

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS EXECUTIVE MEETING January 10, 2012

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

Minutes: 8 Nov 2011 meeting reviewed. Anne moved the minutes be adopted, Bill seconded, CARRIED.

Action Items:

- Sage grouse petition by Ecojustice – to the Federal Gov't. to provide emergency measures to protect the sage grouse habitat. Gov't. may respond as late as Jan. 16. Ecojustice may launch a lawsuit if Gov't. doesn't respond or they don't like their response. Ecojustice wants to know if GN wants to be a "client" in this lawsuit. Our options:
 1. Go to Nature Alberta and/or Alberta Wilderness Association AWA and see if they'll cover our costs (as they did with the previous lawsuit in 2009).
 2. Be a client and pay any costs that may occur.
 3. Tell Ecojustice that GN is not able to sign on.
- **MOTION:** Marty will contact Nature Alberta and AWA to see if they will cover legal costs for GN to sign on if Ecojustice does a lawsuit against Federal Gov't. Bill moved, Anne seconded, CARRIED.
- Rob, Corlaine, Marty, Ben Velner and landowner David Hidelaw spent about 5 hours (30 Dec.) putting white plastic pieces on 5 miles of fence wire near sage grouse habitat. **MOTION:** by Eileen that we reimburse Rob Gardner for cost of the plastic material. Marty seconded, CARRIED.
- GN Bylaws – John, Anne, Paul and Eileen will meet with Julie Friesen 11th January afternoon for review of the Bylaws before having them approved by GN membership and the Provincial Gov't.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen

End-of-year adjustments and balance have yet to be updated so 2011 income statement is incomplete.

Issues Committee:

Species at Risk/Sage Grouse meeting was Dec. 10, 2011. John suggested we should have sub-committees for each species. Maybe members would like to "adopt a species" and help research and provide info to other members.

SEAWA:

Workshop on Jan. 23 on water conservation at Desert Blume Golf Course, 12-4 pm, lunch provided, email Shanna Mohns if interested: shanna@seawa.ca.

Tree Wrapping:

Sat. Jan. 14, 10 am – meet @ Nature Centre. Ongoing as long as winter stays mild because beavers have been very active.

Interpretive Program:

- Mon. Feb. 20, 11 am – 4:30 pm – Kiwanis Family Day – treasure hunts, self-guided activities, build a birdhouse or bat house, crafts, hot dogs, free rentals on snow equipment.

Medicine Hat Interpretive Program Operations Committee:

- Committee renewed contract with Corlaine and service agreement with Eileen (bookkeeping).
- Committee discussed with the City the IP contract which expires Dec. 2012 – suggested they go for another 5 year contract.
- The MHIP Terms of Reference were reviewed. Suggested changes and recommendations were given to Eileen to take back to the IP Committee.

Sagebrush Chronicle:

All articles must be in to Milt by the 7th of the month except Executive meeting minutes, which John will get in to him right after meeting.

Other Business:

- Alberta Utilities Commission wind project workshop (Wildrose 2) – Henry Binder attended a hearing in Calgary on our behalf and made up a detailed report, Henry wants to be reimbursed for his mileage.

- **MOTION:** by Eileen that we reimburse Henry Binder for mileage (rate to be determined) for attending the AUC workshop in Calgary, Anne seconded, CARRIED.
- Nomination Committee – Bill volunteered to do this with Mike. Need Secretary, Nature Alberta Rep, and up to 3 Directors-at-large.

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 pm

Next meeting Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2012 (because 2nd Tuesday is Valentine's Day), at Tina's house ~ 809 Ross Glen Dr. S.E., phone: (403)527-5409.