

Grasslands Naturalists General Meeting Minutes (Zoom)

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

1. **Call to order 7:03 pm by Phil Horch:** recommending Mark DeVillier's book "Water" and acknowledging World Water Day and the idea of water as the most important issue of this century.
2. **Member's Exciting Sightings:** Several members mentioned lots of Gulls Martha MG saw a grasshopper and geese at Connaught Pond, as well as about 6 pregnant deer on Hamilton Court. MH News reported a moose at Westview dog park and Sheila McLeod's nephew had one in the yard in Calgary.
3. **Review of previous GM minutes, errors or additions:** GN is not able to adopt minutes due to our rules against online voting. You can view them online on GN website.
4. **President's Report – Phil Horch:** Most important thing on the agenda last month was our meeting with the City of Medicine Hat. A really good opportunity to find out City's environmental plan.
 - A. **Report on Meeting With City of Medicine Hat:** Met with Kevin Redden Director of environment, lands, and government Relations, Craig Marshall and Adria Cooms. Walked through the whole process of the plan being introduced. Initiative has been approved while the plan is in infancy and will be created later with input from the public and GN. Will take about 2 years to exist in its fullness. Used David Gue's new brochure to help introduce GN to the city. Their hope is that all new city's initiatives will fall under the environmental master plan. GN brought up our concerns with things like Ranchlands path and mountain bike trail to Echodale (which they defended, saying it was well researched by a paid consultant). Phil worked with Gerry Elhert on a document to present. Overall a good meeting and a good start to a city that's more environmentally conscious and friendly. Sheila McLeod asks if there was any mention of the environment assessments of the clubs in the North end. Phil says anything will have to follow the new environmental plan.
 - B. **Bird Friendly City Initiative:** Brought up by Phil and Martha MG at City meeting. Focus on reducing threats, restoring habitats and natural spaces, educating the public, Nature Canada has a short video on their website for more information. Hope to launch this with a competition for the official bird of Medicine Hat.
 - C. **Nominations for AGM:** June 28th is meeting. Deadline for nominations is April 30th. Phil is willing to stay on as president for 1 more year but will step aside if another candidate likes to step up. Martha MG is temporary vice for the next

year. Angela Turner is willing to stay on as Treasurer, as is Martha Maudsley as secretary.

- D. **Spring Trade Show:** April 22 to 24th at the Cypress Centre. Need volunteers at booth

- E. **Trex Art Show Reception – April 19-June 15th:** Jointly with SEAWA. 29 Artists have offered to submit projects. Reception on Earth Day April 22.

5. **Fund-Raising and Casino Report – Hugh Armstrong, Past President:** Thanks to everyone who participated, it went really well. No funding results until 3rd quarter. Application for next one sent in. Waiting for results from TD Friends of the Environment and AB ecotrust. Applying for money for Scenic Views. Martha MG suggests leaving a table of books available by donation at Trex.

6. **GN Finance Report – Angela Turner, Treasurer** 25 individual 31 family. \$140 donations paid for 7 more \$892.50 Chequing account \$7140.81 savings \$16623.69
7. **MHIP : Alicia Lew** Depending on grants, starting search for summer jobs . Started selling Ukrainian egg kits. A portion is going to Canadian Red Cross initiatives. March started programs like plant a sunflower, Painter Girl. Public nature walk by Drake with about 30 participants, and another this week on Fossils and rocks. staffing changes. Started selling Ukrainian egg kits. A portion is going to Canadian Red Cross initiatives. March started programs like plant a sunflower, Sunday March 15 Painter Girl. Public nature walk by Drake with about 30 participants, and another this week on Fossils and rocks. Looking for volunteers April 23 for Earth day activities.

8. **Indoor Program Report – Linda Fisher, Indoor Program Chairperson** Dr. Glynis Hood tonight on Beavers, April 26 GN member Bob Townsend on the history of Police Point Park. Kevin Redden or coworker January 2023 update on city environmental plan.

9. **Issues Committee Report –** Martha Munz-Gue: John Slater sent out email. Wednesday walk tomorrow at the pond behind Canadian Tire. Over 30 ponds adopted. Now looking for households or organizations to adopt the river southside, bridges past the Y and to the park. There is a webinar March 23 at 7 o'clock our local council of Canadians group, a discussion on what does it mean to be a blue community, which is something that the Council of Canadians nationally is promoting. Email Martha MG for a link.

10. **Other announcements : David Gue** says Friday at noon short list of Emerald Award recipients as a community environmental organization. Phil thanks the Gues for their tremendous contribution to the application.

Milt has a birding field trip April 2nd at Manyberries meet at Tim Horton's at Dunmore Road at 6am.

11. Solar Farms: Phil says new issue relating to growth of wind turbines and solar farms in Southern Alberta. New one is west of Red Rock Coulee. This type of energy production is very land hungry 7 square miles with solar panels mostly on agricultural land but may go on native grasslands. We are becoming aware of new guidelines and protections needed. Hearing is coming up with the county but you have to be directly affected by it to participate. Letter sent to Nature Alberta asking them to get involved.

12. Coffee Break

13. Introduction of Guest Speaker , Dr. Glynnis Hood – Linda Fisher
Topic: "The Beaver, the Switch and its Wardrobe"

14. Closing Remarks and Speaker Appreciation – Linda Fisher

15. Adjournment 9:02 pm