

(Draft) SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING – December 1, 2015

Present: Dave McKenzie, Hugh Armstrong (Host), Anne Bernhardt, Ian and Angela Turner, Betty Rainville.
Absent- John Slater, Corlaine Gardner, Gary Martin, Eileen Cowtan

1. Call to Order: 6:30 pm. Dave McKenzie-chair, Betty – Secretary
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board minutes from November 10, 2015. Motion Carried.
3. Additions to Agenda.
4. Action Items
 - a. **City Contract amendment** with revised list of Equipment Schedule B and Clause 4(C). Still outstanding. Waiting on Randy Taves. No Change.
 - b. **GN/MHIP Insurance Coverage:** 4a. (above) still needs to be completed first before a subcommittee can be formed to continue discussion of replacement costs of City's equipment and GN/MHIP equipment.
 - c. **Bird Tales Update:** Volunteers at Masterpiece Retirement will be working on bird collages on Dec. 10. Ian and Angela Turner have volunteered for this date. Betty will try to attend. Masterpiece will run their own program starting in January, with Paul and Dee acting as mentors. Volunteers are still welcome. Feeders are set up at Meadow Ridge, and sessions will start there in Feb. and March.
 - d. **Book "Caught in the Spin":** Dave emailed Martha about contacting Mike to confirm number of books in NA office. Mike's new contact information not known. Does Eileen have a Chronicle address for Mike? Could Martha contact NA directly about the number of books?
 - e. **M.H Community Foundation Plan:** Trish, from the Foundation, is to write an article for the Chronicle about the Endowment Fund outlining how donations can be made now or bequeathed in a Will.
 - f. Changes to **Signing Officers for MHIP** at the TD Account update: Dave and John are waiting for Eileen to return to meet in mid-December.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen away. Corlaine has the receipt from Cultural days, Sept. 27.
 - b. **Membership Report:** Eileen away. To make up a membership card for Jan Scott. What about Joel Richardson? He receives the Chronicle at his workplace.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen away.
 - d. **Fund Raising Committee update:** Hugh will be back 6 January. 14 to 15 volunteers more volunteers are still needed for the Casino Feb. 18 and 19, 2016. Contact Hugh or Gary or sign up at the Nature Centre.
 - e. **Field Trips update:** Saturday, December 19 Gary will lead "A Walk In the woods to cut a few Christmas Trees". Meet at Elkwater Visitor Centre at 9 am. Possibly donate the trees to a worthy charity like Saamis Immigration.
 - f. **Indoor Program speakers:** January speaker will be Shane Leuck speaking on Insects in Amber. John Acorn will coordinate with Dee Armstrong to present a program for Seniors. He may speak in late April on Butterfly Monitoring. Other speakers in 2016 will report on Swift Fox part 2, and Alberta Parks Grazing Policy in the Spring Creek Area. Jan Scott could be a possible speaker in May.
 - g. **Issues Committee:** Some of the results of Baby's Breath Germination tests at the College show that 76% of the seeds germinated the first week and 92% germinated the second week. The majority of the seeds appear to be viable. Cathy Linowski will give a final report on the results by early spring. The Prairie Conservation & Endangered Species Conference will be held in Saskatoon from Feb. 16-18, 2016. www.pcesc.ca. "Change the Climate" by Alberta Ecotrust will be held Feb.25-27 in Calgary.
 - h. **MHIP Operations Committee report:** The new Financial Bookkeeper is Louise Sjøvold.
 - i. **Birding Trails project update:** Waiting for Phil or Milt to return to discuss speaking at a GM about this project. Trail 2: Sauder (Rattlesnake) and Murray Reservoirs will be shown in the December Chronicle.

6. New Business :

Letter from the City about removing a weir at the bottom of Marlborough Coulee. Asked if GN was maintaining the rock dam on the creek? John will take pictures and send them to Dave and Hugh today. Dave will contact the City.

7. Other Business:

- a. **Pamphlets on Wildflowers and Butterflies:** Gradually establish a data base for butterfly counts, Dave suggested. No one in Medicine Hat is doing butterfly counts. "E Butterfly" looks at the most common butterflies, or gets counts started. The website is www.ebutterfly.ca An individual selects an area and counts the butterflies in that area. This is repeated.
- b. **Donations:** Governance Committee to discuss drafting a policy about soliciting donations and how a contribution could be earmarked for GN projects or directed to the Endowment Fund (see item 4.e). This item is on hold.
- c. **Nomination of further Honorary Life-Time members:** Governance Committee to put together a policy on how a member can nominate someone; then bring their ideas to the Board. Board members suggested that we want good guidelines for this.
Dave contacted major donors to thank them, and to ask if they had any suggestions for where they wanted funds used. They are free to contact Dave with ideas. Eileen has also written thank-you letters previously.
- d. Next GN Board meeting: Tuesday Jan. 5, 2016 at Betty's house. 15 McNeely Court S.E. (403) 528-2925

8. Meeting Adjourned: 7:30 pm. Refreshments followed. Thank you Dee and Hugh.