

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting, April 4, 2017

Host – Dee and Hugh Armstrong.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (chair), Betty Rainville (secretary). Ian and Angela Turner, Anne Bernhardt, Gary Martin.

Guest: John Slater (guest)-sent written summary, then arrived later due to commitments. Thank you John.

Absent: Dave McKenzie, Eileen Cowtan

1. Call to Order: 6:36 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from March 7, 2017
3. Additions to Agenda:
  - a. **Appoint Past President:** Hugh noted appointment of Past President is not necessary. Dave McKenzie automatically fills that position.
  - b. **Appoint Directors-at-Large:** Moved that Gary Martin, Ian Turner and Angela Turner be appointed Directors-at-Large. Motion CARRIED.
  - c. **Confirm Committees' Chairs and Volunteers:** Moved that all Committee Chairs be reappointed. Motion CARRIED. The Committees and corresponding Chairs are:  
Operations Committee/MHIP- John Slater  
Issues Committee- John Slater  
Indoor Committee-Dave McKenzie  
Fundraising Committee-Hugh Armstrong  
Field Trips Committee -Gary Martin  
Communication Committee- Angela Turner  
Budget Committee- Paul Thibault  
Governance Committee- Paul Thibault  
Birding Trails Committee- Phil Horch  
Bird Tales- Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault  
John Slater reported he would be calling an Issues Committee meeting either last week in April or first week in May to confirm Chair and Volunteers on that Committee.
  - d. **Confirm new Casino Manager:** Dave McKenzie is confirmed as new Casino Manager. Hugh reported Dave is going ahead with duties as manager.
  - e. **Select/Confirm External Organization Representatives:**
    1. Nature Alberta-Gary Martin is confirmed as rep.
    2. SEAWA- Is Martha confirmed as rep.?
    3. UERAB-Dave McKenzie has reapplied as GN rep. for this organization. He will know in 6 weeks if he has been accepted.
  - f. **City wide clean-up Litter Blitz:** Earth Day April 22. Hugh will get garbage bags for the clean-up. We will meet at 9:00 am at the Family Leisure Centre playground in Brier Park where volunteers met last year. Hugh suggested GN members should be told in the next Chronicle.
  - g. **Cheque presentation to Parks Department for PPP Nature Centre renovations:** Hugh noted there was a good turnout as MH Accommodation Association presented a cheque for \$270,000 to the Mayor. Angela will see Milt and get a photo of the event. Milt will get a photo and article for the Chronicle.
  - h. **Ian brought up two suggestions:** 1. Why can't the AGM minutes be approved at the following meeting rather than having a one year wait before they are approved? John suggested that the question be referred to the Governance Committee. Hugh will look at Robert's Rules as well as talking to Paul Thibault.  
2. Ian brought up the topic of Indoor Program Speaker's monthly written Summary. Discussion followed regarding relevance of Speaker's summary. Shouldn't members be attending and hearing the speaker first-hand? Do members read the summary? Moved that future Speaker Summaries be placed in the Chronicle only and not in the General Meeting Minutes. CARRIED.
4. Action Items
  - a. **GN AGM, March 28:** Committee 2016 Reports.  
Angela will contact Milt for the Chair names and phone numbers, as well as email addresses to be put in the Chronicle. Members who wish to volunteer on committees may then find the Chair's email or phone number and contact them.
  - b. **SEAWA Rural Stewardship Forum March 10:** John and Martha attended and set up display. In his notes, John said the forum was well attended with interesting presentations and discussions.

- c. **World Water Week report:** John set up GN Water display at the MH Public Library **Monday**, March 20 until Monday March 27. **Tuesday evening** March 21; 12 people (5 GN members) attended “Water on the Table” Film at the Library. Discussion moderated by David Condon, Council of Canadians. **Wednesday morning** World Water Day March 22; children’s program on water. **Saturday**, March 25; Panel presentation/discussion at MH College Cultural Centre; Speakers-Marilou Montemayor, Rob Gardner, Hyland Armstrong, Brent Smith.

5 Reports:

- a. **Treasurer’s Report-** Eileen absent. Hugh noted that Eileen and Lisa M. will share the responsibility of MHIP books.
- b. **Membership-** Eileen absent. Anne Bernhardt collected 2 new memberships at the AGM.
- c. **Correspondence-** Eileen absent. **1.** Hugh noted a registration form from Telus discussing becoming a charity partner. **2.** Hugh mentioned the MH College Silent Auction on June 22. Corlaine said the Nature Centre would donate items such as mugs etc. Board suggestions included copies of “Caught in the Spin” book and bird feeders, as well as placing GN and Bird Tales rack cards with the items to be donated. **3** Chris Christie, of the Community Foundation (CFSEA) sent a letter of reminder about this organization. Board members suggested placing a recurring ad about the GN Endowment Fund in the Chronicle as well as mentioning it at the next General meeting. Ian suggested we download their logo for visual impact in the ad.
- d. **MHIP Operations Committee report:** John’s summary noted the MHIP Operations Committee is scheduled to meet Monday May 1, 1:30 pm at the Nature Centre. The Chair will be confirmed then. John reported Lorine Marshall will be stepping down. Many thanks to Lorine for serving on the Committee.  
John reported he had spoken to Carol O’Brien who is willing to join the MHIP Operations Committee with the GN Board approval. Motion to appoint Carol O’Brien to the Operations Committee. CARRIED.  
John reported the next big event is the Easter Festival Program. Volunteers are needed. Hugh said two city buses will run from Unity Lutheran Church parking lot for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but not Monday.  
John mentioned about the cheque presentation to City Parks Dept. from the MH Accommodation Association for PPPark upgrades, (see item 3.g. above).  
Hugh reported that he and Corlaine had a productive meeting today with Parks and Recreation Project Superintendent, Jamie McLeod, on the Nature Centre upgrade. There are still preliminary developments and discussions required that may move the start time to this fall.
- e. **Issues Committee Report:** see 3.c. above about next meeting to discuss issues either last week in April or first week in May. John’s summary noted that for the subcommittee concerned with the Environmental Policies in the City Municipal Development Plan, Martha and Tina are planning to meet to review the MDP and list the relevant area. John explained that all material for the Wildflower Brochure was sent to Judith Golub in Edmonton to collate. They should have a draft by the end of May. John explained that the rack card idea is still a concept at this point, to advertise the Wildflower Brochure. Rack cards will be distributed to the Library, Visitor Centre, and other public places. One thousand rack cards will cost approximately \$300.00.
- f. **Indoor Committee:** John mentioned a list of 3 possible speakers from the SEAWA Forum on March 10. He will email the names to Dave McKenzie. They are:  
Garry Lentz & Jason Storch with Cypress County on Invasive Weed Control  
Kelly Cooley (CoolPro Solutions) on Invasive Species Prevention.  
Olivia Sederberg (Chinook Applied Research Association- Oyen) on Bio-Control of Invasive Weeds.  
The speaker at the General Meeting on Tuesday, April 25 will be Don Watson, P. Biol. Stewardship Co-ordinator/  
Project Manager, Operations Grassland Community, Alberta Fish and Game.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported the committee is waiting to hear about the following grants:  
CFEP (Community Facility Enhancement Program) - should receive news of the \$262,000. grant by April to June 30.  
Co-op Funding Grants- should receive news by May about the \$150,000.  
Walmart- should receive news by May about the \$1,000. to go toward the Bird Tales Program.
- h. **Field Trip Updates:** Gary/John... Ian and Angela enjoyed the Annual Manyberries Area Field Trip led by Ben Verner recently. A detailed article will appear in the April Chronicle.  
John supplied a written summary of field trip updates;  
April 14-17; IP Easter Festival at PPPark Nature Centre  
April 22 (morning); City wide Cleanup Litter Blitz and noon BBQ at Parks Dept. Kin Coulee  
April 22 (afternoon); Seedy Saturday at Nature Centre 1:30 pm  
April 25; Neighbourhood walk/wildflower walk near McCoy High School led by Martha Munz Gue  
April 29; SEARCH Geocache; Cleanup PPP and perhaps include tree wrapping  
April 29 Butterfly walk; Butterfly walk led by Dave McKenzie-location and time TBA  
May 2; Neighbourhood Walk along Seven Persons Creek & Saratoga Park led by John Slater  
May 6; Wild Horse Birding Trail #6 led by Milt Spitzer.

May 9; Neighbourhood Walk NECH led by Elaine Spitzer.

May 13; Annual Field Trip to Sauder's/Murray Reservoir led by Phil Horch.

- i. **Communications Committee**- Angela reported she contacted the Stampede Office regarding a GN table at the Farmer's Market to promote our club. Volunteers will be needed from 9 am to 1 pm to sit at a table. Angela will email the dates available to be posted in the April Chronicle.
- j. **Birding Trails project Update**: Hugh noted that Phil is anxious to get the Birding Trails Booklet printed. When he arrives back in Medicine Hat a meeting will be held to discuss printing. One approximate estimate for the 44 page booklet suggested 2500 would cost \$5,000.00
- k. **Bird Tales Update**: Dee/Paul. Hugh said the program is going well but has not restarted yet at Masterpiece. Since the change in ownership, Masterpiece has been renamed.
- l. **Nature Alberta meeting report**: There is no information at this time on the March 25 meeting. Gary was too ill to attend as representative.

## 6. Other Business

- a. **Web Cam Project and Update**: Hugh said the Blue Herons are back but not in the last years location. The Eagles have been sitting on the Blue Heron nesting site for at least 3 weeks.  
On April 15 the webcam will be taken down temporarily until fall or moved to another site. Paul will operate the on/off feature and will monitor the website.
- b. **Canadian Badlands Annual Meeting held March 16-18**: Anne Bernhard noted the annual meeting will be held in Medicine Hat next year. It is not certain who will head up the meeting, but Hugh will contact Canadian Badlands regarding next year's meeting.
- c. **Bird Watching Tours to Cdn. Badlands and SE Alberta**: Hugh will talk to Lonna Hoggan ex-director about the possible use of Birding Trail maps.
- d. **Potential MOU/Partnership between GN and SEAWA and/or Praxis**: Hugh noted GN is still waiting on word from Cathy Linowski.
- e. **MH Accommodation Association** March 9 presentation to be rescheduled: Alysha is to get back to Hugh. The GN presentation may be rescheduled to sometime in April, May or June. Will talk to Phil when he returns-possibly in mid-April.
- f. **MH College Mixed Grass Forum** April 6, 8 am to 4:30 pm: Contact Cathy Linowski for details. Registration is 8 to 9am at a cost of \$50.00. The theme is, Restoring the Native Prairie
- g. **Jan Scott presentation on Moths of Medicine Hat**: 7 pm. on April 6<sup>th</sup> in the Cutbanks room of the Esplanade. Free admission.
- h. **GN MH City projects**: Beaver and Leafy Spurge survey: John's summary stated- Strathcona Island & Lions Park to MH Library, and PPP. Initial survey of Strathcona Island and Lions Park and PPP completed March 29 by John, Ian, and Hugh. City downtown water front to be done April 5. Volunteers needed for tree wrapping.  
Wildflower beds in PPPark for pollinators: Doug Knowles, Park Technician, is to talk to Corlaine about the location of pollinator beds in PPPark. Between the two parking lots may be a good location.
- i. **Civic Environmental Recognition Award**: John Slater has been nominated for the Environmental Award. The city will make the selection, and an award will be presented to the recipient by the Mayor at the Awards ceremony May 25.
- j. **Next Board Meeting** location: Ian and Angela's home.
- k. **Adjournment** at 8:28 pm.