

Monthly Flathead Audubon Society
February 5, 2007
Location: Jane Lopp & Associates Conference Room
295 3rd Avenue E. North
Kalispell, MT 59901

Attending: Bob Lopp, Chair; Gail Sullivan, Brent Mitchell, Lewis Young, Leo Keane, Barbara Grove, Marcy Mahr, Ansley Ford, Lois Drobish, Linda Winnie, Linda deKort, Bruce Tannehill, Bob Lee and Shirley Harrison

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

FAS received a grant of \$418 from National Audubon to make our educational trunks up to state standards.

A motion was made to accept the January minutes as amended and unanimously passed.

Bruce discussed the treasurer's report. There was a meeting of the Budget Committee but no changes were made to FAS investments at this time. They will conduct further research. A motion was made to approve Treasurer's Report and unanimously passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee. For the February meeting, the tables will be removed and more chairs put in the room for the program: "Yukon's Three Rivers Project". We'll see if we can have a couple of tables in the back of the room for sales and refreshments. We will not ask for a donation at the door to cover the program costs. March program is Jan Wasnick. No program yet for April and May.

Owen Sowerwine Committee. Linda discussed the OSNA meeting this afternoon. (1) Linda W. discussed what has been done to obtain permanent protection for OSNA. She has contacted the River to Lake Project to get their help. (FAS is also a part of this group). There are 3 options this group is considering and they ask us to be flexible. A motion was made that the FAS board would like Linda W to be our representative for the River to Lake Project in working on these options and negotiations. This motion was unanimously passed. Linda W will report back to us on the progress of this project and the FAS board would vote on the details. (2) The neighbors of OSNA have put together a map of trails around the OSNA area. This group has a \$200,000 grant that they are using to work on the Sam Bibler Commemorative Trails Project but they need a 14% match. Linda's motion is that we donate \$250 from FAS and ask Montana Audubon to donate \$250. Unanimously passed. Bruce said we would like the donation out of "Grants" and Linda will contact Montana Audubon.

Linda W discussed Senate Bill 345 "Montana Stream Legacy Act". (Agriculture is exempt from this bill) This is a top priority for Montana Audubon. Linda handed out contact information for those who want to support this bill and did not receive the action

alert email. Senate Bill 391 – Conservation Easements for State Lands. Protecting Montana’s traditional ways of life.

Kila Rookery. The rookery is in a Ponderosa Pine grove behind the Kila post office. There are lots proposed in the area and some people are proposing mitigation measures before the plan goes before the Flathead county commissioners. Marcy would like to have a letter from FAS supporting the mitigation measures and Lewis has agreed to write one for FAS.

Education Committee. “Rod Ash Day”/Lone Pine. The Rod Ash Committee met and discussed the proposed Lone Pine Raptor Day and other possible research. The Committee would like to have \$500 donated from the Rod Ash Memorial donation to kick off the Rod Ash Day starting with student research (Upward Bound Program from Flathead High School) at Lone Pine and continue through this fall and at other locations in later years. The Rod Ash Day would probably be in August. This motion was unanimously passed. Good job, Ansley! Melissa would also like some FAS volunteers to help. Shirley Harrison already volunteered to help.

Conservation Achievement Award – Habitat Sales. Bob discussed this award that will be given at the General meeting on February 12.

Linda discussed potential future conservation achievement awards nominees. We need one more award for the spring. Brent made the motion and Mike Fanning seconded that the “Waste Not” program would be the recipient for the spring award. FH Stoltze will be seriously considered to be a recipient next fall.

Conservation. The FAS letter was sent out on the Peregrine Falcon issue. The proposal to delist the Bald Eagle may be out soon. Lewis discussed the proposal to move Chair 2 on Big Mountain. Lewis’ concern was how the projects have been piece mealed (instead of making this project part of their Master Plan.) Lewis will draft a letter for FAS response. DNRC is proposing a 3-creek timber sale in the Swan Creek area. Lewis will contact Jane Adams and get her input and maybe partner with other groups like Trout Unlimited, for a response.

Field Trips. There is a field trip on February 18 for the Mission Valley and February 13 field trip will be rescheduled since it was too cold to have the trip on February 13.

Nominations. Linda discussed her “Dream” nominees.

Newsletter. Tentative list. March program, President’s Column, coming Teacher’s workshop, Beauty of Birds, requests for nominees, looking back 30 years – newsletter, (Bob will email out a list of founding members and let Bob know if you can give anyone a ride to the March meeting), little tidbits.

Hospitality. There are 3 people bringing refreshments and cake left from last meeting.

Lisa will bring the coffee, as usual. Jill and Linda deKort will also bring coffee for the expected larger crowd.

Sales. Linda deKort brought items back from Mexico that will be for sale at the March meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary