

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING

February 8 , 2023 4:00 pm

at Martha Munz Gue's home 107 Hamilton Court NE

1. **Call to Order:** 4:08 pm. Members present: Phil Horch, Angela Turner, Ian Turner, Corlaine Gardner, Linda Fisher, Hugh Armstrong, Martha Munz Gue, Martha Maudsley absent: n/a Guests: John Slater, Paul Thibault
2. **Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes** from January 3, 2023. Adopted as is
3. **Business Arising From The Minutes**
 - 3.1 **History Committee** - Phil - still haven't found a chair/author for history committee. Martha MG suggests doing it in stages/eras as a smaller project and to get started. Like a social group for 'golden oldies/past executive'
 - 3.2 **Pro Bono Lawyer** - Phil - still looking
 - 3.3 **Bylaws Vote** - Phil & Paul - will vote at the February general meeting. Make sure there's a quorum (10) at the physical meeting.
 - 3.4 **Insurance** - Paul - insurance renewal/ renewal of City contract. We need 2 types: commercial liability / directors insurance. The Interpretive Program needs to look at waivers for equipment. Director's insurance is looked after/paid. Now working on the commercial type portion. Need a lawyer to look it over. Thanks to Paul for taking care of this. **Motion to make the following changes to insurance policy: To decrease the limited liability 3rd party to \$2 million from \$5 million dollars; all risk and legal liability to Nature Centre increase from \$500,000 to \$1 million; increase employee dishonesty bond from \$10,000 to \$25,000.**
4. **New Business**
 - 4.1 **AGM Plans** - Phil, Linda - Angela will continue as Treasurer, Martha KM will continue as Secretary. AGM will be held in the Nature Centre. Marilou Montemayor to speak on Invasive Russian Olives.
 - 4.2 **Eileen Cowtan Event** – Phil - Partner with Girl Guides? (Martha checked with Joan Kaupp and Bev Hudema} Corlaine and Martha MG to do a write up for Chronicle. Board will meet Thursday February 16 at 7 pm via Zoom to plan.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Angela - **Casino bank balance is \$10,900.27 savings \$16,794.61** - Angela suggests putting this in a GIC. **Motion to move \$10,000 from Savings Account to a GIC at Servus for 15 months. All in favour, carried.**
Chequing \$9,627.76
MHIP wants GN to give a service in kind receipt to Christy Vince (Painter Girl) after receiving an invoice to GN for the amount for the year labeled as 'donation'.
Motion to adopt treasurer's report. All in favour, carried.

6. **Membership- Angela-** coming in! individuals family lifetime members.
7. **Correspondence**
8. **Communications:** Corlaine - gave a talk to the noon hour Rotary club, they were impressed with programming and pamphlets. Discovered website on bird card didn't work but now automatically forwards to the new site. Discussion about putting board meeting minutes online. Hugh suggests putting a password on it. **Move that general meeting minutes accessible to all members, and that minutes of board meetings accessible only to board online. All in favour, carried. Corlaine to take care of this.**
9. **Indoor Program** – Linda - Asking for guidance about sharing screenshots and recordings of indoor programming (say, to someone who missed a meeting). These cannot be shared as this could be a copyright violation.

Upcoming Speakers: February 28 - Morganne Wall - Annual Dispersal of Endangered Burrowing Owls: Implications for Estimating Survival. March 28 - AGM Marilou Montemayor - Invasive Russian Olive in Medicine Hat area, April 25 - Members' Night - Pecha Kucha format, May 23 - Brent Smith - Tree and ecological site mapping completed for the entire municipal area. June 27 - Annual picnic - suggestions needed.

Nature Network news - monthly on-line programs Martha MG - not discussed today.

10. **Field Trips** - Phil, Milt, Martha, John
 - 9.1 **Portable radio purchase-** Ian – now purchased with casino funds. Stored at the Nature Centre. Whoever signs them out should charge before using. They are NOT compatible with old radios, but ARE compatible with 2 Motorola radios (kept in container with the old radios).
 - 9.2 **Trail Difficulty Ratings** - Ian – email sent out. Definitions set on paper, using easy/moderate/difficult including examples. All condensed into 1 line that can go into Chronicle and member emails to be used as a starting place so people know what to expect.
 - 9.3 **Winter Wednesday Nature Walks** 10 am meet at Nature Centre. 15 - 30 minutes Qi gong, bird feeder observation, Listening from Bird Song Bible, walk if and where safe (re: ice). Regular participants include Jesse, Dawn, Hazel, Jurri, John, Martha and others. Also every weekday at 10 am there is a walking club that leaves from Veiner Center (not a GN activity, but still gets folks outside every day.)
 - 9.4 **College Pond** Friday March 3 at 1 pm. Come to this part even if the morning presentations aren't your bag. We will check out the RO that the moose spent half an hour munching, and the gooseberry bush that blooms when the goslings hatch, and whose white crown of blossoms will attract a halo of bees, and more ecosystem relationships.
11. **MHIP Operations Committee** - Hugh and Alicia/Ian L. - The committee is 2 members short. Need to be filled. Meeting on Monday February 13.

City Contract - Hugh - contract ready to be signed except for insurance.
12. **Fund-Raising** – Hugh- **Casino dates Sat/Sun. August 5th/6th**

13. **Issues:** Martha, John, (and Jesse, Dawn, Cathy)

13.1 City/Municipalities

Environmental Framework- Gerry has volunteered to help with this, let Phil know if anyone else wants to take part. GN is listed as an external stakeholder and so will be contacted for input.

Strong Towns Workshop Tuesday February 7 - discussion

Scenic Views Written Update- Gerry needs \$10 000 to finish, including \$3500 in kind.

Invasives Committee – John Slater - proposing an ad hoc committee as it does not need the same intensity as issues committee. John and Gerry already work well with the cCty and appreciate input from GN. They feel there are various needs for a budget such as clothing/ gloves, personal gear. The city has covered some costs such as tools. Suggestion of minimum budget \$560. Maximum \$1160. Martha would like to see a collaboration with SEAWA and City. John has concerns about insurance. Paul sees this as a natural way to have Indigenous input. Could ask William Singer to conduct a workshop. **Motion that an ad hoc Invasives Committee be formed. All in favour, passed. Contact the City first to see what they will supply and cover, then can consider a budget.**

Weed pull in June. Saamis site. Hoary Cress. Collaborate with Archeological Society and SEAWA.

Bird Friendly City- Presented to Kevin Redden. Phil Horch.

Blue City, presented to Kevin Redden by David Condon, Betty Aitken. C of C.

Contacting **all** City Councilors. Conversation with Alison van Dyke and Martha - she appreciates receiving informational emails, (as does Ramona) but the people who really need to receive them are the ones who are more fiscally motivated. So send emails to all City Councillors.

Networking . MLAs, MP, Counties, etc (placeholder)

13.2 Water:

World Water Day March 22. Wednesday Walk trip to Water Treatment plant. Ponds Cleaned up on or before.

SEAWA Educational Forum - Friday March 3 seawa.ca

Need help setting up tables Friday March 3

8 am setting up SEAWA and GN (and IP?) table displays :
just GN

1 pm coaching use of EDDMapS on walk around pond

other as needed
some vacancies on the SEAWA board. Indigenous, City,
County

Adopt a Pond or Path Initiative-Martha MG: Launch of year three at the SEAWA forum. Would like the chair of GN, SEAWA, and David Genio to participate in the official launch this year.

World Decade for Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030. A nature-based solution for the climate situation we find ourselves in.

Irrigation expansion/modernization, SAGE, and EcoJustice.GN letters submitted by Phil and Ger. SMIRD ads this week for increasing acreage

13.3 Air/CO2/Methane. Palliser Airshed. David is “public” rep on board. Check website www.pas.ca

13.4 Land, Ecosystems, and threatened species. Wind, solar, expanded reservoirs and irrigated acreage, highways, urban sprawl, We have used our “*Case for Conserving grasslands*” occasionally; follow SAGE emails about irrigation and ecosystems; attend public meetings.

6. Other Business n/a

7. Adjournment 7:10 pm

8. Next Board Meeting March 7: Phil to host 4 pm, 214 - 2992 15th Avenue SE