

Flathead Audubon Monthly Meeting
September 2, 2008

Location: Jill and Mike Fanning's, 380 Tally Lake Road, Whitefish, MT 59937

Present: Chair, Mike Fanning; Lois Drobish, Bob Lee, Ansley Ford (limited time), Kay and Brent Mitchell, Mary Nelesen, Jill Fanning, Paula Smith, Lewis Young, Linda deKort, Rod McIver, Richard Kuhl, Nancy Zapotocki, Bob Lopp, Leo Keane (limited time) and Gail Sullivan Guests: Gael Bissell, Ben and Aidan Long.

Meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.

Minutes from monthly meeting May 5 and May 12 potluck meeting were unanimously approved, with changes.

Nominations

The following committee chairmen were appointed as board members: Brent Mitchell, Linda Winnie, Kaye Mitchell, Leo Keane, and Linda deKort.

Program

Ansley Ford and Richard Kuhl have been added to the Program Committee to help Leo Keane. Most of the programs for 2008-2009 have already been lined up.

Education Coordinator Report

Raptor Day is coming up and preparation is going smoothly. We will be able to use the new visitor center at Lone Pine. Can we print more membership brochures for Raptor Day? Nancy will have the Paper Chase print off 100 copies-not sure if partial color and black and white. Nancy will check costs.

Grants received: National Audubon grant, (applied for \$6,000 grant from Plum Creek), Flathead Conservation District, Environmental Quality water quality trunk, trunk workshop.

Year ahead: presentations to teachers, teacher workshop, expanding conservation workshop, Great Backyard Bird Count, senior programs, developing watershed program, networking with other programs. Our map was stolen at Owen Sowerwine. Nancy will put up a new sign under plexiglass.

We reached over 4,000 youth and adults last year.

Sonja Hartmann is leaving because her husband got a new job at Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Linda deKort suggested that we get Sonja a Todd Hileman painting of a Pileated Woodpecker. Donations were collected from attendees.

Conservation Bond

Ben Long, representing Flathead Trust, discussed the Conservation Bond issue (\$10 million bond) that will be on the ballot this November. That money can be matched with other funds. The polling completed earlier shows that this bond is popular with the public and the bond could pass. Ben is looking for contributions from organizations and individuals for the campaign and help with a mass mailing. Talk it up with your friends. Talking points: “Waffle”: Water, Access, Family Farms, Legacy and Economics. Campaign for Clean Water and Open Land. Ben will come to the general meeting to make plea. Motion was made: Bundle individual contributions made to FAS and then FAS turns around to donate to this campaign since a contribution to FAS is tax deductible. Brent seconded. Unanimously passed.

North Shore State Park/WMA Project.

Gael Bissell discussed the proposed North Shore State Park/WMA proposed project. Right now it is in the middle of a public comment period. They are hoping to get other landowners on board, too. September 11 is the public comment meeting at Somers Fire Hall. Lewis will write a letter representing FAS views to submit for the public comment period.

Owen Sowerwine/Prudential Global Volunteer Work Day

OS Work Day is September 27. Brent is lining up volunteers and equipment for Work Day projects.

Newsletter and Recycling

Kaye thinks that FVCC trailer will be at the FAS meetings to pick up donated recycling. October newsletter: Tom Ulrich program, Bird of the Month (Virginia Rail), From the Board (Mike), profile of Ruth and Jack White, (Bill Schustrom and Josh Covill will be asked if they will head up the Fieldtrip Committee vice Leslie Kehoe.) Sunflower Seed Sale, Membership Renewal, Report on Raptor Day, Education Grants received, Science Tidbit, goodbye to Sonja, article by Ben Long on Conservation Bond.

Birdseed Sales

Doug at Western Building Center (WBC) has agreed to sell birdseed for FAS again. Birdseed prices have really gone up this year. WBC will sell 20 lb and 40 lb bags. Polson WBC will no longer be part of the birdseed sale program.

Sales

Jill will be selling t-shirts with Golden Eagle and FAS printed on the front as a fundraiser. Audubon Calendars will also be sold. Let Jill know if anyone has ideas on other items to sell.

Conservation

In June, comments on the Sheppard Creek Post-Fire Project on the Tally Lake Ranger District were submitted. Subjects for comments included the one-dimensional Purpose and Need statement which was entirely timber harvest oriented and did not include anything about wildlife habitat, snags and downed wood, post-fire reserve areas, black-backed woodpeckers, and motorized access.

Montana Audubon has produced three new reports on riparian and wetland protection that are available online at the MT Audubon website or hard copies may be requested from them.

The figures for the 2007 bald eagle surveys are available from MT Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The number of bald eagle territories in MT increased again. A table was passed around showing the number of territories each year and the numbers show a steady increase each year. Also a map of the territories in MT was passed around.

Hospitality

Three FAS board members will provide refreshments for the September meeting. A motion was made that Lisa can submit a bill to Bruce to reimburse Lisa for the shade grown coffee and cream that she brings to the meeting. Unanimously passed.

Ann Waltz would like to make some kind of a presentation at a FAS meeting about alternatives to mosquito control. Linda deKort will call Ann Waltz about a possible presentation in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary