

Flathead Audubon Board of Directors Meeting  
Monday, December 5, 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, Dennis Hester, Richard Kuhl, Lois Drobish, Gael Bissell, Jill & Mike Fanning, Ben Young, Dan Casey, Lewis Young, Steve Gniadek, Kathy Ross, Paula Smith.

Others Present: Neal Brown

Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2011: Minutes approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: The Report was reviewed.

Presentation by Neal Brown: Neal said that there are reports that woodpecker (pileated & flicker) populations are down, possibly due to homeowners defending their homes attacking birds. He suggested that FAS implement a Woodpecker Education Program directed toward not only the general population but also toward "pest managers." He suggested there are lots of stories with a wide variety of solutions suggested. Dan Casey said that Lisa Bate of the Rocky Mountain Research Station has a pamphlet on this subject and that he has not noticed a population effect. Gael said there is a "Living with Wildlife" brochure put out by Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Membership: Mike reported that there are 426 FAS members – 336 are also NAS members and 90 are FAS members only. 59 of last year's members have yet to re-up but this is not unusual. He has an updated membership list he can email to interested Board members. Our NAS Chapter # is N54 and the geographic area extends from the Canadian boarder to Salish & Kootenai tribal lands and from the Idaho boarder to Glacier National Park.

Bird Festival: The BF Committee met before the Board Meeting. Peter Sherrington of Calgary has been selected by MA as the keynote speaker. His talk will be on Golden Eagle research and migration patterns in the Rocky Mountains. This year's registration fee will be \$125, which is up from last year. The increase is mainly attributable to the increased cost of food at the Hilton compared to the food in Glasgow. Three Friday workshops with a separate fee are being considered. There will be no silent auction unless there are top notch items. Brett Thuma was present at the Committee meeting and presented his 1<sup>st</sup> sketch of the BF's artwork. The final original piece may be part of a live auction. There will be 28 field trips – 14 per day – and leaders are needed.

Linda W. met with representatives of the Whitefish Convention and Visitors' Bureau which is interested in creating a "Birding Trail" brochure in time for the Festival. They have the money if we have the time (and expertise) to provide correct information and photos. Dan observed that this is a commercial venture and local professional

photographers whose photos are used should be compensated. The Board members agreed. Although FAS has its “Birding Hotspots” brochure, this will be for a different audience. Gael, Denny & Dan will coordinate on this and provide input.

Education: Linda de K. reported that about 450 appeal letters to members were prepared and sent on 11/29. The cost was \$820. MA agreed to delay their appeal letter until 12/15.

Bob Lopp reported that he and Paula met with Sherry Stevens Wolf of the United Way and learned that there are two ways to participate in the UW program in an effort to try to raise money for the Conservation Education Program:

1. For \$35 FAS can become an “affiliated member” for a designated gift on individual contributions; or
2. Become a “member agency” to receive a direct grant from the UW. This would involve FAS making a presentation to a UW Panel in May and demonstrate that our program is meeting the needs of people at risk and is making a positive impact in the community.

**MOTION** by Steve Gniadek , seconded by Gael Bissell - *To proceed with Option #1.*  
The motion was approved unanimously.

The consensus of the Board was to consider Option 2 for next year (FY2013). Paula inquired as to whether Ashley had submitted a quarterly report as the contract calls for quarterly reports. Mike will follow-up to receive a report by 12/31.

Website: Linda W. will coordinate sponsor information with Jan Wassink. The *Pileated Post* will identify sponsors as “Business Sponsors” and a link to their websites, if they have one, will be provided. However, the link requires a \$200 minimum contribution.

OSNA: The OSNA Committee met prior to the Board Meeting. The proposed handicapped-accessible trail was discussed. Linda W reported that the lowest estimate is from Mountain Made Trails at \$4,000 which the Committee recommends. The trail will be 668 feet in length and 4 feet wide. Linda is still looking for grant monies. Richard reported that FAS has been requested to make a presentation to the Flathead County Commissioners because of the proposed work on the right-of-way.

Conservation: Lewis will review the proposed FWP modification of the falconry rules and email Board members to determine whether FAS will comment. Comments are due by the end of December.

Field Trips: Gael suggested placing the FAS logo next to the field trips on the web site & *Pileated Post* and having a short statement regarding the purpose of the trip and that it is free and open to

the public. A question was raised as to whether there should be a skill level description. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to continue describing the trip and let each individual make their own determination. It was suggested giving new participants a copy of the *Pileated Post* or a brochure with a membership application. The Board agreed. Steve suggested that there be a sign-in sheet at each trip that includes membership information. The Board agreed on this idea also.

#### General Meetings:

**Programs:** Richard suggested featuring each month's upcoming program on page 1 of the *Pileated Post* because, in his view, this is why people read the newsletter. Linda W. said that the first page has been used for news and that the program is featured and usually highlighted on page 3. Linda will work on further delineating the program. There was a short but lively discussion with the consensus being to let the editors decide about placement of articles.

**Hospitality:** Lois informed the Board that the treats for the December meeting are traditionally the Board's responsibility. Kathy, Lewis and Bob Lopp committed to bring good stuff.

**Sales:** Jill said there are extra calendars for sale @ \$11 each. FAS nets 50%. In her experience, most calendars are sold to other groups and not at the general meetings.

Newsletter: For the last time this year, Linda W. predicted what will be in the upcoming *Pileated Post*. Her predictive ability in this regard has consistently defied expected odds.

Conservation Achievement Award: The Board reviewed the email list of Award recipients over the last 10 – 11 years and this year's potential recipients that Linda W. had sent out. After discussion, the Board decided to present the following individuals with the FAS's Conservation Achievement Award: Chris Ruffato and Teresa Wenum. Bruce Tannehill and Linda de K. will prepare write-ups on Chris and Teresa, respectively.

For the Good of The Order: For general information, Bob Lee is involved in the Crown of the Continent Geographical Survey. Paula went to the Flathead County Library and observed their Foundation Center databases that allow non-profits to search grantmakers. Linda de Kort commented negatively on Bresnan Communication's new advertisement campaign to get families indoors using all forms of electronic media. Denny insightfully described it as Bresnan's "No child left outdoors" campaign.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Submitted,  
Dennis Hester  
Acting Secretary