

**Society of Grasslands Naturalists
Board Meeting May 6th, 2014**

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Eileen Cowtan, Gary Martin, Bill Knibbs, John Slater, Monica Bartha, Hugh Armstrong.
Hosted by: Eileen Cowtan at Eileen's home and she provided the food and beverages.
Call to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

The April 1, 2014 Board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes.

Action Items:

- a) **GN/IP Insurance:** John Slater explained the renewed Intact Insurance provided now with Robertson Hall, Broker Mel Snyder. Anne received copy of current policy for the City Parks Dept. Meetings are continuing with the Broker to discuss adjustments to the policy. **Motion carried** that we continue with current arrangement. John will ask Mel to come to the next Board Meeting held on June 3, 2014.
- b) **Waiver form:** Mel recommends addition of statement regarding children "Parents realize the risk to children..." Other revisions to the waiver form suggested by Paul Thibault and Rob Gardner.
- c) **Fund Raising Committee Report:** Hugh
- a. **Hometown Heroes:** Hugh mentions it has been received. We will hear something in July/August.
 - b. **CFSEA:** applied for \$20,000.
 - c. Hugh and Corlaine met with Nancy Morgan from **Foundation Search Canada.** FSC support and assist in funding for many organizations & societies. They have given an average of \$20,000 to \$27,000 to environmental organizations. One-year membership is \$3,999. Fiver year contact is \$9,000. They do have a money back guarantee form. This is being considered and could be put to the membership.
 - d. **Casino:** Motion was moved, seconded and passed to permit Grasslands Naturalists to apply for Casino License. Gary offered to be the Casino General Manager. This will be put to the membership at the next General Meeting May 27, 2014.
 - e. **"Use of Proceeds"** Workshop on June 17, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express in Medicine Hat. Gary, Hugh and Anne will be attending the workshop.
 - f. **Community Foundation** – Endowments: Mike Christie will be invited to the Potluck on June 24th.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Eileen presented Treasurer's Report for GN Club and MHIP as of April 30, 2014.
2. Memberships: (22) have not renewed from (103). We currently have (81) memberships.
3. Canada Revenue Agency Information Return: Input was suggested to the new CRA form. Eileen to update the list of 2013 projects and ongoing activities and submit to CRA.

Issue's Committee:

1. Sage Grouse Emergency Protection Order Judicial Review in Calgary on June 30.
2. Public meeting on Flood Mitigation with the City is coming up.
3. On Wednesday morning May 28 Martha is hosting a meeting to speak with Petra Rowell, Executive Director of Nature Alberta at her home.
4. Baby Breath Removal Project begins Monday May 12, 2014 at 9:00a.m. Meet at the Environmental Reserve property on 11 Ave North (NE Crescent heights).
5. Emerald Award will be held in Calgary on June 5. Baby Breath Removal Project is up for nomination. Sean Allen, Cathy Linowski and 2 people from Calfrac will be representing Medicine Hat College – Baby Breath Removal Project.

I.P. Operations Committee:

Date of next meeting June 23, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. at Nature Centre.

Still in need of a member for this committee.

Nature Alberta:

Martha Gue & Monica Bartha will share representing Grasslands Naturalist on Nature Alberta.

Other Business:

Volunteering at the Interpretive Center: Suggestion to have a Volunteer Co-ordinator has been discussed. Volunteers are needed especially during Easter long weekend.

General Meetings:

Next meeting on May 27 with Petra Rowell talking about Nature Alberta, and Annual Potluck on June 24 at the Nature Centre at 6:00pm.

Bronze Plaque for the Honorary Life-Time members Bench has been delivered to Parks Department and will be installed soon. Plastic plaque of lifetime members' names and dates is being made and will be delivered to Parks Department. We are still looking and would appreciate any further donations. On June 24, Sean may present an update on the Baby Breath Removal Project.

Volunteers are needed to assist in setting up the Potluck on June 24.

Adjournment at 9:00 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held June 3rd at 7:00 pm hosted by John Slater #32 McNeely Court SE. 403.526.7003