

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING
Minutes of Board Meeting August 31, 2021
Hosted by Phil and Annalora

Board Members present: Phil Horch President ,Martha Maudsley Acting Secretary, Hugh Armstrong, Ian and Angela Turner, Eileen Cowtan
Absent: Linda Fisher
Guest: Martha Munz Gue

1. Call to Order 7:18 pm.
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from June 1, 2020. Moved Adoption by Angela, 2nd Ian, all in favour. **CARRIED**
3. Additions to the Agenda:
 - a. **Chronicle submission deadline September 4:** for pre-AGM info. to members. Supply minutes of last year's AGM to Milt by Betty. Also, put in another call for nominations on the floor. Martha MG suggests personal phone calls as more likely to get a response.
 - b. **Volunteer Connector:** Genevieve Mathieu at volunteerMedicineHat.ca (Aug.19 email to Phil). Ian checked it out through Climate Connections as Genevieve is on that too. Thinks it will be helpful when we move forward with the Climate Change Symposium. We can use it to find volunteers. Ian will ask them how to post.
 - c. **GN & Tourism MH letter of Understanding & Agreement:**Electronic Brd. vote Aug.17&18 response to Gerry Ehlert. **The Issues Committee was authorized to come to an agreement with MH Tourism office as to how GN will participate in the magazine and retain Intellectual Property.** Approved by board electronically. Signs to be ordered for Scenic Views will include a QR code. Gerry wants to know from Paul where the code will be directed. Angela says they'll help out with kayak photos by Len Moser. Contact Gerry Elhert.
 - d. **Discussion re. election of Board Members:** Hugh says there's not much to say, going to have to get nominations from the floor. Angela, Phil, and Martha KM need to be elected since they are on the Executive. John Slater said previously that he will be the Nomination Chair. Phil to give instructions and communicate with John re: AGM meeting role.

Action Items:

- a. **AGM plans for Sept.14, 2021:** Betty will send out 2020 AGM minutes for member review along with a general email with details of the upcoming AGM. Only Treasurer, President, and Issues report being presented at the meeting, mention that rest are online. Angela to remind people to read them. Martha MG suggests a separate meeting for reports to be read and discussed in detail, to bring interest. Outside at Police Point Park 4:30. Tell people masks are encouraged. Get a sound system. Ask David Gue if he can set it up. Bring your own chairs. Martha MG and Angela will bring Birthday muffins for Phil, and her children. Members bring their own drinks. Phil has received Issues, Nature AB, Communitactions, and Treasurer's Annual reports so far. Hugh will prepare and have someone deliver the President's annual report by September 4. All these reports need to be submitted to Paul Thibault to be included on the GN website before the annual meeting. Coraline will give a report and introductions to new staff. Ian Landsill and Aleisha Lew, will start on Oct. 1 but will work with other members.

Ian wants to know if we should put criteria on whether we should or shouldn't hold the AGM rather than wait for government standards.Is this following part needed in the minutes? Hugh says the Operation Committe will orgainzie a farewell appreciate send-off for both Corlaine and Marty. Should we bring up having regular evening indoor meetings again? Martha MG brings up the idea of speakers on zoom. Although not a meeting, still something. Tina's son may be willing to help with the setup.
- b. **Future Board Meeting times:** Phil move to 4 pm 1rst Tuesday to accommodate Martha KM
- c. **Climate Change Steering Committee:** Phil, Hugh, Ian and Brooke Kapeller are able to come Saturday, Sept. 18th at 10 am at Police Point Park Nature Centre, inside or out depending on the

weather. Angela wanted to know if anyone has approached Sandy Roberta about being a member at large. Has Ben White from SEAWA moved on? Martha MG says he has moved to the University of Saskatoon.

Reports:

a. **Treasurer's Report:**

- b. Angela Turner reported MHIP has been approved to get CERB (Emergency Wage Subsidies). Jane McGough doing the books for MHIP.
- c. **Membership:** Angela 2 new members, notify Milt. Eileen says also to look back for new members from June. Eileen says at least 75 members. Discussion took place on when to apply late yearly membership fees to the following year. Eileen reported that she has been using the month of October as the cut-off for applying it to the following year.
- d. **Correspondence:** Angela reported none has been received..
- e. **MHIP Operations:** Hugh reported that the Operations Committee has hired Aleisha Lewis as the new Chief Interpreter to replace Corlaine. The committee is trying to arrange a September meeting. They usually meet on a Monday. Everything is working very well. Justine as a part-time assistant will remain. As Ian and Alicia are in university they will condense their hours which work, since Kat and Justine are there. Hugh says it's working well, Martha MG says it's a great team.
- f. **Issues Committee:** Martha M.G. and John for Board discussion and decision.
- **Board Voted electronically** on approval for Adopt a Pond article to MH News-press release, so Martha MG will submit. She is heartened to see student teachers using the College pond for a community classroom. Can be used as an alternative to bussing to PPP.
 - **GN Board. and Committee members adopt specific river paths.** Martha MG says that it's spilled over from SEAWA taking over Saratoga. 3 members did volunteer to weed. Was brought over to PRAXIS and the Archeological Society where Martha MG made a presentation and got volunteers cleaning and recording invasives. The coordinator of outdoor activities discussed with Medalta staff to adopt a creek at the entrance to the river. The whole creek has been adopted by 5 organizations. What about the river? Interpretive program? GN? Martha MG will give a brief 5-minute talk on this at the AGM.
 - **List of young. Adults and teens** to help with Special Days planning. Usual thing of trying to get more people involved in different age brackets. Again pass around a paper? or ask for calls if you know of youth who would do a 1 off volunteer job. Phil to address in his report.
 - **GN to participate in 3-4 online discussion groups** to clarify positions/possibilities on Irrigation Expansion & if more time is needed for discussion? Phil asked how Martha MG is involved. She says she just reads a lot. The concern is that natural prairie is dug up to increase irrigation. Cheryl Bradley in Lethbridge is really involved with this, there and in Taber. Phil says there is something at Rattlesnake, there's a lot of ground being moved, lots of equipment. He's hoping to find out what's going on. What's going to happen to canal properties when pipes are underground? We don't know. Martha MG talked to Annette Ten Cate about making clay gophers would like a display at Nature Centre or through GN. Perhaps an anti-strychnine display at the gallery? Marilou M (SEAWA) wants a celebration for 10 years of restoration in the city and out, including the wildflower garden at PPP. How can we highlight this in programming?
- g. **Budget Committee:** Paul n/a
- h. **Governance Committee:** Paul n/a
- i. **Indoor Committee:** Indoor responsibilities. Phil says we need a program person to replace Linda Fisher. Sandy Robertson would have a lot of contacts which Phil says is needed in the position. Phil will call her. When we can start this, we need to announce it at the AGM. Martha MG says we need to be flexible and prepare to have it on zoom if necessary. Make use of the SK prairie presentations with a discussion afterward. Ian says it could be a combination of remote speakers, live speakers. and get-together for socializing. Angela and Ian will test-run a meeting with zoom. Martha MG

suggested just for the board to try it amongst ourselves. Future Ground Network has tutorials. Schedule something for October, such as Rob Gardner to do his Mauritius presentation. Ask members at AGM. Tentatively October General meeting 4th Tuesday, October 26th, 7 pm. November 23rd Marilou M Riparian Restoration projects. Phil to ask. Phil can do Costa Rica on January 25th. Who helps set up for the speaker? David Gue. There is a list of directions at the Nature Centre.

- j. **Fundraising Committee:** Hugh n/a
- k. **Field Trip Committee:** John/Martha M.G. Going to Red Rock Coulee September. Milt and Phil are thinking of Murray Lake later in September.
Wednesday, September Walks: see Chronicle, and email updates from John Slater.
- l. **Communications Committee:** Communications responsibilities
Chronicle distribution: Eileen, but Angela can help. Eileen to make the envelopes. Milt sends it to Copyworks. Go to Copyworks to be printed, Angela picks up, drops off some at Nature Centre. Suggestion to include sending Chronicle to government officials.
- m. **Birding Trails:** Phil dropped Birding Trail Guides off at Walsh Tourist Office. Angela left her phone number if they need more or wildflower guides.
- n. **Nature Alberta:** Brooke Kapeller article on GN to Nature Alberta.

Other Business:

- a. **Irrigation Issue**-see Phil & Cheryl Bradley email dated June 9. (see Issues Com. idea re. discussion Group in 5. e above).
- b. **Next Board Meeting** 4 pm, October 5, 2021, at Angela and Ian Turners. May be changed according to COVID numbers.
- c. **Motion to Adjourn** at 908pm Angela moved to adjourn. CARRIED.