

Flathead Audubon Monthly Meeting
March 6, 2006
Location: Prudential Building, Kalispell, MT

Present: Bob Lopp, Chair; Sonja Hartmann, John Kyle (guest), Linda Winnie, Brent Mitchell, Lewis Young, Bob Lee, Ansley Ford, Paula Smith, Shirley Harrison, Gail Sullivan, Bruce Tannehill, Leslie Kehoe and Marcy Mahr

Meeting started at 6 p.m.

John Kyle discussed what he thought his roll will be as FAS' webmaster. He will coordinate between the context and the technical aspect. He works meetings so normally won't be able to attend evening meetings.

Bob welcomed Marcy Mahr who has accepted nomination as a new board member for FAS for a 1-year term. The election for new board members will be at the May meeting.

February minutes. Corrections - Shirley Harrison did not do the board news-Linda deKort did these notes. Brent Mitchell contacted Rod Ash to clarify their funding request. Brent moved the minutes were approved as amended. Linda Winnie seconded. Unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report. We have exceeded our anticipated revenue, so far. Some of our expenses will be fencing for Owen Sowerwine, Montana Audubon dues, payment for the contractors for the new website and conservation coordinators. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Report. Unanimously passed. Bruce made the motion that we pay our dues to Montana Audubon of \$1,000, Brent seconded and unanimously passed.

Education Committee applied for a grant from Montana Audubon. The Roundtable is on Wednesday and will be discussing land use issues. Bob Lopp will be there and would like someone else from FAS to be there. Bob Lee will probably be able to attend this meeting. Neither Sonja nor Lisa are on the board now.

Sonja handed out information sheet on Independent Contractors. There is a discussion about what employment status Lisa and Sonja will because of liability issues. Bob Lopp will contact a person and clarify this issue. Sonja handed out the "FAS Education Coordinator Job Share Work Plan", which Lex Blood requested. Sonja and Lisa will keep track of their hours. Bruce made the motion that we put \$2,000 into the Sustainability fund if Lex Blood will put in \$3,000 toward increasing the education coordinators' work plan and try to raise as much of that increase as possible. Seconded. Unanimously passed. Sonja asked what kind of report we would like to report their activities. It was decided that emails can be sent to board members and the Committee Chair can report at board meetings. If anyone wants to pick up education materials contact either Sonja or Lisa. Montessori school has agreed to help with education trunk

check-in and check-out. There will be a teachers' workshop at Montessori. April 8 there will be 2 early education sessions at Cavanaughhs. And there will be some reading programs at the library.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Website. The domain name has been transferred to us. Linda Winnie moved and it was seconded that Bob Lopp be reimbursed for transfer costs, which he paid for and volunteered as a donation to FAS. Unanimously passed. Hillary is now waiting for content before she can do anything more on the website. Hillary is now gone for 2 weeks. March 15 is a tentative deadline. We're hoping to have website up by April meeting. Mike Fanning would like someone else to have a copy of the membership list or it be posted on website. Linda Winnie suggests that the President and one of the newsletter co-editors have a list and monthly updates. It's probably too hard to secure a on a website. We have decided not to have a private or board section.

Conservation. Does the board want to make comments on the latest action concerning Bald Eagles by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? 1. Nest management guidelines and 2. regulatory definition of "disturb" to help landowners and others understand how they can help protect bald eagles consistent with existing law. The board would like Lewis to develop a paper on this action and email to board members to look at. Another topic is the sale of forest service lands to fund the Secure Rural Schools Act. Lewis has a map of proposed parcels for sale on the Flathead National Forest. Lewis will write up proposed FAS comments and email comments to the board.

Conservation Recognition. Jill Fanning will make the presentation to Montana Coffee Traders at the next meeting. Paula talked to the Head of the Whitefish Parks Department and would be glad to come to a FAS meeting and Paula will get with Dan Casey on the Kalispell Parks Department about their tree programs.

Beauty of Birds. The class is Wednesdays in April again for the Adult Education program at Flathead High School. Ansley wanted input on a couple of questions. Should Denver Holt do Owls or Shorebirds-the board thought Shoreboards. Do any of board members have a bird specialty they would like to present. Bruce Tannehill's name was suggested for birding by ear. Paula will do publicity on this class. The field trip associated with this class will be April 22 and try to get Neal to lead.

Field Trips. Leslie has been spending quite a bit of time of setting up spring field trips and would like any ideas that anyone has.

Refuges. Leslie will get us summary of the just published Lost Trails Refuge Conservation Plan.

Newsletter. President's column, Bird of the Month, Birding in Australia by Leslie Kehoe, Beauty of Birds, May potluck information at West Valley school (?), recycling and Earth Day, Montana Audubon topics, the challenge grant, maybe feeding birds and

not bears and the April program-Pacific northwest birds. In April is a large newsletter-maybe 14 pages. So far 40 electronic newsletters are being sent out.

Publicity. Information on Dr. Grove's program, and information is out on March program. All suggestions are encouraged.

Nominations. Bob Rost would like to resign from board and just lead field trips. We still need a Vice President nominee. Amy Stebbins (sp-Bob Lee) is interested in serving on a committee. Barbara Groves is a possibility for a board member nominee.

Owen Sowerwine. The MWA tracking class took place at Owen Sowerwine and they gave us a list of tracks that they found and some photos of group. Brent would like to set up a meeting for the Owen Sowerwine Committee and get ready for the DNRC meeting. Brent mentioned that there are a lot of dead and dying trees in OS and not to go through when the wind blows.

Hospitality. A couple of people have volunteered to bring treats and Lewis Young will also bring some.

OLD BUSINESS

Rod Ash is looking for any amount of donation to help maintain the trails and boardwalk at the Squeezee Creek Wildlife area. This was FAS original project. Brent moves that we donate \$200 for Squeezee Creek trail maintenance and Shirley seconded. This could come out of grant money. Unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Brent handed out information about a planning meeting at the Earl Bennett building about the Riverdale Neighborhood Plan which is 2/3's of the size of Columbia Falls. It is now in the Planning department. This development is 3,800 acres of new subdivision. Linda will email out "Citizen's" email on this development and how to make comments. So far there has been no public input on this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan
Gail Sullivan
Secretary