

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of Board Meeting, January 9, 2018  
Host- Anne Bernhardt.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Anne Bernhardt, Ian and Angela Turner  
Absent: Dave McKenzie

1. Call to Order 6:33 pm
2. Review and Adoption of Board Minutes from December 5, 2017, **CARRIED**
3. Additions to Agenda:
  - a. **Pronghorn Xing**- Megan Jensen, Medicine Hat co-ordinator for Pronghorn Xing, wants to speak briefly at a GM about an app to collect data to find points where pronghorns are being hit when crossing local highways. This citizen science project may help bring about techniques like more signage, or possibly animal bypass routes on roadways.
  - b. **Update of MHIP renovations**- Hugh reported renovations may start in February, with a possible finish date of September or October 2018. He will be meeting Thursday with Jamie McLeod of the City.
  - c. **Governance and Meetings- Storage of Documents and Records**- This topic will be discussed at the following Board Meeting.
  - d. **Finances: Banking, Investments and Loans**- This was reviewed by the Board.
  - e. **Finances- Yearly review**- This was reviewed by the Board.
  - f. **Committees and External Organizations**- (Board Members to check Policies and Procedures from your manual to prepare for discussion)
  - g. **Letter from Clio Smeeton**, Director Cochrane Research Institute, regarding Orphaned Wildlife- The Board agreed to accept Rob Gardner's suggestion to write a draft reply. Thank you Rob. At the February Board Meeting the Board will look at a reply.
4. Action Items:
  - a. **Insurance Coverage**- Hugh noted the GN Insurance coverage needs to increase to \$2,000,000. which would cost \$275.00 extra each year. Some additional coverage will also be needed.
  - b. **Microphone for General Meetings**- Hugh reported there are no microphones at the Nature Centre at present. Committee Chairs would be called to the front of the audience to speak at General Meetings, to ensure that all members hear reports presented.
  - c. **Positions to be filled**- Hugh noted that a maximum of 3 Directors at Large are required according to GN Bylaws. He will bring up the need for a Field Trip Chair at the AGM. Hugh will also mention this in the upcoming President's Message in the Chronicle. He has sent the Call for Nominations to Milt Spitzer for the AGM in March.
  - d. **New City Contract (Agreement with Lease)**- This new contract is finished except for 2 clauses which are being negotiated. For now, there is an extension of the old Contract in place.
  - e. **General Mailing of GM Minutes**- Eileen will be acting Secretary at the next General Meeting. Thank you Eileen. She will email the GM Minutes to the general membership once the Minutes are edited. General Meeting Minutes will now be emailed regularly to membership after every GM.
  - f. **Freedom of Information and PIPA** – Board members Moved that the Freedom of Information and PIPA (Action Item 4.f.) be tabled. **CARRIED**.
  - g. **Wildflower Brochure**- There is nothing new to report. As mentioned in John Slater's previous Board report, the Wildflower Brochure has one error in the naming of the Grass species. Dwayne Myers is checking with Cathy Linowski and Judith Golub to make the correction, and then the brochure will go to Prime Printing for producing 5,000 copies at \$1,029.
5. Reports:
  - a. **Treasurer's Report**- Hugh reported he and Eileen will be working on the Alberta Liquor and Gaming Commission annual financial report for the Casino. It is due the end of February 2018. He noted that GN has applied for another Casino fundraiser to take place in two years.  
Eileen reported that December was a quiet month, with little income activity for the GN Club. The GN Balance sheet as at the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2017, showed a balance of \$24,738.11. The GN Casino account shows a balance at December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 of \$17,635.94.
  - b. **Membership**- Eileen noted some GN members who are very active in the Club have also donated financially. Hugh and Eileen will send letters of acknowledgement to these members.

- c. **Correspondence-** Eileen showed a copy of Wild Lands Advocate from Alberta Wilderness Association. She reported that participating GN member email addresses were forwarded to Brian Ilnicki at Nature Alberta in order to receive the complimentary, quarterly Nature Alberta Magazine.
  - d. **Operations Committee/ MHIP Report-** Anne mentioned that two important positions need to be filled on the Operations Committee by responsible GN members.  
Rhea Wilson is assisting 3 days/week at the Nature Centre.  
Hugh noted the new contract is still being negotiated. There will be a meeting at the end of January depending on the contract.
  - e. **Indoor Speaker-** Linda Fisher is the new Chair.  
Jan 23. Todd Sharpe is booked to speak on The Updated Municipal Development Plan. (This presentation is subject to change)  
Feb. 27 Dr. Dinesh Mategaonkar will speak on Environmental Assessments
  - f. **Fund Raising Committee-** As noted in the previous Board Minutes, \$1,200. was received from the MH REALTOR'S Charitable Foundation.
  - g. **Field Trip-Upcoming Events-**
    - 1) EcoTrust Environmental Gathering, March 8-10, 2018 Calgary. Mt.Royal U. Info at <http://albertaecotruster.com/gathering2018/> Martha Munz Gue Has attended previously and could provide more details.
    - 2) 6<sup>th</sup> Native Prairie Restoration/ Reclamation Workshop Feb/ 7-8 Saskatoon Sask. \$275. + GST. Reg. closes Feb 1/18
    - 3) Waterton Wildflower Festival runs from June 14-19th 2018. Go to [www.watertonwildflowers.com](http://www.watertonwildflowers.com) to receive the newsletter and further information. Register early to avoid disappointment. Ian and Angela Turner attended in 2017.
  - h. **Communications Committee-** Angela Turner looked into various types of name tags from clip-on fasteners to lanyards. After some discussion it was decided that Angela would purchase stick-on labels and would inquire into strings and cards. She will bring pictures to the next Board meeting. The group thought 50 name tags at meetings would be a good start. Stick- on labels could be available for newcomers or members who are rarely able to attend meetings. Casino funds could possibly be used for these purchases.
  - i. **Birding Trails Project Update-** Hugh will speak to the B.T. Project group about a GN member giving a presentation to the Canadian Badlands Tourism Development Conference in March at the Medicine Hat Lodge. GN will have a display table set up with B.T. Booklets, Wildflowers Brochures and the new banner.  
\$3,000. is being sent to Lonna Hogan of CBT to cover GN's share of the Birding Trails Booklet. Sixty copies of the booklet are available at the Nature Centre at no charge. Prime Printing will store extra Booklets for GN.
  - j. **Bird Tales Update-** Dee Armstrong is away at present. Hugh explained that Paul Thibault and Dee will start a program in February at Sunnyside Care Centre.
  - k. **Nature Alberta-** Hugh noted that Rob Gardner brought up an Alberta grant funding for Canada 150 activities, promoted by Nature Alberta. This Watershed Stewardship Project is meant to enhance, protect or restore Alberta's water resources. The deadline for application is Feb. 22, 2018. Rob had suggested building a viewpoint over the Milk River perhaps, or a floating dock. Ian and Angela are away for 3 weeks, but will talk to Hugh in early February about this.
  - l. **Webcam Update-** Hugh reported the computer in use at the Nature Centre is old and not fast enough to keep up with the app (the software that allows specific tasks to be performed). Paul will bring another computer and reprogram it.
6. Other Business:
- a. **Paul Thibault** is working on cleaning up the GN website. The secretary will continue to send earlier Board and General Meeting Minutes to Paul for posting, until all previous GN Minutes may be accessed online.
  - b. **Revenue Canada December Webinar-** Hugh explained the CRA Webinar- 10 Problems (of Non-Compliance) for Non-Profit Organizations, which he and other GN members watched in December. Some items included filing T3010 which is the annual information return, proper employment agreement, staying away from political activities, gift restrictions, and auditing.
  - c. Next Board Meeting 6:30 pm Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:30 pm at Eileen Cowtan's house, 1519 11 Ave. N.E.
  - d. Adjournment-8:35 pm
  - e. Refreshments served.