

September 3, 2019 Minutes and September 17 Addendum
Flathead Audubon Board of Directors
By: Pam Willison, Secretary

Board Members in attendance: Rod Walette, Will Beyer, Mike Fanning, Margaret Parodi, Gail Linne, Cory Davis, Jan Metzmaker, Kathy Ross, Kay Mitchell, Joe Batts, Pam Willison, Gael Bissell

Others in Attendance: Bruce Tannehill, Kat Petersen, Jill Fanning, Gail Cleveland, Derrick Rathe

Introductions were completed and we had the chance to meet Kat Petersen, who is our paid primary on Hawk Watch.

The meeting was called to order by President Gael Bissell at 5:45.

The minutes of the May Board of Directors meeting were distributed. Rod motion to approve, Derrick second. Kay asked for a correction because the discount at Army Navy is not available. Minutes were approved as corrected. The minutes of the May General Annual meeting were distributed. Kay motion to approve, Kathy second. Minutes were approved.

Kay will conduct a new Board member orientation in the near future.

Gael mentioned that Lewis Young encourages board members, particularly new members, to write a short article about themselves to be published in the Pileated Post. The deadline for publication is the 18th of the month prior to publication. Will would like to do it later in the winter. Margaret will look at past ones and decide, and Gael will contact David.

Financials:

Cory reported on Birdathon results. There were 5 groups on each team and the Jays won. The amount collected to date is \$2388.92. It was below the average from the past few years. Bruce pointed out that there weren't as many pledges, but part of the purpose was to have fun birding and that was accomplished. Jan asked about donations she collected that don't seem to be on the list yet. She will check into it. There was discussion of streamlining the pledge/payment process next time.

Bruce explained that it is possible to donate directly from your IRA and there are some tax benefits. It's a way to use your required distribution to benefit Audubon and have some benefit to yourself.

Bruce prepared a list of assets through mid-August to evaluate our progress. It wasn't distributed prior to the meeting so will be discussed at the next meeting. There needs to be a brief annual financial report in the October PP, however, this report is too long to use.

Gael suggested we seek a volunteer CPA who would be willing to complete the preparation of some of the financial reports we need and complete an official audit. Jan will contact her son

who just passed the CPA exam. Pam will contact someone she knows. Gail Cleveland questioned whether someone would actually complete an official audit without being paid. Bruce said that for an official audit, they are putting their name on it and would need to have insurance to cover any liability for their work. Rod suggested contacting the college to see if their students could do it. Gael said it is a document that is needed for some grant applications. Gail C. said we need to figure out what a grantor is actually seeking for financial reports. Gael concluded that we will get some more information and pursue some of the suggestions. Bruce suggested spending some time with a CPA and ask for their suggestions of what we need. We would be looking for someone by the year-end annual report. The article for the PP would be a year end one for 2018-19. Bruce pointed out that the valuation of our assets on a given report may be a little delayed and, because of that, may not precisely accurate when submitted with a grant application.

Presidents Report: Gael said she feels that even though we aren't having Board meetings in the summer, that we need to have our committees stay active and vigilant so that when fall arrives, the plans for the coming events are a little more established (ie Hawk Watch, Birds of Prey, monthly programs, etc.). Related to this, Kay mentioned that the Grants Committee is a little small and could use some new members.

Gael and Gail Linne have talked about some strategies for reaching out to our older members to inform and encourage them in the area of planned giving. Gael would like to see a brochure for this completed by the end of the calendar year.

The books that belonged to Jim Jokerst were donated to FAS and his family would like them distributed in a way for them to get used. Gael asked for ideas of how to distribute them. Jill Fanning suggested offering them to Denny for use in his program. Gail L. suggested that schools are going to be resistant to taking them and the best idea might be to distribute them to the members. Pam asked about a Girls and Boys Club and Derrick said he has been in contact with one in C. Falls and could contact them. It was decided to put them out at the next meeting as free items.

Gael is wondering if there might be someone in the membership who would be willing to send out acknowledgments and thank-you notes for various happenings. Jill does most of them and would like some help. Jan mentioned that at the Bob Marshall Foundation Board meetings there is a stack of cards and each board members has to do several during the meeting. We feel it's a good public relations activity and it needs to continue. Gael would like to see it as a hospitality activity. Cory likes the idea Jan mentioned where the cards get done at each board meeting. Mike is the one who generates the list of people who send in donations with their membership. We will try to completing them at board meetings. Jill and Mike will bring the supplies to the next board meeting.

Birds of Prey Festival:

*The posters are done and Jan has a list of poster distribution from past years and people signed up so there is not duplicated effort.

*Volunteers: Gael distributed a sign-up list for volunteer from the Board. It will also be distributed at the membership meetings to fill empty slots. Derrick will coordinate the volunteers for the shuttle, the booth, clean up and set up.

OSNA: Pam reported that the fall work day on 9/28 will focus on working weeds on the west fence lines by going in each of the 4 entrances and cutting hounds tongue seed heads and digging oxeye daisy. Pam worked with Linda Winnie and Gael to prepare a chart of weed control actions and estimates for next year as related to the FCD grant. Kay and Rod are preparing the grant application and Pam is working on a written weed plan. The amendment to the license to add FAS has been completed and is being routed to MA and FAS for signatures. The news for renewal of the license will be covered in the future when there is something more to report.

Conservation Committee: Gael wrote several letters over the summer in support of projects. These were distributed to the executive committee and Lewis and Carole for approval rather than the entire board. One was in support of an FWP viewing area off Somers cut-off highway. In the future, if time is short, Gael will continue to write the letters and get approval from the conservation committee and executive committee.

Bird of the Month: All assignments are filled, except May. We are doing some recycling of past issues because they are good material and it's been some time since it's been seen. Joe will do May based on Pine Siskins. There has been a suggestion to do articles of other animals. That seems like a good idea.

Education: Gail L. said a committee meeting will be held in September.

CAR: The MacCarter brothers will receive the CAR award this month. There will be some of their photos on display and we can help with setting them up before the meeting. Several family members are planning be there for the presentation.

Field Trips: Cory said several trips got rained out and even those that were held had low participation. Cory and Kathy would like to regroup and decide how to proceed with field trips. Jan suggested talking to Jake about on-line sign-up. Kathy said she feels there is a lack of personal connection, especially because we stopped promoting them at each meeting. There are several ideas that need to be looked into. Jan suggested better promotion as a website banner. Possibly the January program should be about field trips to kick them off. There aren't many this time of year, so there is some time to plan a strategy to improve attendance.

Membership: Mike reports we are doing well, and annual dues need to be paid.

Programming: David M. is going to start helping Bob Lee. If you have ideas, get them to Bob. We will address it at the next Board meeting.

Publicity: Jan is keeping events current on the website and in the local publications.

Gael distributed a list and asked people to update who is on which committee.

Wylie Blind: Cory reported there was a brief meeting last week and the first thing we need to do is contact the land owner Dean and plan a site visit in order to review what is needed to finish the blind, and make the site useable.

Committee Chairs who do not have a term on the board, but who want to serve on the Board need to be voted onto the Board each year. Mike Fanning and Kathy Ross agree to serve on the Board. Motion to accept them on the Board for one year by Pam, Derrick second. Pam amended the motion to include Bob Lopp and Bob Lee, who were not present, but have served on the Board as Committee Chairs in the past. Derrick seconded amendment. Motion passed for all 4 to be on the Board.

Gael reviewed the preliminary list for the October Pileated Post and filled in missing details.

Gael brought some of our brochures and will restock FWP. She would like to see them distributed more regularly.

Kay anticipates questions from members about taking their membership card to Murdoch's. We need to encourage people to renew their membership at the September meeting so they get their card at the October meeting and can start using their discount for sunflower seeds.

Jill reminded that board members to get their membership renewed right away so they aren't in arrears. It can be done on line.

Bruce asked about the bird call CD's. Kay said there are only a couple left. Bruce can manufacture 10 fairly easily. Kay said that should be enough for a while.

Gael reported that the kid's stickers cost more than was discussed at a prior meeting. Cory showed the examples of the kid's stickers and member stickers. Members will receive one when paying their membership and kids at events will receive one free, then kid's stickers will be sold for \$1 at meetings. Total cost for membership cards and stickers, kid's stickers, and business cards is \$605. Jan made a motion to approve the expenditure. She also mentioned that the woodpecker sticker has no identifying markings and would like to see FAS added to it. Cory said Jake is planning to add it. Jill questioned whether we expected to recover \$600 as a result of increased membership. Kay clarified that it wasn't anticipated that we would recover the money, but that it is intended as a method of brand recognition. There was discussion about the value of branding. Mike feels that we gave our support to the idea at past meetings, even though we weren't certain of the expenses and it came out higher than anticipated and we should support the branding effort and approve the expense. Mike seconded the motion. Derrick said stickers from Lone Pine get used, but brochures don't. Motion passed.

Jan made a motion to adjourn, Kay seconded. Adjourned at 7:50 pm.

September 17, 2019 Addendum to Minutes for 9/3/19 BOD meeting

President Gael Bissell contacted Board members via email regarding the September 2019 Board Meeting with some issues that need corrective action.

By checking back through Board records, Gael realized that the term for Derrick Rathe, who had been elected to complete the term of a Board member who resigned, had actually expired in May 2019, so he was no longer an active Board member. During the September meeting, Derrick made a motion for a vote that was seconded and passed. That motion, second, and vote need to be redone by active Board members.

Via email, Margaret Parodi made a motion to re-elect the committee chairs Kathy Ross (Field Trips), Mike Fanning (Membership), Bob Lee (Programs), and Bob Lopp (Finance) to the Board for a one-year term expiring in May 2020. The motion was seconded by Gail Linne. President Bissell called for the vote, and the motion passed with 10 of the active 12 Board members voting for the motion, and none voting against.

Via email, Jake Bramante made a motion to elect Derrick Rathe to a one-year term on the Board of Directors, as the Lone Pine-FAS Liaison. The motion was seconded by Margaret Parodi. President Bissell called for the vote, and the motion passed with 12 current Board members voting for the motion, and none voting against.

As a final correction, the minutes of the May 2019 BOD meeting will be reapproved at the October meeting, because Derrick provided the second on the motion to approve the minutes. The September 2019 minutes correctly show Derrick Rathe in attendance, but not as an active Board member.