

Grasslands Naturalists General Meeting
Via zoom
Tuesday, September 27, 2022

1. Call to order – Phil Horch 7 pm

2. Member's Exciting Sightings - What was your big highlight this summer?

John Slater sent out photos of a squirrel at his place and then a red fox twice. Corlaine says there have been reports of squirrels in Redcliff. She was travelling west of Creston and saw a wild turkey! Very unexpected. Milt says Bob saw a black throated and blue throated warbler. Daneil J says he and Mark saw a badger along the 501 digging in a ditch under the road. They were able to get photos. And they saw a gopher pop up! It dug its way out away from the gopher. They also had a good fall with hummingbirds for about 3 weeks. Mostly ruby throats, 1 rufus. Martha MG sees lots of birds in her and her neighbours trees. On holidays she saw whales, otters, woodpeckers, seals, and all the sea creatures on the island. Hugh says they've also been having hummingbirds in the yard and a waxwing hit the window.

3. Indigenous Acknowledgement

4 . Review minutes of May 24/22 General Meeting – no changes reported

5. President's Report – Phil Horch Welcome back after 3 months of summer. We're back into a schedule of hybrid indoor meetings. Meeting MHC students Oct. 27 for recruiting and with the city concerning master environmental plan. Looking closely at development of irrigation expansion in S. Alberta. The straight line wind storm damaged homes and Echodale Park which lost over 100 large trees which affects 8 bird species that nest there.

6. Vice-President's Report – Martha Munz-Gue Interested in collaborative projects that bring people into nature including weekly nature walks and adopt a pond/path initiative. Pond behind Canadian Tire still in need of a group to cover it. Martha suggests tying white strips (such as an old pillowcase) onto Russian olives to bring attention to them and get people talking. There's interest in starting walks at times that students and/or working people could attend on weekends or after school.

7. GN Finance Report – Angela Turner Grasslands Naturalists savings \$16,678.93

Grasslands Naturalists chequing --- \$8,779.21

Grasslands Naturalists Casino --- \$12,655.16

5 more memberships since June. We got the rest of the eco-trust grant, donations from Mike O'Shay memorial and John Slater. MHIP, tourism, and some anonymous individuals donations for birding guides.

8. MHIP Report

A. Alicia Lew 5 staff working. Summers provide family and public programming including Metis beading from Ayla. Goats returned 2x this summer. Staff worked on expanding summer programs for fall. Looking for volunteers for

Sat. Oct. 29 “The Disappearance” scary forest walk. Total yearly Revenues are 80% of what was projected and expenses 62% of projected.

B.Hugh Armstrong Previous finance contract with the city is up and will be negotiated for 2 years as they’re not doing 5 years anymore.

9. Outdoor Program Report – Milt Spitzer, went to Sandy Point in SK saw 1000 cranes total 44 species. Phil Oct 15 meeting at A&W **John Slater** says we’ve had successful neighbourhood walks. Walks listed in Chronicle.

10. Indoor Program Report – Linda Fisher Oct. Dr. James Byrne on climate November Sandy Robertson on kangaroo rat December traditionally potluck after bird count. January MH Parks update on Environmental master plan.

11. Scenic Views and Invasive Species Update - Gerry Ehlert Our focus this year continues with buckthorn at Police Point Park. We have been doing additional follow-up work on buckthorn at SE Hill, Connaught Pond, and Kin Coulee. Our thanks to Hazel Grey, Dawn Dugan and Jesse Robertson for their volunteering help. We partnered with MHIP for 4 workshops (2 neighbourhood, 1 native/invasive plant ID at PPP, and 1 workshop with the environmental students at Medicine Hat College. Thanks to Cathy Linowski for all her help. Worked with SEAWA, City and MH news to publish 2 articles. One was a general awareness and other in response to resident complaints about dead Russian Olive trees around Connaught Pond. We are partnering with the city on the Russian Olive task force in October. 8/17 scenic views signs up and website running. Remaining signs hope to be put up in June 2023. Thanks to Len Moser for his photography, Paul Thibault for computer help and website building, David Gue and Phil Horsh for consultations, and John Slater, our assistant project manager, and Hugh Armstrong our funding chair. Special thanks to additional photographers Dan and Mark Schielbien, Milt Spitzer, Dwayne Myers and Hans Meuller.

12. Communications Committee Report - Corlaine Gardner planning to do some different things such as using free ads in newspaper. Thinking of a book discussion group.

13. Other Reports or Announcements - no

14. Coffee Break 5 minute break

**15. Introduction of Guest Speaker – Hyland Armstrong –
Linda Fisher**

**16. Q & A , closing remarks and speaker appreciation – Linda Fisher 9:27
pm**