

(Draft) SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING – January 5, 2016

Present: Dave McKenzie, Ian and Angela Turner, Eileen Cowtan, Anne Bernhardt, Betty Rainville;
Absent: Hugh Armstrong, Gary Martin, Corlaine Gardner. Guest: John Slater.

1. Call to Order: 6:35 pm. Dave McKenzie – Chair, Betty – Secretary
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board Minutes from December 1, 2015. Motion Carried.
3. Additions to Agenda:
 - a. Dave Genio, Superintendent of Parks Maintenance, scheduled to discuss Tree Planting Project for Spring 2016 cancelled due to illness. He hopes to attend the next Board meeting. (Monica Bartha submitted the suggestion that MH College students could help with this planting project).
 - b. Need to plan the March AGM venue. Dave to call Gary about booking the Crowfoot Room for a 6:30 start. Possibly Milt as a speaker- at 8:00 pm. Refreshments? John to speak to Bill Knibbs about the Nominating Committee.
 - c. Plan for a Nature Alberta representative. This person attends meetings four times/year; (one or two by teleconference and usually two in Edmonton).
4. Action Items:
 - a. **City Contract amendment** with revised list of Equipment Schedule B. and Clauses 4(c) and 6.d) still outstanding. Refer this item to the next Operations Committee on January 11. John to email a confirmation of the date.
 - b. **GN/MHIP Insurance Coverage:** 4(a) above needs to be completed first before a subcommittee can be formed to continue discussion of replacement costs of City's equipment and GN/MHIP equipment.
 - c. **Bird Tales Update:** Hugh absent. Ian and Angela Turner, and Betty Rainville volunteered, along with Dee Armstrong and staff, on December 10 at Masterpiece Retirement with several residents making collages. Masterpiece will run their own program starting in January with Paul and Dee as mentors. Feeders are set up in Meadow Ridge, and sessions will start there in February and March of this year.
 - d. **Book "Caught in the Spin":** Dave emailed Ted at Nature Alberta regarding the number of these books. He will email Ted again.
 - e. **Medicine Hat Community Foundation Plan:** An article was printed in the December Chronicle about the Endowment Fund on how donations can be made now or bequeathed in a Will. Subject is closed.
 - f. Changes to Signing Officers for MHIP TD Canada Trust Bank Account: John will call the TD Bank to set up an appointment.
5. Reports:
 - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Eileen presented end of December statements. Total GN Club: \$ 30,410.29. I.P: \$ 46,703.56. Eileen also presented a draft summary of MHIP Budget vs Actual revenues and expenses for Jan.1-Dec. 30, 2015. Noted that John is registered for the upcoming EcoTrust Conference in Calgary on Feb. 25-27, 2016. It was moved that we reimburse John \$250.00 for the Ecotrust conference registration fee in Calgary. Motion Carried.
 - b. **Membership Report:** Eileen reported we have 86 members at present. Anne agreed to take membership dues and issue receipts for Eileen at the January General meeting.
 - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen. 1. A letter regarding combined sessions to be offered at a Casino Training Workshop on January 27 and March 1 at Medicine Hat Lodge.
2. A letter from Co-op stating that the 1% Program was too time consuming and the program has been terminated. Instead, Co-op asks that a Donation Request form be submitted each January listing detailed objectives. Co-op will then review the letter. Eileen will forward the letter to Hugh regarding fundraising for Bird Tales Program at Meadow Lands. Hugh and Dee will itemize the costs.
 - d. **Fundraising Committee update:** Hugh will be back January 6. As of the last Board meeting, 14 to 15 more volunteers were still needed at the Casino Feb. 18 and 19. Volunteers are to contact Hugh or Gary or sign up at the Nature Centre.

- e. **Field Trips:** Gary absent. Dave suggested the idea of including “exploring our own neighbourhood” as possible future field trips.
 - f. **Indoor Program Speakers:** Dave reported Shane Leuck has been ill. Shane is still tentatively booked to speak on Insects in Amber at the January General meeting. Dave has offered to speak on Butterflies, Dragon Flies, and Damsel Flies if Shane cannot attend.
John Acorn will coordinate with Dee Armstrong to present a program for seniors. He may speak in late April on Butterfly Monitoring. Other speakers in 2016 will report on Swift Fox Part 2, and Alberta Parks Grazing Policy in the Spring Creek area. Jan Scott could be a choice for speaker in May.
 - g. **Issues Committee:** 1. Results for Baby’s Breath germination tests at the College will be known by early spring. John noted over 90% are germinating at this point. Cathy Linowski will help Lisa James complete the project report, which will be submitted to the City, along with an invoice.
2. Prairie Conservation & Endangered Species Conference in Saskatoon Feb.16-18. www.pces.ca
Talk to Rob, Marty or Martha who have attended previously. Marty may be attending. Early Bird registration applies until January 15.
3. “Change the Climate” by Alberta Ecotrust will be held Feb. 25-27 in Calgary. John will definitely be attending, and there is a possibility that Corlaine and Martha may attend also.
 - h. **MHIP Operations Committee Report:** John to email everyone to indicate the next meeting on January 11. Some upcoming issues are: 1. For World Water Day on March 22, a display may be set up at the Nature Centre on flood mitigation with possible help from the Public Library. at the Medicine Hat Public Library.
2. John will contact the Public Library to find out what they are planning to do for World Water week.
3. Encourage showing more nature and environmental films by Just Docs at the Public Library.
 - i. **Birding Trails project update:** Waiting for Phil or Milt to return to discuss speaking at a GM about this project.
6. **New Business:**
Weir at the bottom of Marlborough Coulee: John sent pictures of the Seven Persons Creek area to Dave and Hugh. Dave contacted the City regarding the letter from the City about removing the weir. This subject is now completed.
7. **Other Business:**
- a. **Pamphlets on Wildflowers and Butterflies:** Dave. Martha has indicated that a person in Edmonton will assist with the Wildflower Pamphlets. It would first go onto our website or on an app. Martha is gathering photos for this.
Dave noted transects, or fixed-route walks, will “feed into” gaps in the Pamphlets on Butterflies.
 - b. **Donations:** Governance Committee to discuss a policy about soliciting donations and how a contribution could be earmarked for GN projects or directed to the Endowment Fund. Donors are free to contact Dave with ideas on how funds could be used. The Governance Committee will meet at a later date.
 - c. **Nomination of further Honorary Lifetime Members:** Governance Committee to put together a policy on how a member can nominate someone; then bring their ideas to the Board. Board members suggested there be good guidelines for this policy. Governance Committee will meet at a later date.
 - d. **Next GN Board Meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2016 at Ian and Angela Turner’s house at 6:30pm.
8. Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 pm. Refreshments followed.