

MINUTES:

Alberta Federation of Rock Clubs

Sunday, 12 September 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Location: CRLC Clubhouse, 3650 – 19 St. NE, (Bay #13), Calgary, Alberta.

AGENDA

1. AFRC President's Message: See **Appendix 1**

2. Roll Call (Directors/Delegates of Clubs):

Present: Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club, Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club, Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association

Absent: Calgary Faceters Guild, Edmonton Tumblewood Lapidary Club, Lacombe Handicraft and Lapidary Guild.

As 3 out of 6 clubs were represented, there was **quorum** to allow the meeting.

3. Consideration of Agenda

No additional items were added. Henry Komadowski (SARHA) moved to accept the Agenda, Dale Nielsen (CRLC) 2nd, all approved.

4. In Memorium (bereavements, 1 minute silence): Those that have passed away:

- Calgary Rock & Lapidary Club: Don and Vi Merkley, Les Adler
- Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club: Thomas May, Louise Wutzke
- Southern Alberta Rock Hounds Association: Mary Mehlen, Julius Kovacs

5. Minutes of the ZOOM General Meeting, 2 May 2021.

These Minutes were sent to all the Delegates/Directors: There were no corrections or additions. Jonathan Legg (SARHA) moved to accept the minutes, Jonathan Legg (SARHA) 2nd, **all approved.**

6. Business Arising from the Minutes: This item was covered in the Committee Reports and On-Going Business.

7. Correspondence: None of note occurred in the last few months.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

8.1: Treasurer's Reports: See **Appendix 2**

(For background information, the Report is in 2 parts. **Part A** is background finances, from 1 January to 1 May 2021. **Part B** is the financial transactions that occurred between the May meeting and this September meeting.)

- a) Bank Statement (amounts in chequing, GIC)
transactions (cheques, deposits) from: 1 May to 1 September 2021

(There is a legal requirement for the Treasurer to provide to the AFRC Executive the hard copies of the Bank Statements (June, July, August 2021) with bank photocopies of AFRC cheque payments to other parties. As we do not have a Secretary, a set of copies was given to the President, and another set was kept by the Treasurer.

Because of confidentiality and security, these statements are not for general distribution.)

MOTION: To accept Treasurer's financial report: Moved by Treasurer, John Cherwonogrodzky (MHRLC), 2nd by Dale Nielsen, **approved by all.**

b) Payments received for AFRC club memberships: The Treasurer has not yet received the membership fees from all clubs. This is understandable as due to COVID-19, communications and transactions have been disrupted or discontinued in some clubs. This is not a major issue of concern as the Treasurer has received payments for about 90% of the memberships. He will just renew his efforts to get the last of that owing.

8.2: Custodian and Librarian Report, traveling memento:

The custodian, Douglas Schatz (LHLG) was not present and there was no report.

There was a brief discussion, and Dale Nielsen (CRLC) believes that her club currently has both the Travelling Memento (display of Alberta in petrified wood) and the book/video library.

8.3: GMFC Report

Brett Jensen (SARHA, also current President of GMFC) gave a brief overview of the Federation. It continues to struggle.

- For several years, there has been a rift between east and west Canada. Quebec and Ontario have kept to themselves because of the distance. At one point, they even viewed themselves as an alternate GMFC.
- The GMFC executive is getting elderly and wishes to retire from their positions. To date, some have stayed on only because there is no-one to take their place.
- The British Columbia Lapidary Society continues to be active and involved. The province has about 30 clubs and one of the largest rock/gem/lapidary shows in the country is the annual Abbotsford presentation. It is because BC is so successful that they do not see the need or value for being part of the GMFC.

Brett also gave a discussion on the benefits of GMFC:

- There is a scholarship for a student going into post-secondary education. Previously, that student had to be going into studies related to geology, mining and oil field, paleontology, archeology. Now that student just has to be a child of someone within GMFC. As far as he knows, there have been no recent awards.
- About 80% of AFRC membership dues goes toward GMFC membership, which includes their insurance. There are some misconceptions on what this covers. (JohnC of MHRLC was once asked if it covered home, car, medical and dental insurance.) It is a 3rd party insurance coverage. It does not protect the member, it protects AFRC and GMFC from a lawsuit. Also, no insurance will cover negligence or unlawful actions for the one hosting the activity (signed waivers are disregarded in a court of law if these occur).
- The GMFC will invest and assist a club hosting their Annual General Meeting as part of a rock & gem show. However, for these shows, it is "business as usual". Some clubs in the past were disappointed in that hosting a GMFC AGM did not increase the number

of vendors or public attendance from that observed for past years.

8.4 Alberta Rockhounds Newsletter: Note: new editors required.

This topic of discussion is on-going. To date, no one from any club has shown any interest in becoming an editor.

It was asked at the meeting if there was even a need for an editor. After all, if AFRC posts its quarterly meetings (President's Message, Minutes with Committee Reports, Announcement of Events) – is that good enough? Also, if some clubs had their own Newsletter (such as CRLC) could their posting be additional information for AFRC members?

The AFRC does have a website that has been monitored by Tony and Carolyn Cave (LHLG). However, in the past they have stated that they cannot enter information into the system if they have none given to them.

It was moved by Henry Komadowski (SARHA) and 2nd by JohnC (MHRLC) **that the Directors/Delegates go to their clubs and see if they would be willing to contribute their club newsletters** (which would also include upcoming events, which would NOT include FOIP sensitive details or GPS co-ordinates of field trip locations), **where these occur, to the AFRC website. Approved by all.**

8.5: AFRC rejuvenation:

Due to COVID-19, there was no activity of this item. Some of the topics discussed were as follows:

- Most clubs are struggling to keep active, the average age of the Calgary Faceters Guild is 84, and the Grande Prairie club discontinued shortly after it started. There is a great need for rejuvenation of AFRC.
- Some clubs are active in the community promoting rock and lapidary. MHRLC provides a service (through Praxis) to give presentations to schools, the CRLC hosts the annual rock & gem show, some clubs either have or are considering having workshops for "pebble pups". (Note: Several years ago, MHRLC hosted monthly pebble pup sessions at their club on Saturday mornings. It was abandoned when parents wanted it just for a baby-sitting service and would not attend with their children, which was also a safety issue.)
- There is a great interest in communities on rocks, gems, fossils, lapidary. It seems to go in phases. Kids are enthusiastic about rocks and frequently pick these up and place these in their pockets. As they get older, they are too busy for this activity, which also continues to decrease when they are young adults. Then when they retire, they return to this hobby with great interest.
- The Robaks and staff of Silver Cove did a great service when they spent a great deal of their time teaching busloads of children on the subject while using their materials as examples. The last time they visited Medicine Hat, 50 children signed up for a local "Youth Geologist Club" (which may not have developed due to COVID-19).
- Actually, COVID-19 may have done wonders to renew interest in rocks/fossils/lapidary. More people have time on their hands for hobbies, and many have taken up or returned to this activity. Interests have been so increased that it is difficult now to purchase or find tumblers and materials.
- JohnC suggested that the College of Art and Design (Calgary) teaches lapidary. Perhaps there are Colleges where small student clubs on rocks/gems/lapidary could be

encouraged. Unfortunately, such communications will have to wait until after COVID-19 resolves.

- Perhaps the greatest impediment to rejuvenation is the need to develop “social media”, to get clubs and AFRC known to the general public. Unfortunately, this needs someone skilled and dedicated to do this (a separate committee item?). Also, social media keeps changing and evolving. What someone may have used a year or so ago may be outdated and irrelevant now.

There was a general consensus that this topic is very worthwhile and should be addressed as a regular issue.

9. ON-GOING BUSINESS

9.1: Archives, documents, files – storage, access, potential loss of history

Considerable time and concern were spent on discussing this topic. The key items of note were:

- Part of the reason no-one wants to be AFRC Secretary is because of the By-law that states they have to be the keeper of records. This means holding onto 2 file cabinets full of documents (now being held by CRLC) and boxes of papers (from the former Treasurer Irene Novlan, now being held by JohnC MHRLC). This is beyond the interest or capability of most people.
- “Use it or lose it”. AFRC came close to losing the Travelling Memento, and in the future it may well lose the above records. Someone may decide these are not worth the bother and have these tossed into a dumpster.
- We could donate all the records to the Provincial Archives of Alberta, Heritage resources management Information system, or Alberta Historical Resources. However, once donated, it may be very difficult to access these. These departments appear to use the documents for their needs, and access may require lengthy restrictive paperwork followed by permission and then on-site inspections.

It was noted that within our clubs, there are some members that are “history buffs”, that would greatly enjoy going through all the documents to collate key items into digital form. (Similar to JohnC going through a box of meetings to give a brief history and important briefs of AFRC from 1963-1974, and another document where he went through 100s of pages of provincial policies to present a summation of a few pages that were relevant to AFRC).

It was moved that the Directors/Delegates go to their clubs and ask if anyone is willing to go through the documents to find and collate on digital form items of historical value.

Moved by Dale Nielsen (CRLC), 2nd by JohnC (MHRLC), **approved by all.**

10. AFRC Lifetime Membership Award: recommendations.

It was recommended that this award be changed to “**AFRC Lifetime Achievement Award**”. The reason for doing so is both to acknowledge that the award is given for exceptional achievements and contributions, as well as to recognize that some contributors no longer attend meeting and some are no longer members.

It was recommended that **Pauline** (previous Secretary for several years) and **Ed Zeschuk** (both editors of the Newsletter for several years) be given this award in recognition of their great service. However, due to COVID-19, the presentation of the award has been complicated.

- Michelle Morin, President of ETLIC, conveyed to Brett that their club was planning on presenting the award to them at their September meeting.
- As it is an AFRC honour, she later noted that the award should also be given to them at the next May Daze. However, with COVID-19 we still do not know if we are having a 2022 May Daze, and if the Zeschuks will travel to the event.

Action ongoing.

11. Election of Executive:

- **Brett Jensen** (SARHA) is willing to continue as **President**.
- **JohnC** (MHRCLC) is willing to continue as **Treasurer**.

As yet, we have no Vice President, nor Secretary, and Past President has not been decided upon.

12. Announcement of Club events:

Things are slowly returning to normal.

- Brett Jensen noted that SARHA is hosting a tail-gate sale (Peavey Mart) on this same day as the AFRC meeting.
- Depending on the weather, the next Saturday after the AFRC meeting, SARHA may be having a field trip in the Crowsnest Pass area, notably at Moose River. There will be gold panning taking place, a search for sodalite, and overnight camping.

13. NEXT MEETING:

Tentatively, the next AFRC meeting was suggested for Sunday, November 7th, 10:30 a.m. However:

- This is the season for bad weather. SARHA members had dense fog most of the way travelling to Calgary for the AFRC meeting.
- Only half the clubs attended this meeting, and COVID-19 restrictions keep changing, sometimes not allowing clubs to meet if their numbers may be more than 10 people.

It was suggested that perhaps the next meeting be done as ZOOM.

Henry Komadowski volunteered to set up the **ZOOM meeting** as he did last May, but he will need some advance notice to set this up.

13. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. (so moved by Dale Nielsen of CRLC, approved by all).

**APPENDIX 1:
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Brett Jensen, Southern Alberta Rock Hounds
Association, Lethbridge)**

Warm Greetings to all AFRC members and rock hounds of Alberta!

As we endure the fourth wave of the never ending Covid19 pandemic, I sincerely hope you are all healthy and doing well. As I am writing this I am looking forward to the first in person AFRC board meeting in almost 2 years. Unfortunately we often do not appreciate things or people until they are gone. I did not appreciate the value and importance of the social aspect of our rock hound meetings and events until we could no longer meet together. I have certainly missed the comradeship and conversations with fellow rock hounds from around the province. My club, the Southern Alberta Rock Hound Association, has been meeting together again for meetings and field trips but the numbers have not returned to pre-pandemic values. Classes, field trips and gatherings of any kind just seem more successful when there are larger groups of people. I can hardly wait until we can have our signature event again, May Daze.

One of the unfortunate trends that may or may not be related to the pandemic but is discussed in many volunteer-run, nonprofit organizations is the reluctance of many members to fill leadership positions on executives and boards. They have benefited from membership in these organizations sometimes for years but refuse to step up to run the organizations or plan or implement the plans for various events. Sometimes this reluctance is founded in fear of public speaking, fear of failure or fear of criticism and sometimes it is based on a lack of experience to draw on. It seems like there use to be more feelings of obligation to give back to the groups that have given one so much enjoyment and learning. I personally feel deeply grateful for the contributions of many former AFRC and club executives, such as the Novlans, the Zeschuks, the Biro, the Biels, the Kovacs, the Gilchris and many others. I know that they sacrificed their time and money for the betterment of the hobby and the organizations that support

that hobby. I felt a real sense of obligation to give back and to help others develop their talents and interests. I have really enjoyed the fellowship of rock hounds from around the province, nation and even neighbouring countries. I by nature do not enjoy the spotlight and attention that comes with leadership positions and have had to develop a “thicker skin” to endure the criticism, both constructive and otherwise, that also accompanies leadership duties. But when meetings, field trips or gatherings like May Daze are successful there are real feelings of accomplishment and satisfaction. You do not have to start at the top; you can gradually work your up by volunteering to lead single events, like classes or field trips. I continually remind our club members that you do not have to be an expert to teach a class. You can read a book, watch a YouTube video, practice a little and Voila! you are ready to share with others. I took a couple classes in flint knapping and wire weaving down in Quartzsite, Arizona and came back and taught classes in both of those topics in my local club. The members were very patient and understanding of my lack of expertise. To those who do not presently hold leadership positions please be patient with those who have taken on those responsibilities. We all make mistakes and I am sure you would want the same consideration when you assume those duties. I encourage all members to volunteer for leadership roles in your local clubs and the Alberta Federation to continue the legacy of past leaders and to continue the long history of successful rock clubs in Alberta and in Canada.

Thank you to you all for your support over the last few years. Let's all find those earthly treasures out there and share with each other!

**APPENDIX 2:
TREASURER'S REPORT**

(John Cherwonogrodzky, Medicine Hat Rock & Lapidary Club)

As several months have passed, and as there have been few transactions, The Treasurer’s report is in 2 parts so as to provide background information.

Part A is background information. It covers transaction for the calendar year before the previous May meeting or **1 January – 30 April 2021**

Part B covers the financial transactions between **1 May – 11 September 2021**

PART A: for 1 January – 30 April 2021

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS, as of 30 April 2021

ATB Business Savings Account	\$ 2.27
ATB Springboard GIC	\$42,920.82
ATB Community Spirit Account (Chequing)	\$ 5,722.53
	TOTAL: \$48,645.62

TABLE 2: TRANSACTIONS: 1 January – 30 April 2021

CHEQUING ACCOUNT		BUSINESS ACCOUNT	GIC ACCOUNT
DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS/ CHEQUES		

25 Feb 2021 SARA membership 27.00 MHRLC membership 127.00 TOTAL 154.00	05 Feb 2021 chq #57 To JohnC for reimbursement (mailing cards to CRLC 14.00 Trophy World 31.39 Doteasy website 122.60 Domain 52.50 TOTAL \$220.49	(Lag in interest when account closed)	NOTE: Amount redeposited on 23 Sept. 2019 Interest: 2019-20, Year 1, 2.02% 2020-21, Year 2, 2.06% 2021-22, Year 3, 2.10%
22 Mar 2021 CRLC membership 600.00	13 Feb 2021 chq #58 SurePrint cards \$94.50		
12 Apr 2021 SARA membership 164.00	15 April 2021 Ch #59 Intact Dir. Ins. \$750.00		
TOTAL: + \$918.00	TOTAL: - \$1064.99		\$2.27
SUBTOTAL: \$918.00 - \$1064.99 = -\$146.99			

Note: Chequing Account balance as of 30 Dec, 2020 was \$5869.52
\$5869.52 - \$146.99 = \$5722.53 (see Table 1 for chequing)

PART B: for 1 May – 11 September 2021

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS, as of 11 September 2021

ATB Business Savings Account	\$ 2.27
ATB Springboard GIC	\$42,920.82
ATB Community Spirit Account (Chequing)	\$ 4,980.39
TOTAL:	\$47,903.48

TABLE 2: TRANSACTIONS: 1 May – 11 September 2021

CHEQUING ACCOUNT		BUSINESS ACCOUNT	GIC ACCOUNT
DEPOSITS	WITHDRAWALS/ CHEQUES	(Lag in interest when account closed)	NOTE: Amount redeposited on

10 June 2021 ETLC memberships \$200 MHRLC memberships \$60	21 June 2021 Cheque #60 GMFC dues \$1002.14		23 Sept. 2019 Interest: 2019-20, Year 1, 2.02% 2020-21, Year 2, 2.06% 2021-22, Year 3, 2.10% Next income on 23 September 2021 (\$884 unless COVID- 19 has affected rates)
TOTAL: + \$260	TOTAL: - \$1002.14		
SUBTOTAL: \$260 - \$1002.14 =			
		\$2.27	\$42,920.82

Note: Chequing Account balance as of 1 May 2021 was \$5,722.53 (see previous page)
\$5722.53 - \$742.14 = **\$4980.39** (see Bank chequing summary noted in Table 1 above)