

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

February 6, 2012

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

Present: Paula Smith, Chair; Gail Sullivan, Linda Winnie, Bob Lee, Ashley Mason, Steve Gniadek, Richard Kuhl, Kathy Ross, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Bruce Tannehill, Lewis Young, Denny Olson, Kay Mitchell and John Hughes

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

Minutes. Motion. (Dennis/Bob). A motion was made to approve the January minutes with the corrections in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report. Bruce discussed the Treasurer's Report.

#### COMMITTEES

Education. Ashley said that FAS received a \$1500 donation after a presentation to the Whitefish Soroptimist organization. Mary Nelesen was instrumental for us receiving this donation. Ashley will compile a list of community groups that we could solicit for a donation. She will out an email requesting suggestions from board members. Ashley is sending the Soroptimists a thank you note. Ashley would like to give a short talk at each general meeting about the Education Program. If she is not there, then Paula can read her report. Ashley would also like to have a display at each meeting which Ashley would create. She also suggested a donation box at each general meeting. Richard will locate a donation box and bring to meetings. Bruce will be in charge of the box at meetings but if he is not there, then Richard will take care of box.

Denny Olson volunteered to Chair the Education Committee. Ashley said that board members are always invited to the programs she gives.

Ashley would like to apply for a grant from COCEEC (Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium) for the "Get Out" Program and peer mentoring. Motion. Denny/Steve made a motion that Ashley is approved to apply for this grant. The motion was unanimously approved.

Bird Festival Committee. A meeting was held to discuss fundraising for the festival. For the raffle, dessert auction and live auction, FAS and MAS will share proceeds 50/50. Janet Ellis is organizing a silent auction with proceeds to benefit her legislative activities. If you have any items for the silent auction, please contact Janet Ellis and let her know.

Raffle items. If any board members are going to businesses for basket items, please email other board members to let them know who. Richard is going to RMO; Bob is going to Snappy's.

Vendor Display Tables. Tables will be available for non-profits for a nominal fee. Gail will ask one of our festival volunteers to organize/coordinate exhibit/display tables. Richard Kuhl also volunteered for this task. If anyone has contact information for newsletters where we could advertise the festival, let Dennis know.

Linda Winnie is coordinating the dessert auction and is looking for donation of desserts. She needs 30 desserts. The desserts need to make 8 servings. Let her know if you have any bakery contacts.

Programs. Programs are set for the rest of the year.

Conservation. Petition from ABC (American Bird Conservation) pertaining to wind industry regulations for future permitting process in compliance with of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The petition has been submitted but ABC still is looking for support. Motion. (Dennis/Linda). Lewis will submit a letter with Paula's signature expressing support. The motion unanimously passed.

Montana Audubon Society is applying to Montana Joint Ventures for grants. Montana Audubon asked for a letter of recommendation from FAS, which Lewis did submit.

National Forest Plan. Lewis sent off for the compact disk on the Forest Plan and will look at the draft plan and EIS with alternatives.

Steve discussed the Conservation Roundtable meeting that he attended. There is a science conference in Whitefish on March 19.

Newsletter. Contents-program, BOM, Board members (John Hughes), no field trips, Conservation Recognition Award, Beauty of Birds, Bird Festival, donor thank you letter from Paula, tax reminder for watchable wildlife, transportation requests for upcoming bird festival and list of bird photo requests.

Field Trips. There was great turn out for January field trips. They were all very successful. For February there is the Great Backyard Bird Count.

Owen Sowerwine. OSNA Committee had a meeting and met with Darren Pfeifle of Montana Made Trails who will do the accessible trail for OSNA. The committee is working on getting funding from Round Up for Safety grant from Flathead Electric for trail construction. Monitoring season starts in March. Kay and Bob Lopp met with county commissioners about road right-of-way at OSNA. The plan is to have an Grand Opening when trail is finished.

Conservation Recognition Award. The next award will be to Chris Ruffato and will be presented by Bill Schustrom at the March meeting.

Linda discussed a new Montana Audubon brochure about protecting riparian area bird habitat for private land owners. Montana Audubon volunteered to produce one for the Flathead watershed. Linda will find out further information on possible distribution.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan  
Secretary