

**Grasslands Naturalists General Meeting minutes
Nature Centre Police Point Park
Tuesday, October 25, 2022 7 pm**

1. Call to order – Phil Horch 7 pm

2. Indigenous Acknowledgement by Phil

3. Member's Exciting Sightings - Dan saw an Eastern screech owl down by the railroad bridge! Phil notes migration is underway, saw 100 tundra swans and first large group of snow geese on the field trip at Murray Lake. Saw 49 species including a bull snake. Martha MG noticed migrating birds coming from Calgary (snow geese). Annalora and Phil saw hawk activity south of town, bald eagle and sharp shinned hawk (after the snowfall too).

4 . Review minutes of General Meetings – Nov. 2021/ Jan, Feb. March, April, May September 2022. All in favour/ carried.

5. President's Report – Phil Horch Hopes to continue meeting in person this winter. Also supports decisions of those meeting online. GN Hope to make hybrid a permanent option. Introduction of the board: Martha Gue as interim vice president. Secretary Martha Maudsley, Treasurer Angela Turner, Hugh Armstrong past president and MHIP Operations Committee Chair. Reminder that GN does manage the Nature Centre. Ian Turner, Linda Fisher for indoor programs, Corlaine in communications. We are always looking for help on committees both short and long term. Please join where you are interested. Issues committee is in particular need of help (a Chair): issues include irrigation expansion in Southern Alberta. Logging emissions calculations by the federal government (Nature AB letter asking for support); Russian olive as invasive species ; climate change; and other issues are many. GN is meeting with MH College students to make them aware of the Grasslands Naturalists. Meeting with city representatives regarding the Master Environmental plan and becoming a bird friendly city. Need to recruit membership as Martha MG and Phil are planning to retire in the near future.

6. Vice-President's Report – Martha Munz Gue As she wrote a report in Chronicle now she'll answer questions. Discussed Waste reduction week as an issue. The Parks Department asks that Russian olives be recorded on EDD maps. Martha notices only SEAWA employees are reporting russian olives. Martha got 3 photos from pond adopters. SEAWA is looking for volunteers for ecosystem restoration projects.

7. Russian Olive Discussion - Phil Horch & Martha Munz Gue MH and Lethbridge/ Brooks are the most populated Russian olive areas of the country. GN members and SEAWA is bringing this issue to the city, who wants to move cautiously as people don't realize the problem and damage to native species. GN has not taken an official position yet. Discussion. www.landstewardship.org grants available for tree removal (must plant trees to replace).

8. GN Finance Report – Angela Turner per email of October 17/22 GN Chequing --- \$8,576.87

GN Savings --- 16,701.55

We've had three new memberships in the past month and a \$75 donation. The expenses for October were the Chronicle printing and a laptop case for the GN laptop which is used to do the accounting and for Zoom meetings at the Nature Centre.

The Casino bank balance is: \$11,170.47

As for memberships: 37 Individual, 40 Family, and 8 LIFETIME memberships.

8. MHIP Report

A. Alicia Lew 6 staff at Nature centre 2 full and 4 PT. Programming has been steady on a variety of topics. Program has secured more than \$35 000 of funding which is 40% more than targeted. Collaborating with Allan Ingelson and Arlene Kwasiak at Canadian Institute of Resources Law to see if we can bring some of our climate change interpretive programs to life using new grants at U of Calgary. **B. Hugh Armstrong** begins negotiation for a new 5 year contract with the City of Medicine Hat. Terminology/ figures set so should be relatively smooth compared to last time.

9. Outdoor Program Report – John Slater 25 Wednesday morning walks so far. Gas City tomorrow, Ross Glen next week. Walks start at 10. We've had 10 other events including birding trails, Great Sandhills. Transboundary Grasslands Partnership Workshop Nov. 15-6 (also mentioned in Chronicle). Contact Phil or John to register.

10. Indoor Program Report – Linda Fisher November is AB Environment and Parks Sandi Robinson on endangered Ord's kangaroo rat. Watch Chronicle for December (if we can have potluck after the Christmas bird count).

11. Scenic Views and Invasive Species Update - Gerry Ehlert n/a

12. Communications Committee Report - Corlaine Gardner n/a

13. Other Reports or Announcements - none.

14. Coffee Break 5 minute break

15. Introduction of Guest Speaker – Dr. James Byrne - Integrating ecosystems, agriculture, renewable energy development in Southern Alberta and beyond –

Linda Fisher

16. Q & A , closing remarks and speaker appreciation – Linda Fisher