

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting May 7, 2013

Present: John Slater, Bill Knibbs (host), Eileen Cowtan, Marty Drut, Anne Bernhardt, Paul Thibault, Val Felesky, Hugh Armstrong, Gary Martin, Barry Anderson

Minutes: April 9, 2013, Board minutes were reviewed and corrected. **Motion carried to accept the minutes.**

Action Items:

1. Hillary Munroe from the MHPL will distribute copies of the book "Caught in the Spin" in the Shortgrass Library System. Hillary also requested copies for the Lethbridge Chinook Regional Library System..

Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement up to April 30, 2013.
2. Eileen reported on other "Financial Matters" such as filing the annual return for Societies with the Province of Alberta, and submitting and receiving 2012 GST rebates.

Other Reports:

1. Standing Committee Status
 - John provided updates on each of the committees. The Operations Committee has a vacancy for a female representative. Anne will contact potential candidates.
2. Budget Committee
 - Paul presented and explained budget handouts regarding "Expected Expenses" and "Expected Income" for the MHIP and GN Club from April 2013 to March 2014.
 - Paul presented and explained a GN summary balance sheet from 2008 – 2012.
3. Governance Committee
 - Paul presented and explained Policies and Procedures information regarding General Committees, the Governance Committee and the Budget Committee. An announcement is to go in the May Chronicle stating the Policies and Procedures are posted on the GN Website and available in a binder at the Nature Centre.
4. Operations Committee/ Interpretive Program
 - GN and IP will split insurance costs: ¼ paid by GN and ¾ paid by IP. **Motion carried to accept this sharing of costs.**
 - Val presented an idea regarding an "Environmental Certificate of Merit" to recognize a private for-profit individual or company that exhibits extraordinary environmental stewardship. The Governance and Issues Committees will discuss his idea.
 - Marty reported that the next venue for the Sprague's Pipit Project will be "Spectrum", May 31 – June 2.
 - The Medicine Hat Spring Bird and Flower Count scheduled for Sunday, May 26 with Kit Hilsden in charge.
 - A GN Potluck Picnic will be held at the Nature Centre on June 25. It was suggested that the Bluebird Trail helpers be invited.
5. Issues Committee
 - The Tiny Cryptanthe Recovery Plan walk through CH Ranchlands is now scheduled for the end of June.
 - The Baby's Breath Removal Project in Ranchlands commenced on May 6 with Sean Allen in charge.
 - Alberta Plantwatch program encourages participation during April to June.
6. Outdoor Programs and Field Trips
 - May 11 - Leader: Gary Martin. Pre-cattle Riparian assessment of Upper Graburn Creek (in Cypress Hills), downstream to Graburn Campground. Time: 1 PM to 6 PM. Meet at Cypress Hills Visitor Center at 1 PM

Other Business:

1. Jan Scott will receive her 2013 Civic Environmental Recognition Award on May 16, 2013 at the Esplanade.
2. **Motion carried that Sean Allen receive a one-year gift membership for his work on the Baby's Breath Removal Project.**
3. GN will apply for a park bench (\$750.00 + GST) for Life-Time Members including Dawn Dickinson and Donna MacLean.
4. The Prairie Appreciation Celebration will be held June 8 near Elkwater.

Adjournment at 9:20 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, June 4, hosted by Barry Anderson at 32 Rossland Street SE.