

(Draft) SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS BOARD MEETING – November 10, 2015

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

1. Call to Order: 6:40 pm. Hugh - acting Chair, Betty – Secretary
2. Review and Adoption of GN Board minutes from October 6, 2015. Motion Carried.
3. Additions to Agenda.
4. Action Items
  - a. **City Contract amendment** with revised list of Equipment Schedule B and Clause 4(C). Still outstanding. Waiting on Randy Taves. No Change.
  - b. **GN/MHIP Insurance Coverage:** 4a. (above) still 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:** Volunteers are available for Nov.12 at Masterpiece Retirement but are still needed for Dec. 10. Ian and Angela Turner have volunteered for the 10<sup>th</sup>. "Nature Nut" by John Acorn was ordered and will be presented on Nov.12. Feeders are set up at Meadow Ridge and sessions start there Feb. and March.
  - d. **Book "Caught in the Spin":** Dave to email Martha about contacting Mike to confirm number of books in NA office. Mike's new contact information not known. No change.
  - e. **M.H. Community Foundation Plan:** Hugh and Dave met with Mike and signed the contract to establish a Standard Endowment Fund for GN. An initial \$100.00 donation put into the account. The Foundation has still not returned the contract. Trish, from the Foundation, is to write an article for the next Chronicle about the Endowment Fund outlining how donations can be made now or bequeathed in a Will.
  - f. Changes to **Signing Officers for MHIP** at the TD Account update: Dave and John away
5. Reports:
  - a. **Treasurer's Report:** Outstanding expenses from Culture Days, September 27, need to be checked. Eileen presented end of October statements. Total GN club: \$ 29,660.00. IP: \$75,740.03. Noted that Step Grants will be coming back.
  - b. **Membership Report:** Eileen. Talked to Paul about putting "History of Grasslands Naturalists" article on the GN website. Done. Eileen to make up a membership card for the last guest speaker, Jan Scott.
  - c. **Correspondence:** Eileen. 1.Receipt from Comm. Fdn. Of MH and SE AB for \$100.00; 2."Nature News" Calgary Field Naturalists' Society. Sept. 2015 and Oct. 2015; 3. Magazines: "Wildlands Advocate", "Conservation".
  - d. **Fund Raising Committee update:** Hugh. Gary talked to Casino rep. and opened a bank account. He placed an article in the Nov Chronicle asking for volunteers. Nothing to report about looking into Canadian Badlands Limited as a source of funding as Phil suggested.
  - e. **Field Trips update:** Gary will lead a "Tracking Event" Saturday, November 21 at 9 am. Meet at Police Point Park in the parking lot closest to the Nature Centre. Saturday, December 19 Gary will lead "A Walk In the woods to cut a few Christmas Trees". Meet at Elkwater Visitor Centre at 9 am. Possibly donate the trees to a worthy charity like Saamis Immigration.
  - f. **Indoor Program speakers:** November 24 presentation, after the Business Meeting, by Joel Nicholson with an update on the Greater Sage Grouse. Dave to contact Jan Scott to possibly speak on Wasps at a Spring Program. Dee Armstrong to contact John Acorn about speaking at the March AGM.
  - g. **Issues Committee:** John wrote an article in October Chronicle on Baby's Breath removal. Eco Trust Conference Feb. 25-27 Calgary and PCES Conference Saskatoon Feb. 16, 17 18. Budget to be formulated for the latter.
  - h. **MHIP Operations Committee report:** Chief Interpreter's report in the October Chronicle. Next Committee meeting Jan.18, 2016. The hiring of a new Financial Bookkeeper for the MHIP is still pending. It was moved that Grasslands Naturalists pay 100% of Medicine Hat IP Employee Oasis Benefits effective January 2016 contingent on funds continuing from the City. Motion Carried.

i. **Birding Trails project update:** Phil held a meeting October 29. Maps are in place now with Draft 7 of the trails. Volunteers to keep track of hours spent. Next meeting to be on Nov 24. Waiting for Phil or Milt to return to discuss speaking at a GM about this project.

6. Other Business :

a. **Pamphlets on Wildflowers and Butterflies:** Gradually establish a data base for butterfly counts.

A possible presentation from Dave on butterflies in May. Two speakers could possibly split the May Presentation. Dave and Martha away.

b. **Donations:** Governance Committee to discuss drafting a policy about soliciting donations and how a contribution could be earmarked for GN projects or directed to the Endowment Fund (see item 4.e).

c. **Nomination of further Honorary Life-Time members:** Governance Committee to put together a policy on how a member can nominate someone; then bring their ideas to the Board. This to be discussed at the next Governance Committee meeting.

7. Next Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 1 at Hugh's house at 6:30 pm.

8. Meeting Adjourned: 8 pm. Refreshments followed.