

**SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS**  
**Minutes of General Meeting – May 27, 2014**  
**Police Point Park Nature Centre**

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:10 pm; President Anne Bernhardt in the chair; Eileen Cowtan acting as recording secretary.

**MINUTES:** of April 22, 2014 adopted as read.

**EXCITING SIGHTINGS:** Phil: Sandhill Crane in the city – very late in the season.

John Slater: large rattlesnake while flagging in Ranchlands.

Sean Allen: rare plants, Easter daisy and broom rape in Ranchlands.

**NEWSPAPER ARTICLES:** shared by John Slater

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Eileen

GN Club: as of May 26:	Servus chequing -	\$10,216.61
	Servus savings -	\$ 4,938.98
	Tangerine	<u>\$ 6,107.40</u>
		\$21,262.99

Interpretive Program (Apr.30)      Total assets:      \$36,441.00

Membership: 85 members paid; 19 have not renewed

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Nomination of Vice President: Bill Knibbs

**MOTION: that Dave McKenzie be nominated to fill the position of Vice-President.**

**CARRIED**

2. Life Time Memberships: John Slater

The main plaque has been mounted on the bench. John suggested that members may wish to nominate other members as candidates for a Life-Time membership. Nominations are to be submitted to Anne. They will be considered at the June 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting.

3. Baby's Breath Project: Sean Allen and John Slater

- Sean reported another successful season with Calfrac employees working five days and donating about 800 man-hours to the project. About 22,000 plants were removed. The project was covered extensively by the media.
- GN members contributed about 50 man-hours in flagging the plants to be removed.
- It appears that the plants that were removed last year have not come back.
- Both the City and Calfrac plan to repeat the project next year.
- The City provided a barbecue lunch on the last day of work. Several City dignitaries attended.
- Sean noted that other exotic plants were also found in the area.
- John thanked Sean for his capable management of the project.
- The program has been nominated for an Emerald award.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Governance:** no report
2. **Budget:** next meeting in July 2014

3. **Fund Raising:** Hugh Armstrong
  - a) Hugh has been informed that we were not successful in obtaining funds from neither the Canada Post Community Foundation (required audited financial statements) nor the Home Town Heroes Award (encouraged to try again next year; will give guidance).
  - b) Hugh and Corlaine continue to work on applications for a casino license and the C.I.P. (Community Initiative Program) Grant.
  - c) Gary Martin has agreed to serve as Casino manager.
4. **Field Trips:** Gary Martin
  - June 7: Orchids in Cypress Hills
  - June 21: Mystery Trail in Cypress Hills
5. **Issues:** John Slater
  - a) The judicial review re: sage grouse is slated for June 30 in Calgary.
  - b) June 6: Mattheis Ranch Field Day: members are invited. Preregistration is necessary.
  - c) Other invasive plants in Ranchlands: City has asked for help with Leafy Spurge
  - d) Committee meeting will be held at Martha's home on May 28; further discussion with Petra Rowell.
  - e) John invited members to become active as 'Trail Watchers' and offered a free litter picker to anyone who was interested.
6. **Indoor Program:** Rob Gardner
  - Rob reported that 36 programs had been provided during his six years as coordinator and provided a breakdown in the types of programs offered during that time.
  - A new coordinator is needed.
7. **INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM REPORT:** Corlaine Gardner
  - a) Two new staff have been hired: Jessica Godin as an intern under Natural Resources Canada and Oolepeeka Egeesiak under Young Canada Works.
  - b) Community classroom is booked for all of this week.
  - c) MHIP will share a booth with SEAWA at Spectrum.
  - d) June 14 is Prairie Appreciation Day – Prairie Conservation Forum.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. General Meeting June 24 will be the annual potluck at Police Point Park Nature Centre at 6pm. John and Hugh will arrive at 5pm to set up. Others are welcome to help as well.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 8:00pm

**INDOOR PROGRAM:** Petra Rowell – Executive Director of Nature Alberta

Petra talked about the organization of Nature Alberta which is a federation of nature groups from around the province. She indicated that this organization was established in 1970 by six nature clubs from around the province (Grasslands Naturalists is a Corporate Member but not a founding member as GN was not formed as a group at that time). Presently the membership is comprised of 40 clubs from across the province. Ten of the Sixteen Board Members are from the corporate clubs (Martha Munz Gue is a Board member from our GN society). Presently the four major projects of Nature Alberta are:

- Living by Waters
- Bird Conservation Program
- Citizen Science Program
- Young Naturalists Club

For details on Nature Alberta, visit the website or go to their Facebook page. The web addresses are as follows:

Web Site: [www.naturealberta.ca](http://www.naturealberta.ca)

Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/NatureAB](http://www.facebook.com/NatureAB)