



1. **OPENING**

- 1.1. **Quorum? Yes, 17 members** (see page 4)
- 1.2. **7:03pm Call to Order** - Rob
- 1.3. **Agenda**
 - 1.3.1. Additions to the Agenda? - Alan requested to add about a 'water issue'
 - 1.3.2. **Motion** to accept the Agenda as amended: by Tara 2nd: Dave Carried
- 1.4. **Minutes**
 - 1.4.1. Corrections to the Minutes of March 19, 2025? None
 - 1.4.2. **Motion** to accept the Minutes of last mtg by Stan 2nd Laurelle Carried

2. **CLUB BUSINESS**

- 2.1. **Annual Return 2024 and By-laws** Update - Laurie - everything has been filed and received by the gov't of Alberta Registries office and no issues were identified! Woo Hoo!
- 2.2. **Celebrating our Film Festival!** Highlights - Laurie
Laurie acknowledged all the people who helped make the festival happen - and apologized if she missed anyone. On Sunday, April 13, 141 people attended the event (based on ticket stubs collected); at the downtown Monarch Theatre. Based on audience feedback, the top 3 favorite films (of the 12 shown) were: River Cowboys (a river clean-up group in Kentucky; The Great Divide - a grown family's spectacular adventure in the mountains around Saskatchewan Crossing; Ice Waterfalls.- a group of thrill-seeking kayakers going down ice waterways on Greenland's glaciers that exited in waterfalls and plummeted into the sea!
This year we tried a slightly longer show with 2 intermissions (7pm - 10pm) of the 141, Laurie counted 15 who left at the 2nd intermission - most stayed!
- 2.3. **Financial Report** - Richard - the club's current bank account sits at: \$5,954.86. Richard provided a preliminary report on the Film Festival and will be building a Final Report for the next meeting, once all expenses and ticket sales are in. This year we secured 2 major sponsors for the club: High Level Canoes and Kayaks in Lethbridge for \$250 and SEAWA (South Eastern Alberta Water Alliance) also for \$250. These 2 groups will be acknowledged at all our major events and on our social media for the duration of the year. Richard shared that MH Tourism very generously allowed people wanting to purchase tickets who didn't have cash on hand to use the Tourism credit card machine and Tourism will not be charging the Paddling Club any user fees! Richard requested that anyone who still has not handed in their ticket sale money and/or any remaining tickets to get them to him asap so he can finalize the numbers. Richard can be reached through the Club Members Only Messenger page -*search: Richard Pierson.*
- 2.4. **Events**
 - 2.4.1. **Insurance Update**- Rob - our policy will be coming next month from an insurance company in Saskatoon that specializes in water-sports insurance. MH Tourism has allocated \$2,500 for our club to help with insurance costs.
 - 2.4.2. **MH Massacre** - coming up on Sat. May 10 - Elkwater -Guest Speaker in a bit!
 - 2.4.3. **Fun and Safety on the Water** - Sat. May 31 - volunteers meet at 10am at Echodale Boat Pond - **Call for Organizing Committee Volunteers** (3 plus Rob) to work between now and next club meeting to "get the pump primed". Ken, Stan and Richard volunteered. Thanks guys! Rob will be reaching out soon. Cynthia and Laurelle volunteered to be there 'on the day of' - next meeting we will be looking for more 'day of' folks to sign up to help too.



- 2.4.4. **Great Big Paddle** - Sat. July 5, 2025 - Echodale to Strathcona - next meeting we will be putting out a call for an 'organizing committee' to get things rolling for that event. Please consider getting involved - many hands makes the load lighter!

2.5. Director Reports

- 2.5.1.1. **Membership Report** - Tara - We currently have 51 paid members, 1.1k+ fb follower page members. Tara will be cleaning up the old Member Messenger page from last year - this is following the 3 month grace period to register as a Club Member for the 2025 season - anyone who has not renewed their Membership through AWA will be deleted. Tara will make a post to this effect to give people the 'heads up'.
- 2.5.1.2. **Newbie Program** - Megan - Megan would like to begin the Sunday morning Newbie program the first Sunday after May long weekend - depending on the weather, of course! Megan will provide info to the fb follower page and messenger page. And it could also go on the website.
- 2.5.1.3. **Skills & Knowledge Development** -Tom - A reminder of the classes High Level Kayak is willing to come and do at Elkwater this summer - Level One and Level Two - \$85 each OR \$160 for both - register on-line at High Level by following the link posted on the club website at: www.paddlemedhat.ca . They require min. 10 participants in Level One and at least 5 for Level Two. (Rob and Laurie have registered for Level Two). Those who have done classes previously through High Level say they are GREAT!
- 2.5.1.4. **Social** - Cindy - is waiting patiently for the 'go ahead' on a date for a BBQ to get everyone together for the start of the season! Cindy and Laurie will work on this for next meeting.
- 2.5.1.5. **Water Issue:** Alan - shared, "River Cowboys" film at festival WAS good - dealing with stuff you can 'see', but what about what you can't see? Alan's idea regarding water issues: as a club, approach City to 'Keep it Clean' - the BLOG of Feb. 4, 2025 on the Oldman Watershed Council's website - a wealth of info - Could we read and discuss at next meeting? This brought immediate tension to the meeting and Rob brought us back to the meeting by suggesting perhaps it's something to think about, (developing a club viewpoint on water health) but right now we have a guest speaker waiting to make his presentation...
- 2.5.1.6. **Paddling Threads** - Ivan - shared an idea he is working on for future threads..."Paddling in Baja" - a slideshow...Tara suggested 'Mark Fletcher', a local paddler with lots of great pics (and stories)!

3. **PADDLING THREADS** - Guest Speaker: Del Hope, President of SEASAR (south eastern alberta search and rescue) old us all about SEASAR, the upcoming MH Massacre event out at Elkwater, some tips on cold water safety and answered questions.

Some Highlights:

- **SEASAR** is 25 years old - 100% volunteer group - currently has 60 members - aged 18yrs to 84 yrs- based out of an upper floor of a hangar at the airport but searching for a new space as equipment tubs are HEAVY to be lugging up and down steep stairs for any rescue operation!



- **The MH Massacre** - is an annual racing triathlon event out at Elkwater. Racers from all over register to bike, hike and paddle (sometimes racers use gps and sometimes only a compass) to gather points from finding various locations. Most points earned = WINNER! Experienced kayakers from MH Paddle Club help SEASAR out with safety on the water by serving as lookouts/alerters for any teams in distress or to give general paddling assistance like, "Hey, your paddle is upside down!" This year, 10 club members have volunteered. Advice: DRESS in LAYERS (no cotton) cause the ice on Elkwater will have ONLY JUST melted and the water is COLD! Bring a lunch, water, sunglasses, sunscreen, dry clothes to change into, hat. Experienced Members also suggested wearing little stretchy gloves inside rubber gloves (dishwashing gloves) to help keep the bitter cold off your hands! We meet at the main boat dock in Elkwater in time for a 10am start on the water. A volunteer orientation will be provided by SEASAR at the venue.
 - **Cold Water Shock** - Del shared the various phases of cold water shock, talked about the signs and symptoms and then we watched a short video on it. This video, and many other good info videos on the race, can easily be found on the SEASAR website: www.SEASAR.net
Ivan thanked Del and presented him with a Club 'buff'.
4. **NEXT MEETING** - Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:00pm Silver Buckle, Press Room
 5. **MOTION TO ADJOURN** by Dave at 8:48pm



MHPC Sign-In Sheet

Apr. 16, 2025 7pm
Silver Buckle

#	Name	Member? Y/N
1.	Rob Benn	Y
2.	Laurie Benn	Y
3.	Cindy Sampson	Y
4.	Megan Robertson	Y
5.	Ross Buttar	Y
6.	Dave Romanuk	Y
7.	FRANK SATHERRI	Y
8.	KICK McLEOD	Y
9.	CHRISTINA GRUNDMANN	Y
10.	Tracy Haupt	Y
11.	Carol Krentice	Y
12.	Alan Matisz	Y
13.	Sean Wiens	Y
14.	Tara Goddu	Y
15.	Cynthia Krassman	Y
16.	Maria Johnston	Y
17.	RICHARD PLESSON	Y
18.		
19.		
20.		