Buffalo Lake Nature Club

Annual General Meeting

February 20, 2020

Chris Pfeifle called the meeting to order with 19 persons present

**Reports:**

Nature Alberta

Claudia Lipski has been the BLNC rep to Nature Alberta for several years. She was Secretary on the Nature Alberta Executive but recently stepped down from that roll. She will stay on the Executive until the Fall AGM.

Nature Alberta is restructuring their Board and wanting more professional individuals to be on the Board. With the transitions NA also wants to give more autonomy for all the members of all the affiliates.

Linda Howitt Taylor, the President of Nature Alberta, expanded on the transitions it will take about a year to work them out.

One goal is to give more voice to the individual members of all the affiliate clubs, and giving fair representation to the different clubs and or regions.

Vision is to make Nature Alberta available to all Albertans, to educate the importance of nature study, the environment and it’s protection. And to draw in new interested people who may be interested in these goals. David G asked how many members there are in Alberta - about 3000.

Linda wants to meet directly with the clubs and get feedback - what are Club needs and work on some strategic planning. They also want to update the bylaws to make it easy and not restricting. The e-magazine will be available free to all club members there will be a cost for the paper copy. NA can use the gaming account (casino money) to distribute the e-magazine for free to members. Nature Alberta has lost Government funding so will need to use fiscal restrains and new ideas for fundraising.

The Fall AGM date has not been set they are looking at hosting it in Edmonton. David G asked why not Central Alberta - maybe Stettler?

East Central Alberta Heritage Society

Bob Richardson is the appointed BLNC member on the ECAHS. This group is responsible for the rail bed from Morrin to Edberg. They are also responsible for the Rumsey, Rowley, Big Valley and Meeting Creek Linear park trails, which are on the old rail beds. The BLNC has monitored and cleaned out the bird nesting boxes along these trails. The tracks are almost completed to Donalda, although it will be over a year before crossings and other construction is completed.

Saturday May 9, 2020 2- 6 pm Railway Heritage Fest at Warden Park. For a $25 membership you will receive a train ride on the Steam Train from Stettler to Warden and enjoy afternoon games and activities and supper.

Bob suggested the BLNC have an information booth about the Bird nesting boxes and the birds and fauna of the Warden Park, a good partnership of both clubs.

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**Business:**

Minutes:

Marie Payne moved the minutes of the last AGM Jan.21, 2019 are adopted as posted on -line ( a few paper copies were distributed at the meeting) 2nd by David Guba -carried

Marie moved the minutes of the last general meeting Nov.21, 2019 be adopted as posted on line( paper copies were also distributed) 2nd by Charley Bird -carried

Financial: Simone DeCnodder gave a update; at the end of the year the BLNC had a balance of $1701.99 with a few outstanding incidental bills to be paid.

All the large expenditures for the 2020-year have been paid; rent to St George’s Anglican Church $25 per use, Insurance, Web site and email accounts. The Society annual report and Nature Alberta membership fee has been sent in.

Melanie Koch moved to accept the financial information as presented. 2nd by Bob Richardson -carried

Marie made a motion to make donations of $100 each to the Chautauqua and Heart Beat for their continued advertising for us. Also $100 to the annual Christmas Bird Count. Motion defeated, discussion: it was felt those amounts were too high. The publications are doing a service for clubs and groups , maybe we should put in an occasional ad instead of a donation. The Chautauqua has put in our monthly announcements in each issue for over a year and not charged us anything. Marie will look into the cost of ads in each publication however the price of an ad maybe more than the proposed donation.

Marie motioned to give $40 donation to The Chautauqua 2nd by Linda Howitt Taylor - carried

Claudia motioned we donate $40 to The Christmas Bird Count 2nd by Simone carried

Stettler District History Book-

Stan Eichhorn has asked the BLNC to submit a write-up for history book that is being updated. Claudia has completed a draft of BLNC history from 1973 to present and Charley will read the final draft. Thank you to Claudia and Charley.

Owl Counts

A sign up list will be available for interested people to join us for the 1st count March 20 - April 10, the 2nd count from April 11 to May 5

Please update your BLNC membership and contact information.

Buffalo Lake Nature Club Membership fees for 2020 Single $10 - Family $20

Moved to accept the annual fees by Marc DeCnodder 2nd Claudia - carried

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**Elections:**

Chris Pfeifle will not be standing for President

Bob Richardson will stay on as Vice President

Simone DeCnodder will stay on as Treasurer

Marie Payne will stay on as Secretary

Mark Higgins will stay on as Director and facilitator when needed

Charles Bird will stay on as Director

Nominations for President: Charles nominated Marie Payne she declined.

Bob R nominated Bob Schrieber- he respectfully declined.

Marie Nominated Claudia Lipski she accepted.

No more nominations for president were offered.

Marie nominated Alex Steinhubl as Director she accepted

Claudia nominated Melanie Koch as Director she accepted

David Guba moved we accept the above roll of executive 2nd Marc D. Carried

Melanie K moved that Chris Pfeifle be removed from the signing authority. She moved we approve the new signing authority of Bob Richardson, Simone DeCnodder and Claudia Lipski. Direction was given for Bob, Simone and Claudia go to the Credit Union to make the changes 2nd David Guba carried

Simone D thanked Chris Pfeifle for his service to the club as Past President. He stated that it was a pleasure and that he will continue to be a member and involved when he can. Thank you Chris

Ideas for the upcoming Events and Speakers

Bob R. has a friend who could talk on Drumheller rocks

Melanie knows Bob Thompson from Ducks Unlimited and is willing to contact him

Alex S. and Tina will do a talk on edible fungi

**Tabled** for the executive meeting to iron out details

Wayne Kinsella adjourned the meeting

Minutes by Marie Payne

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Roll Call 4 February 20, 2020

Brian L -Recently visited England. Enjoyed the different bird, wildlife and fauna. He has seen changes to the landscape. Because Pheasant hunting is so popular they are breading Pheasants so there is a industry and then they release the birds for a hunt. More industry and jobs. The birds need shelter so new shelterbelts and hedges have been planted and established which in turn increase the biodiversity of the areas. 100s of trees have been planted so again increase in nurseries businesses.

Seem England is 15 years ahead of Canada

Bob S - Had a song sparrow in his yard

Asked for difference between Sage Grouse and Grey Partridge. Sage Grouse very rare and Partridge have a flash of orange under the wing and they fly up when startled . He has 6 Grey Partridges in his area

Wayne K - Bohemian wax Wings cleaned out the Mt Ash trees in Bashaw and now there are House sparrows

Karin L - has been stuck in the office and not seeing much

Claudia L- Hares at Ellis Bird Farm have brown tips on ears. Albert brought in 2 mice but the Great Horned Owls are not yet nesting Watch the web cameras from EBF

Linda HT. - Also in England with Brian. England NO Spray policies seem stronger than in Canada

They enjoyed seeing the English Robin, Red Deer, Pheasants and A Red Kite. Many dead Badgers on the roads. They have TB so they are trying to control them .

Alex S - 2 Great Horned Owls

Marie P- a few Great Horned Owls. A Snowy Owl when a storm came in last week

Bob R - talked about the pecking order at the bird feeder - larger birds scare off the smaller. He asked what Bird does the Pileated Wood Pecker not scare away? The Steller’s Jay. They seem to share the feeder at Rochon Sands, but he has not managed to get a picture of the 2 of them together.

Melanie K - Has a Pileated Wood Pecker in her back yard in Stettler - they look so prehistoric. They have a sly hare at the Youth Centre only seen on the security camera.

Sue G -Bohemian Wax Wings cleaned out there Mt Ash and several Snow Shoe Hare in the neighbourhood.

David G- On the way to Red Deer seen Bald Eagles

Kami R- Watching short eared owls. Came across a dead animal in the field and there were 5 Bald Eagles on it ! Also observing a Fox Den

Simone D- Many wood peckers at their feeders in Pelican Point, a couple of Pileated One seems slower they noticed he only has one eye

Marc D- Ruffed Grouse so slow, one was crossing the road. Marc had to stop the car and shoe it away

Sharon Anderson- Great Horned Owls seeing many on her travels

Also a Gyrfalcon always seems to show up at her place this time of the year on its migration north.

Charley Anne B -Great Back Yard Bird Count was Feb 14 - 16

They saw:

10 chickadees 10 house sparrows 3 E Collard Doves 2 downies 1 Red Breasted Nuthatch

1 Flicker 1 Magpie 2 Blue Jays 1 Junco

What was missing? - Wax Wings and Red Polls -none observed

Chris P - 3 weeks ago he drove out to Abraham Lake to see the ice bubbles. He got too close to 3 Big Horned Sheep . At home watching the E Collard Doves and sparrows going in and out of the spruce trees.

General discussion: increase reports of Lynx and Cougars in Calgary. Who is encroaching on who’s habitat? Lynx and Cougars have always been there homes are being built in natural areas. This year hare population has also increased and people are in the natural areas more often

Notes by Marie Payne