

MINUTES
Grasslands Naturalists General Meeting
Nature Center – Tuesday, February 27, 2024

6:30 PM Socializing, Coffee and Snacks

7:00 PM Business Meeting - First Half

A. Call to order – Phil Horch, Chair 7pm

B. Land Acknowledgment – Phil Horch

C. Approval of Minutes for November 28, 2023 Adopted as is.

D. President's Report – Phil Horch - Lorne Fitch is booked to speak at AGM to be held at the Medicine Hat Public Library auditorium. Elections to be held there as well. Phil is leaving as president. There is 1 nominee. Still need nominees for VP. Contact John Slater to put forward names. Secretary Martha Maudsley and Treasurer names standing. Annual reports due March 6/24, please forward to Paul Thibault and/or Phil. GN met with MLA Justin Wright. Phil and Gerry had a good healthy discussion including irrigation, windmills, solar farms, native grasslands. He assured us Meridian Dam is dead. Water is still a concern, Phil read from an article by **Andrew Nikiforuk**

<https://thetyee.ca/Analysis/2024/02/19/Alberta-Brutal-Water-Reckoning/>

Our mayor congratulated GN on Scenic Views. Successful Pizza Parlay last month, feedback was used to create our latest member survey and it will be available online for about a month. Drought workshop happening in Lethbridge February 29 by James Byrne at University of Lethbridge. Paul Thibault attending on our behalf. Paul is also monitoring irrigation issues in Acadia/Prince's Springs. Thinking of a field trip there this spring. Gerry and John are presenting to MHC. They along with Cathy Linowski are presenting to 3 neighbourhoods. Environmental action plan delayed to this summer. Alberta Native Plant Council workshop April 20, go on their website to register. Adopt a Pond and Path launch March 22 at Kin Coulee Toboggan Hill. Martha Munz Gue taking names.

E. Medicine Hat Interpretive Program Report – Alicia Lew No changes to staffing. Orienteering is our most popular school program this year. Also booking Ukrainian Egg decorating in full swing. Annual Family Day sponsored by Kiwanis had more than 1600 contacts! Another successful young artist presentation by Medicine Hat High Schools. Hosted TREXX exhibition. Current display on Folklore and Regional stories created by an interpreter with an interest in this area.

7:30 PM Introduction of Speaker – Linda Fisher

**A. Speaker Presentation – Jordan Vos
“Diet Analysis of Prairie Amphibians”**

8:30 PM Business Meeting – Second Half

A. Exciting Sightings – Phil Horch & Members Someone saw a coyote on the golf course. The eagles have moved their nest, now nesting where the blue herons were. Phil saw some screech owls around. Phil and Dan Schiebelbien saw 4 young ones in the fall so they seem to be establishing themselves here. Rob requests a field trip! American 3-toed woodpeckers have been seen in the Cypress Hills. House finches have been seen. Anyone seen Eurasian collared doves? There seems to be a lot fewer than previous years. Any reports of snowy owls? Maybe the food hasn't been great. We do need a revised birding checklist, Phil has it in his head to do one.

B. Financial Report – Angela Turner, Treasurer Casino \$20,273.22 GN Saving \$6,908.59 GN Chequing \$8,317.11 GIC #1 \$10,000.00 GIC #2 \$5,000.00

C. Endangered Species Day Celebration Report – Paul Von Huene Phil has asked Paul to give a picture of an event he has planned. Paul belongs to the Kiwanis club and has started doing a SE AB ranch tour. May 22, 2024 (Elm Street School is on board!) to do a school tour in conjunction with SEAWA, Kiwanis and GN for Endangered Species day. Objective is to give kids an outdoor experience to create an interest in the environment at an early age. If anyone is interested in helping out, contact Paul. There will be a couple orientation meetings at the site.

D. Indoor Program Report – Phil Horch, Linda Fisher mentioned that there are a few more days to sign up if people want to participate in a Members' Night for the May 28 speaker portion of the meeting .

E. Other Reports See Martha Munz Gue if you're interested in Adopt a Pond or Path March 20, 2024, 430pm Kin Coulee.

8:44 PM Adjournment