

Flathead Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting
April 4, 2016
United Way Conference Room, Gateway Community Center, Kalispell

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Vice-President Gael Bissell.

Present: Gael Bissell, Acting Chair, Lewis Young, Doug MacCarter, Bob Lopp, Kathy Ross, Jill Fanning, Mike Fanning, Bob Lee, Denny Olson, Lois Drobish, Jake Bramante, Paula Smith, and guests Bruce Tannehill and Barbara Summer.

Minutes: A motion was made to approve the March 7, 2016 minutes as amended (m/Bob Lopp, s/Denny). The motion was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce Tannehill and Treasurer Joe Batts will meet to discuss filing of IRS Form 990, as well as the Treasurer's report to the membership in the May 2016 *Pileated Post*. Bruce will also perform the periodic review of FAS financial records. FAS assets and expected liabilities through fiscal yearend were discussed. Lisa Flowers is planning for fall implementation of the DNRC watershed grant. Denny will advise Joe when FAS may bill DNRC for reimbursements as the two major grant tasks have been completed. Mike Fanning will inquire about the deadline to apply for a Cinnabar grant. Bob Lopp reported that Mary Nelesen has advised him that the Whitefish Soroptomists would like to donate \$100 to FAS for 20 calendars. A motion was made to approve the Treasurer's report (m/Mike, s/Kathy). The motion was unanimously approved.

President's Report: A special meeting of the Board of Directors is planned for June 6 at Jane Lopp and Associates Conference Room. This will be in lieu of the meeting cancelled on February 1 because of lack of a quorum.

A written request from Montana Audubon on March 30 for "FAS to pledge \$2,000/year over the next two years...for our Important Bird Area program..." plus total dues of \$530 was discussed. Discussion focused on the amount already approved for MA in the current year 2015-2016 budget and the need to begin the 2016-2017 budget process. Bob Lee will research FAS contributions to MA during the previous four calendar years, as well as MA's needs. A motion was made to table further discussion until the next meeting (m/Denny, s/Bob Lopp). The motion was unanimously approved.

Education: Denny reviewed the "2016 Education Programs Progress Report". The Education Committee will meet soon to create next year's education budget. The feedback from the FVCC Senior Institute has been excellent. Lisa Flowers has accepted a new job in Texas, but will complete her Conservation Educator contract through June 30, 2016. In a letter to the board, Denny expressed his interest in filling the position when it becomes vacant and also discussed his qualifications with board members. Education Committee members will soon schedule a meeting to discuss the impending vacancy and make a recommendation to the board.

Calendar: Jake met recently with Denny and Lana Batts as an ad hoc Calendar Committee to plan for a 2018 calendar. Jake explained that FAS sold more 2016 calendars, but made more income from the 2015 calendars due to pre-sold advertising. The committee is considering a strategic plan to pre-sell the calendars at wholesale prices to other nonprofit partners and Montana Audubon chapters. The committee may recommend a greater "Glacier Country" ecosystem theme for the 2018 calendar to the board at its May 2 meeting.

April Program: Bob Lee reported that Beverly Skinner will present a program about Lost Trail NWR. Beverly will also lead a Lost Trail field trip on June 19.

Field Trips: Kathy and Gael were complemented for the good lineup of field trips that they have scheduled for the spring and summer. Kathy reported that the American Prairie Reserve field trip is filled. She learned that

Camp Creek Campground is in the area for the use of field trip participants. Doug MacCarter described the Wild Horse Island field trip on June 26. The field trip is limited to ten participants because they must be transported to the island by boat. Steve Gniadek is helping with an Early Bird Trip and FVCC's Bioblitz on April 23.

Conservation: Lewis reported that "white-nose syndrome" in bats has jumped the Great Plains and is now found in the State of Washington. Not enough is known about where bats hibernate in order to try experimental treatments.

FAS submitted comments to Fish, Wildlife and Parks regarding invasive species and watercraft inspections.

Fish, Wildlife and Parks is seeking comments by April 8 regarding the purchase of 9,300 acres in three parcels east of the divide (Black Leaf, Sun River and WMA). Board consensus was that Lewis should submit comments on behalf of FAS favoring the purchase.

Lewis discussed the need for screens to prevent birds and bats from flying into outhouse vents on Forest Service property in Eureka and the Flathead. Eureka has covered 25 vents and has more to cover. Lewis hasn't heard from the Flathead National Forest. A motion was made to use \$300 from the Conservation Fund to buy the Kootenai National Forest in Eureka ten more vent covers (m/Jill, s/Denny). The motion was unanimously approved. Lewis will facilitate the purchase of vent screens.

Newsletter: The May 2016 copy of the *Pileated Post* will be the last newsletter of the program year and include the following:

Program-Paula, Conservation Achievement Recognition of Dan and Susannah Casey, President's Column-Kay, Field Trips-Kathy and Gael, Freezout Field Trip Report-Bob Lee, Nominations-Bob Lee, Forestry Expo Rerun, Birdathon-Bruce, Bird of Month-Jeannie Marcure, Financial Report-Joe Batts, Education Corner-Lisa, Raptor Day-Lisa, OSNA Volunteer Monitoring-Linda W., OSNA Work Day-Linda W., Loon Banding Contest-Linda W., Loons and Lead, International Migratory Bird Day and CSKT Celebration, Highlights of BOD Meeting-Lewis, MA Bird Festival, West Valley Naturalists-Linda de Kort, Donations-Mike, General Thank You to Donors-Mike, Amazon SMILE Signup to Donate to FAS, Annual Meeting and Silent Auction, Tally Lake-Jill.

Birdathon: The 2016 Birdathon is scheduled for Saturday, June 18. Bruce cited prior years' earnings from the Birdathon. The need to solicit more pledges and increase media coverage around the event was discussed. Jake volunteered to be the team leader for Jake's Jays.

Hawk Watch: The final report for the 2015 Hawk Watch was discussed. The board agrees that Hawk Watch should be continued in the fall of 2016. Gael reported that Dan Casey, as a FAS member, will remain the primary manager of 2016 data collected. Joe Batts will assist in coordinating field work and work with Dan and oversee expenses. All will coordinate the Forest Service agreement, budget and contracts. Kay, Joe and Gael will meet with the Forest Service to discuss possible funding and use of a webcam for Hawk Watch. Other funding sources that may be available were discussed.

Barbara Summer talked about the need to recruit more and younger volunteers as both "primaries" and assistants. Training and protocols are also required. Barbara said Hawk Watch International has a raptor ID video application available for training. Denny pointed out that Hawk Watch is a significant education opportunity and that Raptor Day in September is also a training and recruiting opportunity. Mike said this project is the most citizen science effort that FAS does. Jake said the Facebook side of the Montana birders website may be a good place to recruit volunteers to Hawk Watch.

Hospitality: Lois has treats arranged for the April 11 meeting. After discussion, it was determined that board members will bring treats to the September 2016 general meeting and then Lois will pass a signup list for treats for the rest of the program year. Mike and Jill will present details for the May 9 annual meeting at the May 2 board meeting.

Website: Jake will recommend revised e-commerce guidelines at the May 2 board meeting.

United Way Donation: A motion was made to donate \$300 designated in the current year's budget for meeting room rental to United Way (m/Bob Lopp, s/Kathy). The motion was approved unanimously.

Dues Increase: The board determined that a proposed increase in FAS dues be discussed at its May board meeting. FAS Bylaws provide that local membership dues be established by the Society.

Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. (m/Denny, s/Lewis). The motion was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Paula Smith
/s/Gael Bissell
Secretaries Pro Tem