

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting April 1, 2014

Present: Anne Bernhardt, Eileen Cowtan, Gary Martin, Bill Knibbs, John Slater, Monica Bartha, Hugh Armstrong. Guests: Carol O'Brien, Paul Thibault.

Hosted by: Anne Bernardt at the Medicine Hat Public Library provided the food and beverages.

Call to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes:

1. The March 4, 2014, board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes.

Action Items:

1. Fund Raising Committee Report

- **Co-op Receipt Program:** March 17 began.
- **Hometown Heroes:** application submitted and notification received.
- **Municipal Sustainability Initiative from City of Medicine Hat:** March 12 funds goes to capital expenses, projects, etc. This application will come from MHIP (Corlaine), amount applied for ~\$5000. Money will be received by September and needs to be used up by December.
- **Kiwanis:** 2 year window. Deadline has been moved back. Get going on a plan and action process. Meeting on Thursday at 1:00pm at Hugh's house. Application in by April 10th both hard and digital copy. Corlaine will need to write up the most of the application. April 15 Corlaine and Hugh need to present a 15 minute presentation. Need new copies of financial statement and list of new Board of Directors.
- **Casino:** Hugh, Anne and John attended the workshop 11 March. What is needed for Application; Request for Casino license, online for registrations, IB number, signature of Treasurer, President, Chairperson. Can make up to \$16,000 in 2-days. Separate bank account from Grasslands Naturalists needs to be created. Eligibility requirements are all met. Copy of membership list and board of directors. Proof of where money goes. Hire advisors from Casino, we pay them about \$1400. Total expenses taken out \$3000. GN member needed for the following positions Games Manager (Facility), General Manager, Cashier, Banker manager, Bank room. **Motion carried;** forward to general membership at next General meeting April 22 for vote on the Casino Fundraising program. Place summary of the Casino within the Chronicle.
- **EcoTrust Grant:** No spring grants until Fall. June we need to decide for all of these.
- **Community Foundation with endowment:** Mike Christie may come to speak at one of the General Meetings. Speak to Rob to book a time before or at the end of the meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Eileen supplied the following information to be put into Board members' binders; Grasslands Naturalists Club and MHIP Financial Statements for period Jan.1 – Dec.31, 2013, 5-year summary, , History Highlights, Alberta Societies Act - Obligations & Responsibilities after Incorporation and Charitable Status with Canada Revenue Agency – Obligations & Responsibilities.
2. Eileen presented Treasurer's Report for GN Club and MHIP for period from January 1 to March 31, 2014.
3. Pipit project has ended March 31st. Corlaine will be submitting Pipit claim. A lot of Pipit receivables will be coming in.
4. GST rebate application has been submitted. Society return is due end of April and CRA Information form by June 30.

5. MOTION:

- 1) That Monica Bartha, replacing Barry Anderson as Secretary, be appointed as a new signing officer for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists, bank accounts at the Servus Credit Union, Downtown Branch, Medicine Hat.
- 2) That Anne Bernhardt (President), John Slater (Past-President) and Eileen Cowtan (Treasurer), remain as the other three signing officers.
- 3) That all cheques written for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists be signed by any two of the four above-named individuals.

Motion carried.

6. Renew Nature Alberta membership. **Motion carried.**

7. Updated membership list. 100 members currently, 28 did not renew to date.

Correspondence:

1. Eileen distributed the most recent newsletters, bulletins and magazines for board perusal.

Issue Committee:

- Sage Grouse protection judicial review in Calgary on June 30.
- Public Action Group formed in Manyberries concerning the protection order.
- City held Public meeting on Flood Mitigation. Plans can be viewed online. Berms along river and creeks need to be discussed further.
- Martha planning to invite Petra and Cows and Fish to meet with City of Medicine Hat concerning the effect of berms on the Riparian Habitat along the river.
- Second year of Baby's Breath removal project in the Ranchlands Environmental Reserve area during the second week May with Sean Allen, Calfrac and another company. GN members requested to identify plants. On Short list for Emerald Reward.

Governance Committee:

- Policies and Procedures to be reviewed by all IP staff and Board of Directors, and Committees.
- Agenda and minutes of meetings to be emailed to Directors and put on the GN website before meetings so people can request to speak of something at the next upcoming GM. All minutes and agendas provided to Paul so he can place on website.
- Secretary to back up and store all minutes and documents.
- Request to combine Governance and Budget meetings, but still keep committees separate.
- One person needed for Budget Committee from the IP Operations Committee.
- Meeting coming up April 4 will be just for Budget Committee.

Communication Committee:

- Eileen – costs of photocopying of newsletter, postal costs.
- Postage currently 0.85 cents. Will look into purchasing meter mail.

SEAWA:

- **AGM** March 31
- Rob Robinson gave presentation on Medicine Hat floods from 1903 on.

Other Business:

1. Appointment of other directors:
 - John Slater as Past President. Motion carried.
 - Hugh, Bill, Gary as Directors at Large. Motion carried.
2. Committees: Approve committees. Motion carried.
 - i. Operations Committee for Interpretive Program
 - ii. Issues Committee
 - iii. Budget Committee
 - iv. Governance Committee

- v. Communications Committee
 - vi. Indoor Program Committee
 - vii. Field Trips Committee
 - viii. Fund Raising Committee
3. Projects:
 - i. Carol Porter Bluebird Trail
 - ii. Birding Trail Project
 4. External Organizations:
 - Nature Alberta - Rep currently Martha/Marty alternative. Monica considering.
 - Prairie Conservation Forum – Contact Rob
 - SEAWA – Contacts Martha and Rob
 - Palliser Airshed – Rep David Gue
 5. Other Business
 - Park Bench Lifetime members: main plaque will be bronze. One plaque with names and dates will be plastic as provided at the City Parks Department.

Adjournment at 9:15PM. The next meeting will be held at 7:00PM at Eileen Cowtan's (403) 526-1264.