

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting April 9, 2013

Present: John Slater, Bill Knibbs, Eileen Cowtan, Marty Drut, Anne Bernhardt (host), Martha Gue, Barry Anderson

Minutes: March 5, 2013 Board minutes were reviewed. **Bill moved the minutes be adopted; John seconded. Motion carried.**

Action Items:

1. The **Revised Bird Checklist** invoice has been received. The cost equally shared by GN and Alberta Parks.
2. John reported that the **Canadian Water Week** and **UN World Water Day** (March 22) were very successful events.

Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and an Income Statement up to March 31, 2013.
2. Our current GN membership is 76 paid with 18 others requiring renewal. Please contact Eileen to renew memberships and to complete waiver forms.
3. Regarding signing authority on the GN bank accounts, the following motions were in order:
 - Eileen moved that the signing officers for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists, bank accounts remain unchanged for the 2012-2013 year. These signing officers are: Anne Bernhardt (President), John Slater (Past-President), Eileen Cowtan (Treasurer) and Barry Anderson (Secretary). All cheques written for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists must be signed by any two of the above-identified individuals. Seconded by Bill; motion carried.
 - Eileen moved that Anne Bernhardt, replacing John Slater as President, be appointed as a new signing officer for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists' Medicine Hat Interpretive Program Committee bank account; that the other three signing officers – Phil Horch, Val Felesky and Corlaine Gardner – remain unchanged; and that all cheques be signed by any two of the above-identified individuals. Seconded by Bill; motion carried.

Note: Specific banking information has been removed from these minutes for confidentiality reasons.

Discussion Items:

1. The GN Board moved that John Slater be appointed Past-President for 2012-2013; John accepted. Motion carried.
2. The GN Board moved that Bill Knibbs, Gary Martin and Hugh Armstrong be appointed as Directors at Large for 2012-2013. Motion carried.
3. John to update list of Appointed Committees and External Organizations and forward a copy to Anne for GN records.

Other Reports:

1. Issues Committee – Martha
 - John shared a March 7 letter of response from Federal Environment Minister Peter Kent GN regarding an initial GN letter of concern sent to him on January 10. The issue surrounds **Species at Risk**, specifically the greater sage grouse.
 - The meeting with the Cypress County Reeve in response to their letter dated February 7 regarding Species at Risk still needs to be determined.
 - On April 20 at 9:00 am Ron Linowski will give a short presentation at the Nature Centre on the **Tiny Cryptantha Recovery Plan** to be followed by a walk through CH Ranchlands to search for plants as well as observe other wildflowers.
 - **Alberta Plantwatch Program** is encouraging participation during April to June to watch the blooming of one or two selected wildflowers in a specific location. When reported annually to the website, this information gives indication of the advance of spring and climate change. Martha encourages members to participate in various locations around Medicine Hat. Currently, Mike does Ross Glen Creek, Martha NE Crescent Heights and Cathy Linowski the MH College.
 - The document **Proposals to Amend the Canadian Migratory Bird Regulations** suggests adding the hunting of Sandhill Cranes in southeast Alberta. However, the main concern is the possibility of shooting endangered Whooping Cranes, particularly the juveniles due to misidentification.
 - Marty reported that the **Eco-Justice Sage Grouse Lawsuit** and the appeal in relation to the Cabinet confidence motion held its hearing in Vancouver on March 19; a decision is expected later this year.
2. Interpretive Program – Marty for Corlaine Gardner
 - Marty reported dates and locations for the travelling **Sprague's Pipit Display Project** – April 13 in Bow Island and April 20 in Lethbridge. More locations will follow throughout the spring and summer.
 - **The Easter Weekend Program "Chicks and Bunnies"** at the Nature Centre was tremendously successful this year with a turnout of around 5500 people. Special thanks to Val Martins and all volunteers.
 - In celebration of **Get Outdoors** weekend across the province, the Nature Centre along with Be Fit For Life Medicine Hat, will be hosting a fun-filled day of activities on Sunday, April 14 including geo-caching, campfire building and bike safety.
3. Outdoor Programs and Field Trips
 - Martha indicated that Nellie Spicer has extended an invitation to GN members to visit her residence in Walsh to learn about landscaping with wildflowers. A field trip will tentatively be planned sometime in June.
 - Mike O'Shea continues to collect your ideas for future field trips. Check the Chronicle and GN website for any field trip updates.
4. Nature Alberta – Martha

- Martha reported that the **Nature Alberta AGM** will be held in Edmonton on April 26-28 with a banquet and migrating snow goose chase to be held that weekend. Contact Martha for more details.
5. **SEAWA** - Martha
- Alberta Land Stewardship Centre will hold a meeting **Water Stewards in Motion** on May 2 at the Medicine Hat Lodge from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Contact Martha for more details if you are interested in attending. Registration required.

Other Business:

1. Paul Thibault from the **Budget Committee** has requested that by May 1 all other committees should have elected a chairperson and should forward to him an annual wish list and proposed budget for the upcoming year - April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.
2. Ben Verner has been nominated for a “**Life-Time GN Membership.**” Ben has accepted the nomination and will receive his award April 23 at the next GN General Meeting.
3. Phil Horch will call an Operations Committee Meeting regarding the GN and IP **insurance split payment criterion** and other business.
4. The GN Board extends our sympathies to the families of both Donna Maclean and Dawn Dickinson who passed away earlier this week. Considerable discussion surrounded how to honour both individuals. Anne to talk to Dennis Baresco.
5. Martha suggested that a copy of Dawn Dickinson’s novel “Caught in the Spin” be donated to each of the libraries in the Shortgrass Library system. Perhaps other libraries throughout Alberta could also receive a free copy – a great way to pay tribute to Dawn’s legacy. Anne will talk to Hilary Munro at the Public Library.
6. A workshop called “Being an Effective Board: How Do We Measure Up?” will be held Saturday, May 4, at the MHC Crowfoot Room from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Cost is \$10.00 which includes lunch; registration deadline is May 1. The GN Board especially encourages the Directors at Large to attend.

Adjournment at 9:30 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 7, hosted by Bill at #307 – 3090 15 Avenue SE.