

# **SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING - May 5, 2015**

**Present:** Anne Bernhardt (host), Hugh Armstrong, Eileen Cowtan, John Slater, Dave McKenzie, Betty Rainville; absent Gary Martin; guest Corlaine Gardner

**1. Call to Order:** 7:04 pm. President Dave - chair, Anne acting as secretary.

**2. Adoption of Minutes:** Minutes of the April 7, 2015 meeting. Motion CARRIED

**3. Addition to Agenda:** Nil

## **4. Action Items**

- a. **City contract list of equipment** update: Hugh and Corlaine to meet next week.
- b. **"Bird Tales"** update: Hugh reported that Masterpiece Corp purchased a Bird Bath. Dee Armstrong and Paul Thibault are looking after the project and will be meeting at Masterpiece on May 14<sup>th</sup>.
- c. Book **"Caught in the Spin"**: number of books in Nature Alberta office not known yet.
- d. **Baby's Breath Project:** MH College student, Lisa James, has been hired by MHIP to manage the project. John reported that the MH City has given a grant of nearly \$5000, and Calfrac will let GN know in late May if/when manpower is available to help with the Baby's Breath removal.
- e. **Environmental Civic Recognition Award** to Sean Allen on May 20<sup>th</sup> at the Esplanade.
- f. M.H. **Community Foundation Endowment Plan:** Anne will call MHCF Office to arrange meeting concerning setting up an Endowment Plan for GN members.
- g. **SSRP Biodiversity Framework report:** Dave and John gave overview of the report. GN Board does not want to see report get put on a shelf and forgotten. Dave to arrange follow up meeting with Todd Sharpe, MH Parks and Recreation Department.
- h. **Staff Benefits:** Application signed by MHIP staff and submitted to OASSIS. Program to commence June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

## **5. Reports:**

a. **Treasurer:** Eileen presented end of April statements. Total GN club: \$22,992.20. IP: \$68,241.50. Eileen reported \$83.69 was received from MH Coop refund program. Next cut-off date is Sept 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Eileen moved that the signing officers for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists at the SERVUS CREDIT UNION, Downtown Branch, Medicine Hat AB, be Dave McKenzie as President (replacing Anne Bernhardt); Anne Bernhardt as Past President (replacing John Slater); Betty Rainville as Secretary (replacing Barry Anderson), and Eileen Cowtan remaining as Treasurer. All cheques written for the Society of Grasslands Naturalists must be signed by any two of the above identified individuals. Seconded by Hugh Armstrong. Motion CARRIED.**

b. **Membership:** Eileen reported GN has 76 memberships; 65% of members have renewed.

c. **Correspondence:** Newsletter from Nature Calgary, and Information on Recycling old cell phones.

d. **Operations Committee/MHIP Report:** Corlaine reported on the success of the Easter program, submission of applications for summer students and project grants, and hiring on Lisa James (see 4.d). Also applied for equipment funding to replace old GPS units. Booking of School Programs busy over the next two months. Planning activities at the MHIP Fall Festival. Regular volunteers promoted and appreciated. Committee meeting to be called to select chair and set budget.

e. **Issues Committee:** John reported on the recent meeting May 4<sup>th</sup>. Baby's Breath/noxious weed project is priority (see 4.d).

f. **Indoor Program:** May 26<sup>th</sup>: Ian and Angela Turner, M.H. "Walking Tour of Northern England".

g. **Fundraising:** Ongoing; Hugh working with Corlaine to find grants. Coop receipts for Mar 15 to Sept 15 to be handed into Anne or Nature Centre. Casino likely to be next year.

h. **Field Trips:** Birding trip Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> to Sauder and Murray Reservoirs led by Phil Horch.

i. **Bird & Flower Count:** MHIP on Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>, call Marty at the Nature Centre to arrange area.

## **6. Other Business**

a. Two **Directors-at-Large:** Search for 2 Directors-at-Large to be raised at next General Meeting.

b. **Standing Committees:** to meet to select chairpersons and set budgets.

c. **MHIP Operations Committee:** to meet to select chairperson and set budget.

- d. **GN Rep for Nature Alberta:** Mike O'Shea and Martha Munz Gue appointed.
  - e. **Butterfly Pamphlet:** Dave reported he has got one quote. More information needed. Dave suggests an Annual Butterfly Count field trip in Cypress Hills end of June.
  - f. **Birding Trails Project:** Phil to call a meeting sometime this month to discuss write up and maps.
  - g. **Lifetime Membership** presentations to Mike O'Shea and Eileen Cowtan to be posted on GN website.
7. Next Board Meeting Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at Eileen Cowtan's home at 6:30pm.
  8. Meeting adjourned at 8:55pm. Refreshments followed and viewed Alberta Election Results.