

**Society of Grasslands Naturalists
Board Meeting March 4, 2014**

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Gary Martin, Bill Knibbs, John Slater, Hugh Armstrong, Barry Anderson.

Hosted by Bill Knibbs; thanks for providing the food and beverages.

Call to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes:

1. The February 4, 2014, board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes.

Action Items:

1. MHIP Operations Committee Report
 - The next Operations Committee meeting will now be held March 24 @ 4:00 pm at the Nature Centre.
2. John provided details about the GN Insurance Policy for the total amount of \$4116.00 due March 4 and purchased through Palliser Insurance (Calgary) and Ross Bucsis (broker). The money owing will be paid with three separate cheque instalments, the first one for \$1407.00 (\$1372 + \$35.00 service charge); John will deliver this cheque on March 5. It was suggested that John and Hugh meet privately with Mel Snider sometime in April to discuss proper GN policy coverage before inviting him to a future board meeting.
3. The GN Annual General Meeting will be held March 25 @ 6:30 pm at the Nature Centre. Notification of the AGM will be made public through the GN website, Chronicle, e-mail and newspaper. All committees are required to submit a report for perusal but due to time constraints only the most critical committee reports (president, financial, operations, budget, etc.) will be shared orally. Elections for two board positions will be held (vice-president and secretary); Bill will contact potential candidates and oversee the elections that evening.
4. Anne shared details regarding the Municipal Sustainability Initiative Workshop for non-profit grants. An information session will be held in City Council chambers from noon until 1:00 pm on March 12; Hugh has agreed to attend. The deadline to apply for grants is March 20.
5. The meeting with Mike Christie and the Community Foundation regarding Endowments was held February 19. It was suggested that Paul give a brief summary of this meeting at the AGM as part of the Budget Committee report.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Anne (on behalf of Eileen) provided copies of Income Statements and Balance Sheets for both the MHIP and GN Club for the past calendar year - January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013. This information was also provided electronically to GN members by Eileen. John and Milt will audit this year's financial statement in the next few weeks - thank you.

Other Reports:

1. Governance Committee

- No report.

2. Budget Committee

- Anne reported from her meeting with Dave Young and Tandy Taves (City Parks Department) that works continues for the next 2 weeks on the proposed City Budget at which time it will be presented to the City Council for approval.
- Hugh provided up-dates from the Fund-Raising Committee which includes two applications and a letter of intent for the Outdoor Classroom Project, and progress on the “Home-Town Heroes” initiative. Other fund-raising ideas are still required including a request for corporate GN sponsorship ideas.
- A reminder of the casino workshop for “newcomers” to be held March 11 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm @ the Holiday Express Inn. Hugh, Paul and Bill will attend.

3. I.P Operations Committee

- No report.

4. Issues Committee

- To address any future issues, the Issues Committee is currently developing a draft GN position/policy statement on the values of the grasslands and riparian areas.

5. Communications Committee

- No report.

6. SEAWA and Nature Alberta

- No report. However, everyone is reminded that the AGM for SEAWA will be held at the Medicine Hat College on March 31 and the AGM for NA will be held the weekend of April 12 in Edmonton. Check each of their respective websites for more details.

7. Other Business

- John provided further updates on the progress of the park bench honouring life-time members.

Adjournment at 8:45 pm. The next board meeting will be held April 1 @ 7:00 pm at the Medicine Hat Public Library hosted by Anne.