

Flathead Audubon Society BOD Virtual Meeting, November 2, 2020
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

Board members participating: Gael Bissell, Pam Willison, Rod Walette, Cory Davis, Kay Mitchell, Mike Fanning, Carole Jorgensen, Dave Manuwal, Margaret Parodi, Cindy Roberts, Tom Roberts, Joe Batts, Jan Metzmaker, Jake Bramante

Others participating: Denny Olson, Darcy Thomas

The meeting was called to order by President Gael Bissell at 6:02 pm

Kay reported that we received a total of \$23,669.12 from Great Fish. The match was 56% of our donated total. Kay offered thanks to all the people who made it happen. Mike wanted to be sure to give credit to the Whitefish Community Foundation because they did an excellent job, especially considering the restrictions related to the pandemic. Gael noted that between the day of giving and the Great Fish, we received about \$30,000 in donations and matching. Kay mentioned that we need to be sure all Board members are aware of the rules going forward, and also noted that our application would be due next February.

Kay mentioned a communication we received from Great Fish because we didn't send our public announcements to them prior to release. So, in future years, we need to allow them to review the wording on any communications related to Great Fish. Cory reminded that we had planned to have a meeting of the executive committee and people who worked on Great Fish, or would like to work on it next year, to review our process and performance and plan for next year. Kay said we had hoped to meet with the Great Fish staff first, but they aren't available for a while. We decided to go ahead and meet, and Cory will arrange that. There was discussion about how to set up the coordinator and whether to have it on an annual rotation basis, an on-going basis for several years, or with a coordinator and assistant coordinator, and the assistant would take the lead the following year.

Gael announced that we were awarded another \$3817 through the CARES act grant we had received. It was a fairly simple process to receive additional funds.

Gael passed along thanks from John Hughes and Susie Waldron for the Tom Roberts prints they received in recognition of their contributions.

Gael is looking for someone to take some new FAS brochures up to Lone Pine. She would like to not have to go the conference room supply closet, but no one seemed to have any in their possession. Gael will go get some from the supply closet and resupply people and Lone Pine.

Gael mentioned that Jim Rogers, who started the Mission Valley Chapter, just moved to Whitefish and offered to help in whatever ways he can. Carole had suggested Conservation, so Gael sent him a message to see if he's interested in that work. Denny knows him well, and knows he has a very strong background in teaching, so could possibly help Denny. Joe

wondered about the status of the Mission Valley Chapter, since he has left. Joe will be contacting him for Montana Audubon, to clarify the status and about having a representative on the MA Board.

Denny mentioned that Nancy Gresham would like to volunteer in some capacity. She has a background in sales. Pam wondered about whether she might be a candidate for leading Great Fish.

Pam mentioned the need for a new person to monitor the OSNA bird list through ebird and keep the WORD document current. Darcy expressed interest and Pam will send her some information.

Minutes: Cory suggested that the candidates for the CAR awards not be listed in last month's minutes, just the categories. Pam will make that change. Mike made a motion to accept as amended. Kay seconded. Motion passed.

Financial: Unfortunately, Rod was not able to unmute his computer to make any comments on the financials he provided. We were able to view the checkbook activity through screen share. There were no unusual activities. Mike said that memberships are about 120, and we are gaining on a regular basis. We also reviewed the financial report provided by Rod, and there were no issues. Kay made a motion to accept and file the two financial reports. Mike seconded. Motion passed.

Submitted Comments (in packet): Gael asked for additional comments on the Lawrence Park letter. She has received a few comments. Gael wondered if anyone knew what action was taken, but Margaret thinks the meeting to consider the proposal was held today.

Scoping (in packet): Regarding the Bad Rock Conservation Easement, Gael mentioned two things. FLT is looking to do a major fundraising project. Also, the FWP scoping period is open, so we should make some comments related to it. Dave commented that it includes a riparian area, and Gael said there are some lists on ebird that are relevant and were used for the federal grant applications. Gael will prepare some comments to submit. She also commented that there will be a trail that goes through the riparian area, so there will be some resulting wildlife disturbances. Carole wondered if we should establish some objectives related to the projects we comment on because it seems rather random. Gael pointed out that we are a member of the Flathead River to Lake Initiative, and they have a priority list of areas, and Bad Rock Canyon is one of the high priorities. Carole wondered if our membership is aware of this. Gael agreed, and suggested it might be a good topic for an upcoming program. Carole agreed and felt people would benefit from receiving an update on the progress being made. Darcy, and others, were supportive of the idea. Gael also suggested an article for a spring newsletter. Denny suggested that the information presented be a wide overview of the watershed area. Cory complimented Carole for bringing up good issues to try to help us be more proactive, rather than just reactive.

Email Update: Gael would prefer to have more Board members switched over to the @flatheadaudubon for emails. It makes it easier for internal communication. Jake will work with people to switch them over. Linda Winnie has also set up an email through through @flatheadaudubon and would prefer to use it.

Monthly programs: Joe mentioned to Dave that Amy Seaman (Montana Audubon) could do a program with an overview of their priorities for the upcoming legislative session. Jake suggested that Amy record it and we could post it to our youtube account and then do a Fly-By email to bring attention to it. Jake suggested it could also be a Question and Answer format where someone feeds her questions. Dave said all the monthly programs are filled until April, which is too late for legislative issues. Gael feels it's very important to keep people informed on the legislative issues, and we should use it as a lead-in of the January program. It was decided to do both (program and youtube) in some form, so people are well informed of the issues. Joe will talk to Amy, and then have Amy contact Dave to work out the arrangements. Gael also suggested Amy do a 5-minute weekly update on our youtube. Joe appreciated how that could then be accessed state-wide by other chapters and interested people.

Gael asked for comments about the video of our last public meeting that Jake prepared and posted on our website. Jake said now that he has some groundwork done, he should be able to do more of that. Cory wanted to add some information to the introduction part, but feels this is a good direction to go.

Board Meetings – We have decided to continue with virtual meetings. Kay contacted the Bridge Club and they are very understanding and are available whenever we are ready to use their facility. We haven't sent a donation yet, so Gael will have Rod write a \$100 check and mail it to their facility.

Christmas Bird Count: Dave is working with Craig and Pete for the December program. Both the Bigfork and Kalispell counts will be held. All participation will be arranged through the two coordinators. Pam suggested that it not be promoted or advertised, which we usually do to draw new participants. Dave agreed that it shouldn't be advertised to recruit and that was "so noted" by Jan. The details of how it will be coordinated will be included in the December newsletter.

Membership/Donor Data Base : After talking to several board members, Gael suggested that we begin to focus on how we manage our membership and donor data bases and figure out how we can eventually migrate from Mike's Access data base to something in the cloud that the board can access as needed. We need to begin to document how our membership data is being input, what is recorded, what we need from these lists, etc. Mike, Jan, Jake, Cory, Joe, and Michele Tohtz would participate. Mike is a key person in understanding this because of his experience in maintaining the records. January would be a good time to hold the meeting. Gael will coordinate setting up this meeting.

Pileated Post Newsletter for December (list in packet):

*Exclude the thank you to the Circle of Giving. However, Kay mentioned she has noticed some ads in the InterLake to acknowledge receiving the donations through Great Fish, and a short explanation of how the funds are used, and she suggests we do the same. Jan will start the work on it, and then pass it on to Kay to put together the ad to submit.

*Field Trips: CBC in December. Then Kathy and Margaret will work on activities for January.

*Conservation – Carole mentioned a bill in the federal legislature about protections for window strikes on glass buildings, which is a major cause of bird mortality. Carole also wondered about writing about down wood and dead wood and the usefulness to insects and birds. She will include both in the upcoming PP.

*Gael asked for input on allowing in a small ad for the wooden boat auction fundraiser for Flathead Lakers – there was general agreement.

Education: Denny and Pam will start filming tomorrow on video #2, and will plan to work on #3 in December. He also mentioned the display of the raptor silhouettes in the rafters of Lone Pine. The license agreement with bj worth is still pending, and Denny is waiting to hear back from bj on the image requests. Gael will work on getting the license agreement signed so we can move on with invoices from WIN and disbursing our CARES Act funds. Also, earlier in October, Denny did the sandhill crane viewing trip.

Cindy reported that a couple ambassadors are willing to help scan documents from the education trunks, so they can be made available through our website. She will coordinate getting the trunks from Lone Pine.

Gael asked about the plan to disburse information about the videos, as they become available. Denny said the Education Curriculum Office has a monthly communication about resources.

OSNA: The report was included in the packet. Pam clarified that this report was prepared in lieu of having a fall meeting of the OSNA Committee. Pam and Gael will put together a list of people who will receive the report. Pam will get the report to Jake to put on the website.

Pam reported that we were able to do 5 weed treatments. There were many challenges because of the wet weather and flooding. We spent \$2117.89 on treatments and should receive \$1588.42 (75%) in reimbursement from the Flathead Conservation District. Pam will send the final report and invoices to FCD soon.

CAR awards: Cory reported the results of the survey. The individual award is determined, but there is a tie for Business and Volunteer. Cory will send another survey to break the ties.

December 7 is the next BOD meeting, and we will be using ZOOM again. Cory will work with Rod to try to get him set up to be able to communicate during the meeting.

Pam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kay seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.