

FLATHAD AUDUBON BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MONDAY, March 2, 2015  
JANE LOPP & ASSOCIATES, 295 Third Avenue E. N., Kalispell

CALL TO ORDER – BOB LOPP at 6:00

PRESENT: Bob Lopp, Lewis Young, Steve Gniadek, Denny Olson, Kathy Ross, Gael Bissell, Mike Fanning, Lois Drobish, Bob Lee, Richard Kuhl, Jan Wassink, Paula Smith and Marylane Pannell. ABSENT: Kay Mitchell, Bruce Tannehill and Jim Rychwalski. GUESTS: Steve Hoffman and David Cronenwett from Montana Audubon Society (MAS).

MINUTES – MARYLANE

The minutes of the February 2, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved (Mike/Denny) with a spelling and word correction. PASSED

BUDGET REPORT – BOB LOPP

Bruce sent a \$1000 donation and \$600 for OSNA to MAS. He paid Patti Mason and reimbursed Ashley Mason \$384 for her work on the owl trunk. Bruce also paid for the insurance and the bulk-mailing fee. He transferred \$20,000 from the WFCU to Glacier Bank and wrote a \$25,000 check to Vanguard Wellington Fund.

MONTANA AUDUBON DIRECTOR – STEVE HOFFMAN

Steve introduced David Cronenwett from MAS. Steve began by thanking the Flathead Audubon Chapter for their work with MAS and Bob Lee for his continued service as our state board representative. Steve plans to visit all the chapters to build a relationship with each group. MAS receives checks from 1400 people each year and the MAS has a \$1.1 million budget. A major gift program is being established to finance the MAS with its eleven-member office. He also encouraged us to work on IBA (important bird areas) in the Flathead.

OSNA WEED COMMITTEE -

Plans were made to control and eradicate weeds at OSNA. Mr. Heaps will be contacted in advance of the project. He raises certified weed free hay on his property. The OSNA volunteer monitoring sheet was passed around for inspection assignments.

BIRDATHON – BOB LOPP

A decision was made to hold the annual Birdathon on Saturday, June 13. John Hughes volunteered to lead one of the groups.

CONSERVATION – STEVE GNIADEK AND LEWIS YOUNG

Steve attended the Flathead Conservation Round Table. Janet Cartwright was an excellent speaker and should be considered for an FAS program next year. He also spoke about the new Whitefish radio station.

#### WILEY DIKE BIRD BLIND – JAN WASSINK

Jan showed the group the blueprint of the blind and the estimated cost (\$20,338) for materials to build it. The group mentioned possible volunteer labor for the project. The FAS Board gave approval to go ahead with the project.

#### EDUCATION/CALENDAR – DENNY OLSON

It was moved and seconded (Richard Kuhl/Bob Lee) to approve the FAS Education Program Strategic Plan, 2015-2019. PASSED. Patti Mason's Conservation Educator's Report was handed out to the group. Denny gave a presentation of the Audubon Calendar his committee has been working on for 2016.

#### WEBSITE – PAULA SMITH

Paula distributed a list of website goals and tasks for 2015 and it was moved and seconded (Paula/Kathy) to approve the Independent Contractor Agreement for helping to complete the website with one correction to change the date to 2015 from 2013.

#### NOMINATIONS – BOB LEE

Lewis agreed to continue on the board for another term and Paula will run for a board position. Richard Kuhl and Steve Gniadek are resigning. Several board possibilities were suggested including Amy Jacobs, Terry Welder, Jan Metzmaker, Jake Bramante and Julie Lubick. Bob Lopp agreed to accept the nomination for a 2<sup>nd</sup> term as President and Kay Mitchell will accept the nomination for VP for one more term.

#### FIELD TRIPS – GAEL BISSELL AND KATHY ROSS

Several field trips are planned for March, April and May including: early spring migrants in the Creston area, Freezout Lake to view Snow Geese, a trip to McWennegar Slough, morning birding in the Mission Valley, birding and biking at Smith Lake, birds, bears and native plants at Firebrand Pass and warbler weekend at Tally Lake.

#### HOSPITALITY – LOIS DROBISH

Everything is set for the next meeting.

#### NEWSLETTER – LEWIS YOUNG

The April newsletter will include: bird of the month, spring field trips. Mayre Flowers – Achievement Award, Beauty of Birds class, OSNA monitoring, MAS Bird Festival, West Valley Naturalist meeting notes, donations, nominations article, Flathead Forestry Expo, earth day activities, May meeting announcement. In Bruce's absence the newsletter will be compiled on March 24 at 2:30 at Bob Lopp's office.

PROGRAM – RICHARD KUHL

The March program will be Chickadees in the Concert Hall by Craig Naylor and the April program will be a photo essay on backyard wildlife by Ben Long.

Gael Bissell will take minutes at the April meeting.

Kathy Ross mentioned George Darrow died a few days ago. He was a naturalist with a long history of work in the Flathead and the state of Montana who FAS honored with our Conservation Achievement Award.

ADJOURNED @ 9:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Marylane Pannell, Secretary