

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

March 7, 2011

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

Present: Bob Lee, Chair; Paula Smith, Jill Fanning, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, Richard Kuhl, Bill Schustrom, Steve Gniadek, Jan Wassink, Lewis Young, Lois Drobish, Ben Young, Mike Fanning, Linda deKort, and Gail Sullivan. Guest: Bob Lopp

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

Minutes. Motion (Dick/Lewis). The February minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report. Bruce discussed the current budget. The Finance Committee will have its recommendation for a possible new investment fund by next board meeting.

COMMITTEES

Fund Raising. Janet Ellis says there are several mini grants available. Mike said we will apply for some of these grants. Bill Schustrom suggested we contact service groups for grants, like Rotary, and he has an application for a Rotary grant. We are receiving a check from Soroptomist.

Education

Mike discussed the need to have an administrator and the Proposed Task List for the Conservation Education Program. Mike will work on the A. and B. tasks. One of the tasks would be a description of administrator duties.

Linda deKort recommended that we commit the next board meeting to generating fund-raising material, which is C. on the Proposed Task List. Linda Winnie suggested that a subcommittee define fund raising objectives before next meeting. Linda deKort, Mike, Bruce and Linda Winnie will help with this task. Linda deKort will email details of the planning meeting to all board members in case anyone else wants to work on this task.

Owen Sowerwine

There was a meeting with FWP representative and there was discussion about enforcement problems. We are also putting up a new "no pet" signs and any signs have to be approved by DNRC first. There is a new OSNA bird list authored by Dan Casey. This new list will be included in the newsletter and to the FAS website.

The new volunteer OSNA monitoring season has started. Linda will take the signup sheet to the next general meeting. Lois will call to remind volunteers of their time. There is a revised monitoring form. A new handicapped trail will be worked on during the summer into the annual work day.

Conservation

Pesticides/bees. There is work being done at the national level by various groups so we will not submit comments at this time.

Lewis submitted a comment letter for the Church Slough new boating regulations.

Lewis and Steve will work on guidelines for wildlife and wind energy.

Lewis passed around a letter by some bird advocate groups that would like to see the Interior Department develop a national feral cat policy. Motion (Dick/Linda W) that we submit a letter supporting this policy. The motion was unanimously passed.

Lewis read a statement that deals with lead weights for fishing, which are very detrimental to loon populations. Lewis would like to see FAS do some public education on this subject. Kay (Brent) will look into which local vendors sell alternatives and publish something in the newsletter.

Field Trips

Bill is contacting leaders about April field trips.

Website

There should be a website review meeting soon. Jan will contact chairs of committees and try to set up a meeting.

Programs

March, April and May programs are all set up. The May potluck will be held at the Whitefish Community Center (Golden Agers) building in Whitefish.

Newsletter

Programs, BOM, from the Board (Paula), spring field trips, Beauty of Birds, OSNA volunteer monitoring program, Kidz Korner, Family Forestry Expo, Kathy Ross field trip report, science tidbit, legislative report, May potluck, donor report, Bears, photo page, loons and lead, Whitefish bird and field trip in Whitefish, Lone Pine Advisory Group. Heads up for May Issue: summer field trips, OSNA Work Day.

Nominations

John Hughes and Denny Olsen have accepted the nomination and Gael Bissell is considering it. Bob Lopp has accepted the vice president nomination.

FAS Bird Festival

The committee has met and have gone over proposals and have visited various lodging establishments. A couple of motels did not meet the Montana State Audubon criteria. The Hilton and the Red Lion are now being considered. They have the facilities and similar room rates.

The committee recommends the Hilton because of location, facilities, minimum \$5,000 catered meal cost (lower than other facilities), etc. If the board agrees, than the recommendation will be emailed to Montana Audubon and they will contact the Hilton to receive the contacts, etc. Paula suggests board members review the festival handbook and wrap-up comments from last year's festival that Bob emailed to everyone with tonight's agenda.

A Motion (Dick/Mike) was made that the board recommend the Hilton for the FAS June 8, 9 and 10th 2012 Bird Festival. The recommendation was unanimously passed. Paula will contact Montana Audubon and the Hilton with this decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary

