

Society of Grassland Naturalists
Minutes of General Meeting - April 24, 2012
Police Point Park Nature Centre

1. **Call to Order** at 7:05 pm. John Slater – Chair; Barry Anderson - Secretary
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from Feb. 28, 2012 were reviewed. John Slater moved the minutes to be accepted; seconded by Linda Cairney CARRIED.
3. **Exciting Sightings:** Recent sightings included the following:
 - 3 turkey vultures (Dennis Baresco)
 - a Eurasian widgeon (Milt Spitzer)
 - long billed curlews (Milt and Elaine Spitzer)
 - 2 great horned lizards (Rob Gardner)
 - a kestrel dive-bombing a crow (Alfred Keep)
4. **Treasurer's Report:** No report from Eileen Cowtan.
5. **Priority Business:** The Report Update (prepared by the GN Board) on the current status of the Sage Grouse Lawsuit and the letter from Minister Kent dated March 16, 2012 were read to the members at the meeting, because a few members had not received copies of the report and letter by email (paper copies of the report and letter were available at the meeting). Also, copies of the February Lawsuit application and recently received document about the Cabinet Confidence were also available at the meeting.

Discussion: Comments on this business issue included the following:

- Veronica Swan wanted to know if Lavar Payne had been contacted and if so, how did he respond. John stated our last meeting with Lavar Payne was on November 10, 2011. We need to arrange another visit.
- Tina Regehr commented that the Federal government and the Provincial government need to coordinate their efforts to help resolve this issue.
- Rob Gardiner indicated that GN marked fences in Dec. 2011 as a means to help protect the sage grouse from flying inadvertently into barbed wire. Rob mentioned that a list of ways to help in the recovery and protection of the sage grouse is already available from the Summit communiqué.
- Val Felesky raised the point that the bylaws should be changed to include a clause stating such as “GN will not instigate or become part of a lawsuit without a notice of motion published in the Chronicle and passed by a majority of members constituting a quorum at a General Meeting.”
- Paul Thibault responded to Val’s suggestion by mentioning that a statement to that effect would be better put in the Policies and Procedures rather than the bylaws. The ad hoc Bylaws committee should consider the suggested statement when preparing the Policies and Procedures.

6. **Interpretive Program;** Corlaine Gardner reported that the Easter weekend was a tremendous success with over 4800 people visiting the centre during this 4 day period. Volunteers are still needed for the annual Community Cleanup on April 28. Corlaine stressed that individuals or groups can assist in the cleanup anytime; gloves and bags are available. Tree wrapping will continue in the park as well.

The Main Gallery display entitled “Prairie Threads-Quilts and Fabric Art” is now showing to the end of June. Official opening will be on Sunday May 6, 2 to 4pm.

7. **Field Trips;** Mike O’Shea will lead an owling trip to Elkwater on Friday evening April 27 leaving the MH Mall at 7:30pm. Dress warmly.

Other events forthcoming include a butterfly walk on May 26, the MH Bird Count on May 27 and the Cypress Hills Bird Count on June 2. More details to follow.

8. **Indoor Programs;** Rob Gardner encouraged everyone to attend the Canadian Parks and Wildlife session at Police Point Park Interpretive Centre at 7:00pm on April 30 and fill out a workbook regarding land use issues. Rob also pointed out that the Economic Development Alliance land use meetings will continue. More details to follow.

9. **Door Prize** won by Warren Frank. He selected a book

10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 7:50 pm followed by Wayne Nelson’s presentation on nesting and wing marking of turkey vultures in east-central Alberta.