

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting
May 4, 2009

Location: Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 Third Ave., E.N. Kalispell, MT 59901

Present: Mike Fanning, Chair; Jill Fanning, Linda Winnie, Brent Mitchell, Bob Lopp, Bill Schustrom, Rod McIver, Bruce Tannehill, Richard Kuhl, Paula Smith, Lois Drobish, Mary Nelesen, Linda deKort, Ansley Ford and Gail Sullivan

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

A motion was made and seconded that April minutes be approved. Unanimously passed.

Raptor Day

Bob Lopp suggested that mail should be distributed differently that it has been. The financial mail should go directly to Bruce and newsletters from other chapters should go directly to the newsletter editors. Everyone was in agreement.

Raptor Day this year will be Saturday, September 12. Raptor Day is in memory of Rod Ash. Art Ortenberg has agreed to fund this celebration again. He has agreed to fund the celebration at \$3,000 this year, which will help pay a stipend to the presenters. The Raptor Day Committee will be Ansley, Melissa, and Bob Lee, if Melissa and Bob agree to help. Mike will talk to them.

Peak Trip to Flathead Lake Biological Station

A teacher that is leading this class of 45 students is looking for an "expert" to help with bird ID, etc. Linda deKort will ask Neal Brown and/or Patty if one or both could help. Josh would be another candidate, if he could get out of school.

Lois will help Nancy with her booth at John Young's talk at FVCC.

Bruce said he learned at non-profit training that it is illegal to vote by email, although by phone is fine.

Education Program Funding

Linda deKort discussed the history of the Education Committee and the different projects that they worked on. Sonja Hartmann was the first employee. Rochelle Pope was the next employee and then Lisa and Sonja worked together. The volunteers were getting burned out. The latest Educator Coordination is Nancy Zapotocki.. Mike gave his take on the Educator Coordinator position and the funding.

Linda Winnie discussed the history of Owen Sowerwine and funding required. Linda guesses we may need \$10,000 for an appraisal but she is trying to secure Owen Sowerwine's future without it costing Flathead Audubon anything. Montana Audubon is

working on negotiating a 99-year lease with the state, which we would be paying more of our share than we currently are.

Bruce handed out and discussed a financial summary of income and expenses for last three years-07/01/06-06/30/09.

The new Financial Committee will consist of Linda Winnie, Linda deKort, Bruce Tannehill, Mary Nelesen and Mike Fanning. This committee will bring recommendations to the board next September. The Fund Raising Committee was blended into the Financial Committee.

These are Mike's suggested options for the Education Program in the future:

1. End the program this July. In addition to ending what has been a spectacularly successful program, we are left with unmet commitments including \$2100 worth of grants, no support for Raptor Day and an unfilled commitment to National Audubon regarding Nancy's fellowship application. (\$11,000 fellowship)
2. Continue the program as last year. The Sustainability Fund will only commit to \$10,000 this year vs \$13,000 last year. This would leave FAS with \$16,000 instead of \$13,000 to raise. This seems overly ambitious.
3. Continue the program at a reduced level this year. FAS would match The Sustainability fund's \$10,000 donation. We would look to generate at least \$5000 in grants and donations. The other \$5000 would come from our capital. The Finance Committee would come up with a plan to raise the funds as well as an allocation of capital funds to the categories of future needs (OSNA, Education, Operation Capital, etc.)

Ansley feels the Education Committee volunteers have been re-energized and additional volunteers have been added. Nancy should be able to delegate some projects to them so she could reduce her workload.

Bob Lopp says not to use the term "endowment" because that is a legal term and also that the Prudential grant is not guaranteed.

A motion was made to authorize Mike, as President, to sign the MOU with The Sustainability Fund.. Seconded. Unanimously passed. The second motion that the Finance Committee would prepare a plan to raise the funds needed to support our Education program as much as possible without having to tap the allocation of capital funds with a minimum of \$20,000, with \$10,000 coming from the Sustainability Fund. Seconded by Brent. Unanimously passed.

A motion was made to raise the local dues to \$20.00 starting next October. Seconded. Unanimously passed.

Richard Kuhl offered to fold the newsletter starting next year, which will save FAS about \$700 a year.

Publicity

Everything is up-to-date except any field trips that come up. Hillary has made requested updates to the FAS website.

Newsletter

They have been gathering information for the September newsletter. Let Linda or Kay know if you would like to write a Bird of the Month column. Membership renewal and increase in dues. Article on Owen Sowerwine work project. Article by Wetland Chair, Donna Pridmore. Project Feeder Watch. Bird of Month's column will not be sent to the DIL during the summer, as they have in the past.

Sunflower Seeds

Mary will talk to Doug as WBC and see if they are interested in selling the sunflower seeds for us again next year. If not, another retailer may be interested.

Sales

Let Jill know if you have any ideas of items to sell at the meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan
Secretary