

Flathead Audubon Board of Directors, 9/6/22, Gateway Mall Room 26
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

Directors in attendance: Cory Davis, Rod Walette, Pam Willison, Margaret Parodi, Jake Bramante, Tom Roberts, Cindy Roberts, Kay Mitchell, Darcy Thomas, Gael Bissell

Others in attendance: Denny Olson

The meeting was called to order by President Cory Davis at 5:44 pm. Minor additions were made to the agenda.

Minutes: The May Board meeting minutes were reviewed. Darcy made a motion to approve, and Jake seconded. No discussion and unanimous approval. The minutes documenting the Election from the May general meeting were reviewed and found to be accurate.

Finances: Rod reviewed the Board Financial Report and noted that so far this year we have only had two membership renewals, and that the money for the Road Scholar classes held in Glacier Park has been received. At present, we are at a negative income of about \$5400. Rod also commented that the investments have been down and have recovered some, but will likely continue to be up and down as the market fluctuates. Rod also reviewed the checkbook activity and noted that our bank balance is still good. From the profit/loss statement, Rod noted that our income last year was above average, but so were our expenses, with many being one-time purchases. Should our income be lower this year, it's important that we also hold down our expenses.

Investments are sitting at 38% equity at this point, and Rod has talked to our investment advisor (Dan Short) who wondered if we had a desire to make changes and move to a riskier mixture, or a less risky investment mixture. Discussion revealed that Board members felt we should defer to the expertise of the investment advisor and we will revisit it again in January.

Tom made a motion to accept and file the financial reports; seconded by Kay; and unanimous vote to pass motion.

Membership: Jake noted that he planned to do a membership report, but has decided to wait until after Great Fish is over so he can include those memberships. Rod mentioned that he and Jake had discussed membership, and that if we don't receive our budgeted income from memberships, and don't see a proportionate increase in Great Fish, that our income is going to be below what we budgeted.

Great Fish: Kay reported that she had a discussion with the Great Fish Challenge staff regarding a statement in our newsletter saying that if people donate \$25 or more to Challenge, they would get their membership. They don't permit us to include a connection to Great Fish Challenge in any of our FAS promotions. As a result, Kay has modified the statement for our upcoming newsletter. Jake said it's somewhat unclear when we can mention that offer, such as

in reply messages he sends to individuals who inquire about membership. The Board felt Great Fish Challenge shouldn't get mentioned in connection in any of our communications other than informing and encouraging people to participate in the Challenge while it is being held. Kay noted that because our newsletter went out, we can honor the offer we made, but we cannot promote it further. Jake noted that the electronic version of the newsletter has also been modified. We can continue to make the offer that any donation of \$25 or more will get the person a membership, but cannot make reference to giving those donations through the Challenge.

Cory noted that our Great Fish Challenge balance is just over \$12,000 and we would like to get to \$20,000 to reach the top bonus level (we already hit the minimum of \$10,000). We have several promotional events coming up, including mentioning it at our meeting next week, and a couple more Fly-by's. Kay noted that she had been notified that we didn't have anyone signed up to volunteer during the Great Fish Challenge event this Saturday (9/10) – Kay, Rod, and Cory will sign up for FAS. Tom and Cindy are running the booth, and Denny will be on sight and moving around in his Professor Guano costume.

Board List and Contact Info: Joe Batts and Dave Manuwal are no longer on our Board. Cory will contact Dave Kotter about his future plans. We need to get the contact information for the three new Board members.

We still need a new membership chair (Jake is filling in); need a newsletter editor (Darcy is filling in, and there is a candidate considering the job); and we need someone to do hospitality and programs (for now the Board will try to cover filling the schedule for programs).

Birds of Prey: Denny did an updated volunteer/job list this week and everything is on track, with only a couple people unable to make it. The FAS booth will use the awning, a couple tables, the banners, and Bridger in bird costume. Denny will bring all these items after using them for the Great Fish booth this coming weekend. FAS members helping with set-up who want to car pool should meet at the bottom of the hill at 7:30 am. The posters are up, a press release has been issued, and there will be numerous publicity contacts over the next couple weeks.

Hawk Watch: The contract with Josh Covill has been signed. Jake mentioned that he has had several inquiries about Hawk Watch, and there are several new people willing to get involved who planning to go up.

Baling Twine and Osprey: Darcy said that in the Flathead valley, a couple of Osprey died last year because of getting entangled in baling twine (apparently, it's the orange twine they are attracted to). Darcy plans to write a story about this for the January PP. Also, there is a brochure (by Doug McCarter) and Darcy would like to see us get it printed and display it when we have exhibit tables. She also mentioned presenting to 4-H and FFA kids. Denny noted that there is a power point presentation about Osprey in the Osprey education kit, and it mentions the dangers of the orange twine. Darcy plans some research, including contacting CHS for

information about the twine color. Pam noted that some colors of twine are an indication of certain types of feed, such as weed-free hay.

Kootenai Forest Stakeholders: (Libby, October 1) – Darcy is not planning to do this booth again. No one else was interested, so we will skip it at least for this year.

History of FAS Involvement in Lost Trail Conservation Easement: There was an official ceremony to celebrate the new Conservation Easement at Lost Trail a few weeks ago, and FAS was represented by Cory, Jake, Rod, and Pam. Darcy is seeking some documentation, and possibly a story, about the involvement of FAS in the early stages of the easement. Discussion revealed that there were numerous FAS members involved at various points and in various ways, including letters of support. Gael said she would gather some of the details and try to put the pieces together with Linda W, Leslie K, etc.

OSNA – Pam reported that progress is being made on supporting documents and the management plan and many aspects of the project are moving forward. Gael and Cory met with Larry Berrin of Montana Audubon to clarify their role for support and publicity, and also Gael will redraft the MOU with them. Gael is working on the publicity and fundraising activities and is working with Laura Katzman and Sally Cameron-Russell. They will be holding Friends and Neighbors (FAN) Club events with small neighborhood groups. Once it is more complete, Gael will bring the publicity/fundraiser plan to a future Board meeting.

Pam also mentioned that we just renewed a 2-year Special Recreation Use License for OSNA through DNRC, and that October 1 is the OSNA Work Day.

Education Committee – Cindy reported that the Committee met in late August and identified some things to work on. Some of the education kits are missing items, so she is working on ordering those. Also, Cindy checked with the School District for clarification about the need for background checks, and was told that as long as teachers are in attendance and supervising the kids, it's not needed. If our volunteers go into classrooms, the District may want to do a name check rather than full background check. The teacher resource list has been updated and proofed, and will be printed and distributed, in accordance with School District rules.

Denny reported that he has numerous schools on board for the 7th grade curriculum, and will be starting the sequence of school presentations and field trips. The new binoculars are located half with Denny, and half with Darcy. Denny is working with a Flathead High School student (Keanu Ng) for an IB research project related to birds and probably conducted in OSNA. Denny updated the Education section of the website and is working to align wording with the handout being distributed. Denny is working with a violist to pursue the idea of a musical piece combining viola and whistled bird songs. He is also to do filming for a documentary film about Hawk Watch.

Jake inquired if someone was still going to set up an information station for the Flathead Trails group on October 2. Tom and Cindy will set up a station, so Jake will forward information to them.

Field Trips – Margaret reported that trips were published for September, and she is working to finalize some trips for October and later. Margaret is asking for more people to be willing to lead field trips so we can offer more. Darcy is going to do some research into a trip to the Mission Valley, and especially clarifying the need for tribal recreation permits. Denny suggested Bruce Tannehill, and Jim Rogers to lead field trips, and especially in the Mission Valley.

Conservation – Dave will no longer be available for this committee, so it will continue with members Carole J., and Lewis Young.

Pileated Post Editor– Gael located a candidate for the editor position, and is working out the details with them.

PP Content List:

- *Kay will send Darcy an update for Great Fish, by the deadline.
- *October program – Cory will write this
- *Skip: Conservation Corner
- *Remove: reminder to renew membership. Jake may do an article explaining membership.
- *Add: Compliment message about OSNA
- *Add: Reminder of OSNA Work Day
- *Add: Note about Swan Valley Connections creating a memorial fund for June Ash; to be used for bird research. Rebecca Ramsey of SVC will write it.

Jake made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Cindy seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.