

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting
December 7, 2009

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

Present: Bob Lee, Chair; Steve Gniadek, Brent Mitchell, Melissa Sladek, Dan Casey, Bill Schustrom, Bill and Jill Fanning, Ben Young, Paula Smith, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Kathy Ross, Linda Winnie, Richard Kuhl and Gail Sullivan Rod McIver

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

HOUSEKEEPING

The November minutes were approved.

Neal Brown came and spoke about the possibility of starting a Birding Club or natural history organization in Bigfork but not starting an Audubon chapter. He just wanted to get any feedback about this idea. He is going to put some publicity in the local papers.

Treasurer's Report. The tax papers have been filed. Bruce has been receiving quite a few donations in Ferne's memory. No treasurer's report was presented.

Conservation Awards. Possible nominees: Flathead Solid Waste District, Critical Lands Project, Milt and BJ Carlson, Denny Olsen (the Critter Man). Richard Kuhl will look into specific information on the Carlsons. Ben Young will think about any possible nominations at the high school student level.

COMMITTEES

Education. The next meeting of the Education Committee is April 1 at 4:30 at Colter Coffee. Ansley already has done some work for next April's Beauty of Birds at Flathead High School.

OSNA. An update from Janet Ellis on the lease for OSNA. Bob Sandman has instructed his staff to extend the lease under current conditions for at least five years and he would like to exchange OSNA for another piece of property. FWP is interested in a land exchange for OSNA. There may be some mitigation money to pay for this exchange.

OSNA Committee had meeting about an application from a private landowner to rip-rap his property on Flathead River upstream from OSNA. There are numerous rip-rap projects upstream from this proposed project. There has been no cumulative analysis of these projects. There needs to be some monitoring done to monitor affects of the rip-rap. Other concerns: would like to replace plexiglass at Kiosk, get another map from Suzannah Casey, barbwire, etc. Ben Young is in a process of making another sign. The OSNA committee requests up to \$400 for these projects. Mike Fanning moved that FAS authorize up to \$400 expenditure for OSNA work, seconded by Richard Kuhl. Unanimously passed.

Fundraising. Dennis attended a workshop on building your endowments through bequests. Four different fundraising methods: Events, memberships, planned giving and bequests. It was encouraged that organizations set up a legacy program. Legacies are very important for some people. Three recommendations by Dennis: 1). Establish a working database of donors, 2). Establish a policy on what to do if FAS receives large donations, and 3). Find out if board members want to set up an endowment or legacy program. Montana Audubon does do all these three things.

Jill said we have raised \$1350 because of the new \$35 membership category for a total of \$3000.

Field Trips. There are 3 field trips set up for January. Jan 9 with the Forest Service- Winter Trails Day at Blacktail Mountain. Jan 16 Steve G. at GNP. Jan 23 in conjunction with Winter Trails-snowshoe trip is free.

Conservation. There are a couple of issues with GNP that Steve will comment for FAS. Tester's Wilderness/Jobs Bill. FAS should comment on this bill.

Programs. Bruce Farling and Tracy Manning will be the January program where the audience can ask questions about the Tester's Wilderness/Jobs Bill.

Hospitality. The board needs to provide treats for the December program. Bob Lopp will bring the beverages.

Website. Melissa needs to have information for the website more than a month or two in advance. She won't be calling around so just keep in mind to email her when there is some new event information.

It was suggested to get out the FAS tri-fold or the Hotspot brochures to various lodgings. Steve will contact the Chamber of Commerce and get information on non-profit memberships and see how we are able to reach out to commercial interests that are interested in ecotourism.

Newsletter. January will have January program, BOM by Linda deKort, board member viewpoint by Dennis Hester, field trip information, report on the sunflower seed sale and thank you, Nancy's report on Together Green Fellowship, list of special donors, celebration of life for Ferne Cohen on January 30, article on OSNA activities, flying dinosaurs. Kay is looking for an alternative Printer because our current Printer is having problems meeting our deadlines. She is looking at having the "Mailroom" at the Gateway Mall do the whole printing/mailing/labeling process. There was a suggestion to email courtesy copies to county commissioners, city council, etc.

Other Items. Raptor day is September 11, 2010. FAS hosts the bird festival in 2011 so it isn't too early to start planning.

It was suggested that we could buy some flowers made with recycled metal for a Ferne memorial. Another suggestion is planting a tree in her memory. Linda Winnie will talk to Richard Cohen about his suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary