

**Grasslands Naturalists Society**  
**General Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 28 2023**

- 1. Social time and coffee at 6:30 pm**
- 2. Call to order – Phil Horch 7pm** Reminder Christmas Bird Count December 17 5-530 pm for potluck. Old format for meeting tonight as it's a zoom from Edmonton.
- 3. Exciting Sightings - Note: please identify yourself by name before speaking!** Secretary Martha cannot know who is talking unless you say your name. Someone saw a porcupine on the way down to the Nature Centre. Dan saw gophers, bald eagles. Sheila saw 6 flickers and a magpie in Hillcrest Cemetery. Martha MG saw magpies. John saw a moose. He named it Bruce (the moose). Phil and Analora saw 3 pine grosbeak feeding on the ground. John saw a pair in a mountain ash. Saw 3 Red-tailed hawks but no snowy owls. 1 seen on 501 south. 5 deer on Martha MG lawn.
- 4. Approval of minutes from October 24/23 – Phil Horch Adopted as circulated. All in favour, carried.**
- 5. Land Acknowledgment – Phil Horch**
- 6. Indigenous Action – Phil Horch** - Upcoming Indigenous events Dec. 6-7 Transboundary Grassland Partnership workshop in Swift Current. Contact Phil for more details.
- 7. President's Report – Phil Horch** - Reminder nominations for President, Secretary, Treasurer open in January. This is Phil's last year as President. Phil is thankful for Paul Thibault stepping up and carrying a heavy load and doing a fantastic job. Paul is also the Southern Alberta representative for Nature Alberta. Submit committee budgets. Gerry Ehler issued a report including that he sent a letter to the City in appreciation for their support in the control of common buckthorn. City is interested in advertising Scenic Views. Solar Projects continue to be an issue. Members

looking to avoid these projects on native grasslands. Environmental Framework has kept us busy in the past month. City council will deal with this in the next month. Preparing a members survey. Your feedback is needed. Cathy Linowski formed a new committee to form a Bee Friendly City. Contact her to join. Decision has been made to advertise Indoor programs as well as make hats and t-shirts to sell. Trying to get a history committee started as our founding members ages there is a need to collect information. Looking for people to work on this committee and someone to write it up. Ian Wallace passed away. Well known as a prominent naturalist he and his wife lived in Medicine Hat. Memorial to be in Chronicle.

- 8. MHIP report - Alicia Lew** - no changes in staffing in the last while. Focus on public programs. Nature themed stitch along and nature crafts. Spooky folklore fire. Holiday market November 18 well attended. Great Hat History Hunt throughout the community. Positive feedback. Display Swift Current up until Christmas Eve. Then Young Artist for 1 month. Annual Christmas Bird Count. Give us a call if you're attending/sign up. Secured more than \$29 000 in grants. Revenue is \$252 000 expenses about \$239 000. Decision was made to no longer offer ski and snowshoe rentals.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1. Treasurer's report - Angela Turner** GN Chequing **\$8187.88** GN Savings **\$6882.53** GN 15 month GIC maturing in May 2024 for **\$10,000.00** and another GN 1 year GIC maturing in May, 2024 for **\$5,000.00** Casino chequing: **\$24323.54** the proceeds from the casino in August 2023 was **\$18917.09** Motion to adopt minutes All in favour, Carried.
- 2. Other Announcements -**
- 3. Member's Discussion - Led by Sheila McLeod** - Our strategic planning sessions showed a need to reach out to all our members to hear their thoughts and what it is they prefer and want GN to

support. Tonight our conversation will look at 'Study and protection of the natural world'. How to help our members become more involved and enhance GN's profile in the community. Add a youth group to Nature Centre (could use support from School Green clubs and have a Youth membership. Could include college club/student teachers). Look to add Indigenous groups. Consider hiring people to survey people in the city to find out what their interests are. We lack the information on this big picture. How do they relate to the environment? Young people going to the Nature Centre like to take action - they want to see what they're doing (rather than writing letters to someone who might not read it). Talk to them. Youth groups already exist in MH we just need to contact them (cadets, scouts, guides, Jr. Forest rangers). Give out free youth memberships and have a page on our website. Create a take home sheet for students. Lists of little things to help with 'climate anxiety'. Goal is to attract young adults and families but these things can be the 'hook'.

**GUEST SPEAKER Richard Schneider 8 pm - Via Zoom**

**Conclusion and Guest speaker appreciation – Phil Horch**

**Next meeting - Christmas Bird Count and Potluck - December 17 -  
Potluck at the Nature Center at 5 p.m.**

**Adjourn 9 pm - Phil Horch**

**Next meeting January 23 2024**