

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of Board Meeting September 3, 2019
Hosted by Eileen Cowtan.

Present: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Phil Horch, Eileen Cowtan, Linda Fisher
Absent: Ian and Angela Turner (out of town), Anne Bernhardt

1. Call to Order: 6:37 pm. Members present: 5
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from June 4, 2019. **CARRIED**
Business arising from the June 4 Minutes:
 - Item 4.e. from June 4 Minutes. Ian Turner had asked about setting up training for the new A/V equipment used at General Meetings. Decided that Hugh will ask David Gue about setting up a training plan.
 - Phil Horch and Martha Munz Gue met with the Municipal Development Planning group as representatives of GN. while Tina Regehr met as a SEAWA rep. on July 31st. (See item 5e. below)
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. **November Fall into Action Fair:** Tina has volunteered to sit at a GN table November 5 at the MH Public Library. Tina and Angela sat at a GN table at the Spring into Action (Older Adults Activity Fair) June 4th at the MHPL.
 - b. **Websites:** It was agreed that the same domain name would be used in the GN Website update by Sandfly Marketing Inc., 'grasslands-naturalists.org.' Paul Thibault explained in Communication Committee minutes from Feb.7, 2019, that '.org' is the ending used for non-profit.
 - c. **Community Spirit Awards:** Hugh reported that SEAWA did receive the Community Spirit Award under "Awards of Service". Hugh will speak to Martha about doing the presentation at the Esplanade Main Theatre on October 3, 2019 since he will be out of town.
 - d. **Committee Budgets:** Hugh requested that these be sent to Paul by November 15. Thank you.
 - e. **Bee City Initiative:** Hugh noted that Dave McKenzie will speak at the upcoming General Meeting, September 24, about the Bee City Initiative. Dave included some Bee City Benefits in the June Sagebrush Chronicle from the beecitycanada.org website.
 - f. **Garage Sale:** Hugh reported there are still some articles available at the Nature Centre Garage sale which runs from 9:30 to 4:30 pm.
 - g. **Used Chairs:** All old, used chairs at the Nature Centre have been replaced by new chairs that will take up less room and be easier to stack, Hugh said.
4. Action Items
 - a. **Volunteer for GM Coffee/chair set-up:** Hugh reported volunteers are still needed to unlock the Nature Centre, set up chairs and make coffee before General Meetings. Corlaine suggested, in a previous Chronicle, that a small committee of volunteers could be formed to take turns with this every month. Call Corlaine at 403 529-6225 for information.
 - b. **Fall Festival in the Park (Alberta Culture Days):** This will be held at the Nature Centre September 29 from 11:00 to 3:30 pm. Volunteers needed. More details will be given in the September Chronicle.
 - c. **Filing Cabinet Storage:** Phil Horch has offered to speak to long-term member Dennis Baresco who has past knowledge of Papers and GN related Articles stored in the cabinet.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen reported there are in-class Casino information sessions accepting registration for November 28, 2019 at Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Medicine Hat. The session runs from 9 am to 1 pm. Online sessions are also offered. Email gain@aglc.ca.
Eileen reported the "Club" Savings Account stands at \$16,485.28 as of August 31, 2019 and the Chequing Account balance is \$5,167.10 on August 31. Common shares are \$1.30 bringing Total Current Assets to \$21,653.68. Other Assets consist of a Prepaid Insurance Expense of \$437.74. This brings the Total Assets to \$22,091.42.
The Casino Account Balance is \$18,657.86 as of August 31, 2019.
 - b. **Membership:** Eileen reported membership stands at 82.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen noted she received a copy of Nature Alberta which included a well-written article by Phil Horch. She also received a copy of Wildlands Advocate, as well as material from Alberta Registries (Corporate Registry Societies Act). Mail for Hugh was received to go to the City, as well as acknowledgement for the \$100.00 GN donation to the Children's Wish Foundation in memory of Bev Slater.
 - d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** There have been no meetings recently.
 - Hugh reported one result of Gerry Ehler's meeting with Chris Samraj, on June 17, was a discussion of an invasive weed reporting app called EDDMapS Alberta, and the use of it by members and the city.

- Hugh reported that topics discussed during the June 13 meeting with Parks and Recreation included; natural areas, future development of trails, and parks for all.
 - Hugh noted no tree wrapping for Beaver proofing was carried out this past summer due to a lack of wire.
- e. **Issues Committee:** (See item # 2 above) Martha and Phil Horch met with Municipal Development Planning (MDP) group on July 31, 2019. Tina Regehr also attended as an invited SEAWA representative to receive a report from the City on progress made in reviewing and revising the MDP. Martha and Phil both provided input on behalf of GN, including Phil's suggestion regarding potential water issues to City water supplies caused by thawing glaciers in the Rockies. The City hopes to have the revised plan ready for public presentation by February 2020.
 - f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher reported that Mark and Joan Wierbza and will be speaking about their trip in 2018 to three Monarch Butterfly Sanctuaries in Mexico.
Mecah Klem will be speaking at the October GM on the Sage grouse Recovery Program.
Linda also reported on a possible talk by Mia Rushton and Eric Moschopedis, an artist team from Calgary.
Linda will check with the Medicine Hat Public Library about the possibility of a presentation by Renewable Energy Lawyer, Kamaal Zaidi, from Calgary.
Phil Horch also briefly spoke about Stewart Huston, noted ornithologist and author of Birds of Saskatchewan.
 - g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Nothing to report at this time.
 - h. **Field Trip Committee:** Phil reported that 11 people attended the trip to Cypress Hills on July 6th where 71 species were tallied. He will put a report on the trip in the September Chronicle.
 - i. **Communications Committee:** Angela is out of town.
 - j. **Birding Trails:** Phil noted there is not a great deal of activity at present.
He reported distributing a box of BT Guidebooks to the Saskatchewan Tourist Office in Maple Creek as well as to the Val Marie Interpretive Centre and the Town Centre. Rob Gardner also delivered a box of books to another location.
Phil will be away in September, but will contact Lonna Hoggan, Executive Director of Canadian Badlands Tourism, when he returns.
 - k. **Bird Tales:** Hugh reported for Paul and Dee, that the window birdfeeders are being well received at residents at Sunnyside/Sunnyview.
Paul sent a report to the Board on September 3 which covered Bird Tales funding and volunteers, listed and described projects in the past few months, and stressed the importance of staff creativity and "outside-the-box" thinking to keep residents with dementia interested.
 - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela Turner are out of town.
 - m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh reported it is still a problem knowing if the location at the Nature Centre has the speed necessary for proper operation of the Web Cam.
Hugh will get in touch with Paul Thibault.
 - n. **UERAB Park Naming:** Hugh reported that Dave McKenzie will find out more about Dawn Dickenson's nomination prior to the September 24 GN General Meeting.
6. Other Business
 - a. **Next Board Meeting:** 1:30 pm, October 8, 2019 at Anne's house.
 - b. **Adjournment:** 8:15 pm
 - c. **Refreshments**