

## **FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**Monday, April 7, 2014**

**Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 Third Avenue, E.N., Kalispell, MT**

### **MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER:** President Bob Lopp called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and introduced guest, Jim Rychwalski.

**PRESENT:** Bob Lopp (Chair), Mike Fanning, Denny Olson, Lois Drobish, Jan Wassink, Steve Gniadek, Lewis Young, Bruce Tannehill, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, Gael Bissell, Ashley Mason, Paula Smith, and Jim Rychwalski.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the February 3, 2014 meeting were approved as corrected upon motion by Mike Fanning. Corrections are, under WEBSITE COMMITTEE, "The contract is scheduled to be completed in May 2014," and, under FIELD TRIPS, "Warbler Weekend is scheduled for May 31-June 1."

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bruce noted that he has not needed to transfer monies from the Education Fund to Income this year. Donations to Education includes \$1,500 from Soroptomists and a grant of \$913 for the owl trunk reported under "Other." Expenses will be corrected to report \$500 for the MT Bird Distribution Book, rather than to MT Audubon. The increase in Assets to date is due to the Birdathon, grants and stock market performance. The Treasurer's Report was accepted unanimously upon motion by Mike Fanning.

**BIRDATHON:** Bruce will send out Birdathon materials next week. John Hughes is interested in helping again. June 15 is suggested, with June 20 as a backup day.

**OWEN SOWERWINE COMMITTEE:** Linda Winnie received a Public Service Announcement from Linda de Kort recommending viewing the PBS series "Discover Your Inner Fish" that begins Wednesday, April 16.

Linda reported that OSNA needs two more monitors. The latest OSNA Committee meeting minutes will be sent to the entire board in the future. DNRC's Anne Moran met with Linda and will talk to OSNA neighbors about cleaning up old stray fences. FAS cannot use OSNA for a fund-raising event, but a clause in the master plan allows for coverage of class expenses. FAS can cover the cost of an "event", but not cost of maintenance.

Linda reported that Bruce Gunderson of Flathead County Mosquito Control has done mosquito control on the triangle north end of Leisure Island. It is up to DNRC whether to have mosquito control in OSNA, not FAS. The OSNA Master Plan says that mosquitos must represent a health hazard. However, Gunderson says that mosquitos do not pose a health hazard in OSNA. Linda may draft a letter for the board's review to Dave Poukish of DNRC, who authorized spraying for mosquito control, but will first call him about the matter.

Linda reported that a meeting about permanent protection of OSNA by purchase or land trade is scheduled for April 22. The meeting is with FWP, MT Audubon, FAS and the Bonneville Power Administration. Linda will let the board know what can be done to facilitate protection and keep momentum going, such as, a land trade between FWP and DNRC, or purchase by FWP with BPA money.

Linda said the OSNA budget for the coming fiscal year will be submitted to the FAS Finance Committee and the MT Audubon Finance Committee. This will be the first year in which a finance agreement with MT Audubon “kicks in”. There is a tentative plan to improve OSNA signage by having it professionally designed and done. The new signs project is not, though, in the budget as it requires future funding.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE: Jan reviewed the transition to the new WordPress website and the different areas for which board members will be responsible to keep current: Website consultant, Chany Oeckert, needs to know this week if any changes from the former website are required.

Field Trips—Gael and Kathy

Local Birds—Denny will check if the new Birding Guide to the Flathead Valley may be put on website.

Bird of the Month—Kay

Education— Ashley and Denny

Conservation—Lewis and Steve

OSNA—Linda Winnie; CAR link to full PP article

Join and Support—Mike; links from every page

Contact Us—Bob Lee

Publications—Kay

Photos—Jan; prefers digital electronically sent directly to him

Denny reported on the Website Committee’s recommendation of a new FAS logo designed by Miriam Emerson. The logo features a photograph of a painting of a Pileated Woodpecker by Elmer Sprunger. The painting was made available to FAS by Jerry Sprunger. A motion by Mike to accept the recommendation of the Website Committee was adopted. Denny will write an attribution about Elmer Sprunger’s contribution to new logo.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Denny referred the board to Ashley’s written report. Call Ashley at 270-0481 to volunteer at the Forestry Expo for ten-minute presentations to students during the week of May 5-9 and at the FAS booth on Saturday, May 10, either for a whole or half-day.

Ashley also needs three volunteers to help teach nature programs in Glacier National Park each day of the Road Scholar Intergenerational Program on Thursday, July 17 and Thursday, July 31. The program is for grandparents and kids. FAS will receive \$800. Denny will ask for volunteers at the general meeting.

Whitefish Legacy Partners are looking for someone with a Whitefish interest willing to be on its planning committee for educational self-guided trails.

CALENDAR: Denny reported that the phenology calendar will cost \$4.97 per unit plus shipping. FAS is selling sponsor space at the bottom of each page for \$500 per page. Miriam Emerson has contributed enormously to design. Printing 1,000 copies is suggested. Denny asked if calendars should only be sold retail, or wholesale as well? Bob Lopp noted that the Jack White fund is an option for "just in case" funding. Also, Jane Lopp and Associates can be a central clearing house for dispersing calendars. The calendars are also Education Fund-related. A motion by Mike for the publication of 1,000 calendar copies to be paid from the Education Fund passed unanimously.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE: Steve talked about the Wilderness Celebration scheduled for September 20. The board will let Ashley know that FAS would like this covered. Bob Lopp will contact Ashley. (Bob Lopp also noted that the Conservation Educator contract renewal should be discussed at the May board meeting.) The Montana Wilderness Association contacted Steve. MWA asks FAS to contribute \$200 to help underwrite the celebration. FAS could be represented by Ashley with booth or table with the FAS banner. Steve moved to commit \$200 from the Grants category of the budget for the Wilderness Celebration at the Flathead County Fairgrounds. The motion carried. The Bob Marshal Wilderness Foundation, MWA, FWP, GNP, Backcountry Horsemen and USFS will be part of the main program for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wilderness Act.

Steve received an invitation from the Salish Kootenai College for FAS to participate in International Migratory Bird Day with a bird-related station at the Community Bird Festival in Pablo on May 22 from 5 to 8 p.m. Steve will find out more, contact Ashley and copy Denny.

Steve reported on the Flathead Forest Plan. Steve will continue to go to meetings or send email comments. The purpose is to achieve collaboration among parties.

Steve met with women from the Blackfeet Community College regarding augmenting support of an intern. This is an opportunity to develop communication with Blackfeet tribe.

Steve will attend a meeting of the Flathead Conservation Roundtable to discuss the Whitefish Range, and North Fork legislation being held up in Congress.

WILEY-ROBBINS COMMITTEE: Gael reported on the afternoon teleconference with Dean Robbins. Dick Walker suggested an alternative site for the bird blind. Dean found the alternative possible. Dean will be back in mid-May and will schedule a field trip with the committee to review the site. A Memorandum of Understanding between FAS and Dean has been developed and will be submitted for board approval at the May board meeting. Dan Casey has arranged for an architect to draw blueprints for the blind. Dick Walker will help with the process. Dean must apply for a permit. Winter construction may be possible.

MONTANA AUDUBON: Bob Lopp reported on behalf of Bob Lee. MT Audubon discussed the Audubon Conservation Education Center at its quarterly meeting. FAS members should consider attending the Bird Festival in Bozeman in June.

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE: Bob Lopp reported for Bob Lee. John Hughes and Ben Young are resigning. Thus, there are two openings on the board. Jim Rychwalski is considering joining the board. Bob Lee will have nominations in the May PP. Bruce reported that he will remain as Treasurer, but would like help when he is scheduled to be gone during March and April 2015.

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE: Gael reported that the following are planned:

April 26 Cohen Stroll--Bruce

May 24 GNP Field Trip--Steve

May 31-June 1 Warbler Weekend at Tally Lake--Mike would like to know of a speaker by the 18<sup>th</sup>

June 7 Lazy Creek Field Trip-- Bruce

June 14 or May? Lost Trail Field Trip --Beverly Skinner, 6 a.m. at FWP

June 15? Birdathon--Bruce

June 22? Loon Ranger Field Trip--FWP

July 14 MWA/FAS Joint Field Trip--Steve

July or August Bat Field Trip—Lewis and Chris Hammond, 9-11 p.m.

September Lex Blood Geology Field Trip –Mike

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE: Kay reported that the May PP would include:

Program—Paula

BOM--Steve

CAR—Gael

President's Column--Bob Lopp

Field Trips—Gael

Links to other organizations' field trips, e.g., MNPS, MWA

Flathead Forestry Expo

Nominations –Bob Lee

Birdathon--Bruce

Education--Ashley

Save the Dates—Raptor Day and OSNA Work Day, Wilderness Celebration in September

OSNA Summer Work Day?—Richard

OSNA Monitoring--Linda Winnie

Loon Banding Contest--Linda Winnie

Board Meeting Highlights--Kay

West Valley Naturalists

Farmers Markets

Festivals

Donations Thank You

Silent Auction and Pot Luck

Freezeout Trip Report

Glacier Institute. Anything Related?

Directory Changes

HOSPITALITY: Lois requested help with setting up chairs and cleaning up after Monday's meeting in the UW Conference Room. Mike noted that he will pay \$25 for the use of the Whitefish Community Center PA system.

ADJOURN: Bob Lopp adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Smith, Secretary Pro Tem