

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

May 2, 2011

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

Present: Bob Lee, Chair; Mike Fanning, Linda deKort, Paula Smith, Lois Drobish, Dennis Hester, Lewis Young, Kathy Ross, Linda Winnie, Jill Fanning, Steve Gniadek.
Guests: Denny Olson, Ashley Mason.

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

Minutes. The minutes from April 4, 2011, were unanimously approved.

6:02 Guest Presentation: Ashley Mason, the FAS Conservation Educator discussed the Conservation Education Program (CEP). She observed that the CEP occupies a niche in the education community as a liaison between conservation and mainstream education. No other program/organization does this in the schools and classrooms. The CEP exposes many children to conservation education who otherwise would be left out of the “away from the schools” programs such as Big Creek and the Glacier Institute programs. And surprisingly, the kids in the Flathead are not getting outside as much as one would expect. So there is plenty of room for growth in the CEP.

With the entertaining assistance of Denny Olson, Ashley demonstrated a teaching/learning experience for elementary school students from the “newborn baby bird” trunk. There are similar FAS trunks and programs for pre-schoolers.

She discussed the OSNA Peer-monitoring program – Orion Program – in which at-risk high school students mentor younger students in conservation activities under the guidance of the Conservation Educator, teachers and volunteers. This program continues to reach “kids in the middle” who are otherwise not exposed to the outdoors and conservation education. It has been a great success and very well received.

Ashley discussed, what she termed, “the economic approach”. She pointed out that money is going to out of the Valley education resources and at the same time the community voices the need to make sure our children can find jobs to stay here and enjoy the beauty and resources. Place-based education is one aspect in the community’s ability to keep kids here.

Ashley pointed out that the education trunks comply with Montana’s standards for the No Child Left Behind Program.

There was discussion on the following topics:

- How to encourage family involvement in the CEP. Ideas such as a “poop collection” exhibit were dropped into the discussion. Jim Fiddler in Big Fork apparently has a big collection of poop.
- EPA No Child Left Inside Program
- That the CEP is a private-public partnership was stressed.
- Multiple educational trunks are needed as are grants for funding hardware purchases for the program.
- The idea for an educational program open house

6:50 Treasurer’s Report: The 2011-2012 Budget was reviewed and discussed.

Motion by Mike Fanning, Seconded by Linda Winnie to approve the 2011-2012 Budget. Approved unanimously.

COMMITTEES

6:59 Education. Mike Fanning has applied through Janet Ellis for a NAS grant to support the FAS Education Program. He reported that he expects FAS to receive \$274.00.

Bob Lee reported that Denny Rea and Carrie Ann Smith have expressed interest in being volunteers in the FAS Education Program.

After discussion concerning FAS contributing for supplies for Ashley to use:

Motion by Linda Winnie, Seconded by Kathy Ross, that the Treasurer take \$100 out of scholarships/grants for Ashley to use in this years upcoming OSNA Orion Program. Approved unanimously.

Under the Programs portion of the Agenda Board discussion returned to Education. The continuation of that discussion is reported here.

Motion by Mike Fanning, Seconded by Linda deKort to initiate the process to extend the contract with Ashley from July 1, 2011, to June 30, 2012. Passed unanimously.

Mike Fanning then reported that the Sustainability Fund will grant to FAS \$5,000 in their next fiscal year and \$2,500 this fiscal year.

7:07 Owen Sowerwine Natural Area (OSNA). Volunteer monitors are need for the periods 7/16-7/31 and 8/13-8/31. Denny Olson volunteered for the former. A request will be made to the general membership at the May meeting.

Ben Young has a field trip planned for his students at the end of May.

7:10 Field Trips. Kathy Ross has a field trip planned in the Swan on May 7th.

Bob Lee will appear by voice only on KGEZ radio Monday, May 9th at 7:30am.

He plans to stress FAS field trips during the discussion.

Linda Winnie has spoken with Terry Meyers who will put FAS field trips in this year's *Go Local Guide*.

Jill Fanning mentioned the Whitefish Family Bird Class and Bird Walk scheduled for Thursday, May 12 and Saturday, May 14, 2011.

Steve Gniadek will email a list of people who have signed up for the June 18, Wild Horse Island Trip. Boats are needed. Boats are needed.

After great service to FAS, Bill Schustrum is leaving the Board and the Chair of the Field Trips Committee. A new chair is needed to replace the big chair filled by Bill.

7:23 General Meeting. Logistics for the meeting were discussed. The question "Where is the Duct Tape Duck?" was asked. No definitive answer was forthcoming.

7:37 Conservation.

Conservation Award: Linda Winnie suggested giving one award in the fall of 2012. There was discussion of several possibilities:

- A high school student. Ben Young will be contacted;

- The Glacier Institute;
- Stoltz for its developing aquaculture program; and
- Brian Marotz of Kokanee Springs Fish Hatchery for his work on native cutthroat trout reintroduction in rehabilitated streams.

Motion by Mike Fanning, Seconded by Paula Smith that Brian Marotz of Kokanee Springs Fish Hatchery be given a FAS Conservation Award in the Fall of 2012 for his work on native cutthroat trout reintroduction in rehabilitated streams. Passed unanimously.

General Conservation Issues: Lewis Young reported on the following issues:

- The Loon Society is offering a monetary reward for reporting loon sightings. Contact Chris Hammond @ FWP.
- The _____ Wind Energy Eagle Guidelines can be commented on. Lewis observed that the problems are easily identifiable (nests on transmission line towers) but the Guidelines are less specific on solutions.
- The question of signing a petition to EPA supporting the banning of lead in all fishing tackle and ammunition was discussed. Lewis pointed out that the petition's goals are very broad, namely banning all lead. For example he felt that lead in 15lb. sinkers did not pose a risk to birds and wildlife. It was pointed out that the NRA strongly opposes all aspects of a lead ban. Steve Gniadek encouraged an educational effort aimed at sportsman as being more effective. No other Audubon chapters in MT have signed the petition. The consensus of the Board was not to sign the petition.
- Bob Lee informed the Board that there will be a Public Hearing @ FWP on May 12 regarding inspection of all boats coming into Montana for the presence of invasive species.

8:00 Programs. There was a very short discussion about the September 2012 meeting and then the topic returned to Education. See above under Education.

8:20 Newsletter. Linda Winnie reviewed ideas for the September issue including:

- A member profile of Jean Robocker;
- Thank yous for the service of departing Board members; and
- A "Save This Date" note for the 2012 Bird Festival.

There was discussion regarding sending other timely information (for example, the monthly Publicity Flier) to members by email. Mike Fanning pointed out that it would be easy to amend the membership form to add a small box to check if a member wanted to receive additional emails. Some members question who and how this would all be kept track of.

8:55 Fund Raising & Finance. Linda deKort handed out and because of the press of time hurriedly discussed the following documents:

- Fund Raising Procedure;

- Talking Points for FAS Sponsorship Campaign (to be further updated);
- Letter of Introduction;
- FAS CEP procedure
- Envelopes for contributions;
- Thank you notes; and
- Large manila envelopes.

Board members not present should contact Linda to receive these items.

9:15 Other Items. Linda deKort informed the Board that a Memorial for Walker Kuhl will be held on Saturday at the Glacier Camp on the west shore of Flathead Lake from 4pm to 7pm.

Paula Smith will send a Bird Festival email regarding needed committees to Board members and asked that it be reviewed.

9:25 Adjourn. And thus ended the longest meeting of the year.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s Dennis Hester
Substituting for Gail Sullivan
Secretary