

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS EXECUTIVE MEETING February 7, 2012

Present: John Slater, Tina Regehr (host), Bill Knibbs, Anne Bernhardt, Marty Drut

Minutes: of 10 Jan 2012 meeting reviewed. Bill moved the minutes be adopted, Marty seconded, **CARRIED**.

Action Items:

- Sage grouse pending lawsuit by Ecojustice – Motion for indemnification. Marty contacted Nature Alberta and AB Wilderness Association to see if they will defer legal costs for GN.
- Fence marker material (reimburse Rob Gardner) – John; done.
- AUC wind project hearing (reimburse Henry Binder) – John; done.
- MHIP Operations Committee members – John contacted Phil Horch.

Treasurer's Report: John for Eileen. No report, Eileen is away.

Issues Committee: John for Martha

Sage Grouse survey results – John put results from GN sage grouse survey into 5 categories. This summary will go into Chronicle and ask for membership input.

Map of designated critical habitat – Marty contacted Ecojustice and AWA regarding government (Parks Canada/Environment Canada) designations of sage grouse critical habitat to find out if they had maps of critical habitat/wells etc. He got a map that wasn't very detailed. Marty will still try to get a better map.

Travelling Display - Anne suggested a travelling display to educate people about sage grouse be put in different locations in Medicine Hat and area; such as public libraries. John will talk to Corlaine to see if Nature Centre staff could do a display with help of some GN members.

Draft Bylaws revisions: Version 19 (after discussion from Julie Friesen) was reviewed. Anne **MOVED** that we accept the revised version of GN Bylaws to go to membership vote, Bill seconded, **CARRIED**.

Field Trips:

March 3 – Elkwater cougar walk with Gary Martin 9 am at Cypress Hills Interpretive Centre.

Interpretive Program:

- Kiwanis Family Day – Mon. Feb. 20, 11 am-4:30 pm, lots of activities at Nature Centre (treasure hunts, self-guided activities, build a birdhouse or bathhouse, crafts, hot dogs, free rentals on snow equipment).
- Easter Programs – April 6-9, they need lots of volunteers.
- String Fever – Sat. March 17, 7 pm, Bill Frank and friends will do a strings concert.

AGM – March 27, 2012:

Program: Ryan Heavyhead from Standoff will be speaking about timing of natural events and how these occurrences have influenced their native culture.

At next executive meeting, every executive member should get 10 members' phone numbers to invite them to the AGM so we can get quorum (2/3 of paid membership) to vote on GN Bylaws.

Nomination committee – Bill is working on finding a Secretary, Directors at Large, Nature Alberta Rep.

Other Business:

- Sage Grouse Recovery Team – John will talk to Dale Eslinger at Fish and Wildlife office (Medicine Hat Prov. Building) to see who was on the sage grouse recovery team before.
- Ecojustice lawsuit draft retainer agreement (how we will interact with them) – most important part is the indemnification clause. John and Marty will be the GN contacts for Ecojustice. John will put a blurb about this in the Chronicle. Bill **MOVED** that we let Ecojustice know that this retainer agreement is fine, and add information they requested, Anne seconded, **CARRIED**.

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 pm

Next meeting Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7 pm, at Bill Knibb's house, #307, 3090 – 15 Ave. SE, Southview Villa, phone: (403)527-1006.