

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting: June 5, 2012

Present: John Slater, Bill Knibbs, Eileen Cowtan, Marty Drut (host), Anne Bernhardt, Tina Regehr, Corlaine Gardner, Barry Anderson

Minutes: May 8, 2012, minutes were reviewed. John **MOVED** the minutes be adopted; Bill seconded. **CARRIED.**

Action Items:

1. Map of designated critical habitat. Marty reported that he will continue to work with Dale Eslinger on this project.
2. Ecojustice Sage Grouse Lawsuit /Judicial Dispute Resolution. No further word has been received from the government regarding either of these issues as negotiations continue.

Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of June 5, 2012. Our current membership is 90.
2. Eileen collected signatures for Servus Credit Union to solidify new signing authority for the GN Society.

Correspondence – Eileen

1. Eileen shared correspondence that included the following: a letter from the Canada Revenue Agency regarding the GN bylaws application that has been received; a Tax Form Information sheet that has since been completed and forwarded.

Other Reports and Discussion

1. Issues Committee – John, Marty

- John and Marty met with SRD Fish and Wildlife Officer Dale Eslinger on May 9. Marty reported that the recent meeting was a positive one. Dale noted at the meeting that the lawsuit was helpful to the staff in Medicine Hat because it allowed them to go forward with stronger protective measures for sage grouse habitat. The lawsuit puts pressure on higher authorities in the province to allow Fish and Wildlife staff to act.
- Marty reported on current translocation efforts for the Greater sage grouse from USA to SE Alberta.
- Regarding the removal and disposal of Baby's Breath, an invasive plant species found throughout Medicine Hat, David Young and Sandra Lofgren from City Parks will be contacted in order to select a test area.
- Tina reported that the City of Medicine Hat has agreed to leave the Ranchlands Reserve area untouched and protected in order to preserve the Tiny Cryptanthe, a rare and endangered plant species at risk.
- Tina reported the next opportunity for public input to the MH City Plan will take place June 25.

2. Communications Committee – Tina

- Committee members will choose a suitable date and time to reconvene regarding work on the GN brochure and the Nature Centre display board.

- The GN website now operational to GN Directors only. Access to GN members and the public by June 26.

3. Interpretive Program – Corlaine

- Geocaching for all ages in Police Point Park on June 14 at 6:00 pm. No preregistration needed.

4. Outdoor Programs

- A Wildflower Walk in Police Point Park “Prairie Bells and Blooms” on Sunday, June 10 at 2:00 pm.
- Mike O’Shea to lead “Prairie Wildflowers and Birds Trail Walk”, Friday, June 15. 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Meet at the Ross Creek Trailhead, 110 Ewart Crescent SE.
- On June 21, Dennis Baresco to lead a Heritage Trees Walk starting at St. Joseph’s Home on 3rd St NE.
- The Medicine Hat Jane’s Walk on Saturday June 23 with more details to follow in the June Chronicle.
- Summer field trips: King Ranch near Aden on August 18; an Elkwater day hike led by Gary Martin July 28.

Other Business

1. Bill reported that Milt, Phil, Paul and himself will make a presentation to the Canadian Badlands Limited group on June 7 at 11:30 am at Police Point Park Nature Centre. The proposal will include items such as maps, guidebooks, signage, blinds, permanent scopes, etc that could be used to create a birding trail here in SE Alberta. Paul should be commended for his work on the PowerPoint that will be an important part of this presentation.
2. Eileen mentioned the Gary Newton Reception and Tribute at the Esplanade, Thursday, June 7 at 7:00 pm.
3. Corlaine reminded everyone of the Green Bag Lunch Speaker Series which happens every Wednesday from May 30 to Aug 1. The event runs from noon to 1:00 pm in the lobby of the Esplanade. Hundred Mile Diet Lunches are available from McElgunn’s Catering for \$5.

Adjournment at 8:40 pm. Next Board Meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 7:00 pm hosted by Anne Bernhardt at the MH Public Library.