

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting
December 6, 2010

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

Present: Paula Smith, Vice-President; Jill Fanning, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, Richard Kuhl, Bill Schustro, Steve Gniadek, Jan Wassink, Dennis Hester, Lewis Young, Lois Drobish, Ben Young, Mike Fanning, Linda deKort and Gail Sullivan. Guest: Bob Lopp

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Paula Smith, Vice-President, at 6:00 p.m.

Bob Lopp announced that we would receive the \$1,000 Prudential grant for OSNA work on Global Volunteer Day. Bob also said that he hoped that the award will help FAS construct a handicapped-accessible trail at OSNA during the coming year.

Minutes. Motion (Lewis/Dennis) The minutes from the November 1, 2010, meeting were unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report. There was no Treasurer's Report, since the Treasurer is in Hawaii.

COMMITTEES

Education. Nancy is at her last Together Green meeting. International Year of the Forest is next year and we will participate in that. We would receive funds from this event for Nancy's salary.

FAS will spend \$20 to buy Bob and Jane Lopp some of Neal Brown's truffles to thank them for the use of their conference room.

Fundraising. We just received a donation from the Gold and Silver Foundation (Oro y Plata Foundation), through Bill Schustrom, for a \$1,000 grant for education.

Lex (Sustainability Fund) is committed to fund FAS education for \$10,000 for the next two years, but after that it is questionable. Lex feels that our Education Program is central to his goals.

Some of FAS board members participated at the Applied Materials Volunteer Fair. Four volunteers were recruited at the fair and now we are familiar with the company for grant applications, etc.

Linda deKort talked to Mary Nelesen about merchandise to sell. Mary suggests we write a fundraising letter instead. Mary did put in to Soroptomist for a grant of 1,000 for FAS and we are going to receive it. A meeting to write the fundraising letter may be on December 27-location to be determined.

Paula talked about a website for National Audubon Chapter Services, which is in Missoula, has information about fundraising, etc. url address:
<http://chapterservices.audubon.org>

Brian Baxter from Libby does tracking courses and asked if FAS is interested in sponsoring one of his courses as a fundraiser. This proposal may be considered with other fundraising options.

FAS Chapter brochure. Linda handed out the draft FAS Chapter brochure for everyone to look at. They should be available for the next general meeting.

OSNA. Linda handed out the OSNA brochure, which Ben Young put together. Since our last board meeting the OSNA Committee has been working with DNRC on:

1. Installing “No Dogs allowed” signs
2. There is still fence trespassing at OSNA from a neighbor. (Heaps)
3. Getting a handicapped accessible entrance at Treasure Lane.
4. Discussing with DNRC a conservation easement or a land trade for OSNA. This might include a land trade with FWP for a more profitable piece of land for DNRC.

Hospitality. Board members can bring Christmas treats for the general meeting, although 2 people did sign up.

There was a question about where the Flathead Audubon banner is, since it hasn't been up at meetings for a while. We will contact Bob Lee and ask him to bring the banner for the general meeting. Mike Fanning also said that the room fee charged by the Summit is increasing from \$25 to \$35 a meeting.

Program. Janet Ellis is doing the January program: Audubon at the Montana Legislature. No program is scheduled for February yet.

Sales. Jill will put the Sales Table in the hallway for this general meeting.

Conservation. Lewis Young has archived some of his older conservation letters on a flash drive. It was suggested that current conservation letters be posted on the FAS website. Lewis submitted comments about reintroducing mountain goats to the Whitefish range. He had many questions of the proposal: what the habitat was currently like, if there would be snowmobile conflicts, etc. It's been 50 years since there have been mountain goats in this habitat.

Field Trips. Steve Gniadek has offered to do a cross country skiing field trip in GNP on January 15. The Winter Trails Day is on January 8. Ansley usually does a field trip for Winter Trails Day. John Hughes is also offering to do a field trip.

Website. Paula and Jan are getting together on December 8 to talk about the FAS website. Hillary said she can back up our website once a month at no cost.

Newsletter. Program, BOM, From the Board, field trips, Kidz Korner, signing up for legislature signups, donors, recycling pickup, mission statement, science tidbits.

Conservation Recognition. The board agreed that the Cave Club of Bigfork High School be recognized with a conservation recognition award.

Bird Festival. The Garden Hilton Hotel said that there is a soccer tournament the first weekend of June in 2012 so it would be hard to reserve rooms for the state bird festival. Linda feels that a committee should be formed now to start on the Flathead Valley Bird Festival for 2012. Dennis Hester, Steve Gniadek and Paula Smith volunteered to be on the committee. Mike Fanning will check with Montana Audubon and see if the first weekend of June is locked in for the festival. We will try to recruit volunteers at the general meeting and in the newsletter.

Linda deKort and Dennis put together an information binder for new board members and would like input from other board members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary