrow.
 - b. Temperature Probes
 - i. This will be pursued again this year. We will try and get more throughout the

watershed to get more data.

- ii. Assar motions to ask the RDRN for an addendum to purchase 4 more HOBO temperature probes using the money that was left over from our cheaper than expected AGM. Seconded Connor. Passed.

c. Water Sampling

- i. Connor discussed what the MRWS is doing.
 1. Says they are mostly focussed on dissolved oxygen in the Medicine River and less on chemistry.
 2. Tony discussed what he learned at the RDRWA spring symposium this spring.
 3. Tabled until we have more information.

d. CABIN Sampling

- i. Assar reports that RDRWA has funding for the Blindman for the first year. ii. Tony and Connor will discuss with Francine at RDWRA and take the lead. e. Well Water Monitoring

- i. Our group would also like to get involved with this in a way similar to how MRWS is doing it.

f. Fundraising

- i. Watershed Stewardship Grants - Myrna will look into
- ii. Alberta EcoTrust Springboard Grant - possibly apply to for new website, Myrna will look into.
- iii. Requests to municipalities, companies and individuals, Mike will draft a letter.
- iv. Items we would like money for
 - a. Events and Speakers
 - b. Insurance
 - c. Website
 - d. Equipment
 - e. Marketing and Promotions
 - f. Fuel and Mileage
 - g. Professional Services
2. Tony suggests trying Alberta Conservation Association for funding, thinks it would be a worthwhile pursuit. Suggests they like co-sponsorship.
- g. Discussion surrounding involvement in schools.

8. Communications

- a. Haleigh gave an update. She would like to know if anyone wants to take over the social media aspect. Need for a board photo so please come to the next meeting. Kristy will help Haleigh with social media posts.

9. Municipal Updates

- a. Kristy reports that the Town of Bentley had their yearly water reports and there was nothing abnormal compared to other years.
- b. Lacombe County - Assar gave Roger's report.

10. Meeting Dates

- a. Meetings will continue to be the first Thursday of every month.

11. Advocacy

- a. Another letter to the new Minister of the Environment.
- b. Assar's pie charts.
- c. Discussion surrounding what the goals of the group are and how to go about finding this out so that we have specific advocacy points.
- d. Discussion about reaching out to journalists and other avenues.

12. Next Meeting - April 2 2026

- a. Let Assar know ahead of time for agenda items.

13. Adjourned - 9:10 pm