

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting

March 5, 2012

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

Present: Paula Smith, Chair; Bob Lee, Linda de Kort, Mike Fanning, Jill Fanning, Jan Wassink, Denny Olson, Bob Lopp, Ashley Mason, Steve Gniadek, Richard Kuhl, Kathy Ross, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Bruce Tannehill, Lewis Young, Gael Bissell, and John Hughes

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

Announcements: Lois–Rose Alice has arrived to Ansley and Rob Ford/ Described 2 hour documentary ‘Strive’

Minutes: Motion. (Dennis/Mike). A motion was made to approve the March minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report: Bruce–Budget on target/ recent improvement in the market has been helpful

COMMITTEES

Bird Festival Committee: Paula and Dennis–Dennis and Jan are working on FAS website to include information on the Bird Festival. Paula–Registration Booklet is being printed. A sign-up sheet for desserts at the Festival was passed around. Each dessert has to feed eight people. Denny noted that a preview of the Dr. Guano presentation could be viewed Tuesday, March 13 at the Conrad Mansion fundraiser.

General Meetings Committees:

Membership Committee: Mike–184 Local Members, 342 National Members. Last year there were 200 local members. ‘Pileated Post’: 109 receive e-version; 349 receive paper copy.

Program: Program is set – BIRDS OF THE CLOUD FOREST – A JOURNEY TO ECUADOR with Jan Wassink. Next September–Wolves by Cristina Eisenberg. Richard called for program ideas for next year.

Hospitality: Lois–People have been contacted to bring treats. Bob will bring the coffee. Requested that she be called on a little later in the program and she will have a list of people that brought treats. Also requested that presenters be instructed to let her know when they wanted the lights on or off.

Sales: Jill–Sales have been slow. Window decals, but not much else. Looking for suggestions–items need to be inexpensive. Linda suggested deck-mounted birdbaths. Bruce’s revised bird song CD will be ready in May. Jill asked if anyone could make Bluebird boxes. Discussion ensued concerning continuing the birding class in Whitefish. The class has not been well attended for the last few years. Programs reported to

financial contributors in Whitefish would still be adequate without the class–bird class or not, there is no commitment to a specific number of programs.

Conservation: Lois – contacted Janet Ellis re., Barred v. Spotted Owl controversy – proposal to kill Barred Owls to save Spotted Owls. Question – does Audubon want to address proposal–pointed out that this might be the only way to save Spotted Owls.

National Forest Plan: Lewis is wading through the document–will report more at a later date. Due date for comments is May.

Point of Interest–Gael–FWP participated in moving some Caribou from Woodland, BC to an area close to the US border. Hope to have a herd of 40 animals south of Cranbrook.

Steve asked Gael about climate change/species related surveys conducted last year–will they continue this year. Volunteer opportunity–contact Chris Hammon, FWP.

Education. Denny–No report.

Ashley – Whitefish library program was poorly attended – felt it was due to poor advertising. Three bird counts during “Great Backyard Bird Count”: Eureka, Home School Coop (highlight– 34 Clark’s Nutcrackers); Linda d. - Whitefish, Home School Coop/ 20 (people–lots of Mallards, Crows, & English House Sparrows); Kalispell, trained two IB classes (45 kids/ studying population dynamics).

Samaritan House program had a large turnout. Next program, Thursday, Hawks and Owls. Next Thursday Denny will be doing the program.

Ashley–Possible teaming with Parks & Rec. (Jennifer Young) for day camps (two in July). Provide revenue to FAS. P&R would provide transportation, carry liability insurance, and advertising/logistics. Discussion–Should FAS charge for programs as a non-profit? Paid programs could help provide money for our Director and help support free programs.

Ashley outlined two options to start the program. Plan two day camps or develop relationship by participating in camps that are already run. Linda asked about time-line–April 9<sup>th</sup>, need information for brochure. Need to update trunks, create digital photos, dollars for equipment. Mike–requests Ashley make a wish list.

Motion to proceed – Richard/ 2<sup>nd</sup> Denny – Give Ashley the latitude to proceed with the venture with Parks and Recreation to develop day camps and provide services at existing camps. Discussion – Paula – asked Ashley her preference – Ashley – both. Motion passed unanimously. Ashley – on issue of advertising our programs – possible Facebook page.

Denny – Like to pursue several items:

- Parent naturalist training
- Phrenology calendar (combine visuals with what is going on in the woods)
- Create film footage of individuals working with kids – film statement of ‘No Child Left Inside’. Will try to have ready by festival.

Denny is considering offering to donate one of two stained glass pieces for the festival auction.

Suggested that it might be a good idea to have a June 4 Board Meeting to ensure prepared for the festival.

Steve – Opportunity to purchase flip-video cameras a reduced price (not sure of exact price).

All agreed (didn't take a vote) to give Paula permission to make the decision to purchase a flip-video camera after determining the cost.

Linda d. announced that we had received a grant from the Forest Service (More Kids in the Woods). Discussed how funds would be channeled through FAS. Issues of liability were discussed. Dennis agreed to follow-up on the issue of liability insurance for members leading field trips and Denny will ask Ashley if she carries "proper insurance". Dennis will report back at the next meeting.

Newsletter: Paula for Linda W. and Kay – Program / Blake Passmore; Bird of the Month / Wilson's Snipe; Board Report – none at present – Bob Lopp volunteered to write an article if needed; Spring Field Trips – Kathy waiting to hear back, Steve felt it was worth doing one in May (Loon Census – 12<sup>th</sup>); Ashley / Beauty of Birds; Bob Lee / Forestry Expo; Larissa / Bird Festival; Bruce / Budget – for May Pileated Post; Mike & Bruce / list of Donors/Donations – yes but list not complete. No new sponsors to report. Gael / Article in May on spring waterfowl count.

Website Committee: Jan – Field trips up as well as Brochure for Birds. Website has received 600-900 unique hits. Jan passed out a thorough statistical report of activity on the site.

Field Trips: Gael and Kathy – Several Pending in April; May 1<sup>st</sup> / Migratory Bird Day at Bison Range; Native Plant Society.

Owen Sowerwine: Linda W. by email – 1. Anne Moran, DNRC, now has our application for improvements (signed by Janet Ellis) for the work on the accessible trail at OSNA. Anne says all is fine. 2. Linda has submitted the paperwork to Flathead Electric Coop for a \$4000 Round-up-for-safety Grant for the OSNA accessible trail. Linda will be going to the FEC board meeting the Thursday (March 8) to make an oral presentation asking for the grant, and will find out the next day whether we've been awarded the money. She'll report to the board when she knows the results. 3. Terry Welder and Alan Sieler will be submitting a request to the County in the fall for funds to complete another part of the Sam Bibler Trail, which runs along Willow Glen Drive. This new part of the trail will run from where Woodlawn Dr. intersects with Willow Glen to the Montessori School. Chuck Williams has talked to Terry about our interest in having that part done, since it will serve as a walking/biking trail to OSNA via Treasure Lane – so also a walking/biking/accessible trail leading to the Treasure Lane entrance where the OSNA accessible trail will begin. Dick – Passed a sign-up sheet for individuals to walk OSNA and report back on existing conditions along with wildlife observations.

Nominations Committee: Linda deKort – Terms that are expiring: Officers: Treasurer & Secretary; Other Board members: Dennis, Steve, Lewis, Kathy in a year. Discussed possible nominations.

For the Good of the Order:

Linda d. brought up renewing the Wetlands Committee

United Way Application: Paula and Bob Lopp – Reported on the application.

Montana Audubon Board Meeting Representative/Alternate: Bob Lee–No one attended the last meeting. Next meeting is in Billings, on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Discussed how to have representation in case the representative or alternative are unable to attend.

Motion to Adjourn: John / Bob Lee

Respectfully submitted,

John Hughes for Gail Sullivan