

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

February 7, 2011

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

Present: Chair, Bob Lee; Kay Mitchell, Dennis Hester, Kathy Ross, Lois Drobish, Richard Kuhl., Bill Schustrom, Bruce Tannehill, Steve Gniadek, Lewis Young, Ansley Ford, Jan Wassink.

Call to order

The meeting was called to order promptly at 6:00 p.m.

Introduction

Ansley Ford introduced Ashley Mason the new Conservation Coordinator to the Board. Ashley briefly discussed upcoming education plans and activities. She can be contacted at AudubonAshley@gmail.com.

Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved.

Education

Bob will get a \$100 gift certificate for Nancy Zapotocki from John Ashley Photography.

Motion: Kathy moved to take the funds for the gift certificate from the Education Fund. Seconded by Bill and unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce presented the current the budget.

The Finance Committee will meet to review the asset allocation of the various funds and make suggestions to the Board.

Bob reported that he expects Dan Casey will request \$1,000 for the 2011 Hawk Watch Program. Kay noted that Montana Audubon directly supports the Bridger Hawk Watch Program.

OSNA

Dick informed the Board that the OSNA Committee met prior to the Board meeting and voted to retain the current status regarding dogs, and to increase signage with DNRC's name on the signs to discourage pets in the OSNA.

Fundraising

Newsletter Advertising: Bob has been contacted by out-of-state organizations (both for-profit and not-for-profit) asking to advertise their bird related events or tours in the *Pileated Post*. He said that it is Montana Audubon's policy on birding tours to run the ads at no charge but to require a payback of 10% of the fees that are generated from MTA members attending the tours. There was a general discussion on aspects of advertising in our newsletter including, the need first to develop a written advertising policy, monitor participants in advertisers' programs to insure that FAS would receive the proceeds due

listing commercial tours, and accepting commercial donations. No motions were proposed.

Conservation

Nicotine Based Systemic Pesticides: Lewis and Lois informed the Board concerning a national coalition of beekeepers and others asking the EPA to issue an emergency order to stop their use. Lewis will do some research and report back to the Board.

Church Slough Petition to Change Boating Regulations: Lewis reported that based on a petition by Flathead Wildlife and supported by FAS, MT FWP has prepared a Draft EA to establish a seasonal boating closure from March 1 – April 10 and to require a no-wake rule the rest of the year. The MT FWP Region 1 Citizen Advisory Group has recommended adoption by the FWP Commission. Lewis will draft a follow-up letter of support for this proposal.

Sharp-tailed Grouse reintroduction is being evaluated as a result of recent genetic data indicating that the grouse east and west of the continental divide are genetically similar.

Lewis informed the Board that Loon groups are proposing a ban on lead sinkers. Bob asked if FAS wants to present a 3rd Conservation Award this year. The consensus was not to present another award.

Richard informed the Board that the Big Fork High School Cavers Club was seeking a donation for a trip to the Grand Canyon for research and monitoring.

Motion: By Richard to give a \$100 donation. Seconded by Bill and unanimously approved.

Field Trips

Steve led a discussion of a trip to Wild Horse Island and its scope. The consensus was for a trip in mid-June for Board members and Committee Chairs, and their partners.

Bill contacted Brooke Linford who will lead a trip on March 5th in Glacier National Park. The trip will be announced in the newsletter.

Kathy will lead a trip on February 28th in the Swan area in conjunction with the Backyard Bird Count.

Website

Jan discussed the idea of a “members’ photo page” on the website.

General Meeting

Richard wants the April program to be on wolverines, however non-Michigan fans objected. But the proposed May program on dragonflies was met with great enthusiasm.

Newsletter

Kay discussed implementing an extra page of member bird photos in the e-newsletter to encourage less paper copies being sent. The Hawk Owl e-photo page was a success. One a sad note, it was reported that our visitor, the Hawk Owl, was found dead along Hwy 2.

Other items

Montana Audubon: Bob advised the Board that Steve Hoffman will be away from the office for several months on medical leave. The September MTA Board meeting will be in the Flathead on the 17th.

2011 Bird Festival: The Festival the first weekend in June will have a few different features including Friday workshops, no Saturday evening speaker, a noon lunch on Saturday with a speaker, and a live auction. Costs and the schedule for taking Amtrak to Glasgow were reviewed.

2012 Bird Festival: No information had yet been received from the Red Lion. Bob reported that Mike had received a proposal from Grouse Mountain and that it was very costly.

2011 Forestry Expo: The FAS booth will be there on May 7th.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dennis Hester

Trying to substitute for Gail Sullivan, Secretary

DRAFT