

Flathead Audubon Monthly Meeting
January 7, 2008
Location: Jane Lopp & Associates Conference Room
295 3rd Avenue E.N.
Kalispell, MT 59901

Present: Chair, Mike Fanning; Lewis Young, Leslie Kehoe, Brent Mitchell, Bruce Tannehill, Rod Iver, Ansley Ford, Mary Nelesen, Bob Lee, Paula Smith, Linda Winnie, Gail Sullivan and Leo Keane

Meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

The December minutes were approved, except that the participants of the meeting were not named. It was decided not to add at this time. Unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report. We are still low on dues. Sales are doing well. Donations have been good. \$500 grant to the Citizens of better Flathead. Value of our investment accounts are down considerably from this summer. Ansley will look into a possibly WalMart grant that we have received in the past. We need more money for our education expenses. Bruce and Mike are going to talk to Lex Blood.

COMMITTEES

Owen Sowerine

There was a meeting today. The committee has decided to start volunteer monitor program in March. This will be publicized in the next newsletter. They decided at the meeting that a budget needs to be formalized for Owen Sowerine so that grants can be applied for. There is an unauthorized cabin on the "big" island and this will be burned down by DNRC. There have been motorized vehicles entering from the north end. The committee looked at the master plan and said that there only minor changes that they would recommend. Because these changes are so minor, the Committee will not officially recommend any changes be made at this time, but will wait until more substantial changes are also identified and then include these minor ones as part of the recommendation at that time. In two years our current license expires.

General Meeting

The only sales at January general meeting will be calendar sales. Jill and Lois will not be able to attend the meeting. There are people signed up to bring cookies for the meeting.

Program

Rob Ford has been signing up people to do the programs. The presenters receive \$25 and a thank you card. Dale Becker will be doing February program. Ansley asked if there was any backup program if a presenter wasn't able to show up. Bruce Tannehill has a canoe trip presentation that he could show at a moment's notice. There are several possible programs available for the remainder of the season.

Conservation

Steve Hoffman attended the meeting where it was decided that Peregrine Falcon's chicks will be taken from the wild for falconry. Steve was vastly outnumbered by falconers.

Lewis discussed the proposed Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project request for comments from the Flathead National Forest. There are several questions that are not answered in this draft and Lewis will respond with our comments.

Field Trips

There are several field trips listed in the current newsletter and 2 field trips in March. Leslie will be starting on the summer field trips soon.

Education

Winter Trails Day. The Core group has put together a few events for Winter Trails Day. Ansley suggested that at the education meeting that our proposed film fundraiser be discussed. Ansley would like to put together a Snowy Owl trunk and Bruce said FAS could afford to reimburse her for the expenses.

Newsletter

Next newsletter: Program announcement, bird of the month, President's column, field trips, freezeout lake trip, summaries of local Christmas Bird Count results, conservation achievement award, 3 more of watch list birds, science tidbit, Great Backyard Bird Count, Nancy's education activities, Beauty of Birds, birding opportunities, photo of presentation of check from WBC to a FAS representative for bird seed sales.

Bird Seed Sales

Number of bags of bird seed sold through Western Building Center (WBC) for all 5 stores: *25 lb. bags- 91 bags *40 lbs. or 50 lbs.- 260 bags. We will receive a check for \$610 from WBC. We would like to be able to publish the photo op with WBC and FAS rep in the local newspapers. It was suggested that we do a separate mailing next year to promote the bird seed sales through WBC.

Nominations

Linda deKort is looking for volunteers for the Nominations Committee. Mary has agreed to help on the committee. This year we only need nominations for board members. Linda deKort also suggested that we brainstorm for additional names for board members. Paula Smith suggested Barbara Boorman. Bill Schustrom another possibility. Steve

Gniadek. Donna Pridmore. Two people who signed up to attend education meeting (ask Ansley) Flathead National Forest wildlife biologist, Steve Anderson.

Items of “desperate” need

Is anyone going to Flathead Roundtable meetings? Nancy said she would try to go. Bob occasionally goes. Montana Audubon quarterly board meeting is January 12; Bob Lopp cannot go. Is anyone interested in attending? Mike will call Steve and tell him no one is able to attend.

National Audubon is looking for nominations for National Audubon board.

On January 12, there will be hearing at the Red Lion of the Fish and Game Commission hearing on change in hunting districts. Brent and maybe Lewis will be attending.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary