

Flathead Audubon Society
Board of Directors Meeting
Monday, 2 January 2012
Jane Lopp & Associates Office
Minutes

Call to Order: President Paula Smith called the Meeting to Order at 6:01 PM

Members Present: Paula Smith, Linda Winnie, Kay Mitchell, Jill Fanning, Mike Fanning, Lois Drobish, Kathy Ross, Richard Kuhl, Lewis Young, Denny Olson, Ben Young, Jan Wassink, Bob Lopp, Bruce Tannehill, Bob Lee, Dennis Hester, Gael Bissell, Steve Gniadek.

Announcement by Lois that Sharon deLong (former FAS member and Board member) has found an assisted living facility in Portland. Lois would like to gather photos of Colin McLean for her since all were lost in the fire. An announcement will go in the Pileated Post.

Approval of Minutes of the 5 December 2011 meeting. Corrections: Date in heading and approval date; Denny said that Linda de Kort made the comments concerning the Bresnan “no child left outdoors” campaign, not him. Mike moved, Ben seconded for approval of minutes. Minutes approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce noted that the Fund Drive netted approximately \$3980, with a cost of about \$900. We have taken in about \$5700 total but this does not include some donations, the May auction or Festival income. Mike asked whether non-members who donated should become members, only 4 or 5 instances. Approved. Please do **not** advertise donors or their amounts but do thank them.

The OSNA fee has not yet been paid but will wait until MA asks for it.

There has been a request from MA for funding the new Bird Distribution publication. General discussion ensued. Dick moved, Bob Lopp seconded to donate \$1000 to MA; Bruce amended that the money come from the Conservation Fund. Motion approved. Jan will send info concerning “on demand publishing” to Bruce to include with the check. He will also send it to Bo Lee who will bring it up at the next MA Board meeting.

Membership: Mike noted that most donors were FAS members; we picked up 4 new members who were neither FAS nor National members; totals: 159 FAS and 342 National.

Mike will send a membership list to the Board but questioned the uses. Mike does not use the Master list, but only queries it for specific information. Most wanted it for contacts to get more people involved. Denny moved and Kathy seconded that we be aware of privacy issues and only use the information for FAS applications. Approved.

General Meetings

Program: Dick said we have a full slate for the rest of the year: January – Tom Nelesen about history of GNP trails; February – Dick Walker; March – Jan Wassink; April – Blake Passmore; May – Steve Gniadek.

Hospitality: Lois wants some feedback on the best way to thank individuals for bringing snacks and also request that others do it for future meetings. Mike will make an announcement. We are covered for the January meeting.

Sales: There are still a few calendars left to be sold. There will be no sale table in January but Jill will announce about the calendars. There will be a sale table in February. Bruce's new bird song CD should be ready and available in March.

Conservation: Lewis had some general information concerning 1) a large flock of eared grebes crashed into a wet parking lot in Utah in December, perhaps thinking it was a lake; 2) ABC has information that cavity nesting birds are trying to nest in the plastic PVC piping that are used for soil percolation testing and are becoming trapped and dieing, he will try to get more information for an article for the Pileated Post; and 3) there was a rider in the national spending bill to prevent the Forest Service from regulating domestic sheep grazing on their lands in Idaho to protect native bighorn sheep.

Steve said that GNP has the Apgar parking area project and the Eastside diversion removal project are out for comment; questioned whether we should comment on the good projects. He attended the Conservation Roundtable in December and plans to attend the one in January when they will draft conservation priorities. Steve sent a personal letter to Rep Rehberg concerning the Homeland Security bill he sponsored – it is really about constructing more roads rather than CBP access. He was unaware of this bill opening federal lands to family recreation.

Dennis suggested that we let Flathead Electric Co-op know our displeasure at their disseminating misinformation concerning climate change.

Pileated Post: Kay will again do the layout. Linda W went over the upcoming articles for the February edition.

Beauty of Birds: Will check with Ansley to see if she is interested; if not will ask Ashley. Any payment to the instructor will be theirs.

Publicity: Paula will be gone for approximately 3 weeks, leaving on Friday, 13 January. Publicity is already set up for that period. Gail Sullivan will send out the February publicity notices. Kathy will publicize any new field trips that develop for January-February..

Website: Jan is making a few changes, especially with respect to sponsors and education, please send any information to him. Hillary has to do some of the changes. She has sent a bill for approximately \$100; overall, Hillary has been very generous with her time and charges.

Field Trips: All set through February. Need to get the informational flyer to the trip leaders for distribution to participants. Get email addresses to Linda W. who will send an electronic Pileated Post to new/potential members. Bob Lee will work on a sign-up sheet for the trip leaders.

OSNA: There will be a committee meeting in February before the FAS Board meeting; Darren Pfeifle, the contractor for the handicap access and trail, wants to meet with the committee; he is excited about the project and will start as soon as possible in the spring.

Bob Lopp talked with his neighbor, a surveyor, about help in finding the corner stakes for the Green Ridge access.

Conservation Achievement Award: All is set for Bill Schustrum to present the Award to Chris Ruffato in February or March. Linda deK will do the award to Teresa Wenum in May. Discussion later in the spring for potential awards for next fall. There was some discussion of whether we should include a photo with the publicity release. Paula will check with the Daily InterLake about it.

Bird Festival: Teleconference at Lopp office on 6 January at 2 PM, major topic to be fund raising. Speakers and field trip at MA. Larissa is working with BJ Worth on an endless loop video to show at the festival. Dennis is providing publicity. Final Brett Thuma artwork is due in February.

Amendments to ByLaws: Dennis presented some changes to the ByLaws that will clarify and clean up existing language. Some discussion focused on changing “member” to “Director” in the Board section. There was discussion on the use of email communication for making Board decisions; it was decided to add language about “at the discretion of the President” to identify when it was appropriate.

Bob Lopp moved, Jill seconded to present these changes to the general membership at the annual meeting in May. Approved.

For the Good of The Order: Bob Lee will forward to the Board a request from ABC to sign onto a petition to the US FWS making voluntary wind guidelines mandatory.

Bob Lopp noted changes in the National Audubon regions to coincide with the waterfowl flyways.

Bruce noted that he had received a letter from a member complaining about a Kidz Korner story in the Pileated Post about a youth elk hunt.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Lee
Acting Secretary