

Flathead Audubon Society Board Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2012

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

Present: Paula Smith, (Chair), Linda deKort, Denny Olson, Bob Lopp, Steve Gniadek, Richard Kuhl, Kathy Ross, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Bruce Tannehill, Kay Mitchell, Linda Winnie, Jan Wassink, Mike Fanning, Jill Fanning, Ben Young, and John Hughes.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the April minutes with corrections. (Kathy Ross/Mike Fanning). Spelling: Beau for Bo on p. 2. The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce – Passed out Treasurer's report. Below Budget but pretty close. Motion to approve 2012-2013 budget (Denny Olson/Kay Mitchell). Motion passed.

Discussed liability insurance for Ashley Mason. As an independent contractor, it is not currently part of her contract. Education Committee will work on her contract to include liability insurance. Quinn funds to be removed from Education because they are not dedicated as such. Richard noted the rental fee for the Summit is \$30.00 per month and the community center in Whitefish is \$225.00. Motion was made and seconded (Linda dK/Mike Fanning) to reimburse Bob Lee \$300 for travel expenses to attend the Montana Audubon meeting in Billings. \$123 for his room and mileage (834 miles, round trip). Motion passed. Bruce announced that the new CD's are for sale. Reimbursement of \$250 for 100 CD's is needed. Recommended selling CD's for \$15 ea. Motion was made and seconded (Bob Lopp/Jill Fanning) to sell the new bird song CD for \$15 ea. and that Bruce is reimbursed for the cover art with reimbursement to come from sales. Motion passed. Bruce will give a 5-10 minute demo/presentation at the potluck.

6:44 – Beau Larkin MPG North

Outlined program for Condon area property and potential for FAS involvement. Some board members will try to visit the area and report back. Potential to bring some money into the organization but not sure if FAS should lend its name to the project and whether FAS has the time to take on another project. Bruce, John, Kay, Linda, and Steve indicated a desire to visit the area.

Committee Reports

Bird Festival Committee: Paula, Dennis, Kay – Paula – called Larissa and all is on track so no need for a special meeting. Kay – volunteers to meet in foyer of conference center at 11:30 a.m. Friday, the 8th for an orientation meeting. Kay emailed a list of duties and times for volunteers – can use more volunteers. Bird festival committee to meet, Monday, 4th of June at 4:00 p.m. at Bob Lopp's. Kathy Ross will send the number of people signed up for field trips to respective trip leaders. Denny Olson – to set up a table appropriate to show our movie.

Conservation Committee: Steve – Letter for Kootenai National Forest: Motion made and seconded (Mike F/ Richard K) to send the letter as an email. Motion passed. Steve G. - Apgar Parking Area comments due tomorrow (going to remove campground ranger station at

Avalanche Creek due to high cost to renovate). FAS will not send in a comment. Attended county planning meeting and submitted comments. FAS may want to look at final proposal before it is submitted to the county commissioners.

General Meetings Committees:

Program: Richard - Program is set – Steve. Can use whiteboard as a screen. Dick will look for a screen as well.

Hospitality, Potluck: Lois – Dick and Bruce will be there at 5:00 p.m. Bruce and Gail Sullivan will be in charge of closing up. People have been contacted on refreshments. People are to bring their own cutlery, plates, and cups. FAS will bring garbage bags and coffee.

Sales, Silent Auction: Jill – Ready to go. Return unsold silent auction items to Jill.

Other Potluck Comments:

Paula – complaints in the past about the announcements being too long – will try to keep announcements down. Before elections – Bruce to announce CD's and Award presentation to Teresa Wenum. Linda deKort – Assume all have read Pileated Post prior to attending meeting. Recognition gift for Gail Sullivan for her years of service to FAS. Nominations from the floor for secretary. Bylaws – will be voted on as a block.

Education Committee: Denny and Linda d K. – Denny – Committee members include: Denny, Linda deKort, Kathy Ross, Bob Lopp, Ben Young, and Amy Jacobs. Still trying to clear up insurance issue. Still need to recruit more members to the committee. Assessing underserved communities and brainstorming ideas on to reach them. Ideas at present include: Nature Education that can be done at home, a nature blog and links to websites. Will begin to set priorities after the festival. Kathy Ross – Ashley Mason is still looking for volunteers for the forestry expo.

Newsletter: Linda W. – emailed plans.

Program: – Richard - Cristina Eisenberg.

Field Trip Committee: Kathy – Mike Fanning will create a form/chart for field trip participation. Intent is to assess whether field trips are effective at increasing membership. Debate ensued over whether or not we should be taking names.

Owen Sowerwine: Linda W., Richard Kuhl – Work started a week ago. On hold waiting for gravel. Estimated time of completion for the crushed gravel is the day of the potluck. The gate should be finished by the end of next week. Opening ceremonies to be arranged. Linda W. – latest on the land swap issue - OSNA is out of the grand swap at present, trying to get OSNA back in the mix but OSNA is not considered a high priority (except to FAS). Bibler trail extension – request for help. Bob Lopp will draft a letter of support for FAS and pass it around by email. Richard K. reported that a fire at the south end of the natural area (ca. one-fourth acre) which was put out by DNRC. Richard requested that we be informed if any other fire activity occurs.

For the Good of the Order:

Liability Insurance – Dennis – Dennis spent several hours on line looking at various companies and contacted Western States here in Kalispell. To date he has two quotes. A motion was made and seconded (John/Denny) to authorize the chair to proceed with the purchase of a policy. Motion passed.

Conservation Achievement Recognition 2012-13 – Linda W. – Bob Lopp recommended Bill McClaren. A motion and second (Mike F. /Richard) to award Bill McClaren with the 2012-2013 Conservation Achievement Recognition award. Motion passed. Bob L. will write it up for the September newsletter.

Richard Kuhl – reported on his trip to Warm Springs, Arco Ponds – 74 species in one day. Impressive!

Paula – duct tape duck – Paula has it now and will designate who it goes to – will bring to May meeting.

Linda dK – Reported that a woman attending the festival is looking for someone to take her birding in the area. Kathy Ross will contact the individual.

Motion to Adjourn: Dick / Mike

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47

Respectfully submitted,

John Hughes for Gail Sullivan