

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS

Minutes of Board Meeting May 7, 2019

Hosted by Betty Rainville.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Phil Horch, Eileen Cowtan, Anne Bernhardt, Linda Fisher,  
Guest: Martha Munz Gue.

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm
2. Review and Adoption of Board Minutes from April 2, 2019. **CARRIED**  
Business arising from the Minutes: Item 5.j. from Board Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2019. Phil Horch confirmed that he will write an article about the Birding Trails Guides for Nature Alberta. Thank you Phil.
3. Additions to Agenda:
  - a. **Results of May 4 Workshop:** A report was handed out at tonight's Board Meeting for review.  
Martha said the Workshop, which started at 11:00 am, was well attended.  
Gerry Ehler, Marty Drut, and Rob Gardner did an excellent job planning, setting up, and conducting the Workshop, the Board agreed.  
Thanks to Anne Bernhardt for looking after refreshments.  
After lunch, there were 7 round-table discussion areas which switched tables every 15 minutes.  
Eileen commented on the creative advertising methods for the Workshop, some of which included posters, Shaw TV, and The Medicine Hat News.  
Anne suggested that GN put another Workshop project on the calendar for next year. Martha will talk to Gerry about this.
  - b. **May 26 Birds and Flowers May Species Count:** Hugh reported that information about the Count will go into the May Chronicle. Marty is organizing specific areas and contacting volunteers for each territory.  
Martha touched on the topic of Phenology as described in the PlantWatch program. According to [www.plantwatch.ca](http://www.plantwatch.ca) the PlantWatch program "enables citizen scientists to get involved by recording flowering times for selected plant species and reporting these dates to researchers, who work to identify ecological changes that may be affecting our environment".  
Martha will write an article in the Chronicle on this topic at a later date.
  - c. **GN Meeting with Parks Dept.re Significant/Sensitive Natural Areas in the City:** Hugh reported that he received an email from Randy Taves to set up a meeting next week along with John Slater, Corlaine, Martha, Hugh, Rob, Keziah Lesko Gosselin, Scott Richter, and Randy. They plan to talk about significant areas in the City such as Crocus Hill near East Glen S.E. where bridges are being installed with some ensuing disturbance to the hillsides. The Parks Department hopes:
    - 1) to use GN's knowledge of certain areas
    - 2) to discuss selection/designation of ON-Leash and OFF-Leash areas for dogs
    - 3) to discuss tree protection
  - d. **Chronicle submission deadline:** Hugh reported that Milt Spitzer would like all submissions to the Sagebrush Chronicle to be in by June 5<sup>th</sup> in order for it to be published earlier by June 7<sup>th</sup>.
4. Action Items:
  - a. **Civic Recognition Award (now Community Spirit Awards) May 31 Deadline:** Eileen suggested that SEAWA (South East Alberta Watershed Alliance), with Executive Director Marilou Montemayor, be nominated for this award.  
Moved that GN submit a nomination of SEAWA, as an organization, to the Community Spirit Awards. **CARRIED**  
Martha and Rob Gardner will work together on the nomination process Thank you Martha and Rob.
  - b. **Casino June 6 and 7:** Dave McKenzie has the positions filled. Eileen is to call Dave.
  - c. **Prairie View Point:** Hugh reported the date for the Co-op opening celebration is Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is encouraged to attend this celebration.  
Nature Centre Grand reopening will be celebrated on June 21. Details will be posted in the June Chronicle.  
Eileen and Linda will look through older information and articles in the GN filing cabinet at the Nature Centre to remove redundant material.
  - d. **May Farmer's Market Table:** Anne said volunteers pick up the banner and brochures to set up at the table. The GN Table will be set up on May 25, June 22, and September 21 at the Farmer's Market from 9 am to 1 pm. Please call Angela at (403) 526-1350 to volunteer.
  - e. **Waterton Flower festival:** This runs from June 13 to 18. Eileen noted there is reduced camping available because of the fire of 2017.
5. Reports:
  - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen noted there were no problems with Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis Commission (AGLC) accepting the report she submitted.  
Nature Alberta will receive a \$70.00 cheque from GN for membership dues, Eileen said.

After Anne asked Hugh about use of Casino Funds, he explained what GN is allowed to spend these funds on.

Eileen reported the GN "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,433.56 as of May 7, 2019 and the Chequing Account balance is \$5945.66 on May 7. Cash to deposit is \$65.00 and Common Shares are \$1.30 bringing Total Current Assets to \$22,445.04. The Casino Account is down to \$1,099.65 in Servus Chequing.

- b. **Membership:** Eileen reported there are 84 memberships presently with 24 not paid yet.
- c. **Correspondence:** Eileen received correspondence regarding training sessions for the Casino fundraiser. The River Current was sent to Eileen, as well as Alberta Wilderness Newsletter.
- d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** Anne Bernhardt reported the meeting was cancelled. Hugh reported there is now more storage space at the Nature Centre. Sixty new chairs, including a trolley, have been ordered from the manufacturer for a more reasonable cost than other quotes. They will be similar to the chairs at the Strathcona Centre. Hugh will phone tomorrow regarding AV equipment.
- e. **Issues Committee Report:** Martha reported she will bring ideas regarding follow-up from the May 4<sup>th</sup> Workshop to Gerry Ehlert. There will also be a follow-up with Cameron Lockerbie, .Ag, B.Sc, BSA, Regional Park Ecologist. Phil Horch suggested the Issues Committee meet and get feedback, but Martha noted the Committee uses email to communicate since meetings are difficult to arrange. More Issues Committee members are needed. Hugh noted Parks and Recreation wants GPS locations for the City regarding the location of invasive species.
- f. **Indoor Speaker:** Linda Fisher reported Sandi Robertson will be speaking at the May General Meeting on Ord's Kangaroo Rat. There will be a pot luck on June 25 rather than the usual General Meeting and speaker. In November, Lacey Hebert, a conservation research field technician with the Calgary Zoo may be speaking. Another potential speaker is Laura Morrison talking about hiking Canada's Great Divide Trail.
- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh reported the Native Plant Council declined a request for help to fund the Invasive Species Workshop held May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- h. **Field Trip Committee and Neighbourhood Walks:** Martha reported these upcoming Walks:
  - 1) Tuesday, May 14 at 10:00 am. Neighbourhood Walk at Connaught Pond. Led by Brooklyn Neubeker of SEAWA Meet by the pond between the College Residences and Connaught Pond.
  - 2) Tuesday, May 21 at 10:00 am Neighbourhood Walk along the NECH Storm Water Pond. Meet at Northlands Coop Liquor Store. Led by Elaine Spitzer.
  - 3) Tuesday, May 28 at 10:00 am. Neighbourhood Walk along the NECH Coulee Trail. Meet at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Palliser Airshed Monitoring Station. Led by David Gue, Martha Munz Gue and Dave McKenzie.
  - 4) Tuesday, June 4 at 10:00 am. Neighbourhood Walk at the Saamis Archeological Reserve. Meet at the Teepee. Rob Gardner away. Leader to be announced.
  - 5) Tuesday, June 11 at 10:00 am. Neighbourhood Walk along the NECH Coulee Trail. Meet at the beginning of McCutcheon Drive on the East end. Led by Dave and Martha.
  - 6) Tuesday, June 18 at 10:00 am. Neighbourhood Walk in the Ranchlands Environmental Reserve: Meet at the furthest NE end of Ranchlands Boulevard NE. Led by Ian and Angela Turner.Anne Bernhardt asked Martha about the possibility of evening walks.
- i. **Communications Committee:** Angela away
- j. **Birding Trails:** Phil confirmed that he will be writing an article for Nature Alberta on the Birding Trail Guides. He reported the group wants to set up a meeting with Lonna Hoggan, new Executive Director of Canadian Badlands Tourism, to discuss Birding Trail sites and markers for them.
- k. **Bird Tales:** Hugh (for Paul and Dee) reported the Bird Tales group meets every Thursday afternoon at Sunnyview-South Country Village with 2 knowledgeable volunteers to help them. They have birdfeeders set up on 2 or 3 windows now. Anne suggested someone from the Bird Tales group give a presentation about the project at the upcoming Pecha Kucha night, June 8, or at a later PK evening. Martha may print an article later as a press release.
- l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela away. See the April Chronicle Report on Nature Alberta.
- m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh reported there would be no updates until work at the Nature Centre is finished.
- n. **Website Report:** Hugh reported the GN and MHIP website will not be redesigned, but upgraded. Each website will cost \$1,500.00 for conversion and setup. GN will retain Intellectual Property.

6. Other Business:

- a. **Eastern Slopes decision:** Martha noted the recent decision of the new Provincial Government to cancel the previous Government's plan to turn Alberta's eastern slopes backcountry into a provincial park. David Gue has asked if GN would write a letter addressing this recent move by Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment. After Board discussion, Hugh said he would like to become more familiar with the topic before deciding on

sending a letter.

- b. **UERAB, and the SEAWA proposal:** Hugh noted the proposal will go through the appropriate channels from the General Manager of Parks and Recreation, James Will, up to the Mayor.
- c. **UERAB Park Name Suggestions:** Phil Horch has volunteered to send an article for Dawn Dickinson's nomination to Dave McKenzie, which Dave will present to UERAB for consideration. Thank you Phil.
- e. **Ongoing SEAWA Research Projects:** Gerry Ehlert will look into this.
- f. **GM Coffee Setup:** Hugh reported the new AV system should solve the need for AV setup before monthly speaker presentations. Hugh said he will check with Corlaine about giving out a key to the Centre, and he will also check with Scott Richter from the City about the validity of issuing keys to a City facility for volunteers to prepare coffee before General Meetings..
- g. **Next Board Meeting:** 6:30 pm Tuesday June 4 2019 at Anne's house. Hugh will check with Anne before then to see if the Meeting may be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup> instead for June 4<sup>th</sup>.
- h. **Adjournment:** 9:05 pm
- i. **Refreshments**