

## Society of Grasslands Naturalists

### Board Meeting November 5, 2013

**Present:** Anne Bernhardt, Eileen Cowtan, Paul Thibault, Gary Martin, Bill Knibbs, John Slater, Hugh Armstrong, Barry Anderson.

**Hosted by:** Eileen & Anne, who provided the food and refreshments. **Call to order at 7:07 pm.**

#### Minutes:

1. The October 1, 2013, board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes.

#### Action Items:

1. A casino fund-raising meeting for all newcomers will be held from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm on December 5 at the Holiday Inn Express. All questions regarding the Eligibility Guidelines will be answered at that time.
2. There appears to be several hundred “Caught in the Spin” books still available for sale. Eileen will contact Nature Alberta to determine exact numbers and to create a plan of action for dispersal. Several boxes of these books are already in storage with Hugh.
3. Some discussion took place regarding the need to contact GN members who do not have e-mail addresses when last minute field trips are announced.

#### Treasurer’s Report:

1. Eileen presented GN and IP Balance Sheets and Income Statements up to October 31, 2013.
2. No accurate count of GN memberships or new GN members was available. A reminder that 2014 memberships and up-dated waiver forms are now due and can be renewed at the next few GN General meetings or at the Nature Centre desk.
3. Eileen reminded and thanked those individuals who have volunteered to cover the treasurer’s responsibilities during her absence.

#### Correspondence:

1. Eileen shared a September newsletter and information package from “NaturEner” regarding the Wild Rose 2 Wind Power Project.

#### Other Reports:

1. Governance Committee
  - Board member binders will be completed at the December 3 board meeting. All current essential photo-copied materials will be available at that time.
  - Paul provided the most recent hard copies of the GN Policies, Procedures and Guidelines for the following Committees and External Organizations: Field Trips, Meetings and Record Keeping. **Motion carried** to accept these documents.
  - **Motion carried** that Hugh be given permission to purchase a First Aid Kit for use on GN sanctioned field trips.
  - Paul will distribute the Medicine Hat Community Foundation information packages at the December 3 board meeting. A proposed presentation by Mike Christie to the board by this foundation will likely occur early in 2014.
2. Budget Committee
  - Anne provided information regarding the MHIP and GN insurance updates from the MHIP Operation Committee Minutes held October 28. As such, **Motion carried** to accept the \$500.00 quote for the addition of the rider of Abuse, Harassment and Discrimination to the insurance coverage.
  - Fundraising efforts continue with the proposed Casino and possible assistance from “Canada Helps”. A Terms of Reference Policy for fundraising will be created at a later date.

#### 3. Operations Committee

Shared documents from the MHIP Operations Committee meeting held October 28 included: the minutes, the Chief Interpreter’s Report, and the Budget for 2014.

Anne announced that Phil Horch has stepped down from his position as chairperson of this committee and that Bob Townsend will serve as interim chair until spring elections are held.

#### 4. Issues Committee

- No recent meeting to report on.
- John reminded everyone that the Alberta South Saskatchewan Regional Plan will be open to the public on Tuesday, November 26, at the Medicine Hat Lodge. Participants are also encouraged to complete an online workbook.
- The legal battle with the Federal Government continues with the need to identify and protect critical habitat for the greater sage grouse in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Once again, Ecojustice urges a solution to this serious problem.

#### 5. Communications Committee

- No recent meeting to report on.
- Eileen will store or donate the old GN bulletin board.
- Discussion took place regarding the need for improved advertising (radio, newspaper, posters, etc) for the monthly Indoor Program held at the Nature Centre.
- **Motion carried** that the GN Board distribute copies of the GN Policies, Procedures and Guidelines to the Operations Committee and encourages its members to familiarize themselves with these documents.

#### 6. Outdoor Programs and Field trips

- Gary reported that the recent snow goose tour was cancelled due to poor weather.
- No up-coming programs or field trips to report. Check the Chronicle or GN website for any updates.

#### 7. Nature Alberta - no report due to Martha's absence.

##### **Other Business:**

- It was reiterated that the GN Board should correspond with our new mayor and councillors to make them more aware of our organization and its goals. In the up-coming months, the board will contact these individuals by e-mail and include a covering letter as well as a copy of the latest GN Chronicle.

**Adjournment at 9:10 pm.** The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, December 3, at the Medicine Hat Public Library @ 7:00 pm