

Minutes BLESS Annual General Meeting At Sir George Simpson School, January 31st, 2006

Call to order & welcome by president Dave Burkhart at 7:30 pm

- A Quorum was present with 38 in attendance.

1. Meeting Agenda:

- Motion by John Samson that the agenda be accepted as presented. **Carried**

2. Treasurer's Report:

- Bruce Cameron provided a top line report of income and expenditures from January through December 2005, and a review of the financial statement audited by Miles Constable and Nicholas Batchelor
- Final bank balance at years end was \$7,050.33
- Motion that the financial report be accepted by Dan Stoker. **Carried**

3. Summer Nature Program Report:

- Dan Stoker gave an overview of the Summer education program and thanked Heather Heise and Sarah Pearson the staff from the past two years for making the program so successful.
- There was a brief discussion about charging a fee or having a voluntary donation for the program.

4. River Edge Enhancement Project Report:

- Dan Stoker gave an overview of the genesis action to date and future planning for REEP
- Motion by Bruce Cameron for BLESS to apply for a \$2,000.00 grant to continue the next phase of REEP. **Carried**

5. Lois Hole Provincial Park Conceptual Plan, Review

- John Samson gave a presentation on the existing flora, fauna and boundaries of the park; as well as the encroachment and degradation brought about by people and recreational vehicles.
- John led a discussion on what should be protected and included and solicited input into a conceptual plan.
- John committed to providing an email contact for everyone interested in participating.

6. Presidents Report:

- President Dave Burkhart gave a presentation highlighting the accomplishments of BLESS in 2005, touching on the many activities BLESS supports in St Albert such as Springing to life, Spruce up the Sturgeon, Mayor's Walk for Charity, Summer Nature Program and REEP to name a few.
- Dave also thanked the many members of community both BLESS members and non members whose participation made the many accomplishments possible.
- Dave discussed the recognition and honour BLESS achieved this year when it was awarded the Steward Services Excellence Award by the Alberta Government.
- Dave outlined the vision for BLESS activities in 2006 and then opened the floor for discussion.

7. Discussion:

- Scarlet Hearsma Volunteered the use of two canoes for BLESS activities if needed.
- Dan Stoker thanked Louise Horstman for all of her dedication and service to BLESS over the years as she was not standing for the Board in 2006
- Dan Stoker thanked **Heather Heise** and Leo Nikerson Elementary for their donations to the Summer Nature Program.
- Peter Demulder gave a report on the December bird count
- Stuart Loomis recognized the members from various other organizations who were in attendance:
 - Frank Vagli – North Saskatchewan Water Alliance
 - Peter Johnson – Green Party Candidate for St Alberta / Edmonton
 - Corol Grove – Alberta Department of Community Development
 - Roger Belley- St Albert Parks Department
- Valerie Braden extended an invitation to attend a luncheon meeting at the Château Lacombe about Grasslands on February 15th; cost is \$15 call Valerie for tickets.

8. Board Nominations for 2006:

- Nicholas Batchelor
- Dave Burkhart
- Bruce Cameron
- Miles Constable
- Stuart Loomis
- Bob Russell
- John Samson
- Jack Wiercinski
- Nominations were unopposed. A vote of eligible members was taken and the nominated members duly elected

9. Adjournment:

- There was a motion by Nicholas Batchelor to adjourn at 9:34pm. **Carried**