

# Redwood Falls Sportsmen's Club Member Meeting Notes

7:00pm November 12, 2025 at the Redwood Falls American Legion

Present: Larry Weidell, Steve Whittet, Amy Curtis, Dale Cramer, Tom Morley, Tom Balko, Brooke, Caleb Helget, Tom Ellig, Marcel Krueger, and Heather Koffler. Jeremy Waknitz and Brad Pahl arrived at 7:20p.

Steve calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

## Treasurer Report

- Checking Balance: **\$24,736**
- CD Balance: **\$26,629**
- Cash on Hand: **\$610**
- **Total Funds:** \$51,975

## Membership Report

- **417 members** year-to-date (2025)

## Range Improvement Update

- Mike's dirt work totaled **\$40,000**, split evenly:
  - **\$20,000** paid by the club
  - **\$20,000** covered by the grant
- Additional project costs:
  - Seeding: **\$3,000**
  - Tree mowing: **\$2,400**
  - Granite fines: **\$1,800**
- Donated: leveling work, labor for seeding, **and steel target moving**

## Baffle Project

- Baffles installed by Pete U'Ren for **\$19,008**

## Pistol Range Expansion

- Expansion is complete except for moving the shelter and the target backstop.
- New steel has been moved onto the pistol bays.

### **Conex Storage Units**

- Dale reported that he spoke with Mike and the remaining work is planned for spring.
- Steve also spoke with Mike, who recommended waiting until spring to allow the new grass to establish.
- Final decision on moving the Conex boxes will be determined after Marcel connects with Mike.
- Discussion has taken place between the USPSA and Defensive Pistol groups about relocating the units to a more central location between the pistol bays.

### **Steel Pistol Bay Discussion**

- Steve proposed moving two steel plate racks from Bay 1 to Bay 2 so that steel would be available in both bays.
- Marcel, Heather, and Tom Balko expressed concern that this could limit functional space for USPSA and Defensive Pistol stages.
- Steve noted that the racks are frequently used.
- Balko suggested extending the benches to support more shooters at the steel bay.
- Marcel suggested mounting the racks so they are removable when needed for match stages.
- Dale suggested adding wheels to the plate racks, with a locking mechanism to prevent unauthorized movement.
- For USPSA matches, the club's goal is to offer at least five stages to attract shooters from other clubs.

## **Transmission Line Damage**

### **Safety & Compliance Update**

- No sky baffles have been installed; signage has been posted in the meantime.
- Larry reported that the last time he spoke with the representative from SIMPA, the individual seemed satisfied with the current measures. Larry has not conducted any follow-up since that conversation.

### **Incident Report**

- Jamie Gegner informed Larry of a wire strike that occurred on the far east side of the property where the road curves to the north.

## **Property Management**

### **CRP & Land Management Update**

- Trees just north of Bob's house were removed per FSA requirements. FSA indicated that the trees needed to be cleared in order for the club to re-enroll in CRP. Mike completed the removal.
- Tom Morley suggested checking whether there is a cost-share opportunity available for the tree mowing.
- The next CRP contract renewal is scheduled for September 2026. The current rate is \$70 per acre.

## Nominations & Elections for Board Members

### Board Nominations & Election Process

- Nominations to date: Tom Balko, Jeremy Waknitz, and Seth Schettler
- The election will take place in January.

### Election Procedure Discussion

- Larry asked how the election should be conducted and whether ballots would be used.
- Steve Whittet noted that historically, nominations were only accepted at the election meeting and voting occurred the same night via show of hands.
- A suggestion was made to use a written ballot, allowing members to vote for two candidates.

### Board Structure

- The membership elects board members; the board selects the executive team.
- Three board members—Steve Whittet, Larry Weidell, and Pete Weis—are completing their terms.
- Two board seats will be filled in this election cycle.

### Communication Plan & Eligibility

- Larry plans to send out a group email after the December meeting listing individuals who have expressed interest.
- Additional nominations may be accepted at the December meeting, but formal nominations will not be taken until the night of the election meeting.
- Members must be present at the meeting in order to vote for board members.

## Banquet Committee

- Larry suggested that a Banquet Committee be formed for this year at the December meeting focusing on gathering prizes and other banquet activities.
- Contract for Friday, April 10th at the Redwood Area Community Center has been signed.

## USPSA

 USPSA & Defensive Pistol 2026 Dates (document attached)

### USPSA Program Development

- USPSA matches will be scheduled for the 2nd and 4th Thursdays to help attract shooters from other clubs.
- The club is now officially chartered with USPSA; paperwork has been filed and the initial \$75 fee has been paid. Annual fee of \$50 will be required to renew.

### Preparation & Equipment Needs

- Tom Balko has compiled a list of materials and tasks needed to prepare for launching USPSA next year. Many of these improvements will also benefit the Defensive Pistol League, as both groups can use the same props and equipment.
- Several existing props are aging and showing wear due to long-term use.
- Required supplies include: safe tables (USPSA-required), steel and cardboard targets, walls, tools, and various other materials.
- Total estimated cost: \$12,680
  - Committed donations: \$4,200
  - Expected additional donations: \$1,500 (request submitted)
  - Potential total donations: \$5,700

### Sponsorship & Financial Outlook

- Defensive Pistol League sponsorships bring in approximately \$5,000 per year, with consistent support over several years. These funds will be shared between both leagues.
- Defensive Pistol attendance averages 33 participants per night, and the league continues to operate at a profit.
- The club is planning to host 8 USPSA matches in the upcoming season, budgeting for 20 participants per match.
  - Estimated revenue from match fees: \$3,200
  - After USPSA's small per-shooter fee and using half of the anticipated Defensive Pistol sponsorship funds, the projected net gain for next year is approximately \$5,140.

### Program Intent

- The USPSA program is designed to complement, not compete with, the Defensive Pistol League. This is part of the rationale behind the scheduling approach.

### Motion

- Larry moved to approve funding not to exceed \$14,000 for USPSA-related expenses.

- Heather seconded.
- Motion carried.

## Scholarship

### **Gordy Jenson Memorial Fund**

- A \$1,000 donation was received from Jude Jensen and could be used for either an addition to the scholarship fund or youth activities. This contribution will increase the scholarship amount by \$50.
- Tom Ellig made a motion to allocate the \$1,000 donation from Jude to the Gordy Jenson Memorial Fund.
- Dale seconded.
- Motion carried.

## Winter Plowing

- Plowing will continue this winter.

## Drafted Letter to County Commissioners

 Rifle Zone Commissioner Letter drafted by Steve Whittet (document attached)

- Tom Morley expressed concern about signing the proposed letter, noting that he does not support rifle use in the county.
- After discussion, the consensus was that Larry will email the letter to the membership, and any members who wish to sign and send it to the commissioners may do so individually. The letter is attached for reference.

### **Background**

- Steve shared that he had emailed the board on October 3rd, as no meeting was scheduled at that time.
- The responses he received were positive—though not all board members replied—which led him to move forward with drafting the letter.

## Next Meeting Dates

Regular meeting dates are the 2nd Wednesday of each month November - April.

Upcoming Dates: December 10, January 14 - Annual Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 8:46