

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS  
Minutes of Board Meeting, May 5, 2020  
Board Meeting via Skype.

Present via Skype: Hugh Armstrong (Chair), Betty Rainville (Secretary), Phil Horch (via phone), Eileen Cowtan, Ian and Angela Turner, Linda Fisher.

1. Call to Order: 1:35 pm
2. Review of GN Board Minutes from April 7, 2020.  
Hugh noted that the word "will" in 3.b. under Financing for the I.P. during COVID-19, should be changed to "may" qualify for a certain amount of Federal Assistance.  
Board Minutes were then Adopted: **CARRIED**.
3. Additions to the Agenda:
  - a. **GN Sponsored Walks and Field Trips:** After discussion of the previous COVID-19 Pandemic Motion made at the last Board meeting, April 7, the Board Moved that there be no change in Policy regarding the cancellation of all GN sponsored Field Trips, Neighbourhood walks and functions until further notice. **CARRIED**.  
Hugh will put a notice to this effect in the upcoming Chronicle.
  - b. **Draft Letter to Parks & Recreation regarding Use of Infrastructure Monies:** Hugh reported that Gerry Ehlert is in contact with Scott Richter from P.& R., and will continue to keep GN informed. Gerry is the GN representative to P.& R., and does an outstanding job in this capacity. (See 5.e.below).
  - c. **Proper Channeling of Communication to External Bodies:** Hugh noted that if GN members wish to contact external bodies/organizations as private citizens, they need to indicate that in all correspondence.  
However, if GN members wish to communicate as part of the GN Society, they need to contact the Issues Committee, or the committee responsible, then the GN Board, who will certainly consider their input and pass it to the designated spokesperson for that particular channel.  
Hugh will write a paragraph in the upcoming Chronicle to describe the most effective way to address various issues as a GN member.
4. Action Items:
  - a. **Appoint New Members to the Issues Committee:**  
Moved that the Grasslands Naturalists Board appoint Brandy Hammond and Paula Munro to the GN Issues Committee. **CARRIED**
  - b. **Communication Committee Changes:** Hugh will contact Jocelyn Moore to see if she would like to chair the communications committee, since Angela Turner is now acting as Co-Treasurer with Eileen.  
Angela reported that she sent the end of year committee report to Jocelyn.
  - c. **Environmental Master Plan:** \* Phil to send his two letters addressed to the City, to Martha for review.  
Hugh will forward the letterhead to Phil. It was suggested that Hugh would sign as President.
  - d. **Annual Spring Bird Count and Wildflower Count:** Marty has sent an email to GN members interested in participating in these counts.
5. Reports:
  - a. **Treasurer's Report :** Eileen/Angela  
Eileen reported that David Gue has ordered QuickBooks Accounting Software, which she is using for GN accounting.  
Eileen noted that she has sent forms in for the GST rebate but has not had a response yet.  
She said Alberta Societies Act annual return is due the end of June.  
Eileen noted the MHIP balance is \$271,448.07 as of April 30. The Casino Balance is \$6,650.00 for the same date.  
The "Club" Savings Accounts stands at \$16,558.90 as of April 30, 2020 and the Chequing Account Balance is \$3,845.33.  
Common Shares are \$1.35, bringing Total Current Assets to \$20,405.58. Other Assets of GST Receivable and prepaid insurance expense bring Total Assets to \$21,238.69
  - b. **Membership:** Eileen reported that it is difficult to give an exact number, since only 50% of the 2019 members have renewed their membership for 2020.  
No reminder notices have been sent out yet.\* Eileen will put a note in the June Chronicle.
  - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen reported receiving "The River Current" newsletter from PFSRB, as well as Alberta Wilderness Association's Wild Lands Advocate.  
Sandfly Marketing Inc. sent a request for payment for work done converting GN Club website.

- d. **Operations MHIP Report:** As new Chair of this committee, Hugh reported that he submitted a budget to Scott Richter, Parks Manager.
  - e. **Issues Committee:** See item 3.b. above.
  - f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher noted Corlaine said Brian Keating is tentatively booked at the Nature Centre as Indoor Speaker for October 4, 2020.  
Linda reported that September, October and November speakers are not booked yet because of uncertainty over social distancing rules set by the Alberta Government. The current restrictions may be lifted later this year, but it is impossible to know at this time.
  - g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Martha is checking into possible grants to GN History work.
  - h. **Field Trip Committee:** Nothing to report at this time.
  - i. **Communication Committee:** Angela said there is nothing to report at this time.
  - j. **Birding Trails:** Phil will contact Jace Anderson, Executive Director, Tourism Medicine Hat, regarding increased coverage of the Birding Trails Guide in the 2021 Report on S.E. Alberta.
  - k. **Bird Tales:** Hugh reported this is on hold because of COVID-19 restrictions to visitors at Senior Retirement Residences in Medicine Hat.
  - l. **Nature Alberta:** Ian and Angela noted there is no news at this time.
  - m. **Web Cam Update:** Hugh reported this is on hold.
6. Other Business:
- a. **Lifetime Membership Presentation:** Hugh noted this presentation might still possibly take place at the June Annual pot luck if it is held this year. However COVID-19 social distancing rules could prevent GN members from holding this event if limits are still in effect.
  - b. **EDDMapS Information by Nick Regehr:** Tina R. reported to Betty, that Nick would likely be posting this information on the GN face book page, and that he would be interested in preparing an article for the Chronicle. Thank you Nick.
  - c. **Next Skype Board Meeting:** Tuesday, June 2, 2020 at 1:30 pm via Skype.
  - d. **Adjournment:** 2:45 pm