



Delta Naturalists Society

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MINUTES – General Meeting – May 4, 2021

Via ZOOM

7:00 to 7:30pm – Free time for members' chat – Excitement surrounded the sightings of the Great Horned Owls and their owlets in Beach Grove Park. Expect to see many photographers at the site.

1. **Welcome and call to order** – Audrey opened the meeting at 7:30pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion moved by Jim Kneesch. Adopted without modification.
3. **Current Business:**
 - a. **Approval of minutes of April 6th** – Motion moved by Carol Rennie. Adopted without modification.
 - b. **Report on April 21st Executive Meeting** – Joanne gave the report and emphasized conservation items. Further to the harassment of raptors in local Wildlife Management Areas, Syd has sent a detailed letter to our provincial contact with suggestions for signage. This was on behalf of the ad hoc DNS committee consisting of Glen Bodie, Grant Edwards, Roger Meyer, Anne Murray and Syd.
Anita outlined all the activities in which our club has been involved to BC Nature in our 2020-21 Annual Report.
 - c. **Financial/Membership Report** – Jim reported our bank balance as \$10,320.85. This includes in total \$4,500 from the BC Naturalists' Foundation grant and the Pacific Parklands grant earmarked for the brochures. No new members this month.
 - d. **Birds and Biodiversity Report** – Terry Carr reported that the Bugs brochure along with the Animals and Inter-Tidal Life brochures will be printed at the same time. There will be a link on our web-site to the brochures. Members of

this Committee are: Anne Murray (Chair), Terry Carr, Chris McVittie, David Hoar, Nicki Brockamp and Pamela Swanigan-Graves.

- e. **Environment** –In 2020, there was a joint provincial federal request for comments from the public on FORTIS' plans to expand the size of their LNG plant on Tilbury Island. SIGTTO (The Society of International Gas Tankers and Terminal Operators) has established international standards for the operation of gas terminals and transportation of LNG. Their standards dictate that LNG must not be shipped through busy waterways and that LNG terminals, such as the Fortis one, must not be anywhere close to inhabited areas. Although the plant has been there for many years, the location is problematic. Should a tank develop a leak, it is likely that all life within 500 metres would be flash frozen. In certain circumstances, a fire could erupt.

The current environmental impact assessment time frame has been paused at the request of the proponent.

- f. **Cascade Bird Box Team** – Jim K. reported that they are checking local owl boxes for activity and eight more owl boxes have been built, the majority going to local farmers.
- g. **Bearss Bursary** – Syd and Audrey will be sending out a letter to the membership regarding our 2021 donation appeal for the Tom Bearss Bursary at UBC. The \$2000 award was divided among two students this year. Both recipients are 4th year Natural Resource Conservation students in the Faculty of Forestry.

4. **New Business:**

- a. **iNaturalist** – Chris McVittie gave a PowerPoint presentation on this worldwide database of plants and animals. It is used by many naturalists and he estimated that 10% of our members use it. It is a good way to identify species and add to the scientific pool. The City of Delta has asked DNS for support and help with the 2022 City Blitz. He suggested we can get started by joining the BBPA Boundary Bay park event between May 13th – June 15th. For more information: <https://www.pacificparklands.com/regional-parks-snap-share/>

- 5. **Adjourn** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm. Moved by Valerie Fuller. Adopted.

6. **Presentation – Deborah Jones – Rain Gardens for Salmon**

Deborah is the volunteer Rain Gardens Coordinator for the Cougar Creek Streamkeepers in North Delta. She oversees the maintenance of 29 school and community rain gardens created since 2006. She gave a thorough and enthusiastic talk on the history of Cougar Creek and explained the purpose of rain gardens where the “Water is the Magic”. A rain garden receives runoff water from impervious surfaces (roofs, parking lots, driveways, roads). By creating a rain garden the runoff water is a great resource for our gardens and for replenishing groundwater. In the larger picture rain gardens may reduce saltwater intrusion and coastal land subsidence in low-lying coastal areas like Delta.

Elizabeth thanked her for the comprehensive and interesting presentation.

7. **June’s presentation** – Our next general meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, June 1st at 7:30pm. Dale Hjertaas is our presenter On Safari in East Africa.