

**2021 Annual General Meeting (Zoom)
Wednesday, March 24, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES**

1. Call to Order

President, Glenn Tunnock, called the meeting to order at 2:30. Explaining that the Friends of the Tay have met the requirements for announcing our AGM, we established that we had a quorum. Although in-person meetings are now acceptable due to lifting of Covid restrictions, our AGM was organized in advance of the lifting of regulations. We hope this is the last time we'll need to have a virtual meeting.

2. Opening Welcome

Glenn welcomed all participants to the meeting. He gave a special welcome to those organizations that we have partnered with over the year which shows the strength of the partnership networks that are vital to our mutual interests. He thanked everyone who had renewed their membership with a special thanks to those who generously donated to the Friends. Thanks also to our sponsors such as the Little Stream Bakery in Glen Tay, H&R Block, TopShelf Distillery, Maximillian, Lake 88, Stor 'n Lock of Perth, and The Factory.

Glenn then gave a brief overview of the Agenda, introduced our guest speaker, Sarah McLeod-Neilson of RVCA who will talk on 'Water Quality Stewardship in the Tay Watershed. He then reminded participants of the protocols for a Zoom AGM meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda for 2021 AGM

Moved by David Kroetsch, seconded by Carol Dillon, that the Agenda for the 2021 AGM be approved. Carried.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 2020 AGM

Moved by Taro Alps and seconded by Annie Dalton that the 2020 AGM Minutes be approved. Carried.

5. President's Message and Annual Report

Covid restrictions meant we had several virtual Board meetings and webinars but we were able to have our in-person Watershed Discovery Day which was a great success. Glenn emphasized the importance of water. It is life to every living organism; rivers are the veins of life. The health and sustainability of the Tay Watershed provides the context for our mandate as an association and has been for the last 21 years of our existence as an environmental

organization. The scope of the educational webinars, our Watershed Discovery Day, our environmental and bursary programs are the tools we use to raise public awareness and educate our youth on the importance of the watershed to our daily lives and to the conservation of aquatic and terrestrial habitat.

Glenn gave an overview of our 2021 webinars as well as the ones we have had and will have coming up in 2022, giving special thanks to our partners for the time and effort these partners extend to us. We were able to sponsor the installation of a park bench in the Last Duel Park in association with the repurposing of the leisure activities and facilities in the park following a redesign exercise we were involved with in the Town. In 2022 we will continue to sponsor a number of programs and activities including working with YAK to enlighten youth on shoreline conservation measures, a Paddle Day, and also a river clean-up day. We will continue with our Water Guardian Bursary and have our Watershed Discovery Day on August 20th. A new venture this year is our Facebook page which provides an opportunity for Friends and others to post photos and send us messages of wildlife and landscapes throughout the watershed. Glenn closed his remarks by thanking all Board members for their countless hours working on our mandate and to our members who support us in many ways including financially by helping us plan and implement our programs and help us with our river clean-up.

6. Remarks by Municipal Partners

Glenn asked our Municipal partners if they wished to make some comments today or bring messages from their municipalities. Reeve Fournier of Drummond, North Elmsley Township commented on the townships initiatives regarding climate change and the environment.

7. RVCA Presentation – Water Quality Stewardship in the Tay Watershed – Sarah MacLeod-Neilson, Planner.

Glenn gave a brief introduction to Sarah highlighting her education and work with the RVCA. She then gave an interesting PowerPoint presentation on Tay Watershed's water quality looking at the various levels of water quality throughout the watershed.

8. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Marion Letts, reviewed the audited Financial Statements for 2021, which were shown on the Zoom screen (details also available in the Annual Report). The report included *2021 Financial Summary* and the *2022 Budget*.

Marion moved that the 2021 Financial Statements be accepted as presented. Seconded by Colin Stephenson. Carried.

Marion moved that the 2022 Budget be accepted as presented. Seconded by David Taylor. Carried.

9. Election of 2022 Board of Directors

David Kroetsch proposed the Board of Directors slate for 2022:

President, Glenn Tunnock Otty Lake;

Vice-President – Vacant;

Past President, David Taylor Tay River Glen Tay;

Director, Taro Alps GB&CLA and Upper Watershed;

Director, Judy Buehler Perth;
Director, Carol Dillon Tay River Glen Tay;
Director, Annie Dalton Perth;
Director, David Kroetsch Perth;
Director, Marion Letts Upper Tay River;
Director, Richard Schooley Scotch Line;
Director, Donna Walsh Christie Lake Association;
Director, Colin Stephenson Tay River, Glenn Tay.

There were no nominees from the floor. David moved that the Board of Directors slate be accepted. Seconded by Taro Alps. Carried.

10. Environmental Awards

Judy Buehler presented the 2021 Environmental Awards.

The recipients of these awards are:

Category 1: Contribution to the Tay Watershed – Leah Craig, Glen Tay

Category 2: Contribution to Water Resources at the provincial, national and international level – Climate Network Lanark

Category 3: Contribution to the General Environment – Rob Rainer, Councillor, Tay Valley Township

Category 4: Contribution to the Friends of the Tay Watershed Association - Frank Roy

11. Water Guardian Bursary

Carol Dillon gave a brief overview of the bursary and how important it is to support students who are going to university to study in fields that will benefit the environment. This is the 11th year that the Friends have given a bursary. For most of those years, Little Stream Bakery has provided the funding for the bursary as part of their 1% for the environment commitment. This steadfast support has made this worthwhile initiative both possible and stable. In 2021, a second, one-time scholarship was added as a means of celebrating the Friends' 20th anniversary. Funding for this second bursary was from the Friends' regular budget and made possible because other activities had to be cancelled because of the pandemic. The first winner was Ryleigh Rioux from Granite Ridge Education Centre in Sharbot Lake. Ryleigh was chosen for her work using a drone to gather information about watershed lakes. She is continuing her environmental interests at the University of Ottawa in the Physical and Environmental Sciences. The second winner for 2021 was Drew Brennen, a graduate of Smiths Falls District Collegiate Institute. Drew has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Guelph and is now enrolled at Queen's University in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program.

12. New Business

David Taylor thanked the Tay Net Riverwatchers for all they do throughout the year. From Bob's Lake to Beveridge's Locks they watch for pollution, changes in the river and take water levels, which, in winter can be hazardous. He also thanked the Ottawa Riverkeeper and Brian Stratton of RVCA for their help and also to Dennis Myers who is updating the *Canoeing the Tay* brochure. David concluded by mentioning that FofTW and the Tay Net would be participating in Perth's Trashure Hunt event on April 23 at the Crystal Palace, encouraging visitors to keep the Tay clean of trash.

Glenn thanked everyone for attending. He reminded everyone of our next webinar, Forest Bathing, on April 21st. Details to follow in our promotion closer to the date.

13. Motion to adjourn

Moved by David Kroetsch, seconded by Colin Stephenson, that the 2020 AGM be adjourned at 4:05