

December 7, 2021 MEETING
SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING

188 Ranchman Crescent N.E. (Angela and Ian Turner's)

1. **Call to Order** 3:53 pm. Board Members present: Angela Turner, Ian Turner, Phil Horsch, Linda Fisher, Martha Maudsley

2. **Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from previous Board meeting (November 2/21.) adopted by Linda, 2nd Angela all in favour/carried

3. **Additions to the Agenda:**

- a. **Irrigation:** Huge construction project at Rattlesnake (slipway) Phil doesn't see issues, old slipway unsafe. Plan to "expand" Murray Lake, we should find out what that is. Cheryl Bradley heading up Lethbridge through Ecotrust for Prov. gov't to do environmental assessment. Phil plans to join as we are an interested party along with 8-9 groups but as the project seems rushed he doesn't know if it will go through.

4. **Action Items:**

a. **Approve Scenic Views as an Ad-Hoc Committee** - Phil-Had a meeting, they agree they are an ad-hoc committee and so need to be appointed as such, with Jerry and John as joint Chairs (similar to Birding Trails). Jerry says it's become a big project. Move to appoint Scenic views as an ad-hoc committee. Motioned by Linda, 2nd Ian. All in favour.

b. **GN Club Budget approval for 2022** - Phil, using budget committee report. **Motion to adopt 2021 budget** by Angela, 2nd Linda Approved for minutes. **Motion to adopt 2022 budget** by Ian, 2nd Linda, all approved

c. **Casino Signing authority** - Angela- need motion to say who has signing authority, remove Ann Bernhardt and Betty Rainville from signing. **Motion** by Angela and Linda to 2nd to add Phil Horsch, Hugh Armstrong, Martha Maudsley, Angela Turner. **Society of Grasslands motions that the Casino account be moved to Servus Crescent Heights branch and remove Ann Bernhardt and Betty Rainville, and add Angela Turner and Martha Maudsley as having signing permissions.** Motion needs to be presented to the Casino committee and Credit union. All in favour

d. **Great Plains Conservation Network** - Linda- Thinks it's something worth adding our names to. It doesn't cost but you can give a donation. We gain a network, they get another name/scope. Strength in contacts, information. Linda volunteers to add our data if we do it. Let's defer this to another meeting as it's not urgent, although there's a webinar in Feb.

e. **Emerald Awards** - Phil - we should nominate our organization as we've done a lot in our history. We've been nominated in the '90s. Not for profit foundation that shares environmental stewardship stories. Can receive a \$2000 grant, etc. Martha MG and/or John, David can be asked to fill it in.

f. **Change credit card names for MHIP** - Phil, from Paul's email. Obtain signatures for any club/group credit cards. Needed for conferences? but Angela found there were many fees involved. She suggests using something like Eventbrite for registrations. Corlaine and Marty drop off signing, Alica and Ian come on. Angela **motion to remove Corlaine and Marty from**

MHIP credit card signing and add Alicia Lew and Ian Langill. Hugh to look into it/ Angela will ask for it to be done as of Jan. 1/ 22.

g. **Communications Chairperson** - needed for monitoring of communications

h. **Policy and Procedures Training Session** - See Governance committee

i. **MHIP budget 2021:** interim statement: **Motion to adopt interpretive program financial statement to date by Angela for 2021** 2nd by Ian all in favour. Carried. Motion to approve

j. **Monitor social media:** Linda has volunteered to monitor and flag anything that goes in media/social media (Facebook, newsletter. Angela can let her know if anything is in the newspaper). is in alignment with our POV. Ian points out that members can't be constantly monitored and need to have some freedom. Highlights need for a communication director.

k. **Public Media interaction:** Who has the right to speak to the media on behalf of the group? Needs to be one person, President or designate. **Motion that the President and/or delegate responsible for any public media interactions.** By Angela, 2nd Linda All in favour.

l. **Electronic Payments:** Angela sees it as just a line change added to our registration form (Membership can be paid by cash, cheque or e-transfer) so long as it is worded properly. Paul has concerns about record keeping. **Motion to modify registration form to accept cash, cheque, or e-transfer.** Angela motion, Linda 2nd. Angela to follow up with Paul

m. **MHIP 2022 Budget:** approval for budget with an notation that \$5000 of revenue being approved contingent on Casino funds coming through.

5. Reports:

a. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela Turner Bank totals" Chequing account \$8297.18, Savings \$16615.50 **Move to motion** to accept budget by Linda, 2nd by Ian. all in favour.

b. **Membership:** Angela-2 new

c. **Correspondence:** Angela-no

d. **MHIP Operations:** Hugh Armstrong not here, but so far as Phil knows transition with Alicia and Corlaine going well.

e. **Issues Committee:** Martha Munz Gue - nothing to report

f. **Governance Committee:** Paul to do a training on policies and procedures sometime in January. Be sure to read and understand it before meeting. Give final approval to following policies and procedures: **Awards and donations:** as previously approved, just need a **Motion to adopt** by Linda, Angela 2nd all in favour. **Motion to adopt Contract and agreements:** Angela motion, Linda 2nd all in favour.

g. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher a) **Jan. 25/22 Cliff Wallis** via Zoom Grasslands - Planets Coming into Alignment? Focus on a broad strokes overview, with pictures running in the background of Alberta, Mongolia, Argentina, USA. Then a global view of grasslands including Great Plains Conservation Network and Grassland Roadmap. Then Canada's focus on SAR (species at risk). b) **Feb. 22/22 Cathy Linowski** will speak on Mosses and Ferns in the dry mixed prairie. Also will highlight the new finds of Alkali wing nerve and Rust cord Mosses in Alberta. Both of these last 2 are SARA S-1 ranked species. c) Possible March idea

of a members' Pecha Kucha style presentations (20 slides in 7 minutes). 7 minutes - a maximum of 10 minutes by 5 - 7 members. Linda will write an article for the Sagebrush Chronicle asking interested members to contact her to determine the feasibility of doing this.

d) Linda suggests perhaps our June member Potluck supper could be held at the Group camp at Echodale. She will look into what is required for booking the Group Camp.

h. **Fundraising Committee:** Hugh Armstrong-no report

i. **Field Trip Committee:** John Slater/ Martha Munz Gue-no report

j. **Communications Committee:** no report

k. **Birding Trails:** no

l. **Bird Tales:** no

m. **Nature Alberta** Phil: contact Nature Alberta regarding Club rather than regional representatives. Can we get a rep? Ian feels we didn't get a lot out of the meetings in the past, but Angela says the new group is better including Website updates, director, president, online magazine etc., show how much better it is now. Did they discuss this part of the world (as opposed to focus on the Edmonton area). Unless we have someone who wants to rep, no point. Ask for rep. in Chronicle.

n. **Symposium** meeting on 14th to finalize budget/ pretty much worked out rough format as guidance to a committee to take over. Potential speaker list started. Brent Smith partner MHC will talk to the dean before Christmas which would save money/ provide theatres. Geared to reaching the average person in SE Alberta, not for experts. Target to get 500 people attending so quite a big promotional budget planned. Angela thinks we should talk to SEAWA as they must have gotten funding from somewhere for their past events? Hugh is working on grants and corporate sponsors including selling display booths in foyer, Friday afternoon for school groups.

6. **Other Business:**

a. **Meeting with Mayor & City Council** Martha/Phil/ Gerry working on this. With the new council, 4x the requests to meet will get back on dates. Also Gerry suggests we should meet with Bob Nicolay, City Manager/ operations, similar to a city commissioner. He's met with a couple people who have a master environmental plan in the works. These people report to Bob Nicolay. Phil is inclined to meet with him after the city council. Is there a new environmental manager with the city? Our city used to have a good plan re; river pathways, but once Russell Smith left the environment to the wayside. Our presentation to look at how we've gone to wayside based on plans from Calgary, Red Deer, Edmonton.

b. **SEAWA trade show:** asked GN to go in on a small booth \$600/ shared with SEAWA. SEAWA has done a booth in the past. 2 ½ days. What would we get out of it? Phil suggests if you have an attractive display, possibly recruit new members. We can put it in the Chronicle and ask for volunteers (although it's near the time of the Casino). Angela and Ian showed our beautiful display signage, which Phil agrees would be very attractive to people.

c. Give Rob Gardner's email regarding the **Ranchland signs** (spelling issues and incorrect information) to the issues committee and follow up on. Good lesson that when we do signs such as for Scenic Views need to be double checked/ sent out to members to review. We've applied for a Vibrancy Grant from the City to for more signs.

b. **Next Board Meeting** 3 pm, January 4, 2022 via Zoom if needed Or at Phil's if we can meet in person.

c. **Motion to Adjourn** at 6 pm