

Flathead Audubon Board Meeting
Jane Lopp and Associates Community Room
295 3rd Avenue E. North
January 5, 2009

Present: Mike Fanning, President; Mary Nelesen, Paula Smith, Jill Fanning, Bruce Tannehill, Linda Winnie, Bob Lopp, Lewis Young, Brent Mitchell, Linda de Kort, Lois Drobish

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 pm by Mike Fanning.

The Minutes of the December 2008 FAS Board meeting were approved. Motion made by Bob Lopp and seconded by Brent Mitchell.

Financial Report: Bruce Tannehill distributed the financial report. Additional members have sent in contributions since the printing of the last Pileated Post; their names will appear in the next newsletter. It was agreed that all donations made after November 1st will be deposited in the education fund. Bruce showed that he has calculated that an additional \$5107 are needed this fiscal year to pay for the educational coordinators expenses. Mike pointed out that \$2000 of that will be recovered from grants that Nancy is writing. Mike will also write up a prospectus to make an appeal to Glacier bank. Linda de Kort asked if that Prospectus might be available for other board members to use for appeals. Bruce pointed out that the appeals should come from Mike or Nancy, as President and Education Coordinator, respectively. Bruce will check on how we go about applying for funds through the Whitefish Foundation. Even though the fund raiser appeal is working we still need to raise \$2000-3000 this fiscal year to pay for the services of our very effective education coordinator. Mike urged all board members to move out of their comfort zone to help us achieve this goal.

Bruce also requested that the record show that he wrote two checks to reimburse himself for a bill for two FAS bills he had paid with his personal credit card. One bill was for \$11 and the other was for \$275. Bruce also wrote a check for \$55 to reimburse Dan Casey for reserving Tally Lake Campground pavilion for the FAS gathering in June 2009.

On a related finance topic, Linda Winnie stated that Neal Brown has offered to procure donated materials to build an accessible gate at the Treasure Lane entrance to Owen Sowerwine. Neal has requested \$200 to use as leverage to procure these materials; Linda moved that we use \$200 from the Barb Baxter Fund for this purpose. Bob Lopp seconded. Passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Program/Education. Mike reported that Ansley sent an email verifying the programs for the next three months. Ansley and Denver Holt will present the

program in January. Lisa Bate is scheduled for February and Linda de Kort will do the program for March if Dave Beckman does not.

Sales. Jill requested that in the future we ask our speakers not to bring calendars to sell in the fall. The selling of \$5 calendars at the November program seemed to cut in drastically to our Audubon calendar sales this year. A discussion ensued comparing the value of sales vs raffles. It seemed to be the consensus that each has its place. Jill stated that some members really like having a sales table and it makes more money than the old monthly raffle. Jill will sell canvas bags and t-shirts again in the spring. Linda Winnie offered that Mike Campbell had donated another beautiful photo (of sandhill crane this time) for a spring raffle. Mike suggested that we have a raffle in the fall, at Christmas and in the early spring in addition to the silent auction in May. We were all asked to be thinking of items, such as mythic bird feeders, that would be attractive raffle items.

Hospitality. Lois, just back from her holiday Amtrak adventures, reported that all those who volunteered to bring refreshments next week had been called and reminded. Mike reported that Lisa Disco is out of town and will not bring coffee. Jill offered to bring an air pot of caffeinated coffee and cups and cream. Linda de Kort said she would bring an air pot of decaf coffee and a bowl of sugar.

Publicity. Paula, about to depart on her South of the Border adventures, stated that Gail Sullivan will handle publicity and website update in her absence (Jan 16-Feb. 28). Some of the items that should be sent to Gail during this time are: field trip notices, conservation recognition articles and programs announcements.

Newsletter. Linda W. read assignments for the February Newsletter; articles are due January 18. Linda dK and Mike Fanning reported that there had been good response to our request for members serving on a wetlands committee. Donna Pridmore has graciously accepted the chairmanship and Melissa Sladek and Kathy Ross volunteered to serve on the committee. Linda dK will ask Donna to write a short announcement about this revived committee and committee members for the next newsletter. Thanks Donna, Kathy and Melissa.

Birds of Montana Sponsorship. Mike said that MA has requested that chapters sponsor a bird for the Birds of Montana Book. We can sponsor birds in the \$100, \$200 or \$300 categories. This contribution will go towards the cost of researching and producing this book and our chapter will be acknowledged on the page featuring the bird we are sponsoring. Since Pileated woodpeckers have been taken, Vaux's swift and Willow (Fitzhugh) flycatcher were appropriate local representatives. Linda dK moved that \$200 from Grants be sent to Montana Audubon to sponsor Vaux's swift in the name of FAS. Linda W. seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously though Bruce T. admitted he was really rooting for Willow flycatcher.

Conservation. Lewis reported that Fish Wildlife and Parks has published a list of animals that can be kept with licenses and those that are strictly forbidden; among the latter are African clawed frogs and goldfish and koi. Lewis will write up a short article for the newsletter to alert the members about these restrictions and the ecological hazards they present.

Field Trips. In Bill's absence, Linda dK reported that a field trip committee is being formed including Barb Boorman and Josh Colville. Bill and Josh are working on a snowshoe birding trip in Glacier Park for February.

Sunflower Seeds. Mary reported that fewer bags of seed were sold this year but we will be presented a check for \$280 from Western Building Centers. Mary also informed us that only 8 out of 150 canvas bags have yet to be sold. Mary was enthusiastically congratulated for the 3 successful fund raisers she has initiated this year: a percentage of profits from sunflower seed sales at Western Building Centers, Canvas bags with FAS Logo, and direct contributions in various dollar amount categories. Mary admitted that she and Bob Lopp have another money making scheme cooking. Stay tuned.

Conservation Recognition. Foys to Blacktail will be recognized in Jan. and the FVCC Green Team will be recognized in March. Paula asked if it would be appropriate to make the final recognition in May and if the category could be narrowed to "small local entrepreneurs who work exclusively with native plants". All agreed that this was an appropriate focus. Paula then distributed information from the web sites of three groups that fit these criteria: Terry Divoky: www.windflownativeplants.com, Jeff Evans: www.sleepingtree.com, Greg Gunderson, David Noftsinger and Andrew Beltz: www.forestoration.org. Terry Divoky's reputation is well established and Paula was given the go ahead to ask her if she could be present in May to receive the award. Paula and Linda dK will continue to get more information about the other two businesses before asking them to be recipients. As Paula's suggestion, Linda will also look into Laurie Hammill who we think started one of the first exclusively native plant retail operations in the valley.

Adjournment in a timely fashion. ..7:50 I believe.

Respectfully submitted, Linda dK