

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 7, 2013
LOCATION: JANE LOPP AND ASSOCIATES, 295 THIRD AVE. E.N
KALISPELL, MONTANA

CALL TO ORDER – BOB LOPP @ 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT – Bob Lopp (chair), Jill and Mike Fanning, Lois Drobish, Jan Wassink, Bob Lee, John Hughes, Kay Mitchell, Bruce Tannehill, Kathy Ross, Gael Bissell, Steve Gniadek, Lewis Young, Ashley Mason and Dean Robbins.

President, Bob Lopp began meeting by reading “Cedar Waxwings” by Johnathan Aaron, published in the Last Chance Audubon Newsletter. Bob Lopp then introduced Dean Robbins who proceeded to give a short history of his family’s homestead in the Flathead Valley, and his hopes for the use of the family property.

Bob Lee outlined progress on the viewing blind for the Wiley-Robbins Heritage Farm. The next step is to contract a technical drawing of the proposed blind.

MINUTES – Bob Lopp

Moved and seconded (Mike Fanning/Bob Lee) with no changes, to approve FAS board minutes for September 3, 2013. Passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT – BRUCE TANNEHILL

Moved and seconded (Bruce/Kay) to fund Hawk Watch (\$2140.00) from the conservation fund- passed unanimously.

Bob Lopp has submitted request from Prudential for Global Volunteer Day grant (Owen Sowerwine Work Day) - \$1000. Art Ortenberg was not forthcoming with contribution for annual Raptor Day. Lone Pine and Insty Prints helped offset costs. Out-of-pocket expense for Raptor Day is \$1100. FAS is owed money from Forest Service for More Kids in the Woods grant (\$1700-1800) – will have to wait until the government shut down ends. Have collected \$9050 to date for the Birdathon. Bruce outlined our December fundraiser. A letter and envelope will be included with the newsletter mailing. Sought matching funds from Board members. Ashley will work with Bruce and Kay to write the donation letter.

Moved and seconded (Lewis/Kay) to accept financials – passed unanimously.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – ASHLEY MASON

Ashley presented a summary of programs, materials, and personnel hours supplied by FAS coordinator and volunteers. Also reported on attendance at Raptor Day (235 participants). Board discussed future FAS involvement given the loss of funding from Art Ortenberg. Ashley will attempt to enlist a business sponsor.

CABELA’S INVITATION – BOB LOPP

Bob presented Cabela’s invitation to FAS, along with other conservation groups, to attend a pre-opening tour of their Kalispell store. Cabela’s also requested FAS set up a booth in front of the store during their grand opening to interact with kids. The Board discussed practices Cabela’s follows in other states and in Montana, that are not consistent with FAS conservation values and efforts. The Board also discussed whether

this is the best use of our education coordinator limited resource. FAS will check with other conservation groups before making a final decision.

MONTANA AUDUBON FALL MEETING REPORT – BOB LEE

Montana Audubon has completed its 5 yr. strategic plan and it has been accepted in principle. It is being distributed for comments. Appears to be a good plan. Plan does not include ACEC – they will develop their own plan. The property and buildings for ACEC belongs to Yellowstone Parks and Rec Association. ACEC has a long-term lease but there is friction on management of the facility. Next meeting, December in Helena.

WILEY DIKE COMMITTEE – BOB LEE

FAS's first project on the Robbins homestead is to build an observation blind. The blind is in the design stage – a sketch of the proposed blind was distributed to the Board. Dean Robbins' property will be open by invitation only. A 310 permit is needed before proceeding because it is necessary to disturb the bed and bank along a waterway. A material list will be developed after a technical drawing is completed – expected to be an expensive project.

OWEN SOWERWINE WORK DAY REPORT– BOB LOPP

The work was very successful. Thirty-three participants. Good weather. Bob Lopp sent the report to Prudential on Monday following the workday. Follow-up: Will work with DNRC to obtain a definitive survey between OSA and adjacent property owners.

CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION – KAY MITCHELL

Kay stated that we need one or two candidates for CAR to go along with the candidate already recognized. The board discussed some possibilities for the award. President Bob Lopp directed Kay to put together a list for consideration at the November meeting. A decision will be made at the November meeting.

CONSERVATION – OTTER ISLAND ACQUISITION – GAEL BISSELL

Tribes don't want to manage the property. Money for acquisition came from Bonneville Power. Public comment is due by October 9. It will be managed as a fish conservation area. BPA will hold the conservation easement and provide funds for restoration. Motion to send a letter of support for the transfer of the property to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. Moved and seconded (Kay/Lewis) – passed unanimously.

SUMMARY OF FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY'S STRATEGIC SURVEY OF MEMBERS – GAEL BISSELL.

Gael passed out hard copies of the results of the survey and went over the results with the Board.

CONSERVATION – LEWIS YOUNG AND STEVE GNIADEK

Lewis provided a follow-up from last spring on comments concerning a boat ramp at Church Slough. Landowner suit forced FWP to consider seasonal closure for waterfowl but after reconsideration, the same conclusion was reached. Lewis has received a request to support a grass roots effort to establish a program for wildlife conservation stamps – not sure of the effort's future. Very little change on the Kootenai National

Forest Plan. White-nosed syndrome has been found in Minnesota. Bat Conservation International has set up a video cam in a bat cave.

Steve reported that the Kootenai forest plan left out the 10 Lakes proposal for wilderness protection but did add some wilderness. Steve reported that the Flathead Conservation Round Table did not meet last time. The Bio Blitz in the Whitefish Range is still in the planning stage. The Glacier Going to the Sun corridor plan will be coming out next summer. Steve also reported on the ABA research on feral cats in Canada.

FIELD TRIPS – GAEL BISSELL AND KATHY ROSS

Kathy reported that there were 30 participants at Bad Rock Canyon for the hawk watch field trip and the attendees were very enthusiastic even though viewing conditions were not ideal. The MPG field trip is scheduled for October 15th. Meet at 9:00 am, Swan Hall.

MEMBERSHIP – MIKE FANNING

84 Local members

232 National members

Mike will be sending out 97 post cards and emails to members who have not renewed. We should end up with somewhere between 180-200 Flathead members only.

BOARD LIABILITY INSURANCE – BOB LEE

Bob Lee reported that we currently do not have insurance – expired this month. Provided information on Pachner and Associates as a possible provider. Pachner provides liability insurance only for Audubon Chapters affiliated with National Audubon. Pachner would cover the Board, field trips, and volunteers plus vehicles. Our current provider covers only the Board. Switching will save money. Motion to apply for Board and volunteer liability insurance coverage (Jill/Gael) – passed unanimously. Bob Lopp will apply and if accepted, Bruce will provide a check.

WEBSITE – JAN WASINK

Went through the website last Wednesday with exception of education. Next step is to make more inquiries. Outdated materials have been removed. Will make a decision next month concerning going with a different web product.

NEWSLETTER – KAY MITCHELL

Kay reported that the November issue will be small and may be late this month. Ashley will provide an article on education, Dick on Owen Sowerwine workday, and Mike a short thank you. Bob Lopp received a package of 120 black and white photos and will write a short article.

SALES – JILL FANNING

Audubon calendars will be available. Didn't order as many this time. There will be some other articles available too. Jill will also pass out renewal forms.

HOSPITALITY – LOIS DROBISH

Individuals have signed up to provide treats for the meeting. The PA system was discussed. At present, Gael brings her own from home. Bob Lopp will talk with Sherry

Wolfe concerning the possibility of sharing the cost of a PA system that would remain on site.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bruce called for a meeting of the financial committee. Bob Lopp will set up a meeting for sometime in October.

ADJOURNED AT 8:53.

Motion to adjourn (Mike/John).

Respectfully submitted,
John Hughes for
Marylane Pannell, Secretary