

**Society of Grasslands Naturalists
Board Meeting**

Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 4 PM

* **Call to order** – 4:01 **present:** Phil Horch, Hugh Armstrong, Paul Thibault, Corlaine Gardner, Linda Fisher, Ian Turner, Angela Turner, Martha Maudsley **absent:** n/a **Guests:** Sheila McLeod, Martha Munz Gue

* **Review and Adoption of March 7/23 Minutes** - adopted as circulated; carried.

GN Organization and events

* **Correspondence** - n/a

* **Treasurer's report** - Angela - · Servus GN **Chequing** \$11,183.08

· Servus GN **Savings** \$6,822.25

· Servus **GIC** \$10,000.00

Casino - \$8041.31 Membership 56 individuals 51 family 9 lifetime

* **AGM Post mortem** - feeling it went well, hybrid model continuing to be tweaked. Paul is willing to take on anything Phil needs to hand over, so expect to see emails from him.

* **GN Board reorganization** - Board needs to find ways for Board and members to delegate more. How to draw in committees to do more? How to use our members' expertise? The President (chair's) job shouldn't be full time. What does the President WANT to work on? (Issues committee) needs to prioritize (every year) what GN will deal with. Issues need to be kept in mind GN's overall mandate to protect native prairie land and wildlife of Southern Alberta. Current issues include irrigation, energy projects, Strong Towns, Invasive issues, City's environmental plan, Bird Friendly City. Should we split into 2 groups (like Lethbridge has a nature club and SAGE)? Discussion tabled so we could get to the rest of the meeting.

* **Bylaw Revisions** - Paul - need for 5 directors at large. These folks could be used to fill jobs on board and elsewhere.

Motion to appoint 3 directors at large: Sheila McLeod, Ian Turner, Linda Fisher. Carried.

Motion that Board would like to have a maximum of 5 directors at large. Carried. The Governance committee recommends that Transparency document to accompany policy and procedures on field trips.

Trail difficulties to be included on GN website before a field trip including neighbourhood walks, field trips and Scenic Views.

Motion to accept Field Trip difficulty summary document as a separate document to accompany the policy and procedure for field trips. Carried. Government checklist requires grounds for expulsion of member and board member. Also requires rights and responsibilities of members. Suggested wording something like 'The board can suspend or remove (expel) members. A member can only be expelled in case of unfair prejudicing of the association itself. ' ' An association may expel a member for serious misconduct or dishonesty. An action that critically disrupts the organization's goals and purposes amounts to dishonesty.' Need in the future) for a dissolution clause because of the need to distribute assets as a registered charity.

Motion to accept bylaws as amended with the proposed amendment pertaining to the clause of expelling a member. Carried.

* **GN New Business Model** - Paul - need for a special meeting. Email sent out comparing SEAWA and Nature Alberta's setup to GN

* **Eileen Cowtan Event** - Corlaine - Nature Centre booked Saturday April 29 4 pm fire pit, with theatre as well in case. **Motion that club to buy wieners, condiments, buns. Carried. Corlaine will purchase.** Members bring salads and desserts and memories as potluck. Eileen's family has donated a Donna McLean painting to GN.

GN Projects

* **Scenic Views Rack Cards** - Phil - develop for next fiscal year to promote the project. Casino funds could be used. **Hugh to talk to City for donation.**

* **Adopt A Pond Future** - Martha Munz Gue- Considering the future as she's finding it difficult to carry on. Invited to speak to the Parks Dept about Adopt a Pond Jeff Quinlan. Collaborative project with SEAWA in consultation with the city. Paul suggests contacting Nature Alberta to sign on as one of their projects.

* **Invasive species: Buckthorn** at PPP (John & Ger) , **Russian Olive** at Harlow stretch of river (SEAWA & GN), **Hoary Cress** at Saamis (GN, SEAWA, Archaeological Society) n/a

GN Committees

* **Communications** -Corlaine - put field trip ratings in Chronicle.

Committees should briefly report to board meetings with minimal discussion for the board. Seedy Sunday and Pecha Kucha April 22. Anyone who wants to should keep in mind.

* **Indoor Program** - Linda - Members night April 25, 7 people have sent in topics. Photo to be put on cover as well as names and topics. May 23 Brent Smith Topic - Ecology and human footprint and Tree Cover of MH. June 27 Annual potluck picnic. Any ideas for where?

* **Field Trip Committee**- What's easiest (for Angela to compile): to have members fill out form/waiver every year? If nothing is sent in, it is left as before on the spreadsheet. We'd have to keep track of which version of (waiver/form) was filled to create the most updated list. Phil says we are recognizing World Migratory Bird Day Saturday May 13 - 3 Field trips planned, will be in Chronicle.

* **MHIP Operations Committee**: Hugh- Quarterly financial report passed around. Alicia is making a comparison of wages and duties of MH to Lethbridge and Red Deer for board consideration.

* **Issues Committee**- Paul - needs a chair. Paul suggests we collect all the issues we're currently involved in and at least prioritize them.

* **Fundraising Committee** n/a

Municipal connections

* **Environmental Framework Update** - Phil - ad hoc committee of Gerry, Marty, Phil 1st engagement with WSP consulting company

* **Strong Towns Update** - Phil - attended an online meeting with leadership team/community leaders (such as Phil). They were briefed on meetings previously held.

* **City Wide Spring Clean-up April 22** - Martha MG talked to the city and said the city is not going to have a big clean up, possibly due to the success of Adopt a Pond. Switching to a different format with group displays from groups that care for the environment, held at Parks department building.

Other Networking and issues

* **Saamis Solar Project Update** - Phil- registered as an (individual) observer. Gerry and another small group have registered as intervenors.

* **Irrigation expansion/modernization**. Reservoirs, dams, and irrigated acreage. SAGE, ECO-Justice

* SEAWA check website for "**source water characterization**" report. Earth Day event at Harlow- new staff will participate in Harlow RO removal and Seedy Sunday displays of native species seeds and seedlings.

* **Other Business** - Paul looked over email regarding Nature Alberta reorganization and noticed South Zone is vacant. Do we want to fill it? Ian and Martha MG talked about their experiences. Paul saw some projects that we could get involved with, such as Citizen Science. NA is sent a Chronicle every month and items from it are featured on their website.

* **Adjournment** - 6:23 pm

* **Next Meeting** - Tuesday May 2 4 pm at Paul Thibault's

Upcoming Dates:

April 22 Earth Day -

RO removal 9 am Harlow.

City wide Spring Clean-Up 9am near where you live or work (or a route chosen by Parks)

Pecha Kucha 7 pm Esplanade

Nature Center Earth Day Bash

April 29 Eileen Cowtan event