

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING minutes

November 8, 2022 3:00 pm

Hybrid: via zoom and at Martha MG home

1. **Call to Order:** 3:11 pm. Members present: Linda Fisher via zoom. Martha Munz Gue, Angela Turner, Ian Turner, Hugh Armstrong, Phil Horch, Martha Maudsley absent: Corlaine Gardner
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from October 4, 2022 adopted and approved. Carried.
3. **Business Arising From The Minutes**
 - ***James Byrne follow up** : He's interested in doing a follow up with us after his presentation at the Oct. 25 General meeting. Phil asks if Linda can contact him and set something up. Martha MG has sent a letter to him and suggests SEAWA join too. Linda is not able. Angela asks what needs to be done? Martha MG suggests an exploratory zoom meet. Get together with MH College, City and be more collaborative. Ian suggests Phil or Rob Gardner since he's also been in contact. Jim suggests a possible conference in the summer as well as developing an action plan. Martha MG thinks initially it should be the executive. **Phil says he and Rob can both contact him.**
 - * **Field trip difficulty ratings** - Ian will get a group together and plan to have a report ready by next spring.
 - * **Field trips re: non-members** - Phil, Corlaine n/a deferred to the next meeting.
 - * **Youth Recruitment Report** - Phil reported that 2 staff and 11 students attended the event. IP staff did a great job of engaging the students. 6 students became members of GN.
4. **New Business**
 - * **Russian Olive issue** - Phil and Martha now on the radar. Martha says Gerry's on the city committee. They are gathering information. Martha MG suggests education for our own members. Gerry recommends GN takes no official position until the task force comes up with one. Martha MG suggests a workshop on 3 species such as russian olive, buckthorn, leafy spurge. Get Gerry and John to run it, maybe with science students. Ian asks if it's better to work with the city rather than in isolation. **Phil and Martha MG will talk with Gerry to bounce ideas about where to go as a society on Russian olives.**
 - ***Transboundary Grasslands Workshop** Phil and Martha have signed up to go to Stampede grounds next week. Budget from issues committee paying for Martha MG. Representatives from Montana and Saskatchewan attending. **Phil and Martha will report back.**

* **Police Point Park activities issue 2** activities Sat. evening by Interpretive program (Disappearance) and Esplanade (Deep Dark). No plans for parking. John noticed large numbers of cars Friday night, so collaborated with Bruce, Grant, Bob to make up a parking crew. Over 300 cars. Need 2 more radios and more “no parking signs”. It worked but needs to be coordinated for the future. Discussion taking place avoiding 2 major events at same time. Make sure Alicia is involved in further events planned at PPP. Martha MG reminded that the three parks that were established after the massive River Valley Study were PPP, Strathcona, and Echodale.

PPP was established as a nature park. Activities involving large groups were intended to happen at Strathcona and Echodale, where there is more parking and open spaces.

Kin Coulee also can be used for larger groups. Martha MG receive a long text from a member who is appalled that we host large group activities at the nature park.

* **Logging emissions Reporting - Phil** regarding letter drafted by Nature Canada. Because of late notice we didn't become signers though with more notice we could have. Should we automatically accept requests from NA? As we will need their support in future. Are logging trucks part of our mandate? (**Linda suggests putting a request in the Chronicle for someone to take on filing documents and archiving.**)

* **Irrigation Expansion Status** Martha says there's a letter written. SAGE (South AB Group for Environment) has been doing work on cumulative effect on expansion/ went through Freedom Of Information Protection of Privacy but they are behind by months. Cheryl Bradley from SAGE wants our consent for a letter. Concern projects are being rushed through without consultation. **Linda motions GN signs this letter. Passed all in favour / carried. Martha MG phoned Cheryl on speaker phone to let her know our approval of the letter and will bring this letter to MPs and MLAs.**

* **GN Land Acknowledgment Statement** Phil used a modified version at the General Meeting Oct. 25/22. Concern over the word 'neighbour'. Motion new version used, all in favour/ carried. **This modified version will be used from now on. Phil sent an updated version to Paul for the website.**

* **Veiner Center Fall Fair Report - Phil for John Slater** and Hazel Grey represented us and it was a good endeavour.

* **Hybrid indoor meetings update - Linda** Thanks to Phil, Ian, Angela and David's efforts for the GM meeting to go ahead. Cumbersome having people coming up to Phil's laptop but no more so than people going to the mic. We can think about having another laptop on the side for questions and committee reports. There are Apple laptops at Nature Centre but could be

hard to coordinate? This month's speaker prefers to be in person Sandi Robertson so will do it again the same way.

5. Committee Reports

- a. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela - **Chequing** \$8576.87 **Savings** \$16724.96 **Casino** \$11170.47 **Expenses** Chronicle printings \$52.50 laptop case \$50. **Donation** of \$75
 - b. **Membership:** Angela 3 new in past month, 38 individuals, + 6 students, 40 family 8 lifetime members. Angela notes this is the highest she's ever seen!
 - c. **Correspondence:**
 - d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** see PPP activities. **Hugh to provide guidelines for the whole PPP program.**
 - e. **Issues Committee:** Discussion of possible Chairperson as it's needed badly. Need to start networking with groups with common concerns **Martha to contact Genevieve.**
 - e. **Indoor Committee:** Sandi Robertson AB Environment and Parks, "Sand Dune Restoration and Recovery of Ord's Kangaroo Rat". December Potluck after Christmas bird count? Ian Langil's looking after it. Will March be our AGM? Yes. Phil suggests looking for a Russian Olive speaker. Phil wants to arrange coffee at meetings and arrange for different folks to supply cookies. Martha suggests asking people to bring their own beverage in a travel mug. Linda wants to let us know about the cost for supper. It's supposed to be just paid for Linda and the speaker, but in this case his wife came too and GN paid for it. Let's think about an official policy. James also requested his mileage fee be donated back to GN. **Linda to look for a Russian Olive tree speaker and to make a writeup encouraging those to bring their own cups. Angela to pick up some baking. Hugh to ask Alicia to start coffee before meeting.**
 - e. **Fundraising Committee:** Hugh has a meeting tomorrow with Corlaine and Alicia to look at a company that does grants online. MHIP used it over the past year for reduced fee but now there will be a larger cost. Ian got an email from Methanex that we will get the \$500 donation again.
 - e. **Field Trip Committee:** nothing

- e. **Communications Committee:** Linda notices in the past that the membership form hasn't been in the past 2 issues. Angela says he takes a break since most have joined.
 - e. **Birding Trails:** n/a
 - e. **Nature Alberta:** letter above
 - e. **Budget:** Have your budgets reviewed by your committees and have them to Paul by Nov 15th.
6. **Other Business:** Phil brought to our attention a major global meeting in Montreal. Over 100 nations participating in the UN COP15 Dec. 7 to 19 guidelines for the governments from around the world will come together to agree on a new set of goals to guide global action through 2030 to halt and reverse nature loss.
- a. **Adjournment** 5:32 pm
 - b. **Next Board Meeting** Tuesday December 6 at 4pm at Angela and Ian's place. Can come at 3:30 pm to socialize first.