

**The Richland County Fish & Game Protective Association Inc.**  
**MEMBER MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, October 2, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:31pm by Joe Tucker. Ron Robinson led the Pledge of Allegiance and Hank Webb spoke an opening prayer.

1. Ron Robinson then read the roll call:
  - Joe Tucker, President - Present
  - Mike Hoffman, Vice-President - Present
  - Cory Clark, Treasurer – Present
  - Ron Robinson, Secretary - Present
  - Misti Clark, Membership Secretary - Present
  - Matt Carey, Board Member - Present
  - Steve Chambers, Board Member - Present
  - Dan Kardasz, Board Member - Present
  - Jan Koon, Board Member - Present
  - Tim Maust, Board Member - Present
  - Hank Webb, Board Member - Present
  - Jeff Williams, Board Member – Present

There were 25 other members present.

2. Ron Robinson then read the minutes from the September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Board Meeting. There were no additions or corrections noted. Gerry Miller made a motion to accept the minutes as read and it was seconded by Jeff Weithman. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

3. Cory Clark then gave the treasurer's report for September 2024:

There were no additions or corrections noted. Buck Rodgers made a motion to accept the report as given. It was seconded by Rick Miller. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

4. Misti Clark then gave the Membership Secretary Report: Nothing new to report.

5. Joe then asked for Committee Reports:
  - Archery – Dan, will be getting wood to finish stand.

Building/Grounds – Steve, drain in lady’s restroom is clogged and we have a leaky pipe in basement. We have received a quote from Mr. Rooter and there is a second plumber coming to give a second quote.

Farm – Mike, we finally got some rain, so things are greening up.

Lake – Will cover later under new business.

Pheasants – Tim, will cover later under old business.

Rifle/Pistol Ranges – Hank, All good. Remember all ranges closed during hunting season except 1-5 pm on Sundays.

Sporting Clays – Jan, 37 shooters last shoot. The last shoot of year is this Saturday.

Sportsmanship – Ron, all good so far. If anyone encounters any stands or blinds unmarked, please contact Ron. Also, remember to wear orange to and from stand/blind. Joe added to please welcome new members and invite them to hunt with you. Remember everyone here was a new member at some point so offer to help the new members and be great sportsman.

Trap – Matt, last regular shoot was tonight. Will shoot for fun on Wednesdays the rest of October.

## 6. Old Business:

A. Youth Hunt – Mike, So far we have 66 youth registered. We only have 3 more openings. Also, we will not turn away anyone that just shows up on day of hunt either so there could be more. We still need volunteers to help on the day of the event (10/19/2024). We will start at 8am and go until done. If you can spare an hour, please come by and help. Joe added this is the biggest event of the year the club sponsors. We need to get volunteers and people to help in force. It is a very busy but rewarding day.

B. Pheasant Release Schedule – Tim, I have copies of the schedule and will pass them around for input. We did decide not to hunt on any deer gun hunting days for safety reasons. Joe added we have a lot of deer hunters, and we are trying to keep everyone happy. In the past we have only not hunted pheasants the week of gun season. Since most people use straight wall cartridges in rifles, we have decided for safety purposes to make this change. We can also hunt pheasants longer in the season due to our new license.

C. Sporting Clays Tear Down – Cory, we will be tearing down the Sporting Clays course this Sunday at 9am. If anyone can help it will make it go much quicker. All help appreciated.

Joe asked if any other Old Business?

Ron Muth asked if the board decided to keep the memorial tree planting for members that passed through the year. Joe responded yes we will be doing that. Ron said he was going to a tree auction and wondered if we wanted him to get a tree? Joe said the tree for this year had already been taken care of.

Joe then also added that he wanted to thank everyone that helped with the church demolition. The inspectors were out, and everything has passed inspection and the building has been removed from our taxes.

No other old business was noted.

#### 7. New Business:

A. Christmas Party – Joe, I have received many questions if we were going to have a Christmas party. There hasn't been one since Covid. Joe explained that the board would like to have one if there is enough interest. He asked Misti Clark to explain our options. She noted she made many calls to local places for availability. The only two places that had anything available was Der Dutchman Restaurant and The Ohio Event Center at the old Brown Derby. Each were about \$20.00 a person for meal. There was a lot of discussion. It was also asked why not have at club? Joe explained that the clubhouse is just not big enough. A person asked if there would be alcohol? If we go to the Ohio Event Center, they will provide a pay as you go bar. The club will not pay for alcohol, and it cannot be brought in to either location. It was asked if no alcohol would affect people not going? Joe asked for a show of hands how many would not attend if no alcohol. There were three hands raised. Joe then asked for a vote between the two locations. The majority raised their hands to go to the Der Dutchman Restaurant. Misti will get with them and confirm the date of December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We will then sell tickets at the next two membership meetings so we can provide an accurate head count.

B. Fall Fish Purchase/New Lake – Joe started the discussion by stating we must do something with the upper lake. We have a bass problem. The bass are eating all the perch we put in. We need to catch the bass out of the lake. We are removing all limits on bass in the upper lake effective immediately. We will not purchase any perch this fall until we know the bass have been removed. We will purchase trout for the lower lake. Jeff Williams gave the bass and perch numbers from January to June of 2024. There were only 11 bass removed from the lake and only 170 perch taken from the upper lake. We put in 700 perch in the spring. The bass have eaten them. Please catch the bass and remove them from the upper lake. Take them and eat them. It was also noted that when we do stock fish from now on, we will not allow fishing for a week after stocking to give the fish a chance to adjust to their new environment. Joe noted that when fish were stocked this spring there was members with poles in hand waiting to fish. This doesn't give the fish a chance. We appreciate everyone's understanding and cooperation.

C. Cost of Operation per Member – Joe opened the conversation and asked for input. For the 2023 year the average operating cost per member was \$369.69. For 2024 the projected cost is \$362.71. As everyone can see with dues at \$300.00 per year we can not keep up. We are surviving only off profits from shoots. Joe also noted that our taxes went up this year by \$5,100.00. There is no way we can survive without raising dues. When calculated out the cost per member comes out 24% higher than dues being paid. If everyone thinks about the economy and cost of everything that is about the same increase as most everything else. We do not want to have to cut benefits to members.

D. Increase of Membership Dues – Joe, so with the previous being explained we need to raise dues. It looks like we need to go up \$100.00 to \$400.00 per year. If you check with other clubs that offer the same things we do that is still a bargain. Joe explained he wanted ideas from the membership, so he opened the floor for comment. There was much discussion. During the conversation Joe added that this year we added 10 more members from last year which gave us additional dues income. That is why you see the decrease from last year to this year. It was asked if we intend to

raise the membership next year. Joe stated we plan to but will look at it once we see how things are affected through hunting season, but we do plan on it.

Joe asked for everyone in attendance to talk to others that are not present tonight and let them know we need input on how they would like to make the increase in dues. This board truly wants input from the membership. Tell people to come to the next meeting so we can discuss openly. We must decide no later than the November meeting.

Joe then asked for any other new business. None was noted.

8. David Kuhn then made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Buck Rodgers. All were in favor, none opposed. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.