

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting

February 1, 2010

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

Present: Chair, Bob Lee; Brent Mitchell, Linda Winnie, Dennis Hester, Ben Young, Kathy Ross, Lois Drobish, Richard Kuhl., Bill Schustrom, Bruce Tannehill, Gail Sullivan, Steve Gniadek, Ansley Ford, Lewis Young, Bruce Fanning, and Melissa Sladek

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the January meeting. Unanimously passed.

There was an earlier meeting held here with some board members tonight on discussion of the Tester Wilderness/Jobs Bill.

Treasurer's Report. Bruce handed out and discussed the budget sheet for 2009-2010. Dues have been coming in very well and we received an unsolicited donation for \$2,000 from Art Ortenberg. Bruce has heard nothing new on the 990. According to a financial advisor, we should have a separate checkbook account for grant money. Bruce has purchased with his own money and installed a new Quickbooks program; he previously used Quickens. We should be receiving a check from Lex Blood for \$5700. Bruce will take some of the grant money we are receiving and put it in the Whitefish Credit Union to earn some interest.

It was approved that Bruce can open a separate account to deposit grant money and that he be reimbursed for the purchase of the Quickbooks program. Richard Kuhl motioned and Bob Lee seconded that Bruce be reimbursed for the Quickbooks program for \$150. Unanimously passed.

### COMMITTEES

Education. Bob will email Nancy's progress report. The winter education meeting just took place. Nancy is going to be working with a group of at-risk high school students at Flathead High School. Ansley is working on the Beauty of the Birds course and is soliciting speakers and/or subjects. Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up. Forestry Expo is coming up-Monday through Saturday not Sunday-Mother's Day Weekend.

There is going to be an Introduction to Birding for Families in Whitefish since we received money from the Community Foundation and a separate donor. There will be 2 sessions in May. Steve Gniadek will lead a field trip on International Migratory Bird Day in Glacier Park. Mike said that there will be a follow-up meeting on the educational strategic plan to include working with Janet Ellis.

The Migratory Bird office says that we should have separate bird skin permits and not be included on Montana Audubon's permit. Bob Lee is working on the applications. There

are separate federal and state permits and also yearly fees with each. Richard moved and Mike seconded that money be allocated for these fees. Unanimously passed.

OSNA. The DNRC is working on the permit figures for the fee and we should know by February 11 what the fee will be. Linda and Brent will present this information to the board. The kiosk repairs are being put off until we find out how much the fee is going to be. There is a dump site near the OSNA and the shore is eroding. Linda and Brent are documenting this site and will present the information to the EPA and the conservation district.

Brent and Linda are working with Nancy on her fellowship project for OSNA.

Fundraising. There is one grant that we haven't heard about yet. Our members have been very supportive financially considering the economy and Mike doesn't think we should put any more financial pressure on members. Mike thinks we need to pursue more substantial donors who can commit to donating on an annual basis. Lex Blood said he would help with this but the educational strategic plan needs to be completed first.

Bruce said that there has been a proposal to use the interest from the Jack White Fund, plus the Art Ortenberg donation to fund the Education program. The Finance Committee will meet and present a proposal to the board at the next meeting.

Grant Request. Lewis requested a grant to purchase 12 pairs of inexpensive Bushnell 8x21 binoculars at \$12.98 a piece to be donated to the Eureka Elementary School under the supervision of teacher Linda Roberts to be used for the fifth grade bird studies for a total of \$155.76. Lewis said that the optics is quite good for an inexpensive binocular. Bruce moved and Richard Kuhl seconded that this grant be approved. Unanimously passed.

Richard also suggested that anyone with extra binoculars donate them to the Education Committee to be used for programs.

Conservation Award. Lewis researched the conservation background on a Whitefish citizen named Leonard Howke as a possible awardee. It was agreed that he should be our recipient for the April program. Richard Kuhl moved and Brent seconded that Leonard be our award recipient for the April program. This was unanimously passed.

Newsletter. Bird of the month-Gail Cleveland. Field trips. Conservation achievement report. Kids Report. Beauty of Birds. New season for monitoring program for OSNA. Science Tidbit. Eureka Christmas Bird count. Board activities written by Bob Lee. Plea from Kay that the deadline for submitting articles is by the 18<sup>th</sup> at the latest because of the short month.

Conservation. Flathead County River Commission. Richard, Brent and Bob Lee attended this meeting. Information was presented on erosion control alternatives. Right now they are just gathering ideas.

Steve talked about what was discussed at the last Conservation Roundtable meeting.

Tester Bill meeting. The participants of the earlier meeting thought that FAS should write a letter commending the collaborative process that was involved in this project but have individual FAS members write their own letters on content. Dennis moved and Richard seconded that Bob Lee write the letter. Bob will draft a letter and send out for comments.

Melissa will research how we could archive letters on the FAS website and what that would entail.

Website. Melissa is posting the Bigfork Bird Club information only on the extended calendar and not on the FAS website.

Programs. Programs are set up for the rest of the year.

Hospitality. There are treats set up for the February meeting.

Sales. The materials for welcome packets are very low. Mike suggested that for next meeting the FAS newsletter be handed out for newcomers and for subsequent meetings instead the Audubon magazine, etc. Possibly other current topics, like recycling brochures, could be included.

Field Trips. Leslie has volunteered to do a Mission Valley field trip on Feb. 21. Dan Casey will lead the Freezeout Lake trip. Steve's January field trip in GNP went very well.

Flathead Visitors Bureau. There is a cost to post information to the Flathead Visitors Bureau website so we have decided not to join them. Although we did decide to apply to the Whitefish Visitors Bureau. Brent moved and Mike seconded that we join the Whitefish Visitors Bureau. Unanimously passed. Steve is not exactly sure what kind of exposure this involves. Steve is completing the application. Melissa wanted to warn people that somebody would have to be responsible for getting input to this sight. This would probably just be another contact person for Paula.

Quality of Life Committee. There were many people at Ferne's celebration.

Other Items. Hilton contacted Linda deKort to contact them as a venue when Flathead Audubon hosts the bird festival. An eastern Montana city may host the festival in 2011.

Food Bank Collection. It was decided that we should ask for food bank donations to be brought to the March meeting. We will include this in the February newsletter.

Nominations Committee. Let Linda deKort know if anyone is interested in being on the committee or ideas on possible board members.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan  
Secretary