

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting  
September 8, 2009

Location: Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 Third Ave., E.N., Kalispell, MT 59901

Present: Bob Lee, Chair; Brent Mitchell, Kay Mitchell, Mike Fanning, Linda deKort, Bob Lopp, Lois Drobish, Richard Kuhl, Dennis Hester, Paula Smith, Ben Young, Gail Sullivan, Mary Nelesen, Steve Gniadek and Melissa Sladek

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

All board members introduced themselves.

Lois Drobish said that Lisa can no longer bring the Coffee Trader's coffee to the general meetings. Lisa suggested we purchase a commercial coffee pot. Bob Lopp said he will take care of bringing coffee for the September general meeting until we come up with a final solution. Melissa said she would be glad to help with publicity since Paula has now taken up Vice President duties.

Committee Chairs Dan Casey, Lois Drobish, Brent Mitchell, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, Linda deKort, Richard moved and Mike seconded that the committee heads be appointed to the board. Unanimously passed. ( Ask Bob Lopp or Linda deKort about this and get all of the names.) One-year positions.

Mike moved that the May minutes, both dates, and Brent Mitchell seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Bob Lopp (per Bruce Tannehill) said that we have to approve a formal budget and discussed the Treasurer's Report. Bob Lee will discuss any changes with Bruce. Richard moved that we tentatively approve the budget, Brent seconded, for a month until We can clarify some questions with Bruce. Unanimously approved.

Finance Committee. Membership renewals are due in October. Mike moved that we move to a new membership structure of \$20 for basic membership, \$35 for supporting membership. Richard moved that we bring the new structure to the general meeting for a vote. Mary Nelesen. Unanimously passed.

The FAS bylaws need to be changed to allow this new structure. (See newsletter wording of old and new). Linda moved that we approve this change to the bylaws, and seconded by Dennis. There are other inconsistencies in the bylaws, which we will be researched and changes submitted to the board next month for approval.

Hawk Watch. Mike moved that we authorize \$1500 from the Barb Baxter fund for a Hawk Watch grant that Dan Casey requested. This should not be construed to be a long-term financial commitment to the Hawk Watch program. Steve seconded. Motion was amended to add that this \$1500 is only for one year. Unanimously passed.

Education Committee.

Rod Ash Raptor Day. June Ash will be able to come. Brent and Kay can give her a ride if she needs. There is still a need for someone to lead the 8 a.m. bird walk. Ben Young may be able to lead this bird walk. There is also a need for someone to Open and Close the event who represents FAS. Linda will check with Ansley to see if she could do this.

Nancy received the \$10,000 fellowship from that she applied for from "Together Green"- a collaboration with Audubon and Toyota. This fellowship is on the top of the \$20,000 that she receives from FAS/Sustainability Fund. Linda deKort will email to board members the proposal that she submitted for improvements to Owen Sowerwine habitat.

(Richard moved that we would pay the \$150 registration fee for anyone who is interested in attending the Global Warming Workshop and Advocacy Training that National Audubon is sponsoring)

Hospitality. Board members need to bring treats for the September general meeting.

Owen Sowerwine Work Day. This event will take place on Saturday, September 26, at 9 a.m. at Montessori School. There are 2 bridges to put together, trail work (including weed work), and kiosk work. Ben Young has some students who may be able to help with the kiosk work. Linda will check with Ansley to see if she has any requirements for the kiosk. There will be weed work on the big island and transportation by canoes. FAS will supply bags for weed disposal. We will ask for volunteers at the general meeting. Richard will put together the supply list.

Programs. Chris Peterson is the September program. October is wetlands by Amy Chadwick. November is Middle Fork history by John Fraley. December is Dan Casey's CBC program.

Steve suggested that we ask the County Commissioners to mail us any subdivision requests for wildlife comments. (ask Steve about this).

Website and Publicity. Please look at the middle of the Home Page when you have some special event useful to draw attention to this is the place that gets refreshed regularly. Field trip reports, etc., are very useful to post there. We have also added a link for information on what to do with injured wildlife.

Fund Raising. The committee has not met recently. Mike is the Chair. WBC is working with us again to sell bird seed again. Bird seed prices have gone down this year. The sale starts October 1 through December 31.

Steve was contacted by Tom Quinn from Whitefish and Mr. Quinn would like to contribute funds for a special project or proposal for FAS. Steve does not know what amount he has in mind. We have our "Special Gifts" program listed in the newsletter. Steve will contact Mr. Quinn to obtain further clarification and hopefully set up a

meeting. Suggestions: Hawk Watch, handicap gate at Owen Sowerwine, Nancy's education programs and a banding station at Owen Sowerwine. Then Steve will get back to Bob Lee with the information.

Newsletter. October newsletter: Raptor Day report, Bob Lee volunteered to do Board article, sunflower seed ad, membership reminder, "feed the birds not bears" article, a "kid's corner", recycling by FVCC again, Bird of the Month, wind energy information.

Brian Baxter (Headwaters) is going to give an educational owl trip in October at Owen Sowerwine. We have asked him not to use flagging but gps his points. Brent told them that it was okay to use OS for this program.

Steve Gnaiak has volunteered to attend the Conservation Roundtable meeting as a FAS representative. Richard Kuhl also attends and can represent FAS.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan  
Secretary