

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting March 3, 2020

Hosted by Martha Munz Gue

Present: Anne Bernhardt (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Linda Fisher, Ian & Angela Turner,

Absent: Hugh Armstrong, Phil Horch and Eileen Cowtan

Guests: Martha Munz Gue (host), Brandy Hammond, Jocelyn Moore and Paula Munro

1. Call to Order: 6:50 pm
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from February 4, 2020. **CARRIED.**
3. Additions to the Agenda:
 - a. **City Litter Blitz on April 18:** *Angela to contact Keziah at kezles@medicinehat.ca.
A Board member questioned if the Prairie Patch by Family Leisure Centre was assigned to any group for clean up? Martha noted SEAWA will be doing garbage pickup and invasives at Connaught Pond that day.
 - b. **Position of Chair of MHIP Operations Committee:** Hugh has offered to take this position.
Moved that Hugh Armstrong be appointed as Chair of MHIP Operations Committee. **CARRIED.**
 - c. **Easter Chicks and Bunnies Program:** Volunteers needed. Corlaine will pass a volunteer sign up sheet at the AGM.
 - d. **AGM Nomination Chairman:** Needed for Board Nominations at the upcoming AGM.
Anne Bernhardt will phone John Slater, Paul Thibault, Rob Gardner and Milt Spitzer to ask if someone would run the nominations during the AGM.
 - e. **International Day of Forests March 21:** Martha suggested walk locations at Police Point Park, or Saratoga Park, or at the "Tangle", located behind the Windmill, with the Interpretive Program invited to participate with GN.
Jocelyn, Paula and Brandy could start a walk at the Nature Centre, since Martha will be out of town. (See 5e (1e) & 5h)
*Martha will draft a copy to Milt with a contact number by Friday, March 6.
 - f. **Possible Grants Provided for GN History:** *Martha will search a website that might fund grants to develop the history of GN's early days. She questioned how current members will know our history without a record of it.
4. Action Items:
 - a. **Best Approach to PIPA:** Board members to read pp 17, 19, 20 & 25 of workbook.
A postponement on PIPA studies was suggested at this time until a special meeting to discuss this could be called once all Board members are back in Medicine Hat.
 - b. **Committee Reports to Paul by March 15:** Eileen will submit a report when she returns.
 - c. **World Water Day/Week:** Angela reported she will co-ordinate with Dave Condon who is in charge of displays at the MHP Library. She will talk to Marty at the Nature Centre to see if there is a display available on Riparian Health.
Angela will set-up the GN display on Monday, March 16 to be taken down on Monday March 21.
Martha noted the start time for the Library Water Art Show Reception is not set yet. Possibly 2:30 pm would be suitable.
 - d. **March AGM sign-up sheet for GM coffee set-up:** Now located at the Nature Centre front desk for volunteers to sign.
Ian and Angela have volunteered to pick up snacks from Dee's Baked Goods for the upcoming meeting.
 - e. **Environmental Master Plan:** It was suggested that Phil, as incoming President, should sign this informative letter that he wrote to the City for GN.
 - f. **Position of Vice President:** To be elected by members at the Annual general Meeting. Phil Horch is the current Vice President.
 - g. **Issues and Field Trip Committee and other openings:** The Issues Committee and Field Trip Committee both presently need a Chair.
There are two openings each on the Budget and the Governance Committee.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen absent.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen absent
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen absent.
 - d. **Operations Committee MHIP Report:** No Report.
 - e. **Issues Committee:** Martha presented an outline in 3 parts; Current Plans, Past issues, Looking ahead to Future Issues; Current Planning and Meetings:
 1. March 16 to 30- World Water Day Displays and activities at MHP Library. *Martha to send Information to the Library.
 - a. March 16-9 am Set up displays. Clubs & Organizations (SEAWA, Council of Canadians, GN)
 - b. March 17-6:30 pm Paddling Film Fest (Tickets at MHPL)
 - c. March 18-6:30 pm The Eagle and the Condor Film
 - d. March 19-6:30 pm Dark Waters at MHPL

- e. March 21 Forest Day. GN Walk in the Forests of MH Valleys. (See 3.e above & 5h)
- f. March 22 WWD. Water Art Reception and short videos. Artists invited and introduced. Time?
- g. March 24 AGM for Grasslands Naturalists @ Nature Centre
- 2. Sunday, March 22 WWD. (MHPL open 1 pm to 5 pm)
3 pm short videos and WATER ART reception.
Riparian Restorations (SEAWA)
Introductions and Interpretations by artists.
Videos from WWD site & Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Water & Climate Change.
Birds in the Watershed (from website or GN Birders)
Wildflowers, Butterflies and Bees. (from GN website)
- 3. March 28 (last Saturday of the month 8:30 pm) Earth Hour. All electricity off for 1 hour. Invite friends, family, neighbours for board games by candlelight, for example. Check out website in advance.
- 4. Prairie Grassland Conservation:
Brier Park, Ranchlands, Burnside
Wind and Solar Farms vs prairie grasslands
Coulees and creeks generous set back in MDP (Municipal Development Plan) & Inter MDP.
- 5. Species Protection
Sandhill Cranes and the proposed hunt. Letter of support proposed by AWA (Alberta Wilderness Association) against the hunt.
albertawilderness.ca to support Canadian Wildlife Service at ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca
*Brandy Hammond to check CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society)
- 6. Forest Day March 21. Heritage Tree Association hunt? and book. Cottonwood, Green Ash, prairie maple. Last Friday In April (Arbor Day). PPP Tree ID and game? Tree Stories & Songs & Poems.

Looking Back on Issues:

- 1. Invasives- Workshop, Parks and Rec. Plans, EDD Maps, SEAWA restoration projects. (SEAWA needs help with weed pulls and Russian Olive).
Parks and Rec, is working on the Integrated Pest Management Plan and GN will have an opportunity to input this in 2020, It will cover several subjects so we will need help from our membership. Buckthorn, Russian Olive, Leafy Spurge, Canada Thistle, and Crested Wheat Grass. Be sure to invite to wildflower walks, the workshop members who indicated interest in walks to ID invasives. *Do we each have the EDDMap on our phones?
*A suggestion was made to have EDDMap information open for viewing during General Meeting breaks.
- 2. Outdoors, connecting with nature: Winter Walks, CrossCountry Skiing, Weekly Wildflower/Nature Walk starting in a Month, Outdoor component at SEAWA Forums, Plein Air art, other? After School Walks?
Ian Turner suggested that Walk days might be held on alternate days each week.
* Martha will consult with John Slater regarding this suggestion.
- 3. Riparian Health: South Sask. River Riparian Assessment by IP/GN, SEAWA Riparian Restoration Projects, restoration Displays at Downtown Arcade Plaza. Tree wrapping, Invasives reporting.
- 4. Echo Dale Regional Park Future Development Plan: Stakeholder Engagement Sessions Feb, 25 attended by Tina, Bob T, Martha and other GN members.
- 5. Bottled Water: Survey by Rob and Ian for Climate Conversations.
- 6. Fortress Mountain Ski Hill Water Permit now used for trucking water to Calgary for Bottled water sales.
*What is GN's response to this?

Looking Ahead:

- March 4: Winter Walk at 3:30 pm. Meet at the Nature Centre
- March 5: Meeting with Parks and Rec at 3 pm re. Native Grassland Burnside Heights, Ranchlands and Brier Run
- March 10: Meeting with ENGIE (French multinational electric utility company) re. Wind Farm near Dunmore, AB.
- March 12: Issues Committee Meeting Arcade Building 1 pm
- March 22: World Water Day Week of displays and events at MHPL.
Check out this website: <http://www.fao.org/climate-change/en/>
- March 31: 7 to 8:30 pm Rattlesnake Safety. Friends of Helen Schuler Nature Centre, Lethbridge Public Library.
- Climate Conversations: Fridays at Four. Now held at College Cafeteria.
- Cross Country Skiing: Carpooling to Elkwater Tuesdays and Saturdays to the end of March. Contact jslater@telusplanet.net Skiing also available when snow is suitable at PPP or Kin Coulee. Come and go.(See 5h. below)
- Wildflowers Walks: Wednesdays.

- Art Shows: Winter Water Art Show @ Arcade Plaza to the end of March.
Water and Riparian Areas Water Art Show @ MHPL for the month of March.
- Coloring: Learning about Water & Life. All ages. Tuesdays in March at 4 pm. Arcade Plaza.

End of Issues Committee Report

- f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher gave a verbal report on upcoming speakers.
- March AGM speakers will be Rob and Corlaine Gardner showing slides on their trip to Mauritius.
 - April speaker will be Paul Von Huene speaking on the June 2010 flood in Southern Alberta
 - 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 noted that Corlaine said capacity with chairs in the Nature Centre meeting room is 49 occupants. Linda will phone Corlaine tomorrow to arrange a practice chair set up at the Nature Centre with volunteers.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh is away
- h. **Field Trip Committee:** (See March Chronicle for more details)
- Wednesday March 4 Winter Walk. Meet at the Nature Centre at 3:30 pm
 - Wed. March 4 at 7:00 pm. Central S. Time. "Sage Grouse Recovery in Grasslands Nat. Pk." takes place at McCord Hall, McCord Sask.
 - Forest Walk March 21. See Chronicle for start time, location & details. (See 3e & 5e)
 - Tue. & Saturday X-country ski in Elkwater to March end. Contact John. (See "Looking Ahead" under 5.e)
 - Saturday March 28, Nature Centre event for volunteers.
 - Saturday March 28. Ben Verner's Annual Trip to Manyberries area. (See Chronicle for details)
 - Saturday March 28 1-4 pm, Seedy Saturday activities at MHPL.
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela Turner. Nothing to report at this time.
- j. **Birding Trails:** Phil Horch is away.
- k. **Bird Tales:** No report. Dee Armstrong is away.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela. Nothing to report at this time.
- m. **Web Cam Updates:** Hugh is away.
6. Other Business:
- Palliser Airshed Society:** David Gue has offered to give a brief summary at the March AGM, or April GM.
*Betty to check with David and get back to the Board.
 - Echo Dale Park:** Online survey on March 6 to help develop a master plan. Go to shapeyourcity.medicinehat.ca
 - Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm, April 7, 2020 at Jocelyn Moore's house. (38 Milne Place S.E.)
 - Adjournment** 9:00 pm
 - Refreshments**