

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS EXECUTIVE MEETING March 13, 2012

Present: John Slater, Tina Regehr, Eileen Cowtan, Marty Drut, Bill Knibbs (host).

Minutes: of Feb 7, 2012 meeting reviewed. Eileen moved minutes be adopted, Bill seconded, **CARRIED**.

Action Items:

1. Ecojustice Sage Grouse Lawsuit – Marty will let Ecojustice know that Dawn Dickinson is available to give an affidavit in the pending lawsuit on behalf of GN. Eileen **MOVED** that Dawn be designated as our experienced sage grouse biologist in the Ecojustice lawsuit, Bill seconded, **CARRIED**.
2. Map of designated critical habitat: Detailed map to show where wells/development are overlaid with designated sage grouse habitat is needed. Marty will ask Cam Aldridge if we can get his overlay map.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen

The Balance Sheet and Income statements of the combined MHIP and GN Annual Report were reviewed to determine what should be submitted at the AGM. Membership is at about 100 (147 members).

Issues Committee: John/Marty

SRD Fish and Wildlife: Meeting with Dale Eslinger delayed until late April because staff really busy now.

Sage grouse travelling display: Corlaine says that Nature Centre staff couldn't work on a display until the fall and they would probably want to apply for a grant for funds for supplies.

Grasslands Conservation Survey and Land Use Framework Workbook: Members are encouraged to submit their own responses. Deadlines are April 5 for the Grasslands Conservation Survey and April 30 for the Land Use Framework Workbook. Both can be done online.

Field Trips:

March 31 – Ben will lead a birding trip to Manyberries area to see 'dance' of sharp-tailed grouse. Meet at Mall at 6 am (early).

Interpretive Program:

- String Fever – Sat. March 17, 7 pm, Bill Frank and friend will do a strings concert.
- Easter Programs – April 6-9, they need lots of volunteers, training next Tuesday for egg-decorating volunteers.

Nature Alberta: Marty

Upcoming AGM April 14-15 in Edmonton; Marty won't be going. Next GN NA Rep will probably go.

AGM – March 27, 2012:

Draft AGM agenda reviewed. Committee reports to be submitted, and short summaries given at AGM. Presently 147 voting members (47 family + 53 individual). We need 25% quorum to pass bylaws (37). Nomination committee – Bill will run the election of the four Executive Officers.

Other Business:

- Honorary Lifetime Membership – (Beth Milne, Dawn Dickinson, Donna Maclean) – Decided to give Veronica Swan Lifetime Membership. John will call Veronica to make arrangement for presentation.
- Ports to Plains AGM Oct. 2-4 in Medicine Hat – Need to recommend to MLA Len Mitzel and Ports to Plains group that Hwy 36, not Hwy 41, be the preferred truck route/24-hour border crossing.
- Insurance – Policy and bill for \$3500 received from Intact Insurance to be slip between IP and GN.
- Birding Trail book or brochure and map –Phil Horch, Bill Knibbs, and Bob Frew met and outlined their vision to Jody Lamb from Canadian Badlands. Presentation to be made at the Cdn. Badlands product development committee meeting on June 7. Birding Trail committee will meet March 15 to discuss details/vision and outline project proposal.
- Medicine Hat City Development Plan – public input opportunity on March 28 before MH Plan is sent to City Council for adoption. Tina is planning to give a presentation to MPC.

Meeting adjourned: 9:30 pm. Next meeting Tuesday, April 3, 2012, 7 pm, at Eileen Cowtan's house, 1519 – 11 Ave. NE, Medicine Hat; phone: (403) 526-1264.