

Flathead Audubon Monthly Meeting  
February 6, 2006  
Location: Prudential Building, Kalispell

Present: Brent Mitchell, Chair; Lisa Discoe, Linda Winnie, Sonja Hartmann, Ansley Ford, Lewis Young, Bob Lee, Linda deKort, Lois Drobish, Paula Smith, Dan Casey, Bruce Tannehill, Neil Brown and Gail Sullivan

Meeting called to order at 6:15. Minutes from January 2006 meeting were approved. Bruce discussed the current Treasurer's Report. Treasurer's Report was unanimously passed. The March program is still not final.

Discussed letter from Mark and Susan Schwatger about Tutvedt2 Gravel Pit Site. The attachments showed photos of eagles. We're not sure what we are being asked to do.

Special grant request from Rod Ash from the Swan Ecosystem Center for Squeezer Creek Watchable Wildlife Area. The request is unclear. Brent will contact Rod to get more information (request amount and deadline) and Neil will go and look at the area.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Education: Lex Blood has offered to donate \$2,000 (sustainable funds) with matching funds from FAS for \$1,000 to hire an environmental education coordinator. Lisa discussed the "Service Learning" concept that is being used by high schools and colleges. Lisa has discussed this with FVCC. Our coordinator would oversee the student or students. Owen Sowerwine area could be used with this program. Bruce moved that we accept the \$2,000 with our matching funds of \$1,000 for a minimum of \$3,000. The motion was seconded. Unanimously passed. The Education Committee will contact Lex that we agreed to \$3,000 and we would like to expand the proposal after the committee studies it further. The Education Committee would like to hire someone soon.

Any FAS guided hikes would be covered by the Montana Audubon insurance policy.

Web Site: The committee met with Hillary to discuss options and Hillary has come up with mockups to consider. After the final changes have been made, Linda will email the board the website address to use to look at Photoshop mockup and make any suggestions or comments. We have signed the contract and we have paid the first half of our contract.

Conservation. Lewis has nothing new to report. Tiger Muskie is a go-unfortunately. Neil wondered if FAS would ever appeal a bad decision(?) We could join an appeal with other organizations. There was a discussion about consequences of appeals or lawsuits to non-profit organizations. How can we have a stronger impact on decisions?

Publicity. Paula and Linda wrote up instructions on to publicize events and it will be emailed to board members.

Newsletter. March Pileated Post. Not sure of program yet. Shirley Harrison will do Board news. Jeannie will do bird of the month. Conservation recognition article by Jill Fanning. Ansley will submit a Beauty of Birds article. First newsletter was printed in March 1977 and there may an article about that. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FAS will be January 2007 (not Bigfork Bird Club). Linda sent out 42 electronic newsletters last month-not everyone was a member.

Owen Sowerwine. There was a meeting before this board meeting. Linda and Brent will be co-chairs of this committee. A report needs to be submitted. There was a discussion about field trips, the kiosk and parking. FW&P is looking at regulating commercial use of Fish, Wildlife and Park lands. Dan will email the board the information so we can make comments. Consumptive versus non-consumptive use, an issue?

Hospitality. Signups at meetings is still the procedure for bring treats. We need to start planning our spring potluck. West Valley again? Dan Casey will look into the fairgrounds as a possibility. Cost and acoustics are important.

Sales. The last few meetings have been crowded and it's hard to fit in the sales, food and information tables.

Conservation Achievement award decisions. Linda deKort moved that we honor the tree programs of Whitefish and Kalispell. Lisa seconded. Unanimously passed. Paula and Dan will work on contacting the cities and writing up the presentations.

Rollins Point count. Compare pre-logging and post logging treatments. Some of control area was cut. They left a lot of nice snags and some good use of slash. Dan thinks we should do counts for a couple more years and we are earning some money on the project. We are supposed to receive 3 installments of \$500 each. Brent will keep in contact with the logger.

Nominations. Some officers and board members have agreed to stay in their positions. Looking for more members for Nominating Committee. Bob Lee will help Linda deKort.

Webmaster. John Kyle has volunteered as a possible webmaster to coordinate and monitor the FAS website. Everyone we agreed that we would like John to do it.

Owen Sowerwine kiosk. Sonja has the plan for materials for the kiosk but needs help with getting materials. Brent Mitchell will help.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Gail Sullivan,  
Secretary

