

**Society of Grasslands Naturalists  
Board Meeting June 4, 2013**

**Present:** John Slater, Bill Knibbs, Eileen Cowtan, Anne Bernhardt, Paul Thibault, Hugh Armstrong, Gary Martin, Jim Black, Martha Munz Gue, Barry Anderson

**Hosted by:** Judy and Barry who provided the food and refreshments.

**Call to order at 7:05 pm.**

**Minutes:**

1. The May 7, 2013, board minutes were reviewed. **Motion carried** to accept the minutes.

**Action Items:**

1. Signing authority on the IP bank accounts as outlined in the April 9 Board Minutes has now been completed.
2. Hillary Munroe from the MHPL will receive 12 copies of “Caught in the Spin” for distribution in the Chinook Regional and Shortgrass Library Systems. As well, local senior residences will receive 2 books each for their personal libraries. All books should be stamped to indicate GN as the donor.
3. Hugh introduced an idea to promote GN charitable donations through social media, brochures, newspaper, etc. The Budget Committee will investigate.

**Treasurer’s Report**

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement up to May 31, 2013. **Motion carried** to accept her report.
2. Eileen shared information regarding the “Registered Charity Information Return” form submitted to Revenue Canada.

**Correspondence**

1. Eileen shared information from the newsletters received within the last month.

**Other Reports:**

1. Governance Committee
  - Paul provided the most recent hard copies of the GN Policies and Procedures for seven of the committees/topics that have been completed so far (general, budget, communications, governance, issues, indoor program and speaker compensation). **Motion carried** to accept the documents.
2. Budget Committee
  - A decision not to pursue a line of bank credit was announced.
  - Paul recommended that the Budget be approved within the next month.
  - As such, a special Board meeting to discuss the budget will be held at the MH Public Library on June 20 at 7:00 pm. Anne will contact individuals and Board members to attend.
3. Operations Committee/ Interpretive Program
  - **Motion carried** to accept Lorine Marshall as a replacement for Dorothy Patry on the Operations Committee.

- The Sprague's Pipit Project continues in the next month with booths set up at Redcliff Days and Canada Day celebrations.
  - No report available yet for the Medicine Hat Spring Bird and Flower Count.
4. Issues Committee
- John received information from Fish and Wildlife services that 14 male sage grouse have been identified in southeast Alberta on 4 leks. Report to be in the June Chronicle.
  - The Tiny Cryptantha and Wildflower walk through Ranchlands Phase 2F&G has been confirmed for Friday, June 21 at 6:30 pm. Meet at the site on 11 Ave. NE.
  - The Baby's Breath Removal Project in Ranchlands with Sean Allen in charge has now been completed with a final report from Sean forthcoming.
  - The City of Medicine Hat Lands and Development has requested that GN initiate the removal of the invasive species Leafy Spurge.
  - John spoke about the Walk to the Headwaters beginning July 13 and ending July 28. The Medicine Hat to Seven Persons segment is scheduled for July 15. John suggested the participants detour to City Hall for a media event before resuming their journey via Highway 3. John to talk with Bob Philips at SEAWA for GN to participate jointly.
5. Communications Committee
- Eileen indicated that someone from GN should follow up Jan Scott's Civic Award with a write-up for the Chronicle.
6. Outdoor Programs and Field Trips
- Gary gave details regarding an evening supper excursion to Red Rock Coulee on Tuesday, June 11. Meet at the A&W on Gershaw Drive at 5:30 pm.
  - Other June field trips include a bird outing to Elkwater on June 14, a flower and plant walk in the Ranchlands on June 21, a wildflower excursion to Walsh on June 22, and a drive to Bear Creek Dam on June 29. Details will be provided in the June Chronicle and the GN website along with many more field trips planned for the summer months.
7. Nature Alberta
- Martha provided a CD from NA for individual use, data sheets for the current plant watch program, a current list of Alberta species that are at risk or threatened, a City of Edmonton (2012) noxious weeds pamphlet and further details regarding a possible no-cost SE Alberta wildflower brochure that the Communications Committee will investigate
8. SEAWA
- John reminded everyone of the canoe trip from Medicine Hat to Sandy Point, July 5-7. Participants should pre-register with Bob Philips. More details on the SEAWA and GN websites.
  - Martha provided a handout outlining the organizational structure of SEAWA and a colouring/activity book geared towards children.

**Other Business:**

1. John indicated that both Sean Allen and the CalFrac organization have been given one-year gift memberships and appreciation certificates for their involvement in the Baby's Breath removal project.

2. **Motion carried** that GN will apply for a park bench (\$750.00 + GST + plaque costs) for Life-Time Members including Dawn Dickinson and Donna MacLean. John will pursue the details of this project. Donations are welcome.
3. The Community Foundation Endowment group will be invited to a future Budget Committee meeting.
4. The Prairie Appreciation Celebration will be held June 8 five km north of Elkwater. Check for details on the Prairie Conservation Forum and SEAWA websites as well as the GN website.
5. A GN Picnic and Potluck will be held at the Nature Centre on Tuesday, June 25 at 6:00 pm with the Bluebird Trail helpers invited. Bring cutlery, lawn chairs, food items for sharing, etc. Bill and John will contact volunteers to assist with set-up and clean-up.
6. On behalf of Corlaine, Anne shared information regarding the Community Foundation of SE Alberta Founder's Day Picnic and Spring Grants Presentation at the Esplanade on Saturday, June 8 from 5:00-7:00 pm. RSVP recommended.

**Adjournment at 9:30 pm.** The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 3, hosted by Jim Black at 29 East Glen Court SE at 7:00 pm.