

**SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING minutes**  
**December 6, 2022 4:00 pm**  
**at Angela and Ian's home**

1. **Call to Order:** 3:51 pm. Members present: Phil Horch, Hugh Armstrong, Corlaine Gardner, Paul Thibault, Ian Turner, Angela Turner, Linda Fisher, Martha Maudsley, Martha Munz Gue absent: n/a
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from November 8, 2022 Adopted as is, carried.
3. **Business Arising From The Minutes**

\* **Transboundary Grasslands Workshop - Phil & Martha MG** (from Martha MG via email) "I have already made use of some of the networking, Alvin First Rider gave me his card. SAGE was looking for a way to connect with indigenous community about irrigation expansion. So I passed on Alvin First Rider's contact information to Cheryl Bradley. Also I have some follow-up work with the group at the table next to ours. They need some help figuring out how to make their team building dream work in conjunction with the Adopt a Pond initiative. I'll find a location closer to their office."

**\*Youth Recruitment - Phil n/a**

**\*Issues Chair - Phil** We need a chair! Gerry has offered to help with the irrigation project. Ian remembers discussing in the past that the committee takes on too many big issues. We need to stick to local issues. Phil says currently we are. The Issues chair seems to have to take on everything. Needs to be clear you can delegate. Paul suggests it needs to be someone who is good at management and organized. A good speaker. from Martha MG via email " I think we need to appoint an ad hoc committee to explore possibilities of an evolution of the issues committee into something with more connections with other groups that are addressing the same issues. Together we might gain more insights. I think it is most unhelpful and discouraging that the budget proposal does not reflect appreciation for the stunning amount of work that members of the issues committee have done this year and in the decade or more preceding this year. "Networking and relationships" focus for exploring issues." **Phil to contact members on a search for a chair.**

**\*Russian Olive Workshop - Phil &** from Martha MG via email "In person help is needed for Pond and Path Adopters to become comfortable with the EDDMapS app. Perhaps IP staff could provide personnel to go out to the pond or path if one of the adopters phones in to ask for that kind of help. Also perhaps IP, GN, SEAWA, and ELGR relations could work together to prepare a workshop on use of the EDDMapS app. I could also ask John Whidden and Jason McLester if the third year teacher education students could do a workshop at the college pond for all the pond and path adopters. Timing is tricky as students come and go." Phil wants to educate GN members first. Is there merit in organizing an indoor program and

inviting Pond adopters? **Linda is looking for a Russian Olive expert as a speaker for the March AGM.**

#### **4. New Business**

**GN Bylaws approval - Paul** sent to members, no feedback received. Main changes are to allow electronic voting, virtual and hybrid meetings now included in bylaws. Lifetime memberships can be posthumous. What is not added is how this is to be done/voting. That will be in policy and procedures. John pointed out we need to include votes by audio. We also need to consider votes by abstentions. These votes aren't recorded. For January meetings we need to give out hard copies of this, for a February vote. If there's not a quorum for a general meeting we can just not have the meeting. Or have an informal meeting. **Motion to adopt the bylaws as amended. All in favour, carried. Motion to approve policy and procedures as amended. All in favour, carried.** Missing minutes from 2010-11. Can see if Tina has a copy. Consider writing a history and interview founding members. Is the board interested in forming a historical committee? Ian suggests asking members at the next President's report in a meeting. **Motion to establish an ad hoc committee to create a history of Grasslands Naturalists. All in favour, carried. Phil to contact Dennis, and Paul is willing to help.** Bob Townsend would be good to contact too.

**Communications Committee Budget Changes - Paul, Corlaine** Paul will be submitting items for budget.

**Master Environmental Plan re WSP - Phil** we need to prepare for engineering firm to contact GN as interested partner. Discussion on who to contact and how we will be involved. Gerry interested in being involved. **Phil proposes he, Martha MG and Gerry be involved in making proposal to firm.**

**Walkie Talkie Purchase - Paul, Phil** to be purchased with casino funds. **Angela to follow up with John.**

**Draft Minutes to Paul - Phil- Martha KM to include Paul in draft minutes.**

**Pro Bono Lawyer - Phil, Paul** Phil given some suggested names to follow up with.

**GN Written History - Phil** see above

**National Bird Day - Jan. 15 - Phil** Ian Langil is wondering if we want to do anything to recognize this day? **Phil to meet with bird friendly committee so can ask. Martha MG will ask at Wednesday field trip.**

**World Water Day - Martha MG** March 22 - Clean up of Ponds and Paths by pond and path adopters. Official launch of year 3 with updated list of volunteers.

**Ecojustice letter - Phil** - letter sent out as per last meeting. Martha says **Gerry has offered to draft the letter.**

5. **Committee Reports**

a. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela - **Chequing** \$8,602.43 **Savings** \$16,747.64 **Casino** \$ 10719.99 **Angela has asked for insurance quotes. Motion to adopt, carried**

b. **Membership-** Angela 50 individuals which includes speakers students, 42 family 8 lifetime members.

c. **Correspondence:** Angela - Nature Alberta magazine

d. **MHIP Operations Committee:** total revenue is at 96%, expenses at 78% of projected. Contracts coming up.

e. **Issues Committee: Invasive species-Ger and John**

**Adopt a Pond or Path Initiative-Martha MG**

**Transition MH-Rob**

**Climate-Genevieve**

**Kiwanis/ Chamber of Commerce luncheon January 24 2023** Martha MG via email " at which the Mayor will give the State of the City address. It is a huge networking opportunity. I phoned the office of the Chamber and found that tickets for the event are \$65. I think GN should support the President and the Communications Chair to attend. I will likely attend on SEAWA dime. Anyone can buy a ticket to the dinner. GN should call the Chamber office and ask to be on the mailing list for other opportunities for networking. SEAWA has four names on the list to receive the announcements. That allows for the organization to be notified whether the designated person is out of town or sick or whatever. "

f. **Indoor Committee:** Linda will look into booking a venue for March AGM

f. **Fundraising Committee:** no

f. **Field Trip Committee:** no

f. **Communications Committee:** no

f. **Birding Trails:** no

f. **Nature Alberta:** no

f. **Budget:** no

6. **Other Business:** no

a. **Adjournment** at 5:49 pm

b. **Next Board Meeting** January 3 at Phil's place.