

**Society Of Grasslands Naturalists
Annual General Meeting Minutes
Medicine Hat Public Library Auditorium
Tuesday, March 26, 2024**

6:00 PM

- 1. Call to order** – Phil Horch (Chair)
- 2. Indigenous Declaration** – Phil Horch
- 3. Presentation of Honorary Lifetime Membership** – John Slater n/a
- 4. Review and Adoption of 2023 AGM Minutes** – Phil Horch **Adopted as is, all in favour, carried.**
- 5. Announcements** – Phil Horch - Seedy Sunday jointly with Community Food Connections Association. Sunday April 21 1:30pm at St. John's Presbyterian Church. Phil read a message to GN from Premier Danielle Smith.
- 6. AGM Reports**
 - President's Report** – Phil Horch - Last report as GN president! Phil praised our small club's ability to 'punch beyond our weight'. Some examples: Scenic Views Project with Gerry Ehlert. City of MH adopting an Environmental Framework with GN's help. Adopt a Pond under guidance of Martha Munz Gue. Invasive Species identification and removal. Massive irrigation projects impacting Southern Alberta, which is a major concern to river valleys and native grasslands. We're working with other groups to address this including Justin Wright MLA. We need much more help on the Issues committee (which is lacking a Chair). We could do more with more volunteers. We have amazing indoor programming thanks to Linda Fisher. Our programs are often available online thanks to David Gue. Outdoor programming is excellent but can also use more guides. Input from members is desired, so we had a Pizza Parlay and membership survey. Thanks to Bruce McLeod for organizing a Casino. Paul Thibault invested a lot of time as Vice President carrying a heavy load. Angela Turner as Treasurer, Hugh Armstrong as Past President and Martha Maudsley as secretary also support. Many volunteers serve in unofficial capacity including Milt Spitzer, John Slater, Bob Townsend, Rob Gardner and many more.
 - **Treasurer's Report** – Angela Turner - Total **equity \$30 161.86** (an increase of \$4660.77). Main sources of income include the Donna McLean grant (\$500), Canadian Fertilizer (\$825) individual donations of \$5250, membership income \$1930 and donations for Birding Trails \$245. Expenses include business insurance \$1162. Chronicle printing/postage \$969. Indoor program \$546. Casino total equity \$23 864.52 increased \$13 571.16 this year. This year's Casino event August 5-6/23 proceeds were \$18 917, donations from MH Kiwanis Club from their casino \$2500. Promotional expenses included MHIP ads in MH News \$5149. Software for Scenic Views \$319. Administration expenses included Zoom annual subscription \$139. PO Box rental \$182, Executive liability insurance \$1958. Six 2 way radios purchased \$260.
 - **Financial Reviewer's Report** – Bruce McLeod Impressed with Angela's books.

- **MHIP Report** – Alicia Lew - a year of continued momentum. Report available on website. Highlights include several new staff members. 143 school programs. 56 community programs and 56 public programs. 7 diverse displays at the Nature Centre. Reached over 500 000 on Facebook. 30 000 in person contacts. \$275,142 total operating revenue. Thank you for supporting the club in 2023 and looking forward to 2024. Christmas bird count is now complete and will be distributed. April 20th is our 3rd Annual Earth Day event 11 to 4.
- **Other reports for the 2023 year are posted on the GN Website at:** www.grasslands-naturalists.org/for-members Some hard copies are available at this AGM meeting.

7. Election of Officers: Phil for John Slater, Nominations Chair and Election facilitator

- **President - Sheila McLeod consented to let her name stand. No other nominations. Elected by acclamation!**
- **Vice-President - Cathy Linowski consented to let her name stand. No other nominations, elected by acclamation!**
- **Treasurer - Angela Turner willing to continue. No other nominations, re-elected by acclamation!**
- **Secretary - Martha Maudsley willing to continue. No other nominations, re-elected by acclamation**

8. New President's Introductory Remarks - Sheila McLeod - Thanks us for our confidence in her. Stated her motivation is to work in cooperation with others who want an environment for children in our future.

9. Director at Large - immediately after tonight's proceeding we will meet to appoint directors at large.

10. Upcoming Events -Paddling Club film festival April 15 Monarch Theatre \$10 attendance
Manyberries Trip leaving from Wal-mart Saturday April 6.
Paul von Huene May 22nd ranch south of Irvine, Elm Street school kids

11. Motion to adjourn – Phil Horch 6:46pm

7:15 PM

12. Indoor Program Presentation – Linda Fisher

- **Guest speaker** – Lorne Fitch – Topic “Streams of Consequence” followed by book signing and sales.

13. Thank-you to speaker and close meeting – Linda Fisher