

GN Policies and Procedures

Policy Section: Committees and External Organizations

Subsection: Issues Committee

Topic: Objectives and Operations

Status: Approved by Board

Date: 6 December 2022

Policy Statement

1. The Issues Committee provides guidance to the Board by preparing correspondence; arranging meetings with MP, MLAs, City Council members, County Councils, government departments, etc.; advising the Board on issues of conservation and environment; and presenting their concerns on specific issues.
2. The main Committee objectives are to:
 - a) Address issues concerning conservation and environment, and protection of wildlife and their habitat; especially for species at risk in the grasslands of southeastern Alberta.
 - b) Arrange meetings with elected government representatives and municipal committees.
 - c) Network with other conservation groups; eg. AWA, SEAWA, NC, CPAWS.
 - d) Prepare correspondence when required subject to Board and/or Membership approval.
 - e) Plan forums and field trips dealing with issues.
 - f) Assure a Naturalist presence at open houses and electronic opportunities for input to government plans.
3. Although the Issues Committee can provide guidance on Conservation and Environment, the Board is responsible for monitoring compliance of the Issues Committee activities with the goals, mission and objectives of the Society.
4. Members of the Issues Committee, selected by the Board, should include the Past President, GN Representative to Nature Alberta, the Vice President and additional members. The President is an ex-officio member of the Issues Committee with voting rights.
5. A guiding principal for addressing issues can be to “start small, have support, and grow networks”.
6. The Committee shall refrain from political activities that are inconsistent with Revenue Canada restrictions for charitable organizations.

Procedures

1. The committee activities will include:
 - a) Review government reports and documentation concerning conservation and the environment.
 - b) Assess the plans and proposals dealing with the issues.
 - c) Prepare an annual budget.
 - d) Record minutes of the Issues Committee meetings.

e) Submit Annual Report to the Board.

2. The committee will meet at least three times a year and respond to Board inquiries concerning issues and correspondence related to conservation and the environment.

3. Three committee members are required for both meeting and vote quorum. A majority vote is required for a motion to be approved. If there is a tie vote, the motion is defeated. Votes may be made by show of hands or by electronic means.

4. The Committee shall not act in any way that can be perceived as endorsing or rallying against a particular political party or election candidate. The Committee can support or object to policies and actions but not political parties. When referring to previous and existing government actions, policies or proposals, the associated political parties shall not be named but simply referred to as the 'government' or 'previous government'. The same approach shall be used for the 'official opposition'.