

**SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING minutes**  
**September 6 2022 4:00 pm.**

1. **Call to Order:** 4:05 pm. Members present: Linda Fisher, Phil Horch, Ian Turner, Angela Turner, Martha Maudsley, Hugh Armstrong (online), Corlaine Gardner, Martha Munz Gue
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from June 28, 2022 all in favour/adopted/carried.
3. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from June 7 2022 all in favour, adopted. Carried
4. **Items:**
  - a. **MHC Youth Recruitment** Phil and Gerry have been working with Brent Smith Thursday October 27 room S145. Discussion of taking this package and using it for future presentations. **Phil to ask David Gue or Rob Gardner to make a powerpoint. Ask one of the Interpreters from PPP to do the presentation.**
  - b. **Field Trip Difficulty Ratings** Come up with possible names for a committee? John Slater, Martha Munz Gue, Milt Spitzer, Ian Turner, Template to include distance, type of terrain, possible hazards. Rating scale? With definitions for each rating. Or by colour such as green/orange/black. **Ian to ask members to join**
  - c. **Committee Status Reviews - chairs to send Phil committee status including members, chair etc. for next meeting**
  - d. **External Organization Review** after an AGM we are to review to confirm which organizations we have links to: Nature Alberta, Great Plains Conservation Network, Methanex, Palliser Airshed, Carol Porter Bluebird Trail
  - e. **AGM Review** - awesome turnout. Generally positive
  - f. **Irrigation Issue Update** - Martha Munz Gue **deferred to next meeting**
  - g. **Casino Funds Spending Policy** - How to determine when to pay? There's a GN proceeds list from the AB government. Is there a budget for casino funds and also other donations? Pay insurance from it? **Phil suggests the finance/budget committee work on guidelines.** John Slater paid \$1779.75 for wildflower brochures, as well as donating \$500 to pay for extra 2500 brochures. John donated \$500 to increase the number of brochures but then was made to pay again up front to Copyworks when he picked up the brochures. **Motion to pay John Slater the \$1279.75 from the casino account for the GN budgeted wildflower brochures (that he paid to Copyworks previously). All in favour/passed. Motion to reimburse John Slater \$500 for the money he paid upfront to Copyworks. All in favour/passed. Angela sent him a thankyou letter and tax receipt. Phil moves that the budget committee meet and prepare guidelines and policy for the use of casino funds and accepting donations. All in favour/passed.**

- h. **Future Meeting Formats** - Indoor programs. Members indicated they'd like a hybrid meeting. Offers opportunities for speakers and members to join meetings without driving in. Ian talked about possible setup including with a remote speaker or a speaker at the centre who needs to be recorded for those online. Could have a skeleton crew at Nature centre/or someone's home and everyone else participates via zoom. Ian suggests we encourage speakers to do remote presentations as it's easiest. **We will try an in person hybrid zoom option meeting for September with an announcement in Chronicle welcoming masking due to poor air circulation in the theatre. All in favour/passed.**
- i. **Email notifications - deferred to next meetings**
- j. **Field Trips - Members and non-members attending DEFERRED to next meeting**
- k. **Accepting Donations** - Phil asks to what extent we allow members to donate and make budgeting decisions. Hugh says this is a good place for the budget committee to step in to decide.
- l. **Big Brothers and Sisters programming** - Martha MG **DEFERRED** to next meeting

a) **Director's Appointments**

Past President- Hugh Armstrong  
Directors at large-

b) **Committee Volunteers Selection** (confirmed at this Board Meeting)  
Committees to meet to select Chairperson and confirm budget.

**-Communications Committee**

**-Governance Committee**

**-Issues Committee**

**-MHIP/Operations Committee**

**-Field Trip Committee**

**-Indoor Program Committee**

**-Fund Raising Committee**

c) **Projects** (contacts)

**Scenic Acres Views Brochure** - under the direction of

**Adopt-a-Pond** - Martha Munz Gue

**Birding Trails** -

**Butterflies** -

**GN/City Parks Department Projects** -

**Wildflowers** -

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

**Nature Alberta** -

**SEAWA** - Martha Munz Gue  
**Methanex CAPS** - Ian Turner  
**Palliser Airshed** - David Gue  
**Future Ground Network**- no official at this time  
**Carol Porter Bluebird Trail** - Milt Spitzer  
**Great Plains Conservation Network** - Linda Fisher

**5. Reports:**

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela income statement/balance sheet in email. \$9,370.11 in the Chequing account and \$16,678.98 in the Savings Expenses MHIP ads and Copyworks spent from casino \$2600. Ecotrust for Scenic Views \$760 AB final amount. \$500 tax receipt from John Slater \$110 from birding Trails from Tourism Gerry ordered \$40 weed guide
- b. **Membership:** Angela 3 new since June
- c. **Correspondence:** Angela certificate from Emerald awards. Wind farms correspondence.
- d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** Hugh
  1. 2023 Budget and negotiate with the city for the next 5 year contract. Extend Alicia's contract to the end of year December 31 and then renegotiate. \$223 000 in chequing account with 3 months to go. Looks in good shape.
- e. **Issues Committee:** Projects Adopt a Pond 19/24 adopted. All creeks adopted. Just a library to the ballpark not adopted in the river. Not sure how many Adopters are reporting invasives on EDD maps.
- f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda Fisher Really appreciates David Gue's help in getting meetings to members. Hyland Armstrong 'the cowboy with a master's degree 'September 27 October Morganne Wall burrowing owls Nov 22 Sandy Roberson update on Ord's kangaroo rat tentatively January on city's master environmental plan.
- g. **Fundraising Committee:** Hugh should be hearing about in the new year having another casino in March. Angela mentions Alica says the online website got first \$35 donation
  1. Casino: - Discuss how to spend funds see Item 4.g.
- h. **Field Trip Committee:** John Slater (see Chronicle for walks and Field Trips).Hugh is planning 2 birding trips in September. Phil doing one October 17.
- i. **Communications Committee:** Coraline says we've met, she's elected chair. Linda to write Chronicle write ups for hybrid meetings.
- j. **Birding Trails:** n/a
- k. **Nature Alberta:** n/a
- l. **Budget:** Paul Thibault n/a deferred

**6. Other Business:**

- a. **Adjournment** 6:22 pm
- b. **Next Board Meeting** pm, October 4 hosted by Ian and Angela at 4 pm or via Zoom/Skype if needed.