

**Friends of Wascana Marsh Annual General Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2017
Saskatchewan Science Centre – Small Theatre
2903 Powerhouse Dr, Regina, SK**

Members Present: Jim Elliot, Gary Seib, Kim Mann, Val Mann, Ingrid Thiessen, Barry Kaytor, Tara Sample, Lorne Scott, Chris Somers, Duncan Willis, Margaret Skeel, Lori Milligan, Norman Henderson, Ray Poulin, James Barr, Jill Forrester, Ramona Clarke

Guests Present: Barry Clarke, Tannis Marks, Michelle Peatsch, Jordan Ingatiuk, Sarah Turkeli, Emily Henderson, Brenda Fieger

Regrets*: Ryan Fisher,

1. Call to Order 7:06 p.m.

2. Welcome – Lorne Scott

Lorne Scott welcomed those in attendance and honored guests.

3. Minutes from January 21, 2016 AGM – Duncan Willis

Duncan Willis read the minutes from 2016.

Motion 17-06: Willis/Henderson (M/S/C) – that minutes from the 2016 Annual General Meeting be accepted as read.

4. Treasurer's Report – Gary Seib

The November 30, 2016 review was prepared by Arlene Janzen, CPA, CA. The balance sheet and statement highlights are as follows. From the balance sheet, the current assets amount is cash \$24,423 and prepaid expenses are \$1,009 and the accounts payable are \$560. There was a deficiency of revenue over expenses in the amount of \$(8,292). Revenues highlights were memberships at \$771, donations of \$150, banquet revenues of \$12,607 - sponsorships and grants of \$6,550 - and Wascana Turtle Program sponsorship \$5,000 for total revenues of \$25,078. Expenses highlights include festival expenses of \$4,450 - banquet expenses of \$6,865 – a new website of \$3,790 - general expenses of \$1,735 and donations for projects of \$3,027 and the Wascana Turtle Program of \$13,503. In total, expenses amounted to \$33,370. Notes from the financial statements for commitments were read out.

Motion 17-07: Seib/Elliot (M/S/C) – that the financial statements for the year ended November 30, 2016 be accepted as presented.

Motion 17-08: Seib/Milligan (M/S/C) – that the 2017 financial statement be reviewed, not audited.
Motion passed unanimously.

Motion 17-09: Seib/J Clarke (M/S/C) – that Arlene Janzen, CPA,CA, Chartered Professional Accountant, be appointed to prepare the 2017 financial statements.
Motion passed unanimously

5. **President's Report – Lorne Scott**

Some highlights that we had this year....

- Partnership with Prairie Conservation Action Plan – *Native Prairie Speaker Series* sponsorship by providing advertising and venue for the event at the 2016 WOW Nature Festival. We have already committed to a similar sponsorship in 2017.
- Developed invasive species awareness, especially Salt Cedar and European Buckthorn, by advising the Wascana Centre Authority & the City of Regina
- Provided volunteers and funding for supplies for the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) project in the Habitat Conservation Area
- Expressed our concerns to the Wascana Centre Authority Board of Directors on the development of private enterprise within Wascana Centre. This resulted in a meeting with Dr. Vianne Timmons and other executive of the University allowing Friends of Wascana Marsh to directly communicate our concerns and offer expertise.
- Supporting the second year of the Wascana Turtle Project in partnership with the Royal Saskatchewan Museum and the University of Regina. By providing stipend for the research project, we are able to access data on the habitat needs of the Western Painted Turtle and FOWM can work towards the sustainability of this prairie marsh species.
- New website is up and running in February 2016
- 2016 Wings Over Wascana Fundraising Banquet – Christy Morrisey was our key speaker
- 2016 Wings Over Wascana Nature Festival – slightly new format but excellent attendance. Supported by long time sponsors – SaskEnergy, Conexus Credit Union, The Co-operators, Wascana Centre Authority, and Ducks Unlimited Canada.
- Working with WCA to import bugs to control the purple loosestrife in the marsh area which is increasing
- Working with WCA to decrease the number of boats entering the Federal Migratory Bird Sanctuary during the open water season.
- Working with WCA to establish a native seed mix that can be distributed in the Habitat Conservation Area where the goat grazing project took place.
- Working with WCA to ensure the fence and around the Habitat Conservations area restricts access of invasive animals, like domestic dogs and cats.
- Contacted WCA to express our concern on balloon releases in the park and its effect on the inhabitants of the Wascana Marsh.

Motion 17-10: Scott/Kaytor (M/S/C) – that the President's report be accepted as presented.

6. **Greetings from the Saskatchewan Science Centre (SCC) – Sheila Beaubien for Sandy Baumgartner, Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Science Centre**

- Regrets from Sandy Baumgartner not being able to attend.
- Bats are already captive in the Science Centre for the spring release.
- Travelling exhibit has Todd Mintz photography display.
- Fantasy Food Fundraiser is March 18th at the SSC.
- At the Imax, Star Wars is wrapping up soon. Beautiful Planet is on now. New release is coming soon.

- Question about outdoor winter program for students. Sheila said SSC had a snow shoeing program awhile back. The day camps do take children outside. Lori Milligan said the Public School Board has outdoor programming in the marsh in the winter.
- Lorne Scott thanked the SSC for the use of the meeting rooms for our regular board meetings.

7. Greetings from Wascana Centre Authority (WCA) – Michelle Paetsch, CFO & Sarah Turkeli, Ecologist

Michelle brought greetings from WCA and congratulations to FOWM on another successful year. Reviewed the mandate of the WCA which includes Conservation of Wascana Marsh and wildlife. Looking forward to the WOW Fundraising Banquet. Sarah is involved in School Day and it is important that it will be continued in 2017. Goat grazing brought HCA into a manageable state, and WCA is committed to keeping the new growth in check. The overwintering structure was decommissioned and the birds are kept in Assiniboine Zoo and will be returned to Waterfowl Display Ponds in the spring. Waterfowl Display Ponds have a new pollinating garden and renewed bridges with new improvements planned in 2017. Ecologist program has a new educational program. Successful Spooktacular had a nature focus with hundreds of citizens participating.

Replaced drinking fountains, upgraded washroom, Waterfowl display ponds, trails, underground sprinkler system and masterplan development. Want to use more native plants. Upcoming year will be challenging with funding. Thank you to FOWM for their funding support of WCA Ecologist.

Sarah highlighted programs:

Wow School Day – excellent reviews, 210 participants from 8 schools grades 4-6

Display Ponds are being promoted through Bread is Bad Campaign. Grain dispensers were updated. Pollinator garden was planted with native prairie plants and will be used as an educational tool.

United Way Summer Success Program - 3 classes of Students were introduced to the Conservation Area and Display Ponds

Sarah expressed thanks to FOWM for their support with her programming.

Question from Kaytor – request a Broder Street crosswalk to the park and reduce the speed limit along 19th Ave. Michelle responded that WCA is not responsible for issues outside the park boundaries, but any documented concerns are taken seriously and responded to.

8. Election of Board Members and Nomination of Committee Head – Tara Sample

Two members of the board of directors are stepping down. The board will now consists of 8 members, which is within the minimum requirement. Thank you to Tara Sample (who served 6 years on the board) and to Jim Elliot (who has served 6 consecutive years with 11 years in total). Ramona Clarke thanked them for their support and commitment and presented with parting gifts.

Presentation of Slate of Officers – Tara Sample

6.06 Nominations shall not be permitted from the floor during the annual meeting.

The following Directors will remain on the Board for one more year, their second year of a two year term:

- 1) Alisha Triff

- 2) Gary Seib
- 3) Jared Clarke
- 4) Ryan Fisher
- 5) Duncan Willis

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of candidates, for election at this Annual General Meeting, to the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Wascana Marsh. The slate of candidates for election at this January 19, 2017, Annual General Meeting is as follows:

Beginning their 1st year of the two year term are:

- 1) Lorne Scott
- 2) Lori Milligan
- 3) James Barr

Motion 17-11: Sample/Elliot (M/S/C) – That the list of nominees be approved.

7.03 The Officers shall be elected by the Directors of the Friends of the Wascana Marsh at the first meeting of Directors convened following the election of the said Directors.

9. Presentation – Ray Poulin, Acting Director of RSM - *Bioblitz Canada 150*

RSM – Snakes Alive exhibit has increased attendance 25%

Pasqua pictograph opened.

Coprolite exhibit has the only one in the world from a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

Artifact – Artificion Fundraiser is coming up March 3

CWF received a grant from Heritage Canada for Canada 150. Flagship bioblitz is targeting towards connecting citizens to nature. Regina has been chosen as one of 5 locations across Canada. The first draft of contract expectations was received from CWF last week. The RSM programming staff will be coordinating it. CWF is the lead of the program.

Lorne thanked Ray and gave FOWM commitment to the bioblitz that will complement the WOW festival.

10. Presentation – Jared Clarke, *Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Survey*

Birds Studies Canada (BDS) has the lead on this program. BDS wants to determine where the birds are breeding in the province and their abundance. The data collected from this is used by respected decision & policy makers. It will take information from all levels of birders. This is the first in Saskatchewan. It goes for 5 years, and not again for 20 years. Saskatchewan has 15 regions and within are areas 10 by 10 km squares to be monitored. Birding training is being coordinated. Participants are expected to put in 20 hours of surveying over 5 years during the breeding season May to July. Final product will be valuable to government, industry and environmental organizations. To volunteer, go to the website Saskatchewan Breeding Bird Atlas.

11. Open Forum – Lorne Scott

- Dates of the Festival: The Banquet will take place on May 8, 2017.
- Norm Henderson – Concerned there is no one standing up for Wascana Centre Authority as a whole and their funding needs. Want FOWM to think about the mandate. The conversation will continue at the board level.
- Lorne Scott closed the open forum.

12. Closing Remarks – Lorne Scott

Lorne thanked everyone for attending tonight, and reiterated the value of Friends of Wascana Marsh partnership with Royal Saskatchewan Museum, Saskatchewan Science Centre and Wascana Centre Authority.

13. Adjourn – 8:45 pm

Motion 17-12: Scott (M/C) that we adjourn.