

Monthly Flathead Audubon Society
December 4, 2006
Location: Jane Lopp & Associates Conference Room
295 3rd Avenue E. North
Kalispell, MT 59901

Attending: Bob Lopp, Chair; Gail Sullivan, Bruce Tannehill, Brent Mitchell, Marcy Mahr, Barbara Grove, Shirley Harrison, Leslie Kehoe, Lois Drobish, Paula Smith, Linda Winnie, Dan Casey, Lewis Young, and Ansley Ford

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

A motion to nominate Lisa Discoe to the FAS board was unanimously passed.

Gail Sullivan resigned as Website Chair and Paula Smith agreed to become the new Website Chair.

A motion was made and the November minutes were approved as modified.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce did write a check to the Swan Ecosystem in Rod Ash's name as requested by the FAS board.

Linda Winnie moved that we authorize the Finance Committee to transfer funds from the Domini Funds to a more productive fund within that class. Seconded and unanimously passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Owen Sowerwine Committee. (OSNA) Shirley gave the board a brief history of the Riata Ridge project and FAS involvement. Shirley is drafting an informational packet to send to Mayor Kennedy and the Kalispell City Council which represents FAS view's on the proposed Riata Ridge Development and annexation to the city. Please email any comments to Shirley so that she can finalize the packet. Other people are encouraged to come to the city meeting to testify. Ansley and Lois will try to attend the meeting. Fencing will start in about 2 weeks. About 2100 feet of fencing-Advance Fencing will provide some protection for OSNA.

Protection for OSNA. Linda discussed the Owen Sowerwine meeting on November 15 that discussed long-term protection for OSNA. There was discussion about OSNA and other local areas. Linda said it was a very hopeful meeting and she will have something more concrete information at a later date.

Christmas Bird Counts. Suzanna will be doing the December Bird Count program this year. Dan Casey discussed the coming bird counts. Dan would like to prearrange as many of groups as possible for the Bigfork and Kalispell counts.

Publicity. Paula is looking for someone to do the publicity work while she is gone next month. Paula also discussed some blank areas on the FAS webpage that need to be filled. Suggestions were the Backyard Bird Count, Beauty of Bird class, next year's Montana Bird Festival and a teacher's workshop coming up.

January program. Lewis Young will present the January program on Columbia Sharp Tailed Grouse.

Rod Ash Day. There is a donor willing to donate \$1500 a year for up to 10 years toward a program to

honor Rod Ash through FAS. Do we want to take on this project? If not, the donor would approach the Swan Ecosystem about a possible program. A committee to discuss proposals will be: Bob Lopp, Ansley Ford, Marcy Mahre and Brent Mitchell (possible Bruce Tannehill) with technical advice on avian research by Dan Casey. Proposals will be presented to Ash family. Shirley made the motion that we form a committee to study and present proposals to the Ash family/donor. Bruce seconded. Unanimously passed.

Conservation. The Mute Swan decision that would put the Mute Swan into the controlled category was discussed, so people would have to go through a permit process to possess Mute Swans. They can be a problem species and are not native. The proposal to take wild Peregrine Falcons out of their nests for falconry purposes was also discussed. These are private sources available for falconry purposes. Lewis will make a draft of FAS comments and distribute for comments. Lewis will submit an article for the Fas January newsletter.

Conservation Award-Stoltze. Shirley researched the Stoltze Timber Company and interviewed Ron Buetemeier about Stoltze's environmental programs. Shirley needs to do more research and will send her research out to board members for their comments for a possible FAS conservation award.

January Newsletter. Leslie has a couple of field trips to post in the newsletter. Articles are needed on the January Program, from the Board, President's column, bird of the month, field trips, FAS anniversary article, (and for the anniversary "year" various historical tidbits each newsletter), short December bird count article by Dan, Peregrin Falcon, how to sign up for legislative alerts for coming session, announcement of new Montana Audubon director, a few directory changes, member profile. Linda has been doing some research on the FAS logo. Elmer Sprunger drew the original Pileated Woodpecker. The Pileated Woodpecker was selected by Elmer Sprunger and Jack Whitney as the FAS logo. (By Ellie Jone's recollection.)

Education. Since Sonja and Lisa have vacated the Environmental Coordinator position, 3 people will work in the position until the position is filled again. These people are Amy Jacobs, Melissa Sladek, and Shabon. ????

Hospitality. Lois wants to remind board members to bring Christmas cookies for the December general meeting.

The January board meeting will be January 2 (Tuesday) not January 1.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

s/s Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary