

Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, November 7, 2011
Jane Lopp & Associates Office
Minutes

Call to Order: President Paula Smith called the Meeting to Order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Denny Olson, Bob Lopp, Linda de Kort, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, John Hughes, Bruce Tannehill, Jan Wassink, Dennis Hester, Richard Kuhl, Lois Drobish, Gael Bissell, Jill & Mike Fanning, Paula Smith.

Approval of Minutes of the October 3, 2011, meeting. Correction: Under Education, Denny Olson offered \$200.00 not \$250.00. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce reported that the dues from NAS had been received. Mike reported that donations from The Whitefish Community Foundation and the Quinns had been received but are not shown on the current Treasurer's Report. The annual FAS Report to NAS, prepared by Bob Lee and Bruce, was distributed.

Membership: Mike has written a draft letter to mail to the approximate 200 NAS members who are not dues-paying members of FAS encouraging them to join FAS. Currently, there are approximately 80 FAS members who have not yet renewed. (Note: Later in the meeting, the Board decided to substitute a year-end appeal letter to the entire membership for the aforementioned letter.)

Bird Festival: Paula reported on meeting with Norane Friestadt and the FAS Bird Festival Committee on October 27th. Brett Thuma was present and agreed to prepare the artwork for the Festival and ideas were discussed. An offer has been made to Doug Chadwick to be the keynote speaker but he may be in Mongolia. Ken Dial and Brian Sullivan from eBird are alternatives. Bob Lee is working on pre- and post-festival activities. Kay raised the question of whether volunteers/field trip leaders/speakers receive free registration or some other benefits. Several FAS members have contacted Gail Sullivan and volunteered to work on the Festival. The speakers' list is due December 1st and the field trip list is due February 1st. The next Bird Festival Committee meeting is December 5th @ 4p.m. at Jane Lopp & Associates.

Education: Linda de Kort commented that while the yearly need for the Conservation Education Program (CEP) is \$20,000, the goal is to create a sustainable program for years to come. Several local businesses have contributed this year but others have not because they are cutting back on contributions/sponsorships in general. This is the time of year to contact businesses according to

Norane. Face-to-face contact is important. Bruce informed the Board that \$6,100 has been raised for the CEP this year. The Whitefish Credit Union has contributed \$500 thanks to Kay's efforts. Bob Lopp said, regarding fundraising ideas, that he recently received a notice from The Glacier Institute for an online auction and read about a Maryland club which started a festival in 1971 and now has 300 artists and 18,000 visitors. Norane has suggested contacting all members by an "appeal letter" between Thanksgiving and Christmas asking for \$\$\$ specifically for the CEP. A proposed letter was read by Linda deKort and then discussed. It would cost \$886.95 to produce and mail 500 letters. Someone did the math and here it is: (FAS members + NAS non-FAS members) - FAS Board members = approximately 450 letters.

MOTION by Richard Kuhl , seconded by Linda de Kort - To send the appeal letter and not to exceed \$900 in costs. The motion was approved unanimously.

It was agreed that Board members would meet on Monday, November 28th, between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at Jane Lopp & Associates to sign, address and send appeal letters.

OSNA: The proposed handicapped-accessible gate was discussed. Linda Winnie distributed a gate plan that Lewis has prepared. Richard reported that he tried to talk with several local contractors about working on the project but has received no response. Therefore, we are going with the Montana Conservation Corp., which is planning on doing the work the 1st or 2nd week of May 2012. The budget is approximately \$7,000 and Linda is working on obtaining some grant money. Montana Audubon in principle should pay 50%.

MOTION by Bruce Tannehill, seconded by Bob Lopp - To proceed with the project and to pay for it from the OSNA Fund or with other funds received. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Field Trips: Gael wondered if we have tapped out our trip leaders especially with the Festival coming up. She questioned whether FAS should cut down on field trips this spring. This was discussed with a general consensus in agreement but no formal decision was made.

General Meetings: Richard advised that Dan Casey will present at the December meeting for the Christmas Bird Count and that Jan has agreed to give a presentation at the March meeting entitled Birds of Costa Rica. The May meeting will again be at the Whitefish Community Center.

Conservation Achievement Award: Linda Winnie distributed the list of Award recipients over the last 10 - 11 years. Potential nominees were discussed.

Newsletter: Thanks to the heroic efforts of Kay and Linda W., the Newsletter will again be published in December.

For the Good of The Order: Kay recommended an article in the November issue of Montana Outdoors regarding the FWP education center and program titled Plugging People into the Outdoors. Go to www.fwp.mt.gov and click MT Outdoors.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Submitted,
Dennis Hester
Acting Secretary