

Shuswap Naturalist Club General Meeting Minutes
Tuesday June 6, 2023 at 4:00 PM
Salmon Arm Marine Park

Janet Aitken, Chair for this meeting, welcomed 16 members to Salmon Arm Marine Park at 4:00 PM

Approval of Agenda : Moved Mike Saul/Diane Wittner - carried

Motion to adopt the minutes of the meeting held on May 2, 2023 as amended Diane Wittner/Marcia Woods - carried

Show and Tell: John Woods had a tell for us. He went to Mara Meadows and commented on what a magical place it is. You cannot hear any man made sounds. He saw a nesting pair of Sandhill Cranes and a three toed woodpecker. The botany was also interesting, he saw bog bean, and cotton grass. Greig Weibe reported that deer and bear have been crossing Violet Creek near Grindrod even though the water is high.

Financial Report: Ted Hillary

Bank Balance May 1 2023		\$4,347.87
Receipts		
Dues	\$80.00	
Interest	\$0.37	\$80.37
Disbursements		\$0.00
Bank Balance June 1 2023		\$4,428.24
Patronage		\$0.89
Committed funds	Larch Hills Sign Project	\$2500.00
	Songbird Committee	\$80.00

Motion to accept the financial report as presented. Ted Hillary/Pat Mearns - carried

Membership Report: Ted Hillary. On April 15 Ted sent out a reminder to everyone who had not paid their dues. Ten people did not respond, so he has removed them from the membership list.

Marcia suggested that we should take along membership forms on the bird outings, so if someone is interested in joining, we had get to them right away.

New Business:

1. Ken Raynor talked about the Birds Canada Motus Tracking System

(The [Motus Wildlife Tracking System](#) is a program of Birds Canada and an international collaborative research network that uses cooperative automated radio telemetry to simultaneously track hundreds of individuals of numerous species of birds, bats, and insects. The system enables a community of researchers, educators, organizations, and citizens to undertake impactful research and education on the ecology and conservation of migratory animals.

More about the Motus Wildlife Tracking System can be found at [Motus.org](#)

He suggested that Salmon Arm would be the perfect place to install one of the receivers. Diane said she and Collin had been talking about it as well. John is confident that some of the schools would like to be involved in such a project. There is a cost involved, so it would mean fundraising and grant applications. Barbara and Ken, Diane and John are going to gather more information to bring to the next meeting.

2. Tree removal: The club received a letter from Todd and Kimberly Dunlop (which Ken forwarded to all members). They are very concerned about the tree removal on 26 Ave NE. They are asking the club to help address this situation. Almost no one had a chance to read the letter by the time of the meeting, so we may want to revisit this in the fall. However, individuals can still express their concerns.

Reports:

- Outings Committee: Action packed thank you Cathy, John and Marcia. See Newsletter for updates. Marcia talked about the success of the family outings and suggested that next year more outings on weekends might bring in people who work during the week. A way to get younger people involved.
- SABNES - Still looking for applications for Summer Student (Janet had an interview right after our meeting) AGM on June 7th - 7:00 PM at J. L. Jackson Campus Kim Fulton Speaker. **Weed pull for invasive plants scheduled for August 14th.**
- Reminder: NO Dogs on the Trail during nesting (until the end of June) Bylaw officer: 250.803.4000
- Report on the Trails Alliance: Shuswap Trail Alliance: Report Trail Issue City Bylaw Officer on speed dial:
- EAC - Report - Janet Pattison. Janet reported that once again, they did not have quorum for the meeting. She said there is a new Director of Community Services who is working on a new bylaw to protect trees combined with the development of a pesticide bylaw. They talked about how difficult it is to enforce the bylaws. It seems that with pesticides it is best to work at the point of sale end. Art Borkant came to the meeting and talked about insects. The city has purchased a 3 year contract for mosquito control.

Newsletter: Marlene McDonald - Thanks again to Marlene for continuing this job. The next deadline for newsletter submissions is July 1st.

Grebe Count - Di Wittner. On May 28, 2023 she counted 283 compared to last year's count of 315. See the newsletter for more details.

BC Nature Representative: Di Wittner - AGM in Langley - see attached report

Coffee Conveners: Pam and Pat - Thank you! They will start up again in the fall.

Next Meeting is September 5th at Sunnybrae Park

Any sightings?

Where are the beavers? - they are around, but not in the beaver pond.

Why is the water soupy already? - warm weather and run off causing algae to grow

Hanne Mackay reported seeing a common merganser with 7 babies

Fern Fennell reported that there is a blue bird with chicks and swallows nesting in the upper Petersen boxes.

Fern reported seeing an Osprey in Canoe perched on a mast and diving into the water continually

coming up empty. She wondered if this was normal behaviour.

John Woods reported on the large number of Swallowtail butterflies this year. Both the pale (black and white) and the yellow.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:35 pm. Motion by Mike Saul.