

**AGENDA**  
**SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING**  
**October 5, 2021, 4:00 pm**  
Via Nature Alberta Zoom

1. **Call to Order:** 4:05 pm. **Members present** Ian and Angela Turner, Hugh Armstrong, Betty Rainville, Linda Fisher, Paul Thibault, Phil Horch, Martha Maudsley
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from August 31, 2021.** Motion to adopt by Angela, Ian 2nded.
3. **Additions to Agenda:**
  - a. 1) **Director's Appointments** (confirmed at this Board Meeting)  
Past President- Hugh Armstrong  
Members at large- Ian Turner, Linda Fisher (Appointed after the AGM 2021).  
1 vacancy for a member at large
  - 2) **Committee Volunteers Selection** (confirmed at this Board Meeting)  
Committees to meet in October 2021 to select Chairperson and confirm budget.
    - Communications Committee no chair as yet
    - Governance Committee Paul Thibault
    - Issues Committee Martha Gue
    - MHIP/Operations Committee Hugh
    - Field Trip Committee seems to be John Slater/Martha Gue, Phil, and Milt doing birding. Paul says neighbourhood walks are field trips not issues committee as they have too much going on. Discussion if the walks are field trips.
    - Indoor Program Committee Linda agreed to Chair!
    - Fund Raising Committee Hugh Armstrong
    - Budget Paul Thibault
    - Scenic Acres Views - under the direction of Gerry Ehlert, and Len Moser, Martha Munz Gue, John Slater, Paul Thibault.
    - Birding Trails- Phil Horch
    - Climate Change Symposium- Phil Horch Paul says this should be its own committee as Issues committee is bloated
  
    - Birding Trails - not been active due to COVID
    - Webcam committee not functioning

Paul commented that some committees are being called projects, but projects only fall under committees. Important to distinguish responsibilities as committees are responsible for projects and everything that falls under them. All committees are listed on the website. Who is the chair of the issues committee? That person is responsible for scenic views. Motion to declare Chairs we are convinced of: Ian motioned, Angela 2nd All in favour

Can we do a Motion to confirm the appointment of Chairs? Paul asked to speak regarding some concerns he'd seen where policies and procedures

weren't followed. Such as when the 2013 elections came Paul asked Milt not to put anything political in Chronicle or on Facebook. This brings up a bigger issue in that the Board is responsible for policing policies and procedures. We had a problem with multiple contracts such as written contracts weren't given. Contracts agreements need to be read and agree to follow GN policies and be signed by the president. Paul suggests 1 board member be fully familiar with board policies. Training should be given to board members and chairs. Paul is agreeable to doing this. Paul is willing to attend board meetings as needed to help with governance. Phil thinks we should clarify this with Chairs. Board is willing to do the training as a PowerPoint presentation. Paul suggests that with a new chief interpreter it's a good time to do training especially in regards to contracts such as with vendors. This would happen after COVID restrictions are lifted and new staff in place.

Motion to hold training sessions regarding policies and procedures at a time we can meet in person. Ian motioned, Angela. All in favour. Phil asks if we should wait to appoint Chairs until after this meeting.

### 3) **Projects** (contacts)

Adopt-a-Pond- Martha Munz Gue

Butterflies- Website- Dave McKenzie

GN/City Parks Department Projects- Gerry, John

Wildflowers- Martha Gue

### 4) **External Organizations:** (Volunteers confirmed at this Board Meeting)

Nature Alberta- Brooke Kapeller

SEAWA- Tina (Secretary), Martha Munz Gue, and Paula Munro?

Methanex CAPS- Ian Turner

Palliser Air Shed- David Gue

Future Ground Network- Ian Turner, Martha Munz Gue

Carol Porter Bluebird Trail - Milt Spitzer Ian points out this isn't a GN project. Paul has taken it off the website. It's a separate legal entity. Motion by Angela, 2nd by Ian, all in favour.

5) **Amendment previous document:** Betty Rainville June 1 meeting minutes documented community spirit awards, delete John Slater's name. Angela moved to remove, Ian 2nded, Minutes of today's meeting. Meeting minutes for June 1 minutes approved as amended.

- b. **AGM Post Mortem:** Summary of meeting. Went well having it outdoors. We need more positions filled. Personal interaction is key. To keep our society running, we need indoor meetings. Phil hopes to resume meetings soon. Paul commented that John asked for a vote to see if everyone agreed with acclamations but that's not needed. Once someone's in by acclamation, it's done.
- c. **Welcome to Martha Maudsley**-secretary: Phil thanked to Betty for all her years of hard work.
- d. **Nature Conservancy Manyberries Project:** Phil says they now have specific dates in mind, Milt will put in Chronicle for all members. Linda

motioned, Ian 2nd all in favour. Betty asked if we've worked with them before. Paul says Milt worked with them for a few years.

#### 4. Action Items:

- a. **Committee Chair Budgets:** submit to Paul by November 15th, 2021. Angela asked about the Communication budget? Phil asked what it was last year. Paul looked at last year's \$1250, \$800 for copying, \$250 for postage, \$100 for a website, \$100 for misc. Paul is willing to host the website at his cost. He's also been paying domain costs. Angela says to submit for it. Paul thinks it's \$100 for the domain? He'll see when it's up for renewal. Ian asks if it's a yearly cost it should be an itemized point on the Communication budget. Angela will submit last year's budget to Paul. Phil will put a call for the budget in Chronicle.
- b. **Climate Change Symposium update:** Phil First meeting steering committee September 18, reviewed our mandate, goals, mission for this symposium. The task of feasibility comes up with the budget, how to finance it. Phil prepared a rough budget which lets us know how much fundraising. Think of target audience. 1 ½ day symposium for students, maybe Friday night to Saturday. March or April 2023, free for students. Hold it at MHC as a partner. Brooke made us aware of a province-wide committee that we can meet with and explore. Brooke to prepare a spreadsheet of possible speakers, looking for recommendations for speakers regarding the theme of South Eastern Alberta, and a keynote speaker that would be a draw. Meet again on Oct. 14th. Paul asked who's the lead on this? Phil says at this point GN. If we form a partnership we'd have to put something in writing. It's important to get quotes before doing budgets. Conferences can be high risks, especially if there are fees to collect, cancellations such as due to COVID. Steering committee will not organize, that will be a different committee.
- c. **Scenic Views Project:** Phil working with Parks dept. With signs, photos, a wonderful project is moving along. Paul expressed concerns about how it's been operating.
- d. **Ranchland Issues:** excavation taking place for the new footpath. Concerns on the impact on preserved areas. Issues are looking at it. Angela saw it, is it a protected area? Martha Gue has been in touch with the city. Ian asks Phil if it's environmentally protected because of tiny crimpton. Phil says it is a preserve and Martha is clarifying boundaries. Ian says there's a big billboard stating it is protected. Should we be saying anything in the Chronicle? Ian says this needs to be dealt with quickly as it may be a part of federal funds being offered. Angela points out those projects had to be finished by end of year. Betty says it's all through Dunmore. Phil saw new trails at Echodale but they're not paved. Keep Martha informed.
- e. Buffalo trail wind farm Project: Gerry has contacted the company that was been good at responding to concerns. They agreed not to put turbines on grasslands will use ditches for underground power lines and will but will pay attention to plants. Letter to go out under Gerry's signature.
- f. Snake project: Phil let them know we're interested but want more information. Letter back saying they've received other offers and what can

we offer them. Phil says it sounds like they're shopping around. He hasn't heard back so think they've gone with some other group.

5. Reports:

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela sent it out last week. The big expense was \$1750 on signs. GST rebate paid out to the appropriate group. Casino account change signing authority to who? Need a chair. Need a request in minutes so the signature can be changed at the bank. Needs to know security questions (from Eileen).
- b. **Membership:** Angela 67, includes single and family. 1 new member, very keen. Doreen Armstrong and her partner Paul Wright.
- c. **Correspondence:** Ian got EBT charter accounted to sign an engagement letter for their services. Angela think they do payroll? To do with MHIP. It was worth having them when we got the emergency funds. Hugh will phone Eileen.
- d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Hugh had a meeting on Oct. 4/ 21 Things continuing to be impacted by COVID but it's looking up. Jane resigned but is still the bookkeeper. Angela want to know if MHIP should be doing a report at the meeting as well? Phil thinks it's Hugh's responsibility. Alica taking over Oct 1 with Ian, hired 2 new part-time staff Lisa Kennedy produces blog, Bethany Klein high school students to help Justine (both paid positions.) thinking of reactivating volunteer program for help with programs such as bird feeder building. Alica wants a sick leave policy of 10 days/ 75 hours/year reported to the chief interpreter. Cannot be carried over to next year. Make an effort to find a replacement. After 10 days leave without pay. It Will be a year after year policy, not just for COVID. It's now a part of the 2022 draft budget \$258 000 increase of approximately. \$20 000 from last year (2%). Will send to budget committee to be sent back to the board. Angela wants to know if anything has to be sent to the city? Or is it renewed? Hugh says it's an annual contract. The current contract ends on Feb. 28/2022. Start negotiations with the new city with the new council. Made close to \$8000 on Easter sales, \$2000 on stuffed toys, birdseed. Paul asked about gifts for Marty and Coraline. Deposit required. Paul says money needs to come from the MHIP budget. But Hugh thinks that since they're hired by GN we should give the gift. Paul says since we're under budget it should come from them. We need to be careful about our policy, it cannot be a donation to them as only charities get donations. Needs to be like a bonus. Will it be given after or before they retire? These are considered gifts. Paul says if we wait until after they retire, we can change that policy such as 'with the exception of retirement gifts'. Paul to write up this exception statement to submit to the board. Angela motions that the money for retirement gift is to come from MHIP budget. Ian 2nd, all in favour
- e. **Issues Committee:** No written report from Martha Gue. She may send it after.
- f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher We had tentatively hoped for an October meeting but given the state of COVID that won't happen. Rob Gardner prepared to give Mauritius a trip in November. In our usual place, masked. Recommend that people are double vaccinated. Ian points out if there is a

provincial regulation at the time of the meeting, we can put that in Chronicle. Phil suggests leaving it until the next meeting. Ian asks if it's not an in-person meeting, let's do an electronic meeting to try. Let's plan to hold that meeting, 1st choice is in-person but move it to online. Ask Rob if he can do it. Ian to explore it with Rob. Cancel the October meeting, do this for November. Linda will contact Rob to ask if this is ok, if he is Ian will set up a trial run.

- g. **Fund Raising Committee:** Hugh
    - 1) **Casino:** -\*Signing authority –Angela
      - \*Casino Opportunity Feb.26-27 2022 Phil wants to know who was on the committee with David? Many of the volunteers have moved on. We need volunteer workers, managers, etc. Hugh talked to Crystal Bates who is prepared to work Hugh will put in Chronicle. Phil asks if we all agree to hold this date? All in favour.
  - h. **Field Trip Committee:** Phil says things will happen
  - i. **Communications Committee:** need a new Chairperson
  - j. **Birding Trails:** nothing to report
  - k. **Nature Alberta:** Brooke Kapeller nothing to report
6. Other Business:
- a. **Volunteer Connector:** Ian contacted Genevieve and talked briefly as she was on vacation. Ian will go ahead and set up an account. No cost, as a trial run. If it works, MHIP should set up an account too especially for specific events. Thinking ahead for the symposium!
  - b. **Irrigation Issue:** Phil says Martha Gue and he is monitoring with regular communication.
  - c. Community spirit awards have been postponed to an unknown date.
  - d. **Adjournment** 6:14 pm Motion to adjourn by Linda
  - e. **Next Board Meeting** 4 pm, November 2, 2021, at Ian and Angela's house or via Zoom