

FLATHEAD AUDUBON SOCIETY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2013
LOCATION: JANE LOPP AND ASSOCIATES, 295 THIRD AVE. E.N
KALISPELL, MONTANA

CALL TO ORDER–BOB LOPP @ 6:02 P.M.

PRESENT–Bob Lopp (chair), Lois Drobish, Bob Lee, John Hughes, Kay Mitchell, Gael Bissell, Steve Gniadek, Ashley Mason, Paula Smith, and Denny Olson.

MINUTES–Bob Lopp

Moved and seconded (Kay Mitchell/Denny Olson) with changes, to approve FAS board minutes for October 7, 2013. Passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET–BOB LOPP

President Bob Lopp covered the budget in Bruce's absence. Bob reported that the financial committee has received promises for \$1600 in pledges from the Board for the December fundraiser. Checks should be sent to Bruce Tannehill or brought to the November general meeting. Gael inquired as to the disposition of the Jack White funds. Bob Lopp reminded all that it was decided to keep these funds separate in the Whitefish Credit Union account.

Moved and seconded (Paul Smith/Bob Lee) to accept financials–Passed unanimously.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT / NEW WEBSITE SUGGESTION–DENNY OLSON,
ASHLEY MASON

Denny Olson reported that the committee met on October 30. The meeting was poorly attended but successful. Most time was spent on how best for Education Coordinator, Ashley Mason to keep the Board up-to-date on upcoming activities she is pursuing. Denny gave the floor to Ashley to explain her proposal. Ashley reported that she had gone through the contract bullet by bullet and compared activities to expectation and reported that programs and various other activities have exceeded contractual expectations. She also proposed preparing a monthly report of upcoming events so the Board will know what is happening in time to attend if so desired. She reported that she hasn't completed the website yet. Paula commented that we have control over a portion of the website where the information could be reported. Paula will train Ashley to post/update the material. Ashley stated that she is fine with the contract as is, but wondered as to specificity in terms of duties. At present the duties are very general. Bob Lee pointed out that some of the language is intentionally vague due to staying within guidelines concerning contractors. Any changes to Ashley's contract need to be ready by the May meeting.

Ashley went on to describe a new program geared towards families she would like to institute as well as a program that she would like to expand upon, due to its success last year. A new program, Audubon Families would occur once per month and involve a classroom experience or field trip. The first program would be field trip to Owen Sowerwine. Other suggestions proposed by the Board included bug-in-a-bottle, and raptor education (possibly a trip to the raptor rehabilitation center).

Four programs conducted at assisted living centers last year were very well received and Ashley proposed more for this year. Denny Olson posed the question as to how to best market new and continuing programs. The newsletter was mentioned as well as updating the website. Denny recommended putting any changes to the Kiosk on hold as the need for changes are not as high as first thought. Bob Lopp reported that a new sign designates OSNA as a No Firearms Discharge Area but everyone should not trust that people are following the rule and should wear orange when entering the area. Ashley Mason explained her role as a website coordinator for Crown of the Continent Ecosystem Education Consortium which covers the area from south of Calgary to Missoula. She outlined the transition from their existing website to a newer more user friendly website. The switch was made due to a lack of timeliness in getting the previous site updated. The new program is self managed and works with Windows. The local puts the information in a Word Press site (free website place). A new web host will be required–

bluehost.com (\$35 per year). A consultant is required to transition the information to Word Press (\$1500).

Denny discussed the production of the phrenology calendars. Present need is for a large calendar to start filling in what is happening on particular dates. He suggested a couple of nights of brainstorming with selected knowledgeable individuals. Looking for volunteers. He also noted that he has a great deal of information gathered for a television production.

CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT RECOGNITION–KAY MITCHELL

Kay started by asking all to be cognizant of the fact that we are bestowing recognition for conservation achievement and not an award. The field of candidates was narrowed to three of which two were chosen for this year. Motion to accept Josh Gubbits and Jan Metzmaker as recipients for Conservation Achievement Recognition. Moved and seconded (John Hughes/Denny Olson)–Passed unanimously. Determined that Josh's presentation will occur at the January general meeting - biographical information due mid December. Jan's presentation will occur at the March general meeting–biographical information due mid February.

OWEN SOWERWINE–BOB LOPP

Bob Lopp was unable to meet with Dick Kuhl and Linda Winnie at OSNA but relayed information from Linda's report. Dick and Linda toured the boundary at OSNA looking for survey markers. They were unable to locate some of the markers using notes from the Smith survey. Linda wants the Board to look at the signage and the kiosk area. Everyone was cautioned to wear orange, as there are still recent tree stands present. Still no firm ruling as to how long a tree stand can stay up. DNRC doesn't want to address the issue at present.

FIELD TRIPS–GAEL BISSELL

November 10 field trip is listed in the newsletter. Christmas Bird Counts cover field trips in December.

CONSERVATION–STEVE GNIADEK

Steve didn't have anything new to report at present. Bob Lee asked for a motion to sign on to the American Bird Association's letter encouraging people to neuter their cats and to keep them inside. After some discussion, it was moved and seconded (Bob Lee/Denny Olson) for FAS to sign onto ABA's cat position–Passed unanimously.

BOARD LIABILITY INSURANCE–BOB LEE

Bob Lee outlined our available options. Costs are predicated on FAS having 100 active members. This number was based on attendance at our general meetings.

Officers and Board - \$300 per year for \$1,000,000 coverage.

General Membership coverage - \$3.39 per active member = \$339 per year (there is a \$300 minimum).

Noted that we are covered by MT Audubon for liability at Owen Sowerwine.

Optional Coverage:

Sexual conduct policy–will cost approximately \$50 per year. After discussion, it was determined that it would be prudent to purchase this option.

Contents and Equipment policy–will cover FAS property up to \$10,000 with a \$250 deductible.

After discussion, the board determined this coverage was not required.

No motion required as we already voted to proceed with the purchase of insurance. It was pointed out that we have been without insurance since October 1.

WEBSITE–JAN WASSINK

In Jan's absence, President Bob Lopp asked Kay Mitchell and Paula Smith to open a discussion on progress towards resolving FAS website issues. Kay stated that she was not speaking for the committee. The main issue is getting work done by our present administrator in a timely manner. There is nothing to recommend or discuss at present. There are a lot of options available and Kay, Paula, and Linda Winnie are exploring all available options to ensure nothing is overlooked in terms of the pros and cons of making a switch to a new website administrator. Our present

Web Master is also unresponsive. Bob Lopp will appoint an Ad Hoc committee to explore options and determine our path forward. It is desired to make a decision by the first of the year.

NEWSLETTER–KAY MITCHELL

Kay reported that the December issue of the Pileated Post would be short. An outline follows:

Program -- Paula Smith

Bird of the Month (Hooded Merganser)–Gael Bissell

Field Trips–Kathy Ross & Gael Bissell

2013 Christmas Bird Count–Dan Casey

Local CBC schedule & contact info–John Hughes

Education items–Ashley Mason

Tribute/Thank You to Ed Prach

Board Activities–Kay Mitchell

Sales and Calendars–Jill Fanning

Donations–Mike Fanning/Bruce Tannehill

Kay is looking for someone to write the tribute/thank you to Ed Prach. Linda Winnie will volunteer if needed. Discussed saving bird pictures from expired calendars for education. Kay also inquired if there were any changes in contact information.

PROGRAM–BOB LOPP

Dan Casey–identification of potential birds observed during Christmas Bird Counts

Laura Katzman, Flathead Land Trust

HOSPITALITY–LOIS DROBISH

Individuals have signed up to provide treats for the meeting. Gael will bring the PA system. Lois pointed out that the Board has traditionally provided treats for the December meeting. It was agreed that the practice would continue. Restrooms are in the United Way office.

PUBLICITY–PAULA SMITH

Paula stated that she had nothing to report at this time. Paula is looking for someone to act as a backup for publicity.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Bob Lopp–Flathead nonprofit development partnership will be putting on a workshop titled Overcoming the Fear of Fundraising, November 14, 2013 from 11:30 am to 1pm at The Museum at Central School, 124 Second Ave East, Kalispell. To reserve a seat: rsvp@npdp.org or 406/756-3618.

John Hughes–Reported attending the Wetland Council meeting on Oct. 10.

Bob Lee- Janet Ellis is running for the Montana Legislature–check out her website. Will lose her as a lobbyist but would be nice to have her elected to the legislature to advocate for conservation issues.

Wiley-Robbins Homestead update–visited site with Dick Walker. Dick suggested using pilings which requires driving equipment down the bank. He recommends the work be done in the summer rather than winter to avoid the potential of heavy equipment sliding into the slough. He recommended Siderius for the job (\$125 per hour). Bob Lopp pointed out that the project is not presently in the budget.

ADJOURNED AT 8:45 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
John Hughes for
Marylane Pannell, Secretary