

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

October 3, 2011

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

Present: Paula Smith, Chair; Gail Sullivan, Lewis Young, Richard Kuhl, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Ben Young, Jan Wassink, Steve Gniadek, Linda de Kort, Kay Mitchell, Linda Winnie, Mike Fanning, Jill Fanning, Dan Casey; Bob Lopp, Vice-President.

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

(Winnie/Kay) A motion was made to appoint Jill Fanning to a one-year Director position. The motion was unanimously passed.

Minutes. The minutes from the September 6, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report. Bruce discussed the monthly financial report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership. So far memberships are down but it is early in the renewal season and there are more \$20 memberships rather than the \$35 membership level. Mike will take a look at FAS bylaws and make sure that they match National Audubon's intent. Mike is also withdrawing from his involvement in the Education Committee, but he will continue to apply for grants. Mike feels that we will still receive the committed amount from Lex Blood and the Sustainability Fund. Richard suggested that a letter be mailed to National Audubon members only who also receive the FAS Pileated Post to try to garner more FAS memberships. Mike agreed to do this.

Montana Bird Festival 2012. No new decisions about major speakers or artists selected for the 2012 Bird Festival at this time. Montana Audubon staff will be in Kalispell on October 20 to meet with FAS board members about the festival. Montana board members will tour the Hilton Garden Inn Hotel and also would like a tour of OSNA.

Education. Linda has spoken with Ashley about ordering binoculars for science project winners.

The criteria for the FAS Science Fair Award: Good investigative science, clearly written and displayed, focused on local natural history or local environmental issue. Denny Olsen has offered to purchase \$200 worth of student binoculars; one pair of these binoculars will be presented to each awardee at a FAS general meeting following the science fair that year.

Ashley would like to talk to Hockaday about having a fundraising event at the Hockaday in April for FAS. The FAS Education program could be highlighted at the fundraiser. Linda will discuss this with Ashley as a future project. Linda discussed some of objectives of the Education Strategic Plan and if the objectives are being met. Board members who contact possible sponsors can report back results at the next board meeting.

Owen Sowerwine. Forty-two people participated at the recent OSNA Work Day. The OSNA Committee had a meeting prior to the regular board meeting and discussed various results of projects. Linda estimates that costs of completing an ADA trail in OSNA would be \$3000-\$3500 for FAS and would like to have it completed by next fall. Linda will have a better idea of costs by the November board meeting. They will also report back on a possible easement.

Conservation. Steve attended the Crown of the Continent Conference. It was a good networking opportunity but no concrete action was advocated. Story telling and Native American culture was a focus of the conference.

Program. There are still a couple possibilities for the November program.

Hospitality. October meeting treats have been signed up for and Bob Lopp will bring the coffee.

Recycling. FVCC recycling club is no longer funded and cannot come to the FAS meeting to accept recyclables. Kay is looking at various options. There will be a list of recycling centers published in the Pileated Post. Kay wanted to make sure that everyone was okay with FAS dropping the official recycling program, that originally was started by Fern Cohen.

Newsletter. The Newsletter Committee met to evaluate the newsletter and see if anything needs to be changed or tweaked. The new motto is “Lean and Mean” and try to keep newsletters to 8 pages except for April and May issues. Non-Flathead event articles will be edited for length. There was also a decision to not include an article written by a board member every issue and not to have Kidz Korner every issue but always have an education article or Kidz Korner. If a submission comes in late, it may just be published in the next newsletter. Richard will survey various members and see if the newsletter is being read. Next month’s contents: program, BOM, board column from Kathy, field trips, Jewel Basin Hawkwatch, Kidz Korner, report on OSNA Work Day, Mike on grants and memberships, new sponsors, science tidbit, recycling.

Birds and Beans idea. No one was interested in following up on this fundraising idea.

Bricks for Billings Education Center. No one was interested in FAS buying a brick for \$150, especially since we have our own fundraising goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan
Gail Sullivan
Secretary