



Delta Naturalists Society

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MINUTES – General Meeting – April 6, 2021

Via ZOOM

7:00 to 7:30pm - Free time for members' chat – Discussion took place around the return of tree and violet green swallows as well as a sighting of a lesser gold finch on the slough.

1. **Welcome and call to order** – Audrey opened the meeting at 7:30pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda** – Motion moved by David Hoar. Adopted without modification.
3. **Current Business:**
 - a. **Approval of minutes of March 2nd meeting** – Motion moved by Joe Stephenson. Adopted without modification.
 - b. **Report of March 19th executive meeting** – Joanne highlighted two items – the first being the “Moving Forward 2020-2024” Plan Program Review. This Review was approved by our members in March 2020. It focused on identifying potential new initiatives to strengthen our organization. Audrey and Elizabeth discussed how our current activities such as Nature Notes and our Birds & Biodiversity brochures could increase awareness and encourage new people to become members. The executive will review this plan annually.

Social Media was also discussed and although the volume of people using our web-site and Facebook is small, it is worthwhile to continue. Special thanks go out to members who keep our social media platforms functional. These include Jim Kneesch, Ken Borrie, Chris McVittie, Glen Bodie and Terry Carr for his work in sending nature links to the members.

- c. **Financial / Membership Report** – Jim reported our bank balance as \$8,370.53.

Jim informed us we have 29 Family memberships and 62 Individual memberships. Jim thanked Terry Carr for bringing in new members through their photographs for our Birds and Biodiversity brochures.

d. **Birds and Biodiversity Report** – Anne Murray reported that within a month our Bugs brochure will be ready, next will be the Inter-Tidal brochure followed by Animals. She encouraged members to send her good photos of Delta flowers and butterflies and to send her an e-mail should they have questions.

e. **Conservation** – Anita told us about a recent incident involving garter snakes. A Delta Naturalists member observed a group of children picking up the snakes on Boundary Bay, north of 17A near the dike and putting them into a large bucket. It appears that the adults with the children were not objecting to this behaviour. One of the witnesses who observed this has made a call to the school.

f. **Cascade Bird Box Team** – Jim Kneesch reported that this group has extended their projects to bat boxes. Eight boxes have been completed with just two boxes not spoken for. A survey on owl boxes shows activity at all three boxes placed at Kings Links, Tsawwassen Springs and North 40. Jack MacDonald has put a video of the owl activity on Flicker and Facebook.

g. **Bearss Bursary** – Audrey reported that we have heard from Val Titford of UBC. The Bearss Bursary was awarded to two students (\$1,000. each) in their fourth year of the interdisciplinary Natural Resources Conservation program in the Faculty of Forestry. A 2nd annual donation appeal will be sent to the Delta Naturalists membership shortly. A donation can be sent directly to UBC and tax receipts are sent from them. A 'shout out' to Tom Bearss took place in our meeting as April 10th is the first anniversary of his death. Armene told us a warm story about Tom, emphasizing that he always made you feel very special.

Business Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

4. **Presentation – Martin Gregus Jr. – Living Amongst Polar Bears**

Two weeks living on a small boat on a small island in the Hudson Bay with two companions brought our speaker remarkable photographs of 27 polar bears. Betty, Veronica and Wanda, among others entertained us with their polar bear lives and antics. They were part of the female contingent that stole our hearts during this incredible presentation. Martin will be returning to film polar bears

among the flowers in 2021 and we will be eagerly awaiting his photos from this trip. Elizabeth Perrin thanked him for a wonderful evening.

5. **May's presentation** – Our next general meeting will be held on Zoom on Tuesday, May 4th at 7:30pm. Deborah Jones is with the Cougar Creek Streamkeepers. She will be speaking on Rain Gardens.