

### Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting January 8, 2013

**Present:** John Slater (host), Bill Knibbs, Eileen Cowtan, Marty Drut, Anne Bernhardt, Paul Thibault, Barry Anderson

**Minutes:** Nov. 6, 2012 Board minutes were reviewed. **Bill moved the minutes be adopted; Anne seconded. Carried.**

#### Action Items:

1. Marty reported on the December 11 meeting in Manyberries with ESRD Fish and Wildlife. **A Draft Copy of the Greater Sage Grouse Recovery Plan 2013 – 2018** was received. Comments and revisions to this draft are needed by February so that a timeline for action plans/strategies/budgeting etc. can be implemented. The Recovery Team which will meet annually over the next five years. Marty is the GN representative on this team which will also oversee a recovery plan for the swift fox.

#### Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement for the year 2012.
2. Our current GN membership is 97. Recent new members include Richard & Kay Schear, Hugh & Dee Armstrong, Jerry Herzig and Jim & Darlene Black. Membership renewal dues and waiver forms for 2013 are now due.

#### Other Reports and Discussion Items

##### 1. Issues Committee – Martha and Marty

- a. Ron and Kathy Linowski have been invited to a meeting concerning the Tiny Cryptanthe recovery.
- b. Martha will tentatively arrange to meet with MLA Blake Pedersen on January 17 to discuss and clarify issues surrounding Bill 202 Public Lands and Grasslands Preservation.
- c. Marty had no new information to report on the PFRA and NWA Suffield Block issues.

##### 2. Communications Committee – Eileen

- Work continues on the GN brochure, the GN display board and the GN website updates including gallery pictures, text and Chronicles.

##### 3. Interpretive Program – Marty

- The **Annual Christmas Bird Count** held on December 16 recorded nearly 20,000 birds sighted throughout Medicine Hat and the surrounding area. Two new species were seen - the cackling goose and the greater white-fronted goose - with a total of 62 species being recorded by 35 participants and 25 feeder watchers. Thanks to Marty for organizing this event and to Bob Frew who assisted with the compilation. The Potluck was well attended.
- Marty urgently requires help with the **Sprague's Pipit Project**. This includes planning field trips, setting up displays and arranging speakers. A complete list of ways you can help can be found in the October issue of the Chronicle. Bill and Barry have already indicated an interest in helping Marty with this endeavour.
- Marty shared information regarding the **Annual High School Art Exhibition** underway at the Police Point Nature Centre. The public is invited to attend the opening reception for the exhibit on Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 pm with remarks from Mayor Boucher at 7:30 pm. The artwork will be on display until January 31.
- **Kiwanis Family Day** activities will be held February 18 at Police Point Park from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. This year's coordinator is Kit Hilsden who requires volunteers to assist with indoor and outdoor activities.

##### 4. SEAWA – Martha

- The SEAWA workshop to be held January 14 at Desert Bloom will be attended by Tina, Anne and Martha.

#### Other Business:

1. Paul reported that the digitizing and archiving of the GN Chronicles, minutes, scrapbooks and other historical documents at the Esplanade has begun with Paul being in contact with Philip Pye. Most past issues of the Chronicle have now been located due to the diligent searching of GN members. Anne will contact Hilary at the Public Library to ensure any hard copies of the Chronicle are not discarded.
2. The ad hoc Policies and Procedures Committee continues to meet under the direction of Paul based on the drafted outline. The next meeting for input is scheduled for Jan. 23 at 1pm at the Nature Centre.
3. Our current GN and IP insurance is due February 7 through Intact Insurance.
4. The Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference will be held in Red Deer February 19-22 with Martha, Marty and Rob Gardner attending. We look forward to their post-conference reports and feedback.
5. An updated Bird Species Checklist has now been completed thanks to the efforts of Phil, Bob, Milt, Marty and others. Holmes Printing costs for 2500 pamphlets is \$2700.00. Alberta Parks will cover half of that amount and get half of the checklists. **The remaining costs will be covered as a result of the following motion made by Bill, seconded by Barry and amended by Marty: that GN finance \$1350.00 to cover the printing of the revised bird checklist, and that notification of this decision and the welcoming of any donations to this cause be included in the Chronicle.**
6. Martha announced that World Water Day is planned for March 22 with information booths at the MH Public Library provided by Unisphere, SEAWA, GN and other interested parties.
7. John announced his retirement as president to be effective at the GN AGM March 26, 2013 but offered to continue on the Board as Past president. Anne agrees to let her name stand for nomination as President at the time of the

AGM. Marty and Martha also said that they are willing to step aside as Directors at Large if replacements can be found. Bill offered to continue as a Director at Large and lead the Nominations committee for Executive Officers.

8. Community Educators Group presents "Being an Effective Board: How Do We Measure Up" on Saturday, March 23 at the Medicine Hat College Courtyard from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Register in person or by mail to Saamis Immigration Services Association, 177 - 12 Street NE, Medicine Hat. Cost is \$10.00 which includes lunch. Registration deadline is March 18. Contact Corlaine at the Nature Centre for more information. **(Subsequent to the Meeting the Board Workshop has been rescheduled to May)**

**Adjournment at 10:15 pm.** The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 5, hosted by Eileen at 1519 - 11 Ave NE.