

Siuslaw Rod & Gun Club

Business Meeting

December 5, 2024

7:00PM

Minutes by: Deborah Kingry, Secretary

Present: 30 Members signed in (See Attached Sign-In Sheet)

President Fred Ross called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Fred noted that John LaRocco was unable to attend the meeting.

Minutes

Secretary Deborah Kingry read the meeting minutes from the September meeting and requested that any members who want comments attributed to them in the minutes say and spell their name prior to commenting. Danny Krichevsky made a motion to approve the minutes; Robert Carp seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Flowers and a thank you card were presented to Deborah by RJ on behalf of the rest of the Board for all of her contributions in the Secretary position for the past two years.

Approval: Club Officers

Fred asked if anyone wanted to add their name to the ballot; no one did. Fred said that since only one person is running for each position, we could skip the paper ballots and do a verbal vote for the following officers:

President: Fred Ross (incumbent)

Vice President: John LaRocco (incumbent)

Treasurer: RJ Pilcher (incumbent)

Secretary: Ave Bernard

Committee Chair – Audit: Patty Laub (incumbent)

Bryant Payne made a motion to approve these officers; Bud Anderson seconded the vote. The motion was unanimously approved.

Approval: Pistol Range Cover

Fred passed out visual aids of the proposed pistol range cover and noted that we have spent a lot of money over the years on the other parts of the range. He feels it is time to spend money on the general membership and the pistol range gets the most use. Adding a hay storage style roof over 70' of the range would make it an all-weather range. Initially Fred thought it could be covered

with a pole barn structure, but we will need 70' of coverage and the widest you can go with a pole barn structure is 60'. It will need to be steel at 70' wide and 55' down range. The vendor quoted us a price with \$8700 discount; \$48K for materials and \$27K for labor, with another \$5K for concrete pilings. The cost of permitting is unknown. Ave asked about baffles. Fred said that we would drop the brow of the building so that people who shoot upwards would hit the baffle. He said that the proposal was open to discussion.

Mike asked about lighting. Fred said that we would have to raise the ceiling to 16' to clear the lights that we already have. Tim asked which way the water will flow; Fred said it will have a center pitch and the water will run to the sides with a gutter system. A member asked whether anything will be done to the steel posts to mitigate the danger of members shooting them. Fred said he hopes people won't shoot them. Ave suggested we could hide them and RJ responded that doing so would add another \$10-12K to the project. Fred said cement blocks like we have on the action range would be \$100 each. Robert said for people in Lane County, there is now a building inspector that comes to Florence every Thursday if you call and make an appointment. Fred said the cover will be engineered since that is required with the wind we receive. Bud suggested we could use the cement blocks to anchor the steel posts. Fred said that the footings have to be huge and planted into the ground. Gabriella asked about noise mitigation; Fred said the structure will mitigate the noise for neighbors. RJ noted that the noise under the shelter will be worse for shooters. Fred said that hearing protection is and will be required.

RJ wanted to ensure everyone knows where we're at financially. He shared his screen with figures for dues, expenses, and non-operating expenses for improvements. Net income is \$70K/year right now. This past year we did almost \$25K in upgrades around the facility and we have a liability of \$8700 for groups on the action range. Our expenses continue to go up and we need a contingency of about \$88K to be in good financial shape for paying our bills. We currently have \$140K liquid with 572 members (69%) of members already renewing for 2025. All that means that we have about \$50K that isn't earmarked for something else. We currently have \$130K in cash and \$183K between the two CDs.

Rick asked about the timeframe for building the cover. Fred said that it depends on the county and how quickly we can get permits approved. The construction bid is good for 30 days, but if we move forward, we will lock in the bid. A member asked how long the structure will last; Fred said that it has a 40-year warranty. John Buss asked if any other bids were obtained; Fred said that he was unable to get other bids. Gabriella asked if we anticipate any new regulations or county hoops to deal with; Fred said we do not and they have been good to work with.

Tim asked about the pros and cons for the building since it seems like the primary pro is to prevent members from getting wet. Fred said that it will make the range all-weather, mitigate noise for our neighbors, and adding the brow will stop rounds from leaving the range. A member said that at some point someone will ventilate the roof and we will have to address it. Fred said that we will sandwich sand in plywood to stop bullets from passing through. Danny asked if

members will still be able to use the steel targets; Fred said that we will. Troy said his wife would appreciate the cover, but a con is the cost and asked if we received any response from our neighbors to the north. RJ said we have not and because it's a surviving relatives trust, the trustee could be working to contact them. Troy said we have approximately \$25-35K after basic expenses so it would take us 3 years to make up the funds we would spend on this. Steve said the Club has been growing and although it's a lot to spend, it's in line with the spend in other areas and will be around for a long time. A member asked how long the range will need to be closed for construction; Fred said that he doesn't know but guessed 1.5 weeks max. Members could use designated portions of the action range during that time.

Nick said he thinks it is a great idea but he has concerns about bullets striking the poles and would like us to mitigate that. There was some discussion about possible solutions such as rubber coating and the amount of damage that is done to the outside shooter areas in indoor ranges. RJ asked for a cap on the project spend. After some discussion Fred stated that he believes \$90K would cover everything needed. Mark James made a motion to build the cover with a maximum spend of \$90M; Gary seconded the motion. Four members, including RJ and Deborah, were opposed to moving forward with the project. 26 voted in support and the motion passed.

Approval: Neighboring Project Purchase

RJ said that we are in a waiting pattern on this item as we have not heard back yet from the trustee of the estate that owns it. He explained that it is located to the north of the range (specifically the pistol and rifle ranges) and that if we purchased it, it would provide a buffer against development that would help us remain in operation another 100 years.

Approval: Bylaws Amendment Proposal

Fred said that his proposal to amend the bylaws is purely for housekeeping purposes and he is not proposing that we increase dues at this time. He said that a couple board members said that we should write the bylaws the way they are and only increase fees with a vote at the meeting in December. The problem with doing that is that invoices are sent out in December so there could be confusion with some members paying the dues rate before the meeting and others being billed for the increase after the vote. He stated that he is not recommending the change for this board, but for some future board. He is proposing that we use the June meeting to consider dues changes because by that time the board should have a good handle on what dues increases are needed and it would give them a chance to increase dues for the coming year.

Danny asked if this dues increase would cover the cost if we suddenly had an expense like needing to replace a tractor. Fred said that the proposal leaves any other types of fees increase for voting in December. RJ said that the reason we put fee and due increases in December is because we have the most members in attendance at the December meeting because of the vote on the board members. He said if the members present today want six people in attendance at the June meeting to decide whether members are going to pay an extra \$20/year, we can change the

bylaws. If we don't and we decide we need a fee increase, the board will send out notifications about the increase proposal in time for the December meeting. If it passes at the meeting, applications and invoices will be updated to reflect it and then mailed. It won't be confusing or need to wait a full year. RJ added that he has a hard time with even 20 people making a decision like that when we have meetings with more members present. Deborah said that she realizes she's leaving the board so people might not feel her opinion matters, but she feels the board's responsibility is to represent the membership and do what's fair and right. If the board is handling the budget the way we should be, we should never have to come to the members for a fee increase related to maintenance such as replacing a piece of equipment because that's expected spending and we should be budgeting for it. We generally have 1% of the membership in attendance at the non-December meetings. We shouldn't have 1% of the members making decisions about what the fees and dues should be. Deborah said she was one of the two board members who pushed for the current bylaws because she feels it's right to give as many members a chance to vote on big changes as possible.

A member suggested that we could increase turnout in June if we say that's when we're voting on dues increases. Another member said that it feels like this proposal is about looking for a solution to a problem that we don't have and if we see our funds going down, we can address it then and he agrees with RJ. Another member said that he wouldn't want a handful of people who have nothing better to do in June making this decision. Fred said that his proposal isn't for making changes now, but he doesn't want to bind a future board so they can't pay for what we need. A member asked how frequently dues are increased and Fred said about every 10 years. John Buss said that we just approved the new bylaws last year and he agrees with RJ that we should keep them as is. John Buss made a motion to keep the bylaws we have now; Tim Hanson seconded the motion. Three members, including Fred, voted in opposition to the motion. 27 members voted in support and the motion passed.

Group Updates

Fred said that he attended the OASR meeting in November and they gave us a plaque since we have been a member for 20 years. He said that without that membership we wouldn't have the action range. He added that the state has some grant programs that we would be eligible for if we open our range to the public at specified times each month, but members would have to staff it. Club members have said we don't want to allow public access. OASR is also working on a "hold your guns" program that would allow people to take their guns to an FFL dealer who would hold them at no charge when the owner feels at risk of self-harm. Current law would make it difficult to do this so they are trying to work out the logistics of a program here like they have in New Orleans. Regarding measure 114, oral arguments were made in front of the state court of appeals in November but no decision has been made. The OASR meeting minutes will be included with this meeting's minutes.

RJ said trap was rained out two days last month and the last few have seen sparse attendance with the weather, but summer was seeing 6 or 7. Troy said High School trap starts again in February after the current break. There were 9 shooters in sporting clays where they kept score but there are no awards or state ranking. The group currently has 23 people interested in participating with trap but they can only safely handle 20 so they have a waiting list if they can't find more staff to ensure safety. Fred reported there were 16 Cowboys last Sunday and 14 each of the past two months. Gabriella reported HGSC had 30 people take the class in 2024 with 25 of them passing. She said she is grateful to all the great coaches. Tim said the advanced shooter group is doing well with 17-25 shooters each time. They would like to add Nick and Web as alternate Responsible Persons for the group so Tim doesn't always have to be in attendance. Deborah said they just need to sign the current application indicating they take responsibility for the group as Tim has. Fred said Retired Law Enforcement had 16 shooters last Tuesday.

Treasurer Report

RJ reviewed the bank account and CD balances and reviewed the expenses and income through 11/30 and YTD. He shared his screen for his presentation and the actual report is included with these minutes. There were no questions about the information shared.

Old Business

Fred said he thinks the steel targets on the pistol range are working well and he would like to add a third set of them. He said people have been using their own steel targets on the rifle range which is not allowed. People are also not allowed to use ground targets. He would like to install a steel target inside a culvert on the 100yd line of the rifle range. A member asked how well the current gong is holding up at the 300yd line. Fred said it has been holding up well since we switched to S-loop hangers. Any time they are broken, members can grab a new S loop from the ground by the gong. A member asked if we can add a steel target at the 200yd line. Fred said we don't have enough of a backstop behind the 200yd line to add one there. There were no objections to adding a steel target to the 100yd line.

Troy asked about the results of the property line survey. Fred said we have a bit more property than we thought we had. The line locations have been marked and we will add posts to ensure we can see them and keep them marked.

New Business

John Buss said there is very little interest in a trophy night so we will not be moving forward with it. Ave asked about a spaghetti night. Fred said yes if there is interest and Ave said he will work on it.

The meeting adjourned at 8:37PM.

Addendum: Deborah Kingry should be removed from all Siuslaw Rod and Gun Club banking accounts (including safe deposit box) effective 1/1/2025. Ave Bernard should be added at that time.