

Society of Grassland Naturalists
Minutes of General Meeting – September 24, 2013
Police Point Park

1. **Call to Order** at 7:10 pm. Anne Bernhardt – Chair; Barry Anderson – Secretary.
Welcome to Vicky Fanous, a new GN member.
2. **Minutes:** The minutes from May 28, 2013, were reviewed and **Motion Carried** to accept the minutes.
3. **Exciting Sightings:** This month’s sightings include a mink at Elkwater (Phil and Annalora Horch), a black-billed cuckoo in Police Point Park and several three-toed woodpeckers at Spruce Coulee (Milt and Elaine Spitzer), and a blooming yucca plant (Sean Allen).
4. **Newspaper Clips:** Recent articles from the *Medicine Hat News* included “The Phantom Singer of the Prairies” (September 14) and “Ottawa to enact emergency measures to protect sage grouse” (September 18) as well as a *Calgary Sun* article from September 20 entitled “Wildlife flap close oil well”.
5. **Treasurer’s Report:** – Eileen shared the most recent GN Balance Sheet and Income Statements as of August 31, 2013:

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|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Servus “30” Chequeing | \$9,181.86 |
| • Servus “20” Savings Publishing | \$4,930.96 |
| • ING Savings | <u>\$6,067.04</u> |
| • Total Current Assets | \$20,179.86 |

Eileen also made available for perusal the most recent Interpretive Program Balance Sheet and Income Statements as of August 31, 2013.

6. **Priority Business:**
 - Paul provided updates on the progress of the Governance and Budget Committees. He indicated that the GN Policies and Procedures for External Organizations and Human Resources (Abuse, Harassment and Discrimination) were accepted at the last GN Board meeting. However, the Policy and Procedure for Field Trips requires further revision. Paul indicated that the Board also accepted with deficit the GN Budget for the period April 1 to March 31, 2014, draft #2.
 - Paul updated progress on the GN website by requesting GN members submit to him by e-mail photos and write-ups to include in a gallery that would consist of field trips, special events and personal wildlife shots by individual photographers. (Check Eileen’s e-mail sent on September 20.)
 - Corlaine reported that the Fall Festival held recently at the Nature Centre was very successful. Flood damage in June to the actual building was minimal but much of the trail system needed refurbishing – thanks to Randy Taves and his crew at the City of Medicine Hat Parks Department for their assistance. Future walks and displays at the Nature Centre will be announced soon.
 - The Ranchlands Tiny Cryptanthe and Wildflower walk led by Cathy Linowski on September 17 received a good turnout – thanks to Cathy for arranging this evening.

- Thanks to Milt and Elaine for assisting Gary Martin who sprained his ankle prior to a scheduled field trip to Elkwater and area. Ironically, no one showed up for this event anyway!
- Mike O'Shea reminded everyone of the shoreline cleanup scheduled for September 28. Meet at the Strathcona Centre at 9:00 am. A barbeque sponsored by Superstore will follow. Contact Mike to register for this event.
- Several field trips are being planned for October; look for more details on the GN website and through e-mail reminders.
- No reports from the Issues Committee, Nature Alberta and SEAWA were available at this time.

7. Other Business:

- The park bench for Life-Time Members including Dawn Dickinson and Donna MacLean has now been installed just outside the Nature Centre; work on the commemorative plaques continues. Donations towards the cost of the bench are still welcome.
- The possibility of a GN sanctioned fund-raising casino will be discussed at the next GN Board meeting on October 1. Funds raised could be used to help finance a portion of the wages for Interpretive Program employees. However, if the Board accepts this fund-raising idea, it will require approval of the GN membership.
- Sean Allen shared some final comments regarding the Baby's Breath Removal Project and outlined some future opportunities related to his involvement in this endeavour.

8. Attendance tonight – 19 members for both the business and presentation portions of the program.

9. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

10. Indoor Program: Tonight's program invited individuals to share a few slides/photos from their summer experiences. Corlaine began the evening with a slideshow of a new wildlife management area near the Alberta/Montana border south of the existing One Four Experimental Station. This area referred to as the Milk River and Lost River Canyons was visited by Corlaine and Rob over the Labour Day weekend. Highlights included photos of the topography as well as landmarks such as native tepee rings and cairns. Milt Spitzer was this evening's second presenter who provided a "1000 Second Bird Quiz" consisting of photos he had taken of common (and a few uncommon) "bird" species. Congratulations to Phil Horch who scored highest on the quiz. Thanks to both presenters for their efforts tonight!