

.SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting January 8, 2019
Co-hosts Eileen Cowtan & Linda Fisher.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Linda Fisher and Anne Bernhardt.

1. Call to Order: 6:40 pm
2. Review of GN Board Minutes from December 4, 2018 and matters arising from them:
 - a. See item 5.i., Dec.4 Board Minutes regarding a GN Domain name. The Communication Committee will meet Thursday, January 10 to discuss this.
 - b. See item 3.e, Dec.4 Board Minutes regarding the Board waiting to hear comments from MHIP on Contracts. Board is still waiting for comments to be reviewed.Minutes of the meeting were then adopted. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Fundraising issue for the Riparian Presentation:** After discussion of food, door prizes and incidentals required, Ian suggested that a grant from Methanex CAP, Community Advisory Panel, might possibly be used for funding. Hugh will ask Gerry Ehler to explain the goals of the workshop in more detail for Ian, so that Ian may present the idea at the upcoming CAP Monday meeting. (See item 5.e.8 below)
 - b. **AGM on March 26th:** Anne Bernhardt will check with Marty at the Nature Centre to see if the AGM would interfere with School Programs which may be happening. Anne will then check with the Public Library regarding the availability of the Honor Currie Room if the Nature Centre is occupied at that time.
 - c. **Kiwanis Family day Celebration Monday February 18:** Volunteers are always needed for this event.
 - d. **World Water Day/Week March 2019:** (See item 5.e.5 below)
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Lifetime Membership Nominations:** Hugh will place a reminder about the 60 days prior to AGM rule in the Sagebrush Chronicle.
After discussion, it was Moved that a donation be made in memory of the late GN member Bill Knibbs to St. John's Presbyterian Church in the amount of one hundred dollars. **CARRIED.**
 - b. **GN Budget email from Paul:** The Minutes from the Budget Committee Meeting of December 3, 2018 indicate through Paul's analysis of average figures for the past three years, "... that the Club is trending toward running a deficit budget because projected expenses outpace the limited core income."
Moved that Until concerns presented by the Budget Committee are addressed, the GN Club will operate on the 2018 Budget. **CARRIED.**
 - c. **IP Budget and Paul's discussion points to Operations Committee:**
Moved That Paul develop a template for the Interpretive Program Budget to be given to the IP Operations Committee Chair. **CARRIED**
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported the GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,404.02 as of December 31, 2018 and the Chequing Account balance is \$4,861.79 on December 31, 2018. The Casino Account stands at \$5,765.99 as of December 20, 2018.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen was not able to give an accurate membership total at this time because numbers are in a state of flux during January as members renew.
There will be additional information required on the revised Consent Form for 2019 memberships.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen reported receiving:
 1. Information on combined training sessions regarding Eligibility and Use of Proceeds from the upcoming Casino fundraiser. Sessions will be held February 12th and March 20th.
 2. A form from Cenovus Energy
 3. A field trip on June 14th to 16th advertised by Nature Saskatchewan. Eileen will put this in the Chronicle.
 - d. **MHIP/Operations Committee:** John Slater sent the following written report.
 1. Next meeting of the committee tentatively scheduled for Monday February 25th at the Nature Centre.
 2. MHIP Budget 2019 approved and accepted by the Operations Committee.
 3. Draft of Chief Interpreter's Job Description reviewed. Some revisions needed.
 4. Update of MHIP Terms of Reference reviewed. Some revisions needed.
 5. Propose P&P covering Substance in the Workplace to be drafted and submitted to the Governance Committee.
 6. Handicap Parking (at least 2 stalls) in PPP close to the Nature Centre will be selected by the Parks Dept.
 7. Provision of Chairs and A/V equipment to be investigated by the Parks Dept.

8. Detailed Financial Statements of expenses of money from grants for the Renovations of the Nature Centre and construction of the View Point have been requested from the City/Parks Dept.
 9. The Annual Christmas Bird Count on Sunday Dec 16th was a great success followed by the Potluck Supper enjoyed by many GN members. Special Thanks to Marty Drut for organizing and to the many contributors who made the event possible.
 10. Next major upcoming GN MH Interpretive Program Events: The Young Artists Inspired by Nature display at the Nature Centre in January with opening reception on Wednesday 9th (tomorrow) at 7 pm. Then the Kiwanis Family Day activities at Police Point Park on Monday February 18th. Check the GN's monthly newsletter, The Sagebrush Chronicle, for further details. Volunteers always appreciated.
 11. Please note that I announced at the last committee meeting on November 5th that I would be stepping aside as Chair but offer to remain on the committee if the GN Board so wishes.
(The Board highly recommends that John Slater stay on the Operations Committee as a member). Anne Bernhardt has offered to take future minutes, and Angela Turner will type the minutes and forward them to John. Anne will phone Bob Townsend and John to inform them of this decision. Thank you Anne and Angela.
- e. **Issues Committee:** Written report submitted by John
1. Next committee meeting to be held in a few weeks hosted at Martha's house.
 2. Committee Budget 2019: \$1600=\$800 for Conference and Miscellaneous Expenses plus \$800 for the reprint of 2000 Wildflower Brochures. Waiting approval by the GN Board.
 3. Marty would like to expand the report for the Riparian Health Assessment project by including comments and pictures and graphics. He plans to talk with Cathy Linowski at the MH College about getting a student to help complete the task.
 4. Martha plans to enquire with Robert Sissons, City Planning Dept., when the next public open house will be held, and ask if GN can meet separately to provide further input to the revision of the City's MDP.
 5. Martha to check with SEAWA, MH Public Library, College Library and Council of Canadians about meeting to cosponsor the World Water Day/Week in March 18-23, 2019. (See item 3.d. above).
 6. Joint GN and City Parks Dept. Projects: a meeting was held December 12th at the City Parks Dept Office with Randy Taves, Scott Richter and Keziah Lesko-Gosselin and attended by Hugh, Corlaine, and John. Topics discussed:
 - A. GN report of the Shoreline Cleanup in Ranchlands Environmental Reserve for protection of the area was submitted and discussed concerning removal of the very large pieces of trash and having the area designated as dog on-leash for protection of the wildlife. Action Parks Dept.
 - B. Saamis Archeological Coluee Site to be dog on-leash except for a fenced area for dog off-leash. Seven Persons Creek riparian to be restored (SEAWA and GN assist). Action Parks Dept.
 - C. Pollinator Garden at Police Point Park needs fencing and water source available for IP Staff to care for the garden. Action Parks Dept.
 - D. Northland Storm Water Pond: Following the presentations by Randy and Scott at the GN General Meeting on October 23, a walk was conducted the next morning around the NECH Pond. Viewing platform and floating dock to be installed in 2019, and move bench and trash bins to north side. A viewing of the other Storm Water Ponds in the City Southland area is planned; likely in the spring.
 - E. East Glen Nature Trail: nine bridges being replaced but concern about the ecological disturbance to the native prairie by heavy equipment particularly on the hill where the Prairie Crocus only grow, Ian Wallis, Hugh and John met on Dec 13 to view the trail and vehicle tracks caused to the prairie with replacement of two of the large bridges. Hugh sent email with pictures to Randy concerning protection of the Crocus Hill.
 - F. Joint projects for 2019 to be discussed at later date.
 7. Butterfly Project: Dave McKenzie is coordinating with Dwayne Myers the expansion of the database and website to include pictures of the butterflies.
 8. Invasive Plant Species: A public workshop as educational awareness is being organized by Gerry Ehlert and Marty Drut to be held at the Nature Centre May 4th in conjunction with MHIP display to address the problem of invasive weeds in alleyways, streets/boulevards and vacant lots.
 9. Please note that I intend to step aside as Chair but offer to remain on the committee if the GN Board so wishes.
(Again, the Board highly recommends that John stay on the Issues Committee as a member. The Board is grateful for the exceptional work that John has accomplished as Chair of this committee as well as Chair of the MHIP Operations Committee.)
- f. **Indoor Speakers:** Linda Fisher reported that Lorne Fitch is confirmed as the January speaker. He will be staying at the home of a GN member while he is in Medicine Hat.
 If the speaker is available, Linda will look into securing a presenter on the topic of Rattlesnakes for the AGM in March.
- g. **Fundraising Committee:** Hugh noted the upcoming Casino June 6th and 7th. Volunteers will contact Dave McKenzie.
- h. **Field Trip Committee Report:** Written by John

1. 25 Neighbourhood Walks and six Birding Field Trips were conducted in 2018. Generally well attended and enjoyed by the participants.
 2. We plan to resume our Neighbourhood Walks and Birding Field Trips in March or April.
 3. We plan to enjoy X-Country Skiing or Snowshoeing in Police Point Park and/or Elkwater when conditions are suitable. First skiing was enjoyed in Elkwater on December 28th. John met up with Bob and Cynthia Mutch on the Spring Creek Trail. Let John know if you are interested and would like to receive an email notice.
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela reported the committee will be meeting Thursday at 10 am. She asked what needs to be changed, as far as redesigning the webpage. Furthermore, is website development possible through Casino funds?
As suggested at the Dec.3rd Budget Committee Meeting, the Board “should investigate the use of casino funds to offset some expenses”. It is possible that website development could be covered through Casino funds. Action: Hugh to check.
 - j. **Birding Trails Update:** Hugh noted there is nothing new at this time.
 - k. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh reported that the group will meet Thursday afternoon, January 10th.
 - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela reported they were present for the teleconference meeting on Dec. 8th from 10 am to 3 pm.
They noted that N.A. is comprised of 35 member clubs. The organization is planning a 50th anniversary for the year 2020. A brief Board discussion, regarding what particulars NA insurance covers, followed the report. Action: Angela to check.
 - m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh said there was nothing to report.
6. Other Business:
 - a. **New Board Members needed:** The Board discussed why no younger people are volunteering for positions. Hugh will include a request with the President’s Message in the upcoming Sagebrush Chronicle.
 - b. **Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm Tuesday, February 5th, 2019 at Anne Bernhard’s home.
 - c. **Adjournment:** 9:15 pm
 - d. **Refreshments**