

# Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting minutes

Friday, January 5, 2024 at 11:15 a.m.

Chamber Board Room

**1. Call to order 11:19 am**

**2. Roll Call: Present:** Phil Horch, Paul Thibault, Angela Turner, Hugh Armstrong, Ian Turner, Corlaine Gardner, Martha Maudsley **Online:** Martha Munz Gue, Sheila McLeod, Linda Fisher **Absent: no Guest: no**

**3. Review and adoption of December 6, 2023 board minutes:** All in favour, carried as is.

**4. Business arising from the minutes:** no

**5. Approval of the bundle:**

**A. 2023 Financial Reports – GN and MHIP – Angela & Paul GN --- Chequing \$8,497.33 Savings \$6,899.80 GIC #1 \$10,000.00 GIC #2 \$5,000.00 Casino --- Chequing \$23,538.27** Angela called AGLC 20% of funds - called is the cumulative value of funds so we can spend \$4600, based on reporting period. Angela has not heard from insurance yet. **Paul wants a meeting with them regarding removing cross country skiing and to ask about Director's insurance. Paul will call Monday January 8/24.** Alicia would like to use casino funds for a banner, approximately \$400-500. Casino funds also pay for zoom account and Chronicle (as it's promotion)

**B. 2024 MHIP Budget – Finance Committee-** Hugh says based on last year's budget we will be running a projected deficit of \$4512 this year.

**B. 2024 GN Budget – Finance Committee-** Paul - net income of \$5201 because of larger donations and a Community Foundations grant. Proposed deficit of \$6010 in 2024. Paul recommends presenting promotional materials to membership before spending. **Motion to accept 2023 GN club budget update. All in favour, carried. Approved. Motion to accept 2024 GN club**

**budget with amendment to increase the Communications Committee budget by \$1000 for promotion of our meetings and speakers. All in favour, carried.**

**B. Indoor Program Report – Linda- accepted**

**B. Irrigation Report – Paul-** sent a very thorough report, thanked by the board. Meeting with Justin Wright Jan. 24/24 to discuss public access to reservoirs in his district. **Paul is willing to take the irrigation file on but needs input from members and appreciates all comments.**

**B. Governance Committee-** Paul - Changes listed in email of meeting held December 28/23 email dated January 3/24, including: gifts can now be given to GN members.of MHIP can now agree to contracts with president approval (rather than signature) \$15 000 . **Motion to accept the changes made to the following policies and procedures indoor program speakers and contracts and agreements. All in favour, carried.**

6. **AGM Plans –** Nominations Committee, Lifetime Memberships- Past presidents act as nominating committee so Martha MG and Phil. Library is a good place to hold it as Lorne Fitch is a local author so they may co-sponsor and advertise. Names to stand on current board: Sheila has agreed to let her name stand to be nominated as President. Need a vice president. Paul is willing to be a director at large if appointed by the Board. **Phil to ask if John Slater will act as nomination chair. Linda to contact Library and second choice college to see if there's availability for AGM.** Date for AGM is March 26/24

7. **Promotional Products –** Corlaine, Phil- has contacted Logos who do embroidery themselves and contract out prints. People go into shop and order what they like for embroidery, need to place a bulk order for prints. Might bring samples to January meeting. Cannot use casino funds, Angela checked. Martha MG suggests putting a message on as well so people know what we are. **Phil and Corlaine will consider the ideas presented and may have updates for the January meeting.**

8. **Issues Committee future –** Phil, Paul, Martha - at the moment we have no issues committee, only a series of ad hoc committees. Goal is to have an umbrella committee of issues. Motion to Form an ad hoc irrigation committee with Paul appointed as chair, with powers to add to committee. All in favour, carried.

9. **January Indoor Meeting Discussion Format –** Phil, Paul, Sheila- Ideas for January program, (table groups could include promotional products/new logo. Topics to introduce the survey and to find out what is most important to members and to get

them attending meetings. What does GN do that involves you and you think is important to the community. A table that reviews past field trips and suggests more. Do we need business as part of our meetings.). Will people move from table to table? No, use table groups to present to the whole group. 1 hour time frame? Time to introduce the concept. Time to get into table groups. Time to debrief afterwards. So maybe an hour and a half. Have moderators with timers and give a little coaching on giving every person time to speak. Board members as moderators? Who will not offer their own opinions. **Phil to form a subcommittee to work on this with Sheila, Corlaine, and Linda. They can meet Jan. 16/24 at Phil's place. Chronicle due date is Jan. 9/24 so a mockup can be done for that. Linda and Phil to work on that.** Suggestion to have a presentation of the year's past events. **Corlaine will organize pizzas. Martha MG will organize a local vegetable tray. We will consider dietary preferences.**

10. **Paul von Huene Project** – Martha Gue- Paul has a small ranch near Irvine. Proposing a field trip Wednesday May 22/24 to observe Endangered Species day. **GN interested in principle, Martha MG to organize a proposal for the next Board meeting.**

11. **Adopt-A-Pond Plans** – Martha Gue- plan for launch of year 4. Last year it was after SEAWA's AGM. Can it be before or after GN's AGM. Could we walk outside? Will it distract from Lorne Fitch? Need to be on weekends so families to participate. Table until next board meeting to come up with more concrete ideas.

12. **MHIP Operations Committee Report** - Hugh - started a number of public programs this month. Young Artists display opened. Made 111% of estimated revenue, and only used 93% of estimated budget.

13. **Other Business-** Get together with the communications committee to make a presentation to promote GN at Pecha Kucha contact Dawn Olsen.

14. **Adjournment 1:22 pm – Next Meeting – Wednesday, February 7 at 4 p.m. Chamber Board Room**