

SOCIETY OF GRASSLANDS NATURALISTS
Minutes of GENERAL MEETING – February 28, 2012
Police Point Park Nature Centre

1. **Call to Order:** 7:07pm John Slater – President/Chair
 Gary Martin - Secretary

2. **Minutes:** The minutes from the January 24, 2011 meeting were reviewed and accepted. John Slater moved to adopt the minutes as read, Bill Knibbs seconded. CARRIED

3. **Exciting Sightings:**
 - Eileen Cowtan saw a weasel.
 - Marty Drut witnessed a Goshawk chasing a flock of Bohemian Waxwings,.and a Great Horned Owl that had a rabbit in its claws, but dropped it.
 - Linda Carney observed an optimistic coyote eyeing geese sitting in the river ice.

4. **Treasurer's Reports:**

Eileen Cowtan presented an updated financial report as well as a Budget for 2012. The current chequing account Balance is \$7,701.31. The 2011 financial reports for both GN and MHIP will be 'audited' (checked) by Milt Spitzer and Gary Martin before presenting the reports at the coming GN AGM, March 27.

5. **Business:**
 - A. New Bylaws: John read the Special Resolution that the new GN Bylaws will be presented at the AGM for approval. A quorum of 37 members is required for the vote.

 - B. AGM on March 27: Written reports will be submitted and verbal summaries presented. Election of Executive Officers and Appointment of 3 Directors at Large and Nature Alberta Rep will be conducted. John invited nominations to be submitted for all positions.

 - C. Indoor Programs: Rob Gardner has organised the following presentations:
 - March 27 AGM: Ryan Heavy Head of the Red Crow Community College, Standoff, Kainai First Nation will speak about the timing of natural events and the Blackfoot perspective on Ecology.
 - April 24: Wayne Nelson will discuss turkey vultures in Alberta based on results of his extensive wing-banding program.
 - May 22: Sabrina McLean, of AB Economic Development, will lead a scenario-based game played by our members. Participants will learn how land use decisions can influence the future of our community.
 - June 26: Potluck supper at Redcliff River Valley Park

 - D. Field Trips: Mike O'Shea was absent but Gary Martin announced the upcoming field trip "Walk with the Cougars" on Saturday March 3rd, meeting at the Visitor Centre in Elkwater at 9:00am. Also possibly a trip to the Blackfoot Crossing near Cluny was mentioned.

 - E. Interpretive Program: Corlaine Gardner informed the members that the Kiwanis Family Day event held last Monday February 20 was very successful with 843 people attending. The current art in the Main Gallery of Bison drawings by Adrian Stimson will be coming down at the end of February and an art displayed by Dean Francis will be up throughout March. To celebrate the coming of spring, an acoustic guitar musical event called 'String

Fever' by Bill Frank and friend will be performed on the evening of March 17th. With the Easter weekend events, April 6 to 9, many volunteers are needed. Training volunteers to make Ukrainian style Easter eggs will be held at the Nature Centre March 15th at 7pm.

F. Greater Sage Grouse:

-Marty Drut informed the members that a full indemnification clause was in the Ecojustice Retainer Agreement for the lawsuit.

-John is planning to meet with Fish and Wildlife to find out who is on the Sage Grouse Recovery Team and the current results of the Recovery.

G. Nature Alberta: Marty informed the members that the AGM is in Edmonton April 14 -15. He would not be going but hoped the new NA Rep for GN would attend.

H. Door Prize: Draw for door prize at the meeting was won by Eileen Cowtan. She selected the array of cactus plants donated by Ben Velner.

6. **Adjournment:** 7:50pm.

7. **Program:** "Return of the Bison". Garth Glass gave a talk on bison ranchers discussing the similarities and differences compared to cattle.