# Star Prairie Fish & Game Association February Meeting Minutes February 15, 2016—Madsen's on Cedar Lake

The February meeting of SPF&G was called to order at 6:45 p.m. President Zais. The Secretary's report was approved as read. The Treasurer's report was tabled as guests were present.

Thank You's:	To: Ronald Skarie – Bear Poacher Donation
	From: Hoot & Lolita Johnson – Wheelchair Ramp Richardson Sportsman's Club – Youth in Outdoors Event
Meeting Guests:	Chris Trosen-USF&W Paul Sickman-WI DNR Game Warden Somerset Hunter's Ed Instructors-Bret & Mary Bader, Dave Nestrud
Attendance:	21 Members
New Members:	None

## Committee Reports:

- 1. Pontoon Ride: Date set of July 13<sup>th</sup> with Rain Date of July 14<sup>th</sup>.
- 2. Youth Hunt: Tabled.
- 3. Duck Race: Tabled.
- **4. Bucks Night:** A few items have been purchased. 2 guns, 1 pistol, & 5 guns carried over.

**5. Habitat/Fisheries:** Dan Cain reported on an MOU (memorandum of understanding) to be signed by the club in support of the Saint Croix/Red Cedar Weed Management Group projects. This group was formed to create a larger impact on invasive species in our area of the state. By signing the MOU, the club gained partnership and responsibility in future grants made available for invasive control.

CRP programs have been doing fair, with the general signup to end on February 26. Cain also reported that he will be planting roughly 300-500 acres of prairie grass this year, depending on a few landowners he was unsure about. **6. Outreach:** The club received an inquiry about a suggestion to build a wetland by Star Prairie sewer treatment plant. The club will decline any action based on lack of feasibility.

Discussion was held on Somerset Hunter's Ed request for guns. The membership was in favor, but brought up points on how to modify wording within our current application process. Bush will contact committee to work on updating the application wording. Bush also suggested longer committee terms. Committee sign-ups will be at the March meeting.

Somerset/New Richmond Trap Team reached out for \$500 and was awarded and will have SPF&G on their shooting shirts.

7. Membership Report: The club has 23 paid members for 2016.

## **Old Business:**

1. Vern and Jason E. supplied the chili and fixings for the February meeting. Rich Miller will provide the March meal.

2. Mike Kelly stepped down as Secretary, Chris Clarkson has taken over position.

3. John Peterson reported that there is about three days of work left to get the pavilion usable. They are awaiting warmer weather to finish.

4. John Bush noted that he has been unable to make contact with anyone on the Excel Energy grant.

# New Business:

**1. Chris Trosen** from the USF&W updated the club on recent activities. He noted that they have seeded about 400 acres of Ag into prairie grass. They have been concentrating their efforts on Deer Park WPA and Plum Brush WPA, north of Hanton WPA. They have also been working on burning brush piles. Chris also updated the club that they have been actively writing grants for Monarch habitat, where they are seeking partnership on an upcoming grant. This grant will

allow the last 2 years of planting work, as match. He noted they have only received 25% reporting back on seed packets handed out last year, so be sure to contact Mike Kelly or Caitlin Smith for information on reporting what you planted. Chris also informed the club of 2 land purchases that are in the works. The USF&W doesn't have money for land in Wisconsin, but local organizations and Pheasants Forever have been partnering to get the lands purchased. Since purchase agreements have not been signed, he was unable to give us exact locations, but did note that one piece is located near Bierbauer WPA (~30 acres, ~\$50,000) and one near Ten Mile WPA (80 acres, ~\$320,000; \$35k-\$40k short). If purchases go through, the Knowles Nelson Stewardship will allow an easement for land to be open to hunting. Chris also informed the club of a Carner Blue Butterfly grant they are also working on. Dan Cain asked for support and brainstorming to get more youth involved in the outdoors.

2. Paul Sickman gave an update on current Warden topics. He informed the club that Dave Hausmann had retired and was replaced by Shaun Denee. New Polk County warden is Peter Wetzel out of Amery. New St. Croix warden addition is Issac out of Baldwin. The 2015 deer season was about average for deer kills. The new registration system proved to be smoother online than by phone. Paul noted there is a new Snowmobile pass required for all operators in WI. Registration is now good for 3 years. There are 11 wardens in the current recruit class. Paul mentioned a new license system being put in place by the DNR; the Go Wild system. Users will receive a conservation card, therefore no physical licenses being printed, and also rumors of no backtag requirement for deer hunting. No news related to CWD or the bear poaching incident from a couple years ago. Paul was asked if the wardens do surveillance on garbage dumping. Paul said they do some via game cameras, but need landowner permission if on private land. The club asked Paul to promote the SPF&G scholarships to his hunter's ed classes.

**3.** Bret and Mary Bader along with Dave Nestrud presented their request for the need for a number of guns for the Somerset Hunter's Ed field day. They gave the club an overview of how they run the class and focused on a field day to give the students some real world experience with gun handling and hunting. They want every student to handle each type of action of gun. They have been using personal guns in the past and would like to have designated guns for the class. They average 30 students per class with 2 classes per year. Mitch G. shared the positive experiences his kids had in the class because of the field day.

**4.** Dan Cain spoke on the new style of Indianhead Chapter of PF fundraiser, instead of a banquet. The chapter is doing a 20 gun raffle in partnership with the Amery Trap Team. There will be different membership levels and a sponsorhip level which will include logo/name on a banner hung at Amery Gun Club for the year. The drawing/fun day will be held at the Amery Gun Club on May 21, with trap shooting open and food. A portion of the funds will be donated to the Trap Team.

**5.** Erv reported the club has 1 or 2 bluebird houses and 2 wood duck houses. Also had an idea for a new style bat house. More houses can be built at anytime. The club will hold off until there is more interest.

**6.** Vern Warwick, on behalf of the Wanderoos Area Community Club, thanked the club for their donation toward the ice fishing contest. He said it was a great turnout.

**7.** Mike Kelly presented a letter of opposition to be sent to the state opposing a proposition to put a piece of public land up for sale. Dan Cain noted the sale will be put on hold for further discussion.

8. New wardens, Peter and Issac, are expected to attend the March meeting.

**9.** Pat Beeksma was drawn for the attendance drawing and was NOT present. March attendance drawing will be for **\$40.** 

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

# The next meeting of the SPF&G Association is scheduled for Monday, March 21, 2016 at Madsen's on Cedar Lake.

#### 6:00 p.m. Social Hour 7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

Respectfully submitted: Chris Clarkson (Secretary)