

**Grasslands Naturalists General Meeting  
Nature Centre Police Point Park  
Tuesday, January 24, 2023 7 pm  
Hybrid - at Nature Centre and online**

**1. Call to order – Phil Horch 7 pm**

**2. Land Acknowledgement - Phil**

**3. Member's Exciting Sightings** - Linda videoed a herd of 200 antelope south of her home, and saw 8 bald eagles above Echo Dale. Phil says this is a record year for eagles! Linda also reported a Riverside resident has seen 6 turkey vultures overwintering. Phil saw 100 robins and 30-40 cedar waxwings at PPP, 2 bluebirds which have never been recorded in winter before. Alicia says Dan saw a saw-whet owl in the parking lot over several days, with prey.

**4. Review and Adoption of minutes from November General Mtg - Martha Maudsley- Adopted and carried as posted and online.**

**5. Memorial to Eileen Cowtan who passed away to be organized, as a long time active member. Watch for information and details.**

**6. GN and the Future - Phil** - volunteers needed especially for President and Vice president. Can email [jslater@telusplanet.net](mailto:jslater@telusplanet.net)

**7. President's Report - Phil**

- Announce AGM

-Call for nominations for Honorary memberships sent to Martha Gue through Grasslands Naturalist Mailing Address Grasslands Naturalists Box 2491 Medicine Hat, AB T1A 8G8

-Glen Motz, MP meeting - Martha and Phil had a meeting with Glen last week as an introduction. Talked about irrigation issues and Meridian dam.

-Insurance Renewal - single biggest expense as a society, required by City.

-Call for Annual Reports before February 10 for AGM March 28

-Historical Committee - hoping to document the history of society. Looking for an author. Let Phil know if you're interested in joining the committee.

**8. Vice-President's Report - Martha Gue** - Phil and I attended the State of the City Address on Tuesday January 24 . GN representation in groups like SEAWA, Alberta Invasive Species Council increases our reach, mutual support, new ideas, new ways of reaching and gaining new Membership. How? By making annual appointments with elected representations – an annual routine. Discussion by Rob Gardner about his Transition MH website.

**9. New Bylaws - Paul** - bylaws are being amended mostly to allow electronic voting. Posted online as well as hard copies available at tonight's meeting. Board gave final approval in December. Now is the members' opportunity to look again

and to vote in February. Then will go to the government for their approval which will take time. Another change, Directors can no longer receive any remuneration for services to society. Martha MG wants to thank Paul for his work

## **Committee Reports**

**1. Finance - Angela - casino \$9673.25.** Expenses were advertising, zoom subscription. **GN \$9137.76 Savings\$16 771.11 Needs volunteers to go over books for AGM**

**2. Membership - Angela - Individual 5, 42 family, 7 lifetime**

**3. MHIP - Hugh, Alicia** currently 6 staff (No change). Continue to book school programs. Young Artists inspired by nature display (art by high school students) up to Jan. 31. 2022 was a successful year, about 22 000 contacts! 158 school programs. 27 community programs. 40 different public programs. Looking for volunteers for Family day especially with parking. Hugh adds they have a meeting with the City Jan 26th to, we hope, finalize the renewed 5 year contract. Thanks to Paul for taking on insurance issues and we think we have it solved. Thank you to Elaine Spitzer who has now retired from Operation Committee, so Ops Comm is looking for replacements. Next Meeting of Ops. Comm is Feb 13th.

**4. Indoor Program - Linda – Upcoming programs are Morganne Wall on burrowing owls on Feb 28. Marilou Montemayor at March 28 AGM on Russian olive trees. Possible pecha kucha style evening with 10 minute talks given by members for April 25.**

**5. Field Trip Program - Milt, John, Martha MG -** Wednesday walks meet at Nature centre at 10 am. If the weather is good we get outside, otherwise we enjoy the birdfeeders and talk. Looking for people to lead weekend walks.

**6. Fund-Raising - Hugh n/a**

**7. Issues Committee - Martha MG, John n/a**

**8. Communications - Corlaine -** Milt puts together a great newsletter! A new feature is discussing books. Right now there's no set meeting time but information is there. Get in touch with Corlaine and read your newsletter.

**Introduce Guest Speakers Kevin Redden and Adria Coombs - Linda**

**Thank Speakers and close meeting - Linda**