

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting March 5, 2013

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

Minutes: February 5, 2013 Board minutes were reviewed. **John moved the minutes be adopted; Bill seconded. Carried.**

Action Items:

1. The **Revised Bird Checklist** printed copies should be available in two weeks. So far, \$1000.00 in donations has been received to help recover printing costs. Thanks to the donors. Others wishing to donate can still do so.
2. As part of **Canadian Water Week** March 18- 23 and UN **World Water Day** March 22, Martha Munz Gue had previously announced that there are plans for information booths and displays provided by Unisphere, SEAWA, GN and other interested parties at the Medicine Hat Public Library.

Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement report for the year 2012 as well as the first two month of 2013.
2. Our current GN membership is 97 members with 59 (ed. note:76 have renewed as of press time) of those memberships renewed so far. Please contact Eileen as soon as possible to renew unpaid memberships and to complete or change waiver forms - thank you.

Other Reports and Discussion Items

1. Issues Committee – John for Martha
 - John will draft a response to the letter received on February 7 from the Cypress County regarding an initial GN letter of concern sent to Environment Minister Peter Kent on January 10. The issue surrounds Species at Risk, specifically the Greater Sage-grouse.
 - On April 20 at 9:00am 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. Check future Chronicles for updates on similar walks by Michael O'Shea in East Ross Glen and Cathy Linowski in the College area.
 - **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.
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.
 - As suggested by Milt Spitzer, a GN member will now greet non-members attending the general meetings and provide them with handouts such as a membership form, a copy of the Chronicle, a bird checklist, etc. The first greeters will be Elaine Spitzer and Bill Knibbs – thanks for volunteering!
3. Interpretive Program – Marty for Corlaine Gardner

- Marty thanked those individuals who have volunteered to become involved with the **Sprague's Pipit Project** by attending the training session as well as working at the Trade Show in early March.
 - **The Easter Program** will run from Feb. 25 – April 1 at the Nature Centre with volunteers still needed for the afternoons from Good Friday to Easter Monday. Clean ice cream buckets, preferably with lids, are urgently required – please help out if you can. Contact Val at the Nature Centre.
 - **Got Snow** display continues at the Nature Centre until the end of March.
 - An **Acoustic Guitar String Fever** evening will be held at the Nature Centre on Saturday, March 16 at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
4. Outdoor Programs and Field Trips
- Ben Velner will tentatively travel to Manyberries and surrounding area to look for the Sharp-tailed grouse and other species on Saturday April 6. Please meet at the Tim Horton's Dunmore Road location at 6:30 am. This will be a long day so dress warm and pack a lunch.
 - Mike O'Shea continues to collect ideas for future field trips. Check the Chronicle for any field trip updates.

Other Business:

1. **The ad hoc Committee for Drafting GN Policies and Procedures** met February 27 to report on action items from the January meeting minutes, to discuss procedures for the March 26 AGM and to discuss procedures for approval of expenditures. Paul provided a copy of the minutes of that meeting and a brief overview. One of the recommendations from this meeting was that "GN should form a Budget Committee. This committee should be separate from Board members but with President or Past-President as ex-officio member. The GN Board will vote on this budget." Consequently, **Bill moved that the GN Board establish a Budget Committee; seconded by Eileen. Motion Carried.** The next ad hoc Committee for drafting GN policies and procedures will be held April 10 at 1pm with Eileen hosting.
2. **Ben Velner** has been nominated for a "Life-Time GN Membership." Ben has accepted the nomination and will tentatively receive his award at the next General Meeting, April 23, at the Nature Centre.
3. Discussion occurred regarding the GN and IP **insurance split payment criterion**. It was decided that the Board Executive will meet with Corlaine and the Operations Committee to work out an amicable solution for splitting the payment of the insurance cost.
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 positions of Vice-president and two Directors at Large. As a time-saving measure, it was suggested that the minutes of last year's AGM be posted on the GN website while a condensed version be printed in the March Chronicle. Hard copies of Committee Reports will also be available at the AGM and posted on the GN website thereby avoiding the need to share all the information orally.
5. 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. Consideration is being given for the nomination of Jan Scott, a worthy GN candidate, for the Environmental award. The awards will be presented at the 2013 Civic Recognition Awards Ceremony on May 16, 2013 at the Esplanade.

Adjournment at 9:30 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 9, hosted by Anne at the MH Public Library.