

Minutes of the Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting
3 April 2006

Called to order at 1800 hours.

Financial Report - Bruce Tannehill gave the financial report and passed out a sheet with the financial information. He will be out of town for the April and May general meetings, but plans to attend the May Board meeting.

Education Committee (Sonja Hartmann in Linda deKort's absence) – (1) motion to hire Paul Berlinger (Mike Fanning made, Ansley Ford seconded) to facilitate the Teacher's Workshop in June. Unanimous pass. (2) Contractors license more-or-less on hold right now. (3) There was recent work done on the education trunks. (4) Family Forestry Expo is coming up – over Mother's Day weekend – need some help with manning the booth. (4) Need help with the kiosk project at Owen Sowerwine. Rochelle had a materials list; but since she has left, Sonja needs some help with interpreting it and getting the materials. Brent Mitchell and the Owen Sowerwine committee will help.

Beauty of Birds (Ansley Ford) – Starts Wednesday. 17 participants already signed up. Dan Casey, Sallie Hejl, Denver Holt and Bruce Tannehill are speakers; Neal and Pattie Brown will lead a field trip to Owen Sowerwine NA.

Web Committee (Linda Winnie) – (1) almost ready to launch; think about dissolving Web (development) Committee and replacing with a Web (maintenance) Committee. (2) Should we include Mission Mountain Audubon, specifically their trips and events, on our website? Most opposed including on a regular basis but would consider "special events" on a case-by-case basis.

Conservation Committee (Lewis Young) – written a letter about Forest Service land sales; deadline has been extended.

Conservation Award (Paula Smith) – Dan Keyes, Dick Solberg and Mike Baker for the Whitefish and Kalispell tree programs.

Publicity (Paula Smith) – lots of stuff coming up; Don Jones tentative program for May; Lots of kudos for the excellent job that Paula is doing.

Libby Request (Bob Lee) – William Hubbard had written to request help in creating a bird sanctuary at the old Stimson mill site in Libby. With a little discussion we decided that we could not help financially. Bob Lee agreed to write a short blurb for the Pileated Post telling people about the project and advising them to contact William if they would be interested in helping.

Newsletter (Kay Mitchell) – lots of articles, had a handout to cover them all. Deadline is 18 April.

Montana Audubon (Brent Mitchell) – (1) still solvent. (2) passed a strategic plan with minor changes. (3) Janet is working on 3 ballot initiatives: regulatory taking, right to farm and ranch (which will allow game farms) and the clean and healthy environment (which will allow the legislature to define). (4) 7 applications for the Executive Director position; this will probably reopen. (5) 2 new birding trails – Bitterroot and northeast Montana, will probably tie these into TravelMontana. (6) expecting 56 application for the mini-grants. (7) Bird Festival is 2-4 June, should be getting brochures soon. (7) Conducting major tours as fund raisers.

Sales (Lisa Discoe) – Lisa would like to pass the responsibility to someone else in the fall, especially as she has taken on the Education Coordinator position. Jill Fanning volunteered to do it ½-time, but we will need to get another person. Several people have requested song CDs.

Field Trips (Leslie Kehoe) – summer trips to Glacier National Park, Jewel Basin Owen Sowerwine and local in Kalispell. There will be a need to limit the number of participants on some of these trips, the trip leader will need to be contacted to sign up.

Owen Sowerwine (Brent Mitchell) – need to get a meeting with DNRC.

Nominations (letter from Linda deKort) – Linda was out of town so sent a letter via email to the Board members. Mike Fanning read his letter to the Board concerning his views on accepting the nomination for Vice President and insisted that all Board members contact Linda deKort with their views before he would accept the nomination.

Meeting adjourned approximately 2100 hours.