

Flathead Audubon Society Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2016

Jane Lopp & Associates, 295 Third Avenue E.N., Kalispell

Minutes March 7, 2016

Present: Kay Mitchell, Kathy Ross, Jan Metzmaker, Bob Lopp, Mike Fanning, Lois Drobish, Lewis Young, Joe Batts, Denny Olson, Jill Fanning, Jake Bramante

Minutes of January Meeting

Kathy offered a correction that Michael Wainwright will be talking in March, not April. She also suggested that a Hawk Watch discussion be added to the minutes.

Motion: Mike moved and Lewis seconded a motion to approve the January minutes. Approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

July 1, 2015-March 7, 2016

Total revenue: \$42,825.57 Expenses: \$37,898.18 Net Revenue: \$4,927.39

Another \$10,000 in revenue is expected to come in, although not all of it will be in this fiscal year. Kay noted that leftover grant funds for Hawk Watch were paid to Barbara Summer. The Forest Service grant is nearly finished.

Motion: It was moved by Bob Lopp and seconded by Bob Lee that only the President and Treasurer have access to the spread sheet with all the security information for all accounts. Approved unanimously.

It was suggested that our Edward Jones financial advisor, Jake Armstrong, discuss our investments and overall financial situation at a fall meeting. The board has an obligation to be informed about our investments.

Motion: Denny moved and Kathy seconded a motion to accept the financials. Accepted unanimously.

President's Report

Kay is having surgery so Bob Lopp will run the March meeting.

1. Hawk Watch final report is due March 31
2. Hawk Watch discussion will be on the April meeting agenda. The chapter will need to put up some chapter funds if the Forest Service does not have any end of the year excess funds to assist. They provided \$3,600 this year.
3. Kay is looking into the installation of a webcam at the Hawk Watch site that will be focused on the owl. It is being considered by the Forest Service.
4. Kay thanked Jan for taking over the PR duties while Paula was gone

5. Finance and Steering Committee Report. Grants need to be ramped up. Gael and Lisa have expertise in this area. We also need writers to create stories that can be sent to prospective donors to fund programs.

Education Committee

Denny, Lisa and Linda de Kort met. Our mission is to provide free programs for underserved groups. Now that teachers no longer have to spend so much time preparing students for testing under No Child Left Behind, there may be more opportunities for teachers to incorporate Audubon programs in the schools. Denny also mentioned funding possibilities with the Murdoch Foundation.

Kay's wish list that she created at the beginning of the year

1. Light for the FAS banner– done
2. Volunteer mailers for the *Pileated Post*- done
3. New logo formatted- done
4. Canvas of Whitefish stores for calendar sales- done
5. Owen Sowerwine Committee added 3 new members- done
6. Alternate for MT Audubon- done
7. Co-chairs for PR Committee, website- done. Conservation needs a co-chair
8. Storage location in Kalispell that is clean, dry and accessible- done. We now have one at the United Way. It needs some shelving, a ceiling and a tarp

The Flathead Bird Watching Guide was brought up. Jan suggested that we find out how many we have and if a reprint is necessary. The Tourism groups are creating their budgets right now and must be approved by the State in June.

Montana Audubon Report

Bob Lee reported that 2 new board members and 2 new staff have been added. The OSNA MOU was signed. He asked where the official repository was for documents such as this. Generally, they reside with the President, however it was suggested documents be stored in the new storage closet and be placed on the website. A possible OSNA land exchange with DNRC and FWP is being considered. A sign-up sheet for monitoring OSNA was passed around.

Programs

March Program- Michael Wainwright, April– Bev Skinner from Lost Trail, May- Marco Restani.

Bob mentioned a request from the Blackfoot Clearwater Stewardship for a letter of support regarding a 10,000 acre wilderness designation. Bob would get more information and report back.

Wiley- Robbins Bird Blind

The FAS received the flood plain permit at the end of January at a cost of \$5,000. A permit extension from the Conservation District is needed which should not be a problem. The permit cost was taken out of the Jack White Fund.

The MT Audubon Wings Across the Big Sky bird festival will be June 3-5 in Missoula.

Great Fish Participation

A discussion on whether FAS can and should participate in this annual fundraising opportunity with the Whitefish Community Foundation was held. Since we do not have a large donor base, the board does not meet in July and August when this is running and we hit up our members for the Birdathon in June, it was decided we do not have the capacity to participate. Mike will talk to Linda Engh-Grady about our decision.

Conservation

Lewis provided information about the Poo Poo Project and the necessity to cover outhouse vents on Forest Service property. Many birds and bats are dying from flying into the vents. He will get more information about costs, buying covers in bulk and timeline.

Newsletter

Lewis provided information about the next newsletter.

Hospitality

Lois thanked all the volunteers who help set up and take down at the member meeting. She also had milkweed seeds that need to be started now.

The May meeting place needs to be reserved at the Whitefish Community Center as soon as possible to accommodate the potluck. Mike will check on it.

Conservation Round Table

Jake and Bob Lee will attend the meeting on 3.9.

Website

Jake provided a draft of the e-commerce guidelines. After a discussion, Jake said he will consider the suggestions and revise the guidelines. They will be presented at the April meeting. He also said he needed a list of conservation groups we partner with so he can participate in various social media with them.

Education

Denny suggested we put a "what we do" on the general meeting agenda.

The next Education Evaluation Meeting will be before the March 14 general meeting from 4-5 at a place to be determined. It is usually the last Monday of the month but spring break interfered.

The Senior FVCC class is happening and Beauty of Birds is coming up.

Membership

Mike reported we have 182 FAS members, 251 National Audubon members with 64 overlaps.

Motion: Someone moved and Joe seconded to adjourn. Approved unanimously at 9 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 4, 2016.

/s/Jan Metzmaker