

Minutes - FAS Board Meeting, May 6, 2019

Prepared by Pam Willison, Secretary

Board Members in attendance: Kay Mitchell, Pam Willison, Rod Walette, Cory Davis, Gael Bissell, Joe Batts, Bob Lopp, Gail Linne, Jan Metzmaker, Mike Fanning, Darrick Rathe, Carole Jorgensen

Others in attendance: Denny Olson, Margaret Parodi, Jill Fanning, Bruce Tannehill, Will Beyer

Meeting was called to order by President Kay Mitchell at 6:06 pm

Kay introduced the guests.

Minutes: Motion by Bob Lopp, second Jan. Approved.

Financials:

*Joe reviewed the monthly checkbook activity. Motion Jan, Gael second. Approved.

*Kay asked for any questions on the Financials and Budget through May 2019 as prepared by Bruce. There were none.

*Kay asked for feedback about the proposed 2019-2020 budget, which was prepared by the Finance Committee. Gael mentioned the need for an \$80 change in the numbers for Hawk Watch and those adjustments were made. Motion to approve with adjustments was made by Mike, second by Rod. Approved. Joe mentioned that there are more memberships and more sustaining members so, should this continue, we should be able to expect a larger membership income next year as a result.

Presidents Report:

*Lewis Young reported to Kay that the FWP Sharp-tailed Grouse pilot reintroduction program for Drummond, the Bitterroot, and the Ovando area has been approved. Lewis had prepared a letter from FAS in support of the program.

*Thirteen bluebird boxes are up at the West Valley viewing area. Some are on the county road and some are on the access road.

*FAS is again listed for United Way and the State Employees Combined Charitable Giving programs. Gael suggested we put that information in the Pileated Post in the late fall to remind people who get these packets that they can donate directly to FAS.

*The Maki Foundation grant has been submitted for \$2000 to support the Birds of Prey Festival on September 14. Many thanks to Gael for completing it.

*The Whitefish Credit Union donated \$300 for the Birds of Prey Festival.

*We need some clarification for people who are representing FAS when seeking grants. Rod contacting Noreen of Parkside Credit Union, which is a non-profit, and is very focused on giving back to their communities. He was seeking funding for the cost of the new sandhill crane education trunk. They were willing to donate, but required that their logo and name be affixed to the trunk as a sponsor. Rod didn't feel he could agree to that and would like some clarification about who is authorized to speak for the board and make such agreements. Noreen at Parkside also gave him two other applications for groups that have money available (Women Who Wine, and NMAR realtors). Rod would also like some clarification about who we are willing to accept money or grants from. Jan mentioned that most organizations have some guidelines about not accepting money from various sources that might be in conflict with their beliefs. Gael said there is some guidance about advertising for the FAS newsletter which could be used as a guideline for donations/grants. Because we work so hard for preserving open spaces, it seems there might be a conflict to our philosophy by accepting money and providing recognition for a realtors organization.

Regarding clarification for people going into the community to seek funds: Bob Lopp suggested that it should go through the executive committee before someone makes a commitment for us to accept donations and/or provide publicity as a result of accepting the donation. Kay also suggests checking with the person running the specific program where the funds will be used so they can provide feedback about the appropriateness of the source of the funds. Gael would like to see more information about Parkside CU. Rod said there is a very good website for them. Rod would like Denny and Gael to join him when he returns the application the Parkside, and to meet with Noreen to answer any question we might have, and be prepared to authorize their logo and name on the education trunk. Joe mentioned another credit union that has given to MT Audubon and possibly would give funding to Birds of Prey Festival, if we included transportation for disabled people. Kay asked advice about whether to create a standing committee or to use the executive committee. Board members felt the executive committee should be used.

Regarding Women Who Wine and NMAR: Kay feels we should look back to our advertising guidelines. Rod will work with Kay about a policy to guide those decisions and it will be emailed.

*OSNA will have some changes of personnel. Linda Winnie is stepping back and her duties are being divided. Pam will be taking control of the local and internal communications and actions. The other job will be taking over the responsibilities of working with DNRC and the Nature Conservancy on a transfer to ownership to FWP, working with Flathead Land Trust, and any other organization. Linda W will remain involved in the ownership transfer until it is complete, and Kay will be working with her to assume that part of her job. Bob Lee will still be the man-on-the-ground for OSNA.

Regarding OSNA, Denny reported that he talked to Dan Savage and Sally Hash, who own the land that borders OSNA. Denny and Jake walked through OSNA with a representative from the Parks Dept, which has land the other side of Dan and Sally, and are working to develop that park area. Dan and Sally are not in support of developing a direct path between the park and OSNA, in order to keep it a little more low key. Dan and Sally did express an interest in being on the OSNA committee. Kay

said we have had neighborhood people on the committee and would welcome them. Kay also mentioned that we only can have the current 4 legal public accesses into OSNA, so we wouldn't be able to add a new access. It's in the statute that established it as a natural area and Kay will look back at it to be sure she recalls that correctly.

*The Annual meeting is next Monday 5/13. Loose ends: Jan will get the key and open it and prior to Monday, will confirm that there is a screen (Joe has one if needed). Jill and Mike will not be there, so someone needs to bring coffee and set up the pots - Gael will do this. Denny will bring his projector in case Dan doesn't have his. The room needs to be restored to the order it was when we arrive. We will open the building at 5 to do set up. There will be a silent auction and Cory will help set up the silent auction. Joe will bring a cash bag. Jan will contact Rod McIver about bringing plants for the auction, which he had offered. Kay would like some welcome packets for the new people, so Jill and Mike will get some to Jan or Bruce. The CD's will be for sale also. Carole asked whether there could be a way for people to pay with a credit card since fewer people are using cash or checks, and if there were, sales might increase. Joe said there is a significant charge for processing charge cards.

*The storage room will not be accessible over the summer so we need to take anything we need.

*Beginning in the fall, there will be membership cards for local FAS memberships. (If you are national only, you will not receive one). The card can be used for discounts at Army-Navy for optics, and Murdocks for sunflower seeds. We are hoping additional discounts can be arranged. Carole wondered about a way to prevent people from photocopying them. Gael said she would sign each one if needed. Also beginning this fall board members will have business cards. There will be some expenses associated with both of these. Kay estimates \$100-150. Board members felt that was an reasonable expenditure.

*Kay wanted to recognize some star performances. Carole and Lewis Young wrote an excellent and important letter to the National Bison Range offering feedback and suggestions for their proposed management plan.

Girls Who Code have completed a pilot for a bird songs app for smart phones. A team of girls selected our project and then completed a marketing analysis for our local area. They had to create a promotional video for the app, and another that explains what the app is and why they chose our project. They sorted the songs by habitat and alphabetically, and were able to pair pictures with each of the 15 used in the pilot. They copyrighted it and posted it to YouTube. When they were doing their promotional video, they went to Lone Pine to film and were able to interview Darrick about FAS and he did an excellent job. Kay will send the link for us to view it. Bruce would like to be included in the process because it uses his recordings. He also mentioned that all photos they use need to be in compliance with copyright laws. Bruce also wondered how this was going to be sold and distributed. He also would want to insure that it is able to be updated as he works on improvements of his recordings.

*Kay offered a personal thank you to each person on the board for the support given her through her presidency.

Education Report:

*Gail referred to the Education Program Strategic Plan, which was distributed in email. An April meeting was held to complete an assessment of the past year. Then, in May the Education Committee completed the plan for the coming year. Objective 5 includes all the programs throughout the year. Gael asked that Lone Pine State Park and Flathead Land Trust be added to the list of relationships under Goal 4. Motion to accept (with the two additional agencies) made by Pam, Darrick second, approved. Denny mentioned that the plan didn't address the major project we have been discussing.

*Denny will need some help at Family Forestry Expo this Saturday. Bruce offered to help.

*Denny will be doing some test runs of the materials and program that would be used for the major project. He's hosting Smith Valley School from 9-2:45 at OSNA on Tuesday 5/14.

*This summer, Denny will need some help setting out posts and creating deer enclosures at OSNA, and finishing the eradication of viburnum. Also, he will be installing 6 wood duck houses. In addition, he needs 4 instructors on each of the 4 Road Scholar classes in July/Aug.

Birdathon:

Bob Lopp reported on the status of the Birdathon on June 15. There are two forms - one for signing up people for the birdathon and one for pledges. We still need team leaders. The team leader gathers birders for their team and helps distribute the teams for effective birding. Bruce pointed out that the event is great fun, with the pledges being the challenging part, but they are critical to the success of generating funds to FAS. Bob has the lists of past participation/pledges and will distribute them to past birders. Bruce suggested that we be sure the data base of birders and pledgers are kept current because they are so helpful. He also said the checks should be directed to him to help him keep the data updated. Joe reminded that the end of June is the end of the fiscal year so collections and deposits need to be timely. There will be a pizza party following the Birdathon at MacKenzie River North. Jan needs details so she can provide information to guide people in the correct place to sign up and/or pledge. Cory will organize the Jays team (which may be renamed the Corvids). Will is going to lead the Tanager team. Bruce will send lists to both the team leaders.

Grants: Gael reported that the Maki grant results will be known late this summer and the funds will go toward the Birds of Prey Festival. Coffee Traders is a new sponsor for the Festival.

Newsletter:

The preliminary list for the September newsletter was distributed. Pam may need a sub for the brief business meeting next Monday but can do the report for the newsletter. Cory would like to include a thank-you for field trip leader, and field trip highlights and photos.

Committee Reports:

***Grants** - Gael asked if there needs to be a grants meeting. Rod asked if the funding is complete for Hawk Watch. Gael said the funding isn't complete. Rod feels there needs to be a meeting. Gael wants it to be by the end of May. Kay will distribute some dates to committee members.

***Wylie Blind** - Cory is setting up a meeting of people who want to work on it: Pam, Rod, Darrick, Bob Lee and possibly Dick Walker. There needs to be a new MOU.

***Tally Lake Warbler Weekend** - It's mentioned on the website, but needs more details added. Jill had a checklist of items that need to get handled. Kay will bring a white board and firewood. Cory will lead people on Saturday morning and Denny will do Sunday morning - time will be 7 am. Optional Potluck at 6 Saturday. It's at the group campsite, Friday May 31 - Sunday June 2.

***North Shore Viewing** - Gael spoke with Chris Hammond and Franz Inglefinger (FWP) about a viewing blind on the north shore of Flathead Lake. Chris has applied for some money for a viewing area south of the existing pole hay shed, which was originally considered as a location and was rejected. They propose placing a 10'x10' gravel viewing area which will be ADA accessible from the existing parking area. The existing parking lot is big enough for a school bus turn around. There would need to be quite a bit of screening from the parking area and around the viewing site with low-growing vegetation, but there will not be an overhead cover. It would likely be open year-round. It would offer a safe option for viewing early spring migratory waterfowl off Highway 82, but would not be a motorized access that goes all the way to the Flathead Lake shoreline. Denny feels that this definitely fits with our ideas of a program to support school field trips. Chris and Franz welcome feedback/input from FAS per their last draft EA that covered future management. Darrick has driven by the area with Chris and was able to show the location on his laptop. Cory wondered if there would be any assessment of impact, and this was unclear. The FAS Board discussed the information Chris provided and the considerations of the location and we will provide FWP with feedback.

Motion to adjourn by Joe, Jan second. Adjourned at 8:35.