

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting
October 5, 2009

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

Present: Bob Lee, Chair, Mike and Jill Fanning, Brent Mitchell, Linda Winnie, Bill Schustrom, Paula Smith, Bob Lopp, Dennis Hester, Lewis Young, Lois Drobish, Kathy Ross, Steve Gniadek, Ben Young, Linda deKort, and Ansley Ford

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

Thank you notes were received from June Ash for Raptor Days and American Bird Conservancy for the Hawkwatch grant we gave them.

The September 8th minutes were approved.

The Treasurer had a moose permit so was not at the meeting and there was no Treasurer's Report to read. Mike moved that the budget approval be delayed one more month, seconded and unanimously passed. Cost of OS workday expenses of over \$330 are still outstanding.

COMMITTEES

Owen Sowerwine

There were 37 people signed up for the Prudential/FAS Work Day. The kiosk was completed and it is a very professional job. (Although within a week the map was stolen from the plexiglass). Ben's wife came up with an OSNA logo. A truck load of weeds was pulled. The main trail got moved. The decking did not get completed but Brent and Steve will work on it in the next couple of weeks. Everything went very well. A pair of boots went missing if you notice you have an extra pair after the Work Day.

The volunteer monitoring program is going well. Brent has been receiving the completed reports. There is still some monitoring to be done thru November. Anyone can download a monitoring form if they go on an informal trip to OSNA.

FAS/Montana Audubon are beginning the negotiations of a new permit with DNRC. There is a meeting on October 13. There will probably be several meetings.

There was discussion of what can be done to replace the stolen map from the kiosk. The Education Committee will decide what is the best thing to do.

Education

An Education Committee was held on October 5. Nancy is doing a Educational Trunk workshop on October 17. A different classroom is doing the Kid's Corner in the Pileated Post in the months to come. Linda is pursuing a new Forest Service challenge grant

that would have to be matched. There was a native plant/wildlife garden planted by the students at Glacier High School with a grant that Nancy Z. obtained. Ansley is taking her class to Owen Sowerwine next week.

Linda deKort got accepted to attend the Climate Change Workshop in Washington, DC.

Lex Blood would like FAS to come up with strategic plan for Nancy's education program so that the information can be shared and donors can be approached with this information. Lex will pay for education consultant to help come up with the plan. November 2-3 is when the meeting will be. The Education Committee will be involved, plus Mike Fanning and Steven Gniadek.

Fund Raising

Steve talked to Tom Quinn, a potential donor, and Mr. Quinn would like a list of our project priorities with costs. Mike Fanning is going to come up with a condensed list. "Donor Funding" with the Whitefish Community Foundation is a possibility.

Mike said we have had few membership renewals but have received a substantial amount of money with some of the renewals, plus some "special gifts". At the October general meeting, Nancy is going to show one of the educational trunks.

Hospitality

Bob Lopp will bring the caffeinated and decaffeinated coffee for the October general meeting again.

Field Trips

There is not a lot going on right now but Bill will start working on planning field trips soon. Let Bill know if you have any ideas on field trips.

Montana Audubon

There was a Montana Audubon board meeting a few weeks ago. The whole focus was Montana IBA's. IBA's are mainly on private land and have to be approved by a state board. IBA's are good information to use for planning purposes. Steve Hoffman would like more emphasis by the state FAS chapters on establishing local IBA's. Owen Sowerwine is an IBA. Mike proposes that we have a FAS member who could concentrate on IBA's. Janet Ellis also received a fellowship through Toyota through the "Together Green" program.

Conservation

Steve called the County Planning Department and the person he talked to told Steve he would to read up on all the planning regs, letters to the county commissioners, etc. so that

FAS would be able to comment on proposed subdivisions. Steve will look into this further.

Lewis said that bald eagle nests are still increasing, according to the latest surveys. Lewis said FWP is proposing an exchange of property. Lewis will check into the details and see if FAS should comment. FWP is also developing a management plan for a piece on Foys Bend and Lewis will also look into this. DNRC is working on a state management plan and accepting comments through October 9. Lewis will talk to Bob Lee about the specifics and Lewis will condense information and forward to the board.

Other Items

Dan Casey and Lois Drobish would like to resign as full board members and stay on as committee chairs. Jill is looking for items to sell at the Sale table so let her know if you have any ideas. Jill has an autographed field guide signed by David Sibley that she would like to sell as a raffle item.

Newsletter

Proposed November contents: Paula - information on the program, Gail Cleveland will do the Bird of the Month, Board members viewpoint, field trips, Brent's report on OSNA work day, article on planting bird habitat garden at Glacier High School, Kid's Corner, announcement of Linda deKort's acceptance to Climate Change Workshop, article on increase in bald eagle nests and link to plan, Nancy's and Janet Ellis' fellowships, recycling information, sunflower seed information, information on Peregrine Project. Schedule of board viewpoint pieces: Dennis and Ben will do March and April. Ansley will do November. Steve – January. Mike – December. Kathy Ross - February.

Conservation Achievement Awards.

Linda Winnie handed out an information sheet on past recipients of our Conservation Achievement Award. Linda will like board members to think about who they would like to add as new possibilities and we will discuss at November meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary