

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

April 4, 2011

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

Present: Bob Lee, Chair; Gail Sullivan, Mike Fanning, Linda deKort, Paula Smith, Lois Drobish, Dennis Hester, Lewis Young, Kathy Ross, Bill Schustrom, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, Ben Young, Bruce Tannehill, Jill Fanning. Guest: Denny Olson

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

Minutes. The minutes from March 7, 2011 were unanimously passed.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce discussed the Treasurer's Report. He has not had a request for Owen Sowerwine fees or from Montana Audubon for dues. Bruce said a Financial Committee meeting needs to be held soon since he will be out of town in May. Bruce said there was agreement to pay our June speaker, Bob Martinka, for mileage since he has to drive from Helena. Our investments have been doing well this year. Motion. (Mike/Bill) to take \$3,000 out of the WCU account and \$7,000 from the Domini account and put into Wellington Fund. The motion was unanimously passed. Linda Winnie thanked the Financial Committee for all their hard work on investment research.

#### COMMITTEES

Education. The Beauty of Bird course starts on April 6 at Flathead High School. FAS applied to the North Face Explore Fund for a \$2500 grant for this year's kids at risk project. We will also be applying for a Together Green grant for next year's project.

Owen Sowerwine. The "No Pet" signs have been put up. The approval process is still in process. The Montana Wetlands Council have announced their award. The award ceremony is May 26 in Helena.

Conservation. Steve has suggested that FAS do a radio interview on KGEZ. It could be monthly feature. The Education program, field trips, volunteer opportunities, etc. could be discussed. Bob Lee has agreed to do the first interview. The next interview could be Education Coordinator. There was general agreement that this was a good idea.

Steve also discussed partnering with the Wildlife Society in an education project.

Field Trips. The Lower Valley field trip was well attended and attendees saw lots of birds, including 2 Bewick's Swans. Paula also attended the Freezeout Lake field trip. There is a field trip in April and in May. Kathy will be doing a May field trip in the Swan. Jill is coordinating the June Warbler weekend at Tally Lake and would like to see more people attend. Chris Ruffato said he would do a presentation on hydrology of Tally Lake. It was agreed to offer Chris \$50 for his presentation. John Hughes will do a field trip in June at the Lost Trail National Wildlife Refuge.

Website. There is a new place on the FAS website where current conservation letters are posted.

General Meetings. We anticipate a large gathering for the Wolverine presentation at the next general meeting so Bob will ask about the room extension. Linda deKort will bring some juice to supplement the coffee.

Nominations. Linda is still working with 3 board members whose terms are ending May 2011 and asking them to continue as board members. Melissa is going to go off the board because she is expecting a child.

Pileated Post. May newsletter: program information, BOM, President's columns, field trips, Warbler Weekend and Whitefish birding class, International Migratory Bird Day, report of Freezeout field trip, volunteers for Owen Sowerwine Workday, nominations report, Kidz Korner, Date of Raptor Day, Science Tidbit?, current donors, suggest carpooling from Summit for Whitefish May Potluck, Farmer's Market information, removing "Quality of Life" Committee from committee list.

Whitefish Community Foundation is going to have a speaker on board development and fundraising around the middle of April. Paula is planning to go.

Montana Audubon did sign a contract with the Hilton in Kalispell for the FAS 2012 Bird Festival. Mission Mountain Audubon will not co-host the Bird Festival with FAS, although some of their members will lead field trips.

Fun/Fundraising. Linda deKort handed out and discussed the Fundraising Committee report and potential sponsor letter. Mike is going to respond to Lex Blood that we do not plan to cut back the Education Program next year, as Lex suggested we might have to. We hope to sustain at the current level. It was suggested to do the donor letters in the fall. Linda deKort suggests that the September general meeting's topic be our education program. Denny Olson has a contact who is a videographer and could help us with that format. In the fall, have an article in the Pileated Post about members who could help us with the sponsorship fundraising.

Linda Winnie will draft an education brochure, with editorial assistance from Kay, which could be used with the sponsorship letter. Linda deKort will make final changes to the sponsorship letter and forward to board members. Bruce will work on the remittance envelope. Jill and Bruce will work up some "Talking Points" to be used when soliciting donations. If board members make contacts that they listed on the contact list, email this information to board members. Bruce will compile a final list and email to board members.

Linda deKort suggested that for now we concentrate on the sponsorship contacts and the appeal letter in the fall and delay the other fundraising ideas listed in the report after we see how these projects work. The whole project should be together by the May potluck.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan  
Secretary