

**Green Party of Alberta**  
**Annual General Meeting Minutes**  
Saturday, September 26, 2015 10:00 am. to 3:30 pm.  
Red Deer Lodge

Present:

Janet Keeping	Susan Stratton	Diann Duthie
Madeleine Oldershaw	Martin Blake	Henry Macleod
Allison Anderson	Matt Burnett	Brian Deheer
Jerome Backmeyer	Carl Svoboda	Chris Alders
Maureen Grier	Terry Lynn Grier	Joan Riches
Adam Kleitsch	Donna Ontonio	Roger Gagne
Coral Bliss Taylor	Jill Browne	Dick Willott
Gorham Hussey	Jennifer Roach	Ben Roach
Peter LaBastide	Sandy Willott	Larry Ashmore
Frank French		

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Susan welcomed everyone at 10:00 am. She asked everyone to introduce themselves, saying where they are from and why they were at the meeting.

### 2. Agenda Review & Process Notes

In keeping with GPA principles, non-violence (including verbal) is essential. People who speak easily and often need to make room for others. People who don't speak easily are very welcome to speak as we want to hear everyone's opinions and perspectives. Voting will be done with coloured sticks - Green = Yes/ In Favour, Red = No/ Not in Favour, Yellow = More Discussion Needed.

**Brian moved to approve the Agenda. Seconded by Martin. Passed Unanimously.**

### 3. Leader's Address "Needed: An Ethic of Sustainability – the GPS's Key Message in the Lead Up to the 2019 Provincial Election"

Janet reflected on the 2015 general election. Happy with the ND majority. Excited about change and GPA's opportunity to have influence. Sustainability should be our main message for the next election. Need to increase grass roots input on local and global issues by supporting new CAs, identifying GPA candidates & offer policies to engage voters. Develop policies/plans to get more Green jobs. Sustainability means being able to do something forever without destroying our world.

### 4. Candidate Introductions & Voting

Susan introduced candidates, asking each to say a few words.

Carl Svoboda / President - retired petroleum engineer, candidate in 2 prov'l elections, sacred earth needs our protection.

Coral Bliss Taylor / Secretary – engineer, concerned with environment, candidate in last prov'l election.

Madeleine Oldershaw / Member-at-Large 1 – o&g experience as geophysicist, extensive GPA experience as CFO & secretary

Dick Willott / Member-at-Large 2 – oil patch geophysicist, lives in Calgary - Varsity

Ballots were issued to eligible members who had not previously submitted their ballots. Ballots were completed, collected and counted along with those that were mailed electronically or by post.

## **5. Count Results**

Adam announced that all four candidates were elected.

## **6. Guest Speaker : Kevin van Tighem – “Heart Waters: If we were in a water crisis, would we see, understand and treat our prairie river headwaters differently? Because we are, and we should.”**

Kevin’s presentation involved pictures and commentary on the rivers of Alberta. A lot of information – only 2% of the Bow River’s flow comes from Bow Glacier and 80% is from snow melt. The snow melt is now 1 -2 months earlier than in the 1970’s. 60% of snow caught in trees is lost through sublimation/chinooks. Beavers are extremely vital to the retention of water in areas upstream of Calgary to reduce/eliminate damaging floods, yet thousands of them are trapped each year. Drivers of off-road four wheel vehicles are destroying vital riparian areas.

## **7. Minutes Approval (2014 AGM and September 2014 Special General Meeting)**

**Carl moved to approve the 2014 AGM minutes. Seconded by Martin. Passed Unanimously.**

**Jerome moved to approve the September 2014 Special General Meeting minutes. Seconded by Matt. Passed Unanimously.**

## **8. President’s Report**

Susan reminded us that the last 12 months involved 2 by-elections and a general election. GPA’s percentage of votes increased and most candidates were first time candidates. Recent by-election involved a lot of work by Janet, Chris and Jill. GPA’s profile was much improved. Carl & Diann lead the Policy group. GPA has 200 members. CA’s are being created currently.

## **9. Vice President’s & Executive Director’s Report**

Jill said that the 2014 by-election was her first real election that she devoted a lot of effort. The 2015 general election involved the use of NationBuilder. We now have the use of an office in Calgary – very beneficial. Thanks Sol. Monthly newsletter was started. GPA now has Facebook and Twitter accounts. Jill was appointed Executive Director to allow her to deal more with day to day administrative matters and free executive for more important matters. Chris became campaign manager. New signage and materials were acquired for Janet’s recent campaign. Susan has signed Martin Blake’s CA for Election Alberta. Jill called for volunteers for the various tasks needed by the party. NationBuilder will continue to be used for party building / website and database management.

## **10. CFO’s Report**

Matt advised that the current cash balance was \$13,000, and that so far in 2015 \$32,000 was brought in while \$52,000 has been spent. In all of 2014 only \$22,000 was collected. There have been 100 renewals of membership and new members in 2015. His duties include keeping records of contributions to the GPA, preparing financial statements for all elections and the annual

returns in addition to preparing monthly financial reports to the Executive. New Alberta rules prohibit political contributions from trade unions and corporations.

### **11. Constitutional Amendment Proposal, Vote and Results**

Ballots were issued to eligible members who had not previously submitted their ballots. Ballots were completed, collected and counted along with those that were mailed electronically or by post. Madeleine reported that the proposal was passed.

### **12. Constituency Associations (CAs): Growing the Party**

Susan – CAs are a very effective way of growing the party. How do people see CAs growing the party?

Allison – found that voters were positive about the GPA and might want to use a CA to get more involved. CA would help build trust in the GPA between elections.

Jennifer – voters say GPA is invisible between elections. CA would keep the party visible and help raise money for campaigns as well.

Martin – benefits would be to provide more grass roots input and increase local fundraising opportunities.

Dick – CA provides continuity between elections and relieve candidates of some of the workload.

Diann – CA representatives could provide more information to voters & GPA members.

Joan – CA representatives could help candidates with their nomination papers.

Susan requested that persons interested in setting up CA could email Jill / Carl to obtain relevant information.

Jill – it would more efficient to give more notice to the GPA of any intention to set up a CA.

Allow 6 weeks to get a CA approved.

Martin – the most difficult part for him was to get people to attend the inaugural meeting to set up the CA.

Susan asked how many people want to set up a CA by next summer. About 8 people indicated interest.

### **13. Leader Review and Vote**

Ballots were issued to eligible members. Ballots were completed, collected and counted. There was a brief discussion regarding the potential appointment of a deputy leader(s).

### **14. Leader Review Results**

Adam reported that all votes were cast in favour of Janet continuing as leader.

### **15. Formal Adjournment**

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:34 pm.