

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting February 5, 2013

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

Minutes: January 8, 2013 Board minutes were reviewed. **John moved the minutes be adopted; Anne seconded. Carried.**

Action Items: The **Revised Bird Checklist** is now being printed. So far, \$700.00 in donations has been received to help recover printing costs. Thanks to the donors. Others wishing to donate can still do so.

Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement for year 2012 as well as a financial report for January 2013.
2. Our current GN membership remains unchanged at 97 with about half of those memberships being renewed so far. Please contact Eileen as soon as possible to renew unpaid memberships and to complete waiver forms.
3. Eileen reported that due to an abundance of Dawn Dickinson's book "**Caught in the Spin**", steps be taken to increase sales. It was agreed that advertising the book in the next few Chronicles at 50% discount ie. \$10.

Other Reports and Discussion Items

1. Issues Committee – John for Martha Munz Gue
 - A letter to Federal Environment Minister Peter Kent concerning the Suffield National Wildlife Area and Species at Risk in SE Alberta was sent Jan. 10, 2013.
 - John reported on the meeting with MLA Blake Pedersen on January 17, 2013: Bill 202 concerning the sale of public lands appears to be a non-issue at this point with the Conservative Legislature; and the Ports-to-Plains Project sees a need for another major Alberta border crossing but environmental concerns for species at risk should require consideration ahead of economics.
 - John attended the Cryptantha presentation given by Ron Linowski at the Plant Workshop January 19, 2013. On April 20, Ron is scheduled to give a short presentation at the Nature Centre on the Tiny Cryptantha to be followed by a walk through CH Ranchlands to search for plants as well as observe other wildflowers. Check future Chronicles for updates on dates and times on similar walks by Michael O'Shea in East Ross Glen and Cathy Linowski in the College area.
 - John recommended that copies of the Chronicle be sent electronically to our MP, MLAs, City Mayor and County representative. Eileen would preface the attachments with a brief note highlighting points of interest.
2. Communications Committee – Eileen
 - Work continues on the GN brochure, the GN display board and the GN website updates including gallery pictures and text, exciting sightings and Chronicles.
3. Interpretive Program – Marty for Corlaine Gardner
 - Marty continues to solicit help with the **Sprague's Pipit Project**. A travelling display is currently being created with possible visits to outlying areas in southern Alberta to promote the project. He is also asking for assistance in manning the display as well as working at the spring trade show in early March. Please help Marty in making this important project a success!
 - **Kiwanis Family Day** activities will be held Monday February 18 at Police Point Park from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This year's coordinator is Kit Hilsden. Please contact her at the Nature Centre for more specific details.
 - **The Easter Program** will run from Feb. 25 – April 1 at the Nature Centre with volunteers still needed from Good Friday to Easter Monday. Please help out if you can.
 - **Got Snow** display is at the Nature Centre until the end of March.
4. Outdoor Programs and Field Trips - Check the Chronicle for details of upcoming field trips.

Other Business:

1. Anne reported that on January 29 the digitizing of one Chronicle was tested at the Esplanade Archives.
2. **The Ad Hoc Committee for drafting GN Policies and Procedures** met January 23 to review the outline proposed by Paul Thibault. Existing P&Ps have been requested from the Medicine Hat Public Library and Nature Alberta and will be examine for possible applications to GN .The next meeting will be held February 27 hosted by John.
3. Our current GN and IP insurance, due February 7, has been secured from Intact Insurance.
4. The **AGM Meeting** will be held on March 26 at 6:30 pm at the Medicine Hat Public Library. Bill Knibbs has contacted potential candidates for the Executive positions; particularly for vice-chairperson and two directors. John has drafted an agenda for the AGM meeting and list of reports required.
5. **Canada Water Week March 18-23 with World Water Day on March 22** at the MH Public Library. Plans are to have information displays provided by Unisphere, SEAWA, GN and other interested parties. Tina Regehr will act as the GN representative. Possible related events include a river walk from the Library to Findlay bridge on that day and perhaps a tour of the City Water Treatment Plant. More concrete details will be announced as they become available.
6. The Medicine Hat City Council invites nominations for the **2013 Civic Recognition Awards** in the areas of: Cultural, Environmental, Humanitarian, Sports/Recreational, Community Inclusion and Community Service. The awards will be presented at the 2013 Civic Recognition Awards Ceremony on May 16, 2013 at the Esplanade.

Adjournment at 9:20 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 5, hosted by Marty at 3 Redwood Green SE