

Flathead Audubon Monthly Meeting  
March 3, 2008  
Location: Jane Lopp & Associates Conference Room  
295 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue E.N.  
Kalispell, MT 59901

Present: Chair, Bob Lee; Ansley Ford, Marcy Mahr, Brent Mitchell, Bob Lopp, Lewis Young, Bruce Tannehill, Lois Drobish, Sonja Hartmann, Linda Winnie, Rod McIver, Paula Smith, Leslie Kehoe, Mary Nelesen, and Gail Sullivan

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Bruce discussed the Treasurer's Report. Hard copies of the February minutes were handed out for any changes. Bruce Tannehill was able to deposit money from Pay Pal from the FAS website into the FAS account for memberships.

## COMMITTEES

### Education

Beauty of Birds. Planning is almost completed for the Beauty of Birds course. Bob Lee and Leslie will lead the field trip for the last session. Rod Ash Day. (Raptor Day) Is FAS planning to make this an annual event with Lone Pine? Would we like to emphasize a different bird? It was decided to stick with Raptors as a theme. Timing? Ansley will look into the timing-what's the best time of year for this event?

Nancy Zapotocki adopted Ansley's school for Backyard Bird Count. Nancy would like to adopt a different school every year for this. Nancy is applying for a Montana Audubon grant for supplies. Earth Day booth coming up for Earth Day at Woodland Park. There was a meeting with Lex Blood about setting up some kind of watershed event in the valley.

Forestry Expo-May 10 and 11. Do we need more Hotspot brochures? Waiting to hear back from Montana Audubon. We probably need more printed.

Fundraiser. The owner of Signature Theaters may be able willing to help sponsor our film festival.

### Funding – Bob Lopp and Mary Nelesen

Tote bags – Mary has done a lot of legwork on this issue. There are 2 sizes available and made in USA of cotton. The smaller bag is recommended. With the FAS logo cost is about \$5 and can sell for \$10. Mountain Valley Foods will sell during the two-week Earth Day period for us and will donate portion of sales during Earth Day. Third Street Market in Whitefish will sell during April and may donate something. Bags will also be sold at FAS meetings. Rod motioned to buy 150 of the smaller bags, Linda W seconded. Unanimously Passed.

Bob Lopp brings up that we need to begin to brainstorm on how develop a long-term donation strategy.

Sonja brought up the possibility of colorizing the FAS trifold brochure.

Brent brought up the possibility of a Wildlife Society grant to help fund specific projects. Although he doesn't write grants, he'll look into the particulars.

#### OSNA – Brent Mitchell and Linda Winnie

The FWP Commissioners passed removing the Old Steel Bridge closure. There will probably be deer tags available for the areas around OSNA.

At the TWS meeting, Brent made contact with a person from the MSU Ag Center in Corvallis, MT. This may lead to a low-cost purchase or even a donation of more insects for biological weed control at OSNA.

Brent and Linda are already getting calls for volunteers to monitor OSNA. They will ask again at the general meeting and also asking Board members to sign up. The monitoring forms are available on the FAS website.

Janet Ellis has begun negotiations with DNRC for an appraisal for a permanent conservation easement on OSNA.

#### Conservation – Lewis Young

Dale Becker and perhaps some of his staff will come to the general meeting to receive the conservation award for the Salish-Kootenai wildlife program.

The FWP Commissioners approved the taking of Peregrine Falcon nestlings for falconry purposes. However, they are again taking comments. Janet Ellis gave extensive comments concerning the area covered for taking and documenting the ownership of nestling. This has brought up the concern of "sale" of wildlife resources.

FWS draft guidelines have been finalized on the delisting of Bald Eagles and are available on their website. This finalized rule has a definition of disturbance.

#### Field Trips – Leslie Kehoe

Leslie is currently working on spring and summer field trips.

#### Program – Paula Smith

Gene Grove will give the March program on his Alaska trip.

Bob Lopp will contact the Bethlehem Lutheran church where we had the May potluck last year to see if we could have the potluck there again this May.

Website – Paula Smith

The Website Committee will meet at Jane Lopp and Associates on Wednesday, 12 March, at 1500. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please look over the website. If unable to attend, you can email comments to Paula.

Nominations – Mary Nelesen

Paula Smith has agreed to run again for the Board. New candidates that have agreed to run are Melissa Sladek and Dick Kuhl.

Grants – Bob Lee

Request from Ravenwood for \$125 to fund a low-income student's attendance. Marcy motioned to give the money, Linda Winnie seconded and unanimously passed.

Dan Casey requested all or partial funding of \$795 to fund Josh Covill to attend the ABA Young Birder's Conference in Minot, ND. Bruce motioned that we fund Josh for \$400; Linda Winnie seconded and unanimously passed. There was only \$125 left in the grant account, so the remainder would come from the Barb Baxter Fund. There was some discussion as what would happen if Josh could not get the rest of the funds. Bob Lee will contact Dan about looking into ABA funding. It was also brought up that Josh should give a brief overview at a general meeting and write a short article for the Pileated Post about his experiences.

Newsletter – Linda Winnie

Linda has people lined up to write articles for a full newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan and cohort, Bob Lee