

Grasslands Naturalists Society

General Meeting

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

1. **Call to order – Phil Horch 7pm**
2. **Land Acknowledgment – Phil Horch**
3. **Approval of Minutes from March 28, 2023 – Phil Horch No corrections or comments, adopted all in favour, carried.**
4. **Member's Exciting Sightings – Phil Horch** Phil saw first Yellow-rumped warblers. Red breasted mergansers. Corlaine saw a flock of pelicans fishing on river. Lack of prairie crocus!
5. **President's Report – Phil Horch** Thanks Paul for his help carrying the load. Earth Day last Saturday had lots of events. Phil went birding, John joined SEAWA at Harlow and later at Police Point Park. May 13 is Migratory Bird Day with a display at Nature Centre and 3 bird walks. Reminder of Eileen Cowtan event at Nature Centre on Saturday. Saamis Solar project at edge of the city is being monitored by GN although we have not taken a position on it at this time. Some of our members have formed a citizen's group as the developers have decided to make it much bigger and on native grasslands. GN supports solar projects but likes to see them away from native grasslands. We just heard that the Frank Lake project has been turned down. The Strong Towns project by the city is progressing with regular meetings as well as the Environmental Framework being closely monitored by GN.
6. **Bylaws Presentation – Paul Thibault** AB registrar has a checklist we need to satisfy after our revisions of bylaws in February. Interest in joining the Board means we need to increase our members at large. Decided not to allow voting by proxy. We came up with reasons for expulsion of members/board (which is a requirement of the checklist). Paul suggests we look into strategic planning as a board.
7. **Saamis Solar Farm Update – Phil Horch & Gerry Ehlert see above**
8. **World Migratory Bird Day – Marty Drut or Phil Horch**
9. **Eileen Cowtan Event – Corlaine Gardner** Eileen loved GN activities so do come even if you didn't know her. Bring salads/desserts, chairs and dishes. Details in Chronicle. Saturday April 29 4:30pm

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Treasurer's Report – Angela Turner - Checking account \$11021.32 Savings \$6822.25 GIC \$10 000 casino balance \$7590.81 / got \$1000 from Kiwanis Club** Rob Gardner asks if we could get a comparison number from last year. Angela will do that.
2. **Membership – Angela Turner Memberships 56 individual 51 family 9 lifetime members**

- 3. Medicine Hat Interpretive Program – Alicia Lew and Hugh Armstrong** 6 staff school programs well booked through June. Participated in Seedy Sunday at the library and Ross Glen Science Fair. Mosaic display is available until May 14. 865 contacts at 2nd Earth Day program on April 22. 2023 Bird count coming up, please reach out to Nature Centre Sunday May 28. Funding secured for summer jobs. Current revenue/expenses sitting at 29% of the year total expected. City funding secured and in bank account.
- 4. Communications Committee – Corlaine Gardner** Tina always looking for contributions to GN Facebook page. Things distributed in other ways. Talk to Corlaine with your ideas.
- 5. Field Trips – Milt Spitzer, John Slater and Martha Gue** Wild Horse Trip 7 am May 6 from WalMart parking lot. Wednesday morning activities tomorrow tour at tree growing facility. Next week a walk along McCutchen Trail. The following week Masterpiece pond (between pond and Home Depot).
- 6. Indoor Program – Linda Fisher** - Brent Smith from Medicine Hat College- Ecology, Human Footprint and Tree Cover of Medicine Hat. Brent has developed a wonderful mapping tool which GN and others will use in a variety of ways.
- 7. Fund Raising – Hugh Armstrong n/a**
- 8. Issues Reports – see above.**
- 9. Other Announcements n/a**

Introduce Members Night Program – Linda Fisher
Seven Presentations

Thank speakers and Adjourn Meeting – Linda Fisher