

Society of Grasslands Naturalists Board Meeting Nov. 6, 2012

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

Minutes:

1. Oct. 2 board minutes were reviewed. **John moved the minutes be adopted; Bill seconded. Carried.**
2. Nov. 2 special board meeting minutes were reviewed. **Eileen moved the minutes be adopted; Anne seconded. Carried.**

Action Items:

1. The meeting with SRD Fish and Wildlife regarding elk management in the Suffield Block and declining numbers and habitat of the sage grouse throughout SE Alberta will be held Nov. 9 at 10:30 am. John and Marty will attend.

Treasurer's Report – Eileen

1. Eileen presented a Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of Oct. 31, 2012.
2. Our current GN membership is 92. Welcome to new members Trish and Randy Fai.

Other Reports and Discussion Items

1. Issues Committee – John
 - Martha drafting letter to Alberta government in support of Bill 202 Public Lands/Grasslands Preservation.
 - Marty shared information from the Oct. 25 Medicine Hat News relating to the Suffield Base PFRA and NWA issues.
2. Communications Committee – John
 - Work continues on the GN brochure, the GN display board and the GN website updates including gallery pictures, text and Chronicles. Paul has purchased a magazine rack as part of the display upgrade.
 - Anne reported on the City of Medicine Hat's Planning, Building and Developments Committee Meeting held Nov. 1 regarding the documentary "The Next American Dream" and the panel discussion that followed. A good turnout was reported with most discussion focussing on downtown revitalization.
3. Interpretive Program – Marty
 - The Annual Snow Goose Tour took place on Sunday Nov. 4 at Murray's Lake. A good turn out of birders witnessed approximately 3000 snow geese and other migrating waterfowl. Marty's complete report is in the November Chronicle.
 - Sunday Dec. 2 from 1:00 – 4:00 pm the Lions' Club Christmas Hayride will take place in Police Point Park. Hot chocolate, Christmas oranges, etc will be served. Crafting activities will be offered. And of course, Santa will hopefully be in attendance.
 - Dec. 16 the Annual Christmas Bird Count will happen throughout the city and surrounding area. Contact Marty for your designated area to monitor. A potluck supper will follow. Look for more details in the forthcoming Chronicles.
 - Marty is still looking for some help with those interested in assisting with the Interpretive Program's **Spagues' Pippit Project** including planning field trips, setting up displays and arranging speakers. A complete list of ways you can help can be found in the October Chronicle. Contact Marty personally at 403-529-6225 or by email marty.drut@natureline.info.
4. Outdoor Programs and Field Trips
 - Milt Spitzer will lead a group of interested birders to Rattelsnake, and Sauder's and Murray's Reservoirs to look for any late migrants. Meet at the Gershaw Drive A&W at 8:30 am on Saturday, Nov. 10.
5. Nature Alberta – no report due to Martha's absence.

Other Business:

1. **Barry made a motion that the draft policy for Compensation for Guest Speakers submitted by the Program Committee on October 11, 2012, be accepted; seconded by Bill. Motion carried.** This policy will be incorporated in the general GN Policies and Procedures which are being developed by the ad hoc committee (see item 7 below).
2. Anne reported that the digitizing and archiving of the GN Chronicles, minutes, scrapbooks and other historical documents at the Esplanade will proceed with Paul being in contact with Philip Pye.
3. Eileen will ask Dave McKenzie to include a brief write-up in the November Chronicle explaining the new e-mail list serve system for all GN members.
4. It was decided under Bylaw Clause 4.7.1 - that Marty as interpreter and Eileen as bookkeeper be paid for their services to the Medicine Hat Interpretive Program – be posted in the November Chronicle.

5. **Bill made a motion, seconded by Anne, that GN offer to compensate Martha's registration costs for her attendance at The Prairie Conservation and Endangered Species Conference which will be held in Red Deer Feb.19-22, 2013. Motion carried.**
6. The Rare Bird/Species Phone Around Service created by Milt and Phil will meet on Nov. 7 to continue its planning and organizing. More details to follow as they become available.
7. The Ad Hoc Committee to draft GN policies and procedures will continue to meet under the direction of Paul.

Adjournment at 8:15 pm. The next Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00pm hosted by John Slater at 32 McNeely Court SE.