

FLATHEAD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2014
JANE LOPP & ASSOCIATES, 295 Third Avenue E.N., Kalispell

CALL TO ORDER – BOB LOPP @ 6:03

PRESENT: Mike Fanning, Lewis Young, Kay Mitchell, Denny Olson, Gael Bissell, Bob Lee, Steve Gniadek, Jim Rychwalski, Jan Wassink, Lois Drobish, Richard Kuhl, Paula Smith, Marylane Pannell and Bob Lopp. ABSENT: Kathy Ross, Jill Fanning and Bruce Tannehill.

MINUTES – MARYLANE PANNELL

Correction made in the last paragraph “Bird Blind Comments” of the November minutes. The last sentence should read: A memorandum of understanding with the landowner has been completed and signed. With a correction it was moved and seconded (Kay/Lewis) to approve the November minutes. MOTION PASSED.

FINANCIAL REPORT – BOB LOPP

FAS received a donation from the Whitefish Community Foundation of \$2,000. A payment was made to our education coordinator and our mailing costs may be increasing. Our insurance package is complete – drivers for FAS trips are not covered. Moved and seconded (Denny/Jan) to accept the financial report. MOTION PASSED.

HOSPITALITY - LOIS DROBISH

Several Board members volunteered to bring treats to our December meeting. Calendars will be on sale. Bob Lee will ask Neal Brown to sell chocolates at the meeting. Discussion followed regarding room set-up and take down.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE – PAULA SMITH AND KAY MITCHELL

Paula and Kay attended the second training session with Chaney. The website has gone from draft to published. There will be a third training session this month. Bob Lopp would like to attend. Kay has added a home button to the menu bar and included a monthly calendar under activities. Also added to the website are the birds of the Flathead, birding hotspots, conservation awards and officers. Paula took photos of our board for inclusion on the website.

WHITEFISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – MIKE FANNING

The WFCF gave \$2000 to FAS this year. Mike suggested we gave some special attention to the Whitefish area. A meeting with Patti will be set up to work on “mining the WF area”.

DIMOND EXHIBIT – BOB LOPP

The Museum has an exhibit of Roy Dimond’s game bird feather mounts in the front hall until March 15, 2015.

EDUCATION/CALENDAR – DENNY OLSON

Denny and his committee sent to all board members the working draft of the new Education Strategic Plan with comments from Patti. The plan will stress results and quality not quantity and try to attract “millennials”. The group would like comments from the board.

The 2016 calendar will focus on “Montana’s High Alpine”. Denny asked for volunteers to do work on the 2016 calendar. He will send a list of volunteer tasks. Also, if you have suggestions for individual dates on the calendar send them to Denny. Miriam Emerson and Denny gave at least 500 hours to the project last year.

CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT – KAY MITCHELL

Three individuals were discussed for the 2015 awards. Val Parsons will be recognized in February with Denny and Mary Jo Gardner doing the write up and presentation. Mayre Flowers will receive the award in April written up and presented by Steve and Gael. In the fall we will give the award to Carol Bibler and Jim Watson.

OSNA – LINDA WINNIE

A meeting of the committee will be scheduled in Jan or Feb. The Master Plan will be on the agenda – its history, issues of interpretation and making changes. Discussion concerning tree stands. How long can a tree stand remain in the area? Additional members needed for the OSNA committee. Gael will be on the weed committee.

CONSERVATION – LEWIS YOUNG AND STEVE GNIADEK

Lewis encouraged support of a fee increase for the federal duck stamp. He will send a letter to Senators Tester and Walsh in support of the bill and will check on the date for the bill’s passage. Conservationists in Texas saved habitat for the Mexican free-tailed bats.

Steve attended the Flathead Conservation Round Table meeting with a program presented by Casey Herron on Wild and Scenic River classification proposals in the national forest plans on clean water. He will write requesting information on the organization, Public Land / Water Access Association.

FIELD TRIPS – GAEL BISSELL

See newsletter for field trips.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT – BOB LOPP

The Nine Pipes CBC is incorrect in the newsletter. It is on Dec. 21. All others listed in the newsletter.

NEWSLETTER – LEWIS YOUNG

The POST will include: bird of the month, field trips, winter trails day, bird count and hawk watch results, Dimond exhibit, loon rescue, West Valley Naturalists, Back Yard Bird count, legislative alerts, Montana Bird Festival and donations.

PROGRAM – RICHARD KUHL

At the December meeting Dan Casey will talk about the CBC. In January Elke Duerr will present a web of life program, February's program will be on the Pyrenees Mountain in Spain, and March Ben Long will speak on backyard wildlife. Richard will contact Steve Hoffman for the May program and for April a few suggestions are Bev Skinner on Lost Trails or Craig Naylor's music and chickadee presentation.

ADJOURNED at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted
Marylane Pannell, Secretary