

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting February 4, 2020
Hosted by Betty Rainville.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Eileen Cowtan, Linda Fisher

Absent: Phil Horch, Ian and Angela Turner.

Guests: Martha Munz Gue, Brandy Hammond and Paula Munro.

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from January 7, 2020. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **Annual Committee Reports due March 15:** Hugh noted he will put this information in the President's Message in the Chronicle.
 - b. **World Water Day March 22:** SEAWA will sponsor a water display table at the Medicine Hat Teacher's Convention February 20-21 at MH College.
March 22-28 SEAWA will have a booth at the MHP Library.
Hugh will ask Ian and Angela about a GN display at the Library.
 - c. **Nomination for Lifetime Membership:** Hugh noted a nomination has been received. A brief discussion followed over the appropriate title to be chosen as Honorary Membership, or Lifetime Membership.
Hugh will check with Paul Thibault over GN policies regarding this subject.
 - d. **Palliser Air shed Society:** David Gue spoke at the last General Meeting on PAS revision of members.
The Board moved that David Gue continue to be the Grasslands Naturalist Society member on the Palliser Airshed Advisory Committee. **CARRIED**
4. Action Items:
 - a. **PIPA Workbook:** Hugh suggested the Board members read pages 17, 19, 20&25 since there are not enough Board members present tonight to decide on the best approach to examine PIPA Workbook (Personal Information Protection Act).
Linda Fisher volunteered to be contact person for PIPA. Thank you Linda.
Eileen questioned how PIPA would recommend allocation of previous member names dating back many years.
On a similar note, Hugh said that Dennis Baresco is continuing to go through boxes of early Grasslands Naturalist Society records and information.
 - b. **February Volunteers for pre-GM setup at Nature Centre:** Hugh will ask for volunteers in the President's Message in the Chronicle.
Martha will also check with Issues Committee members to see if anyone is able to volunteer. Volunteers need to get the Nature Centre key earlier in the day and order cookies. Get information from Milt and Elaine who have done this before.
 - c. **Openings on MHIP/Operations, Budget, and Governance Committees, as well as Board:**
Hugh noted there are two openings on the Budget Committee and the Governance Committee. The Issues Committee, Field Trip Committee, and MHIP/Operations Committee all need a Chair. Hugh said he will let his name stand for the MHIP/Operations Chair.
All Board members are willing to stay on, and Phil Horch will let his name stand for the Presidency. Hugh noted he will stay on as Past President, but position of Vice-President is open.
 - d. **Kiwanis Family Day, February 17:** Hugh reported volunteers are needed. Phone the Nature Centre. (See 5.h.below).
 - e. **Environmental Master Plan GN letter:** (See 5.e. Issues Committee)
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Hugh asked Eileen if there were any end-of-year donations that would entail sending a letter to the donor. Eileen will check and get back to Hugh.
Eileen reported the Casino Chequing Account balance as of Jan. 31, 2020 stands at \$11,308.65. The "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,526.65 as of Feb.4, 2020 and the Chequing Account balance is \$4,420.73, Common shares are \$1.35, and cash to deposit is \$40.00 bringing total Current Assets to \$20,988.73.
Eileen also reported the MHIP Accounts as follows: TD \$53,511.09, Servus \$90,525.05 and A/R CITY at \$173,163.00 for a total of \$317,199.14.
Eileen reported the Insurance Renewal Policy was received, with \$1,365.00 making up only the Director and Officials portion of the charges. The IP pays 75% of the total cost, while GN pays 25% of total. To forward it to Hugh and Paul.
Moved that the Insurance be paid with allowable funds from the Casino Account. **CARRIED.**
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen noted the numbers fluctuate presently as members continue to sign up in January and February.

- c. **Correspondence:** Eileen reported there was a letter from Paul Strickland, a former GN President.
- d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** No report.
- e. **Issues Committee:** Martha reported the committee is tracking the following issues:
 - **Bottled Water:** Martha will make an appointment to meet with local MLA's. Also, to show Bottled Water Film at MHP Library and invite public.
 - **Wind and Solar:** Gerry and John have been looking into research on this. To oppose any development on native grasslands. Gerry Ehlert to attend meeting on Feb. 17th.
 - **Riparian Health:** Martha noted that many GN members walk by creeks and observe riparian health first-hand. Paula and Brandy helped greatly by fixing up display boards depicting SEAWA's riparian restoration project. Thank you.
 - **Stormwater Ponds:** To invite Marilou Montemayor, Executive Director of SEAWA, to an Issues Committee meeting.
 - **Beaver issue:** Brandy and Paula want to volunteer to wrap trees. To talk to Hugh about this. The City supplies wire.
 - **Environmental Advisement:** Gerry Ehlert is now a member of UERAB
 - **Climate Conversations:** Friday at four pm at Café Verve. Marilou, with SEAWA, suggested sending an Environmental Master Plan to the City. Hugh will go through Phil's letter to the City dated Monday, February 3, 2020.
 - **Wildflowers, Pollinators and Invasives:** Hugh noted there is a \$5,000.00 fund for a Pollinator Garden, from the RBC Foundation in the MH News. Martha will check the News on Jan. 28 or 29th for further information.
 - **SEAWA Winter Water Art Show** continues in the Arcade Plaza on 3rd Street downtown, 419 3St. SE. every Tuesday from 12:30 to 5:00 pm, and tomorrow at 1:00 pm. Martha will send a copy of the poster to Betty.
- f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda reported the February speaker will be Roxanne Doerksen presenting "Worms are Awesome" Hugh suggested asking about mileage, supper and a stipend. Board members thought a \$50.00 stipend was appropriate. (Linda to call Anne Bernhardt).
 - March presenters will be Rob and Corlaine speaking about one of their trips, and showing slides.
 - In April, Paul Von Huene will be speaking on the June 2010 flood in southern Alberta.
 - The May speaker will be Brian Keating. GN members are encouraged to attend his Part 1 presentation at the Esplanade at 7:00 pm on May 25, entitled "Going Wild". Tickets are selling quickly at \$15.00/ticket. Linda will check with Corlaine and David Gue about audiovisual for Brian at the Nature Centre the following evening. The Board discussed possible options for adequate seating at the GN presentation on Tuesday, May 26.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh said there is no report.
- h. **Field Trip Committee :** (Chronicle):
 - Throughout February: The new StoryWalk, "Sleep ,Big Bear, Sleep"
 - The Winter Walk starts tomorrow, Feb. 5th, at 3 pm at the Nature Centre. Martha and John will lead the walk, with hot chocolate provided after. See www.winterwalkday.ca. Betty to check if Marty or Corlaine registered the Walk, or if GN needs to do this. Winter Walk Day is a province-wide initiative to get Albertans up and moving.
 - Kiwanis Family Day: Monday, February 17 from 11 am to 4 pm. Volunteers needed. Call the Nature Centre 403-529-6225 to help. (See 4d. above).
- i. **Communication Committee:** Angela is absent.
- j. **Birding Trails:** No report.
- k. **Bird Tales:** Hugh reported, for Dee and Paul, that Sunnyside/South Country Village is locked down because of a high number of residents who are ill. The Bird Tales program cannot operate when the residence is closed to visitors.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela are away. See the email sent to GN members, dated January 25, about N.A. Magazine and N.A. 50 year celebrations. Go to info@naturealberta.ca for more information.
- m. **Web Cam:** Hugh reported there is no update at this time. Hugh will try again to speak to the MH College about working with the web cam.

6. Other Business:

- a. **SEAWA 2 summer jobs available:** with riparian restoration. Check the website <https://GoodWork.ca/908755>

- b. **GN members for Technical Committee of SEAWA:** It was not specified what sort of technical qualifications are wanted. Paula or Brandy may be interested in this position.
- c. **UERAB Jan.15:** First meeting with Gerry Ehlert as a member.
- d. **Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm. March 3, 2020 at Martha's house
- e. **Adjournment:** 8:40 pm
- f. **Refreshments**