

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 1, 2013
LOCATION: JANE LOPP AND ASSOCIATES, 295 THIRD AVE. E.N.
KALISPELL, MONTANA

CALL TO ORDER - PAULA SMITH @ 6:00 PM

PRESENT – Paula Smith (chair) Kay Mitchell, Bob Lopp, Kathy Ross, Bob Lee, Steve Gniadek, Bruce Tannehill, Lewis Young, Denny Olson, Gael Bissell, Linda DeKort, Dennis Hester, Lois Drobish, Mike Fanning, Jill Fanning, and special guest Kirsten Gruver.

MINUTES – Steve Gniadek for Marylane Pannell

Corrected March 4, 2013 minutes under OSNA Committee, replace “mentoring” with “monitoring”. Moved and seconded (Bob Lee/Dennis Hester) to accept minutes of the March 4, 2013 meeting with correction. (MOTION PASSED)

BIG SKY WATERSHED CORPS – KIRSTEN GRUVER (kkgruver1227@gmail.com) presented plans for planting about 375 trees of several species, including willow, aspen, cottonwood, and dogwood, at a conservation easement property off Brosten Lane. Plantings will be in 15x300 foot exclosures. Meet at 9am on April 18 if you want to help.

TREASURER'S REPORT – BRUCE TANNEHILL

Went over the financials 2013-2014. Bruce has submitted a proposed budget for 2013-2014 which shows a shortfall of about \$2,000. There is \$9,000 more in the Education Fund this year. A United Way donation of \$168 was unexpected. Dan Casey was unable to make the meeting with a Hawk Watch presentation.

2013 BUDGET AND FUND-RAISING FOR CONSERVATION EDUCATION– BOB LOPP AND BRUCE TANNEHILL

Membership is down about 30 members. Investments are rebounding. Bob lost his Pru benefits, so no future funding from that source. (Thanks for all your help in the past, Bob.) The December fund drive was not a huge success but the income helps the Education Program. Options are to match expenditures with income or cut expenses. Discussion followed about the summary sheet for funding strategies, including how to increase membership (present Ashley's Education Program to Flathead Wildlife, Rotary or other groups), year-end appeal (personal appeals more effective), a video program on OSNA, challenge grants, new sources from the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society (next February) and CounterAssault grants, joint field trips with Montana Wilderness Association (small fee), and a raft/birding trip as a fund-raiser. Denny discussed progress on the phenology calendar (seek ideas from sponsors, do birds this year, maybe mammals next year). Gael will call Replay Sports asking if they would be interested in letting our members drop off our older sporting gear with proceeds to be donated to FAS. Last year, 42 signed up for the Beauty of Birds class; fee will remain at \$10, to encourage education and

participation, not as a primary fund-raiser. A Bird-a-Thon, patterned after Five Valleys successful Bird-a-Thon, will be developed, with two competing teams, during a 1 or 2-week period. Volunteers needed.

In the final budget, sales were dropped from \$3,000 to \$1,000, not counting the calendar, and \$1,000 was transferred from the Conservation Fund. It was moved and seconded (Bob/Mike) to accept the final budget of \$37,474. (MOTION PASSED) Bruce will send \$750 to Montana Audubon, and \$100 to United Way (see General Meeting below).

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – DENNY

Volunteers are needed for the Granite Park naturalist/Road Scholar Program. New education trunks are being prepared. The Family Forestry Expo has 1350 children signed up; someone is needed to cover on Friday. Ashley's contract proposal will be discussed at the next meeting. Gael suggested posting Ashley's activity schedule on-line.

GENERAL MEETINGS COMMITTEES

PROGRAM – PAULA FOR RICHARD

May – Gary Swant, bird surveys on Warm Springs ponds. Richard had suggested we return to the potluck format, since we are having only one speaker instead of two. The Board agreed. Lois will call Rod regarding selling plants. It was moved and seconded (Bob Lopp/Denny) to send a donation of \$100 to United Way for the 4 meetings this year (MOTION PASSED)

LOIS - HOSPITALITY Lois needs help in the kitchen. Bob and others to help.

JILL – SALES Kathy will take cards.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE – LEWIS AND STEVE

It was moved and seconded (Bob Lee/Mike) to adopt the position statement on exurban development and wildlife from the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society. (MOTION PASSED)

FIELD TRIPS – GAEL AND KATHY

Glacier Park birding on May 25 and Lazy Creek trip on May 26.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE - KAY

The May newsletter will include our May program, the president's column, the bird of the month (Spotted Towhee by Jeanne Marcure), a note on the IMBD (Kathy), a Freezeout trip report, field trips, an update on the Farmer's Market (Linda Winnie), a Warbler Weekend article (Jill), articles on the OSNA workday (September 28), Raptor Day (Ashley), Family Forestry Expo (Bob Lee), OSNA monitoring?, members survey?, the MA Bird Festival, a call for nominations for MA Festival Awards, and a generic thank you to donors.

MEMBER SURVEY – GAEL

Ten responses so far on website. Goal is 100. Can send the link to anyone, like Tony at Flathead Wildlife.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bob Lopp mentioned Ted Williams' cats and birds article, and apology. Bruce mentioned Steve Thompson's Climate Change group (Glacier Climate Alliance) and the showing of the movie "Chasing Ice" in Whitefish on April 27. We met the application deadline for Conserve Montana stories. Bob Lee will be attending the MA meeting in Dillon next weekend.

Adjourned at 8:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Gniadek, acting secretary