

Flathead Audubon Society Monthly Meeting

April 5, 2010

Location: Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., E.N. Kalispell, MT

Present: Chair, Bob Lee; Vice-Chair, Paula Smith; Linda deKort, Bob Lopp, Bill Schustrom, Dennis Hester, Steve Gniadek, Ben Young, Lewis Young, Lois Drobish, Linda Winnie, Bruce Tannehill, Rod McIvar and Gail Sullivan

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes

(Correction to Feb minutes: We did not make a contribution to Hamana but to the Humane Society.) The Finance Committee will meet before the May meeting and clarify the funding motion from the March minutes and bring the information to the May meeting. The March minutes were unanimously passed, with correction.

COMMITTEES

Treasurer's Report. Bruce discussed the Treasurer's Report for 2009-2010. We have done well on membership dues and donations. Linda Winnie moved to accept treasurer's Report, Linda deKort seconded. The report was unanimously passed.

Education.

The Education Strategic planning meeting went really well because of Janet Ellis. Linda Winnie moved that Flathead Audubon donate to Montana Audubon \$500 in honor of Janet Ellis, and in recognition of the time, thoughtfulness, expertise, patience, diligence, and brilliance that she contributed to the planning and development of the ideas behind the FAS Education Strategic Plan, to the organization, compilation, and articulation of these ideas, and to the shaping and writing of the document stating the Plan. Linda deKort seconded. The motion was unanimously passed.

Bill moved that the Strategic Education Plan, with Nancy's additions and corrections, be adopted. It was seconded by Ben. The plan was unanimously passed. It was recommended that all board members read the entire plan. Bruce recommended that a 1-page summary be written that can be handed out to encourage donations instead of handing out the entire document. Dennis volunteered to write up a summary.

Nancy is not able to attend the annual COCEEC meeting this Thursday morning and was looking for someone to fill in. No one at this meeting was able to attend.

The Family Forestry Expo is May 8; only 1 day this year and Nancy could use some volunteers.

## OSNA

Nancy is utilizing OSNA for her fellowship work and she is looking for volunteers to help out with students on May 21<sup>st</sup>, which is a Friday.

Linda Winnie discussed the new OSNA license with DNRC that has been finalized. The next step is the Memo of Understanding between FAS and Montana Audubon. It is similar to the last memo we had with them. The new memo has been approved by Montana Audubon. Any activities at OSNA should be listed as FAS sponsored activities to be covered by the insurance. Dennis moved that we accept the Memo of Understanding between FAS and Montana Audubon. Lewis seconded. The Memo was unanimously passed. Linda Winnie and Brent worked on a budget for OSNA for the coming year, partially so that Montana Audubon will cover half of the expenses for this year and next, which Steve Hoffman has verbally agreed to do. Mary Nelesen was able to get us a good discount for some new heavier plexiglass for OSNA kiosk.

Linda discussed the new monitoring season for OSNA and encourages everyone to sign up. Bruce gave us a report on his latest trip to OSNA-many woodpeckers, Wood Ducks and bear sign from the fall.

## Conservation

Steve attended the last Conservation Roundtable. The discussion was on biomass and the speaker was Paul McKenzie from Stoltze.

Lewis did send in the FAS comment letter on the Church Slough boat dock proposal.

Lewis received a request for comment from Tally Lake's for a proposal for work at Sylvia Lake. Lewis will look into the proposal further and see if it would be appropriate for us to comment.

Ellie Jones requested a letter from FAS in which they could use in their grant requests for a Columbia Falls river trail. Bob Lee will write the letter.

## Programs

The March program is by Steve Gniadek. Ben mentioned that several people in the audience around him last program thought it took too long to get to the program.

## Website

There was a website committee annual review last week. Melissa is not able at this time to do too much with the website so FAS is looking for another website chair person that can coordinate updates, etc. Temporarily, Paula will be the contact for changes to the website that were brought up during the website meeting. Let Paula know if you know of anyone who might be interested in working with the FAS website.

Hillary estimates that it would take 2 hours (her fee is \$80/hr) to create an archival place on the website to archive conservation letters. Another idea is an external drive for storage.

### Field Trips

There are 3 field trips coming up. The Owl Trip, Cohen walk and Beauty of Birds field trip. There is a loon trip in GNP coming up. Native Plant field trips are coming up.

### Quality of Life

The committee is still focusing on climate change and Flathead Electric in particular, since FEC is not supporting climate change legislation. Some members are meeting with FEC board members on April 22 to encourage them to support climate change legislation caps. They will also encourage them not to use rate payer money to pay for their lobbying efforts against climate control caps, etc. The committee encourages board members to contact FEC on this issue.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> the movie, "Home" about climate change, is being shown at the Whitefish Library at 7 p.m.

### Newsletter

Linda Winnie handed out a written list of Pileated Post May Preliminary Contents. Bird of the Month, Program, President's column, Field trips, Frog Days in June, Kidz Korner, Rod Ash Day, Freezeout Field Trip Report, Financial Report, OSNA work day date, request for volunteers for OSNA monitoring, in Memoriam for Loren Kreck, May donors, list of donors 2009-2010, Forestry Expo info, Farmer's Market info, MA birding festival, call for Montana Audubon Award nominations, May potluck info, silent auction request, festivals, offer Birding Hotspots Brochure.

### Nominations

Board member nominations: Ben Young, 1- year term, and and Ansley Ford, 3-years terms, have agreed to stay on the board. Jan Wassink would also like to be nominated as a board member. The current Treasurer and Secretary have decided to run again.

Bob Lee gave a report about his attending the Montana Audubon meeting in Mike Fanning's place. The Bird Festival for 2010 is in Missoula and will be in Glasgow in 2011 and in the Flathead 2012.

Jeff Marks is requesting \$500 from FAS to support the Birds of Montana book that is being written. The donation would go to Montana Audubon. Bruce suggested we take it out of the Conservation Fund, if we decide to do it. Linda deKort moved that we donate

\$500 to Montana Audubon to support the Birds of Montana project. Steve Gniadek seconded. The motion unanimously passed.

Montana Loon Society has a new loon license plate available. Steve Gniadek suggests that we discuss further the trapping on public land initiative among those board members that are interested.

Rod McIvar will do his plant sale at the May potluck meeting again on a trailer in the parking lot of the Whitefish Community Center (formerly known as Golden Agers).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gail Sullivan

Gail Sullivan