

Flathead Audubon Board of Directors meeting, 10/4/21, Creston Hatchery Pavilion
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

Directors Present: Cory Davis, Gael Bissell, Rod Walette, Pam Willison, Margaret Parodi, Kay Mitchell, Darcy Thomas, Tom Roberts, Cindy Roberts, Dave Manuwal, Dan Casey, Jake Bramante. No guests were present.

President Cory Davis called the meeting to order at 5:40 pm. There were no additional items for the agenda.

Minutes: The minutes from the September BOD meeting and September General Meeting (Election Results) were reviewed, and there were no changes. Gael made a motion to approve both minutes, Rod seconded, no discussion. Unanimous vote.

Treasurer: Rod reviewed the cash balances and mentioned a change because he recently disbursed \$5000 to Flathead Land Trust for the OSNA appraisal (approved in September). Investments are in conservative mode, and we can make changes in the allocations whenever we want. Rod also commented that new memberships are coming in, but seem to be fairly slow. He also mentioned that many are using Stripe to pay on-line, and many are new members. It was decided that we should emphasize membership renewal in communications to our members.

Rod reviewed the two bank activity reports provided – one from the bank, and one from QuickBooks. There are differences between them because of timing. In the future, he will only provide the QuickBooks one because the Board felt this was adequate, and our new financial reviewer (Kay), provides the checks and balances we need for security.

Regarding Whitefish Community Foundation, Rod postponed their presentation to the BOD until next month because the meeting setting will be better. Also, Jake has posted our financial policies to the website, and Rod will prepare a report for the PP next month.

Dan made a motion to accept and file the financial reports, Margaret seconded, there was no discussion, and the vote was unanimous.

OSNA – Gael reported that the work on the Conservation Easement (CE) has been going on all summer, and the initial appraisal has been completed (\$690,000 – and Laura (Flathead Land Trust) has some questions for the appraisers, which may cause the appraisal to drop some). Laura (FLT) was ready for the small NAWCA grant application, but wanted to receive a partner letter from us, which Gael wrote as a draft (Board Packet). Gael talked to Larry Berrin, and Montana Audubon doesn't have a Board meeting until after the application due date, so they can't provide one. However, Larry Berrin feels he could procure some major donations through some of their resources. He recommended to not spend our existing funds, but to raise funds specifically for this project. Gael feels we could anticipate doing an OSNA capital campaign next spring in conjunction with Montana Audubon. FLT and Flathead Lakers would likely continue

with a capital campaign the next year. Gael feels we really need to emphasize public lands access, and the use for education, and specifically for kids. The total funds would need to be raised by December 2023. There was discussion about including this as a specific item for Great Fish next year to inspire people to support the project. Gael would like to list \$100,000 as our contribution in the partner letter. If the CE goes through the entire process and is approved by the Land Board, then this would become an obligation for FAS. Gael made a motion to submit a partner letter to the NAWCA being prepared by Flathead Land Trust for the OSNA Conservation Easement, indicating a \$100,000 contribution. Darcy seconded. Dan mentioned that you can also count some of the funds spent in the past two years (such as the past years lease payments). Unanimous vote.

Purchases: Cory mentioned that several items have been brought to his attention as potentially useful purchases, and we currently have the funds, so is seeking Board input and possible approval. Denny provided some information about a secure storage cabinet (36"x36"x18"). United Way has approved that this could go in the storage closet and be bolted to the wall. This would just contain the valuable items (sound system) and there is shelf storage for other items. It was felt that we would need two cabinets that size, because there are other items that we would want secured.

The other purchases Cory identified were: a laptop -(Jake suggested approving up to \$1500 for laptop, programs, and accessories). Binoculars - there was discussion about assessing what we already have in our education trunks, and Cory clarified that he was thinking of about 6 pair of fair quality binocs for field trips, separate from the classroom set. Dan mentioned that some companies would provide them at a discounted price, and he will look into it (he mentioned Alpine). Dave mentioned the need for a screen if we use some of the United Way locations for in-person meetings. Rod noted that none of these would need to be listed as an asset because the dollar-value wasn't high enough.

Tom made a motion to approve all the above items, pending research, not to exceed \$4000 total. (Estimates were computer \$1500, binoculars \$1000, screen \$400, cabinets \$500+ \$100 for shipping). Dan seconded. Unanimous vote.

Birds of Prey – participation report: Denny had a good turn-out, Amy had good participation on-line, Wild Wings events were fully-booked, and Dan had to postpone his field trip due to weather, but rescheduled it.

Contact list: Through discussion, it was decided that Pam will drop the Web column because of confusion about what it's for. She will also contact everyone who wasn't at the past two meetings and confirm their information and contact Linda Winnie for the PP. Cory encouraged people to use their Audubon email addresses because it's simpler for BOD communications.

Committee list: Jake mentioned that all Committee Chairs need to be BOD members, but Pam questioned if that's accurate, so we will check it before finishing the list. Each committee was

reviewed and updated, including the combining of several committees. Cory will update it and send out a new list. There are some questions still to be answered.

Field Trips: Darcy has one in OSNA on 10/23, but because of health issues, she's not sure she can complete it. Pam will check her calendar and see if she can help, and Darcy will also contact Shannon and Bridger Donaldson. Derrick has one coming in November (details pending). Christmas Bird Count in December. There is the potential for a Mission Valley one in January.

Education: Denny sent a written update of his post-knee replacement status and his plans for future projects. Cindy plans to contact each of the Ambassadors this week to see if they are still willing to help with trunks and/or be willing to be on the Education Committee.

Great Fish: Kay reported that as of this morning, our donations were \$24,545. October 18 WCF will declare their matching amounts, and Cory will go accept our check at the 10/18 gathering and let Kay know the total for the PP. Kay also reported that the final reports are in for Great Fish 2020, and Day of Giving 2021. Kay is looking for ideas for a Circle of Giving thank-you card. Tom said he has cards from his paintings, and he will provide one (Kay chose a pileated woodpecker). These cards go into a scrapbook that is provided for the people who donate major amounts to the Great Fish matching fund.

Pileated Post:

- *Jake will have the September meeting recording done and on the website.
- *Kay will provide a final Great Fish total (including the match) late on 10/18 after Cory gets the check
- *Darcy and Pam will do a report on the FAS displays they did.
- *Dan – will do a Jewel Basin report rather than field trip report
- *Project Feeder Watch – use same article as last year (by Darcy)
- *Conservation Corner – Cory will follow up with Carole

Board Meetings: BOD members would prefer to meet in person. It will be at FWP on Meridian, and Gael will clarify the date (whether Monday or Tuesday).

Dave made a motion to adjourn, Jake seconded. Unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.