

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 2, 2009

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

*Present: Bob Lee, Chair, Linda de Kort, Steve Gniadek,, Mary Nelesen, Lois Drobish, Bruce Tannehill, Richard Kuhl, Lewis Young, Jill Fanning, Mike Fanning, Brent Mitchell, Bill Schustrom, Linda Winnie, Bob Lopp and Paula Smith.*

*The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m.*

*The minutes of October 5, 2009, were approved with two minor corrections.*

**Treasurer's Report**

*A motion and second to adopt the Proposed Budget for 2009-2010 passed unanimously after Bruce reported on the following items:*

*Income:*

- \*Dues from National Audubon are expected this month.*
- \*The Proposed Budget for Seed Sales will be reduced to \$300 at Mary's suggestion.*
- \*The Proposed Budget Transfer from Operating Fund will be increased to \$295 (to balance).*
- \*Actual Raptor Day income received from Art Ortenberg at 11/1/09 is \$3,000.*
- \*Other Donations In that may be received with member dues should be available for operations. Mike noted that September program presenter Amy Chadwick returned her \$25 honorarium in exchange for FAS membership. The membership form and how to account for "Additional Donations" was discussed. Up to \$35 belongs to the Operating Fund. Both Bruce and Jill keep schedules of donations made via the Special Gifts form and Additional Donations made with the Membership form.*

*Expenses:*

- \*Actual Raptor Day expenses will also be changed to \$3,000.*
- \*The Transfer to Owen Sowerwine of \$550 represents the license fee.*
- \*Accounting for pass-through monies resulting from Nancy's grant applications was discussed. It was suggested the Education Committee assume responsibility for grant accounting and reporting.*

*Assets:*

- \*The change in the Whitefish Credit Union amount at each period end is due to the Educational Fund. Sustainability Fund receipts are late due to a time lag between payment authorization and check issuance.*

*Distribution of Assets:*

- \*Future Owen Sowerwine Fund expenses remain unknown.*
- \*Educational Fund payments from the Sustainability Fund are late. FAS payments to the Educational Coordinator are \$1,667 monthly.*
- \*The \$1,500 paid to the Jewel Basin Hawk Watch was made from the Barb Baxter Fund.*
- \*The negative balance for "Operating Fund in WFCU" under the Operating Fund is the net of Assets and Distribution of Assets in the Whitefish Credit Union.*

*Bruce also noted that completion of IRS Form 990 for 2008 is complicated by the change from a calendar year to a fiscal year reporting basis.*

**Owen Sowerwine**

*Brent and Richard and another volunteer will complete the bridge decking.*

*DNRC local staff met recently with Linda W., Bob Lopp, Brent, as well as Jeanne Holmgren and Janet Ellis of Helena to discuss OSNA. Bob Sandman, head of the local Lands office, brought up the possibility of a*

land trade with Fish, Wildlife and Parks. FWP is interested in seeing OSNA protected and is favorable to FAS management. FWP would provide FAS with funds for management costs.

DNRC was to propose a new license fee by 11/1/09. FAS urges a ten-year renewal. Bob Lee pointed out that OSNA is managed under a "Land Use License", rather than a lease.

### **Programs**

Richard is taking suggestions for 2010 programs. Some possibilities might be Cristina Eisenberg, Dale Becker of CSKT, Climate Change and Dragonflies.

Jill suggested having a moment of silence for Ferne Cohen at the November general meeting.

Jill reported that the Whitefish Community Foundation is donating the use of its building to FAS. The building is on Highway 93, north of Whitefish and next to the river. The building would be free to FAS for the May potluck and annual meeting. In recent years, FAS has rented Bethlehem Lutheran in Kalispell for its annual meeting.

Jill also asked what board members thought of repeating the Kalispell December Christmas Bird Count program in Whitefish on a different night, or whether a videotape of the Kalispell program might be shown in Whitefish. Bruce suggested a special introduction to birds program in Whitefish.

### **Sales**

Mary will fill in for Jill at the sales table at the November meeting. Jill brought the autographed SIBLEY'S and raffle tickets to be sold at the November and December general meetings. Jill also has calendars for sale. Jill will ask Ben Young's wife to make bookmarks to sell for \$2.

### **Hospitality**

Lois will buy cups and Bob Lopp will provide coffee and creamer for the November meeting. Board members bring treats and also specially-packaged treats to sell in December.

### **Education**

Linda d K. passed out a list of Nancy's recent activities. The board will learn more in December or January regarding a grant for \$12,000 from the Forest Service for which Teresa Wenum and Linda d K. have applied. It is called "More Kids in the Woods". FAS will be a main partner. The grant will provide \$7,500 towards the FAS contribution to Nancy's contract. It does not require extra time for Nancy. Linda d K. said that FAS needs a grant writer. Nancy leaves this week to participate in the Toyota Fellowship training workshop.

The Education Committee will meet at a later date to be determined with Lex Blood and Ned Cooney (facilitator) regarding strategic planning that will guide FAS's education work in future years.

Mike pointed out that the Toyota Fellowship award moneys pass through FAS to Nancy.

Bruce said the board needs to discuss the Education/Finance Committee's suggestions for use of the Jack White bequest. Mike will report back to the board on this subject at the next meeting.

### **Conservation**

Lewis submitted comments to the DNRC by the deadline regarding a state management plan.

Steve sent comments to FWP on its draft management plan for reducing pelicans and cormorants in the upper Missouri River.

*FAS received a decision notice from FWP regarding a Ninepipe land exchange.*

*Steve submitted comments regarding thinning and Bald Eagle nest sites (to what agency?).*

*Steve asked if FAS wants to make a statement backing the wilderness bill before Congress to Senator Tester. Richard stated the bill could be the subject for a general meeting program, inviting panel members with differing views.*

*Steve asked about whether individual board members have approval of the board to represent FAS at public meetings, e.g., the Flathead County Planning Board. Board members discussed the pros and cons of representing FAS vs. speaking as individuals at public meetings. The general opinion was that, if there is enough lead time, a statement might be drafted for board approval by email. The statement could subsequently be read into the public record at a meeting of the deliberating body. Alternatively, an individual board member wishing to testify at a public hearing could identify himself as a member of the conservation community, but state that his testimony represents his own views. Steve stated that he will track county issues and bring them to the board's attention as needed.*

*Linda d K. reported on her trip to Washington, D.C., to participate in National Audubon's Advocacy Workshop on Climate Change. Among legislation addressing clean air and global climate change, Linda stated that National Audubon supports standards set by the Kerry-Boxer bill. Recognizing the need for constant surveillance on this issue, Linda d K. suggested that FAS reinstate a committee formed by Ferne Cohen a decade ago, i.e., a "Quality of Life Committee". MT Audubon is offering an incentive for developing an outreach on global climate change. The immediate task would be to write ten different letters for distribution to media outlets by the end of January 2010. Linda will assess member interest in such a committee and letter-writing campaign at the next general meeting. A motion and second to form a "Quality of Life Committee" and institute a letter-writing campaign passed unanimously.*

### **Field Trips**

*Bill is looking into a December field trip. Steve offered to lead a January field trip in Glacier National Park.*

### **Fund-Raising: Birdseed Sale**

*Mary reported that the sale is ongoing through December 31.*

### **Fund-Raising: Other**

*Steve reported that Tom Quinn of Whitefish wishes to make a donation to FAS through the Whitefish Community Foundation. Mike and Jill will also be accepting on behalf of FAS a donation from the Whitefish Community Foundation at a presentation ceremony.*

*Dennis Hester has volunteered to attend a November 13 fund-raising for nonprofits workshop in Kalispell.*

*Mike will write a special request for donations that will appear in the December PILEATED POST and describe the special things that FAS does. This year-end solicitation will be in lieu of a separate letter to be sent to all members requesting donations.*

### **Newsletter**

*Linda W. reported on December PILEATED POST contents:*

*Bird of the Month—Lisa Bate  
Board Member Column—Mike  
CBC Program—Dan Casey*

*Ferne Cohen Memorial—Sonja Hartman or Linda W.  
Toyota Fellowship and Training Workshop—Nancy and Janet Ellis  
Advocacy Workshop--Linda d K.  
Kidz Korner—Linda d K.  
Sunflower Seed Sale—Mary  
Bigfork Peregrine Falcon Behavior Study—Byron Crowe  
Special Donations List—Mike  
Whitefish Foundation Donation—Jill  
Sales Article—Jill*

*Directory changes: Donna Pridmore is resigning as Wetlands Committee Chair. Bruce's email address will be substituted for his street address. The new Quality of Life Committee will be added to the list of committees in the PILEATED POST Directory, with Linda d K. listed as Chair.*

**Conservation Achievement Recognitions**

*There was a short discussion of nominees for this year's Recognition of Outstanding Conservation Achievement. No decisions were made about who to recognize this year. Richard will research those businesses that are successfully using alternative sources of energy with smaller carbon footprints. Linda d K. will gather more information about an individual who recycles computers.*

**Other Items**

*Steve will buy and deliver a bag of birdseed to a Kalispell woman who called Mike to inquire about the availability of free birdseed.*

*The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*/s/ Paula Smith*

*(Rev. 11/10/09 for Linda d K. 's changes.)  
(Rev. 12/2/09 for Linda W. 's changes.)*