

MINUTES
GN Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 3, 2024
Chamber Board Room

1. **Call to order** – Sheila McLeod called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. **Members Present** – Sheila McLeod (Chairperson), Cathy Linowski, Angela Turner, Ian Turner, Linda Fisher, Martha Munz-Gue, and Phil Horch. Guests: Alanna Dean, and Corlaine Gardner.

3. **Adoption of Minutes – Motion Carried** that the minutes of the GN Board meeting of Wednesday, March 6, 2024 be adopted.

4. **Business arising from the minutes – None.**

5. **Board members at large** – Discussion took place on the vacancy of one board member at large. **Board members are asked to solicit interest** from GN membership, especially if young society members are interested. Martha Gue mentioned that she would be amenable to stepping aside as a board member in the event that we find two younger people willing to join.

6. **Bundle For Approval**
 - A. **Treasurer’s Report** – Angela Turner presented the month-end financial report for both the GN General Fund and also the Casino Fund. **Motion Seconded and Carried (MSC) that it be approved as presented.**
 - B. **Indoor Program Report** – Linda Fisher reported on the guest speakers for upcoming indoor programs. Both speakers for April and May have requested that they speak at 7 p.m. The April speaker will be presenting via zoom. Discussion took place on what constitutes an appropriate gift for guest speakers. Books are considered appropriate as well as membership in GN. Discussion also took place on the desirability of advertising our indoor programs in the MH News as well as on social media. Consensus was that we should do both and that **the Communications Committee should proceed to arrange this for upcoming meetings followed by analysis.**
 - C. **Promotional Swag** – Corlaine reported on progress in designing an embroidered patch for clothing products with GN logos. She circulated a sample logo design that can be applied to various clothing items and also a logo for baseball caps. She will continue pursuing these plans and make a presentation to all members at the April Indoor Program. The embroidered logo for clothing would be \$18 plus the price of the clothing. The cap design would be \$9 plus the price of a cap.

D. Native Plant Council – Cathy Linowski reported that the 36th Annual ANPC Workshop will be taking place in Medicine Hat on April 20 this year at Medicine Hat College and several GN members will be participating. GN will have a display table there and arrangements have already been made through GN’s Communications Committee.

MSC that the bundle above be approved.

7. New Business

A. SAGE Irrigation Letter – After considerable discussion it was **MSC that GN add its name to the letter originally drafted to many provincial officials by SAGE.** It was also decided that GN should draft its own letter to these same officials at a later date highlighting some of GN’s points of view. It was agreed that **Paul Thibault should draft this letter** as Chair of our Irrigation Committee. **Sheila will follow up.**

B. Praxis Endorsement Request – Cathy Linowski reported that Praxis Outreach Society of Medicine Hat is seeking the support of the Grasslands Naturalists Society and also individual members in hopes of receiving an award for its non-profit volunteer efforts in our community. **MSC** that an official online recommendation of support be made by GN towards this effort. Individual members of our society are also encouraged to fill out their own recommendations of support.

C. Honorary Lifetime Memberships – It is anticipated that GN will present Honorary Lifetime Memberships at the GN Potluck. One nomination has been received so far but there may be one or two more. No official nominations have come to the board for approval at this time but we anticipate one or two more. **Presently Phil Horch and Martha Gue make up the committee** for Honorary Lifetime Memberships and will report back with once it is clear who is nominated.

D. Seedy Sunday – **MSC that GN participate** in this event by providing a display table and opportunities for participants to join our society. GN’s Communications Committee will look after this table. It takes place at St. John’s Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 21 from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. Genevieve Mathieu is the contact person for this event.

E. “Dried Up What Now?” Film – **MSC that GN support the showing of this film** as recommended by Gerry Ehlert. GN will publicize its showing in the Chronicle once we know details of time and date etc.

8. President’s Thoughts on Future Priorities – New GN President, Sheila McLeod shared her thoughts on the style of President that she expects to be going forward. Her main priority will be to expand GN membership among younger generations and newly retired individuals.

9. Other Business

A. Bird Friendly City Report – Phil and Ian provided an update on the effort to elicit the support of the City of Medicine Hat to become a Bird Friendly City. Presently the City Environment Department is supportive of this effort but it won’t be a priority for them until

possibly this fall. Right now their department is focused on completing the Environmental Framework and in addressing the drought crises. Ian brought forward a suggestion that the gift shop at the Nature Center acquire Window Protection Kits and offer them for sale. **MSC that the board approves this suggestion and refers it to the Operations Committee for consideration.**

B. Bee Friendly City – Cathy Linowski gave a report on the activities of her newly established committee and the actions they are taking to move forward. She too gave a report on the City of Medicine Hat’s current position for dealing with requests from external organizations. The City is reviewing how it will handle such requests going forward. Board discussion followed that it might be desirable for all GN groups to approach the city collectively. This would include Bird Friendly, Bee Friendly, Russian Olive Committee and Urban Forest Group. These committees should collaborate.

C. World Migratory Bird Day – May 11 – Phil reported that plans are going ahead to celebrate this event on May 11 by conducting two birding walks (Marty Drut to lead one at PPP and the other to be led by Dan Schiebelbein at a place to be determined). In addition Ian and Angela Turner will man a GN display table at the entrance to the Nature Center. **MSC that the Communications Committee be authorized to publicize this event in the MH News and on social media. Phil to follow-up with Corlaine and Marty.**

D. Promotion of Indoor Programs – Discussion took place on the good response that advertising contributed to new attendance at our recent AGM. **MSC that we begin advertising all our indoor programs in the future and monitor the results. Corlaine to look after this in coordination with Linda.**

E. Nature Conservancy Land Project – Linda reported that the Nature Conservancy is raising funds to acquire land near Manyberries for protection of Sage Grouse. Birds are going to be introduced there according to news reports. **MSC that GN promote this fund-raising event in the Chronicle. Linda to place it in Chronicle subject to approval of the Governance Chair, Paul Thibault,** to ensure there is no conflict with GN bylaws or policies.

F. Collaborating With SEAWA – Martha Gue reported on personnel changes at SEAWA and that our two organizations should collaborate where it makes sense to do so. One idea she suggested that maybe a SEAWA rep could attend our board meetings and a GN rep could attend theirs.

G. Adopt-A-Pond Spring launch – Martha Gue reported that the postponed spring launch of the Adopt-A-Pond will now take place on April 20 at 4 p.m. The location has now been moved to the Nature Center at PPP. Everyone is invited. **MSC that GN pay up to \$100 toward the cost of this event if it is needed.**

H. Neighborhood Walks – Martha Gue reported that a schedule of new Neighborhood Walks is in the works and will be announced soon. They are starting in April.

10. Next Meeting – Wednesday May 1 at 4 p.m. – Chamber of Commerce Board Room

11. Adjournment – At 5:40 p.m.