

Flathead Audubon Board of Directors, 5/2/22, FWP Conference Room  
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

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

Others in attendance: Denny Olson

The meeting was called to order by President Cory Davis at 5:36 pm.

**Minutes:** The minutes were reviewed and no changes made. Tom made a motion to approve; Darcy seconded; no discussion; unanimous approval.

**Finance:** Rod reviewed the Board Financial Report listing the Revenue/Expense and Investments. It was noted that the new investment with WFCF is already showing income in the balance. The checking activity was reviewed and there were no questions. Margaret made a motion to accept and file the financial reports; Kay seconded; no discussion; unanimous vote to approve.

**Education Strategic Plan:** This was produced by the Education Committee at their meeting last Thursday. Kay commented that she uses this document extensively when writing applications for grants and the Great Fish, and she offered three minor wording changes, which were made. Tom clarified that Cindy rewrote several sections of this to not only make it easier to read, but to update it to better reflect our current efforts of the Education Program (particularly the 7-8 grade curriculum), and to reflect how we are using technology and making resources easily available through technological avenues. Tom also noted that the committee added formative assessment and some pre/post assessments, and tracking of participant numbers in field trips, school/public presentations, programs, etc. These numbers will be gathered from the various sources each spring when doing the annual evaluation of how we performed in relation to the Plan.

Denny commented that the contents of the Plan contain some things that have historically been done, but also includes all the new directions and resources. Dave noted that Denny will do the November program and Denny said it will be about the Education resources we offer, including hands-on activity with trunks. Jake commented that areas on the website could be revised to also reflect our current priorities and resources.

Goal #5 of the Plan contains an extensive list of objectives that itemize the specific activities for the entire organization – all committees, programs, volunteers, the Education Committee, the Conservation Educator, etc. Dave made a motion to approve the Education Strategic Plan for 2022-23 with the wording changes; Gael seconded; no further discussion; unanimous approval.

**Conservation Educator Contract:** Denny Olson was asked to leave for this discussion. Tom reviewed some small changes Cindy made when writing the contract, that cleaned up some

wording but didn't change the meaning. The only edit was on item L where the date was corrected. Several items were discussed in more detail, and the related budget entries for next fiscal year were considered. Kay made a motion to approve the independent contractor agreement with the one edit. Jake seconded; no further discussion; unanimous approval.

**Budget:** Rod presented the proposed FY22-23 budget for discussion, by showing the past 2 fiscal years as an actual/budget comparison, and showing the line item numbers the Finance Committee proposed for the coming FY (22-23). He noted that our expenses seem to stay fairly consistent, but our income numbers tend to fluctuate, noting that Great Fish is our major source of income and it's difficult to know what to anticipate, especially with the current economic pressures. Pam inquired whether participating in Great Fish eliminates our opportunity to hold other fund raisers, should we fall short of what we budgeted. Kay clarified, that we shouldn't hold any fundraising events in close timing to the Great Fish fundraiser. She also noted that we "informally" felt we shouldn't conduct many fundraisers for our membership, in addition to the major fundraiser of Great Fish. Rod noted that the income and expenses of the proposed FY22-23 budget come out fairly close – within \$764. Pam mentioned to Denny that \$800 was added to the Education budget to cover anticipated requirement for background checks for FAS volunteers who work with school programs. Darcy made a motion to approve the budget as submitted; Tom seconded; no discussion; unanimous vote to approve.

**Bird Strike Building Surveys/Lights out Montana:** Dave gave some background information about the immensity of the problem of bird loss from building strikes, but noted that most of the mortality comes from strikes on windows of homes rather than commercial buildings. Dave wrote a letter explaining our current survey efforts, and he also went to the Police Department to explain the survey, in anticipation of volunteers walking around with binoculars at survey sites in early mornings. Dave called 2 car dealerships he identified as survey sites, but hadn't receive a call back from the managers. He identified 10 survey sites that he feels would be worth monitoring, and he distributed the protocol, list of sites, sign-up sheet, and ID cards. Surveys would be done for 6 weeks in May and June. Jim Rogers (Mission Valley) is aware that Dave is coordinating this effort and using the same protocol he prepared when he asked FAS to participate. Volunteers should email Dave with your days of the week and sites you have selected and he will maintain a master schedule. Surveys looking for dead birds need to be done shortly after dawn (currently shortly after 6 am). Dave suggested that next year we ask our membership to complete a bird strike survey at our individual homes. Details could be included in the PP and explained in a Fly-by email to start this fall.

**Membership:** Jake presented the numbers for the past two years. In 2021 there were 203 FAS memberships and there were 226 in 2022. National memberships were 195 in 2021 and 180 in 2022.

**PP Editorship:** Linda Winnie completed her last newsletter for May, and we need to have someone in place by early August to complete the September newsletter. Jake received a general inquiry from a woman who lives in Bozeman and Maryland and offered to help with graphic design/art, and newsletter formatting. Lewis Young has communicated with her and

feels that she's ready and qualified, but he is concerned about her consistency in being available on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of each newsletter month to put together the newsletter. Jake anticipates that she would use Adobe Design rather than the existing program (MS Publisher). Lewis feels her services would replace his portion of the newsletter and he is willing to step aside and let her take over. Jake commented that we could change the due dates for the PP articles, to accommodate her. Should Lewis be replaced, this would still leave the need for someone to coordinate the intake of the stories and editing. Cory is concerned about the length of commitment she can offer to us, and noted it would be nice to have someone willing to do the job for a while. There was some general skepticism about how well it would to engage her services for the newsletter, so Jake will contact her to thank her and let her know we will keep her in mind for future projects, and we will continue to look to fill Linda's position with one or two people. Through brainstorming, we identified 3 local people with some useful backgrounds, who we want to contact. We will consider splitting Linda's job into two portions: 1) the initial monthly list and call for articles, and gathering and following up on the articles, and 2) doing all the editing and sending the finished articles to Lewis for layout. Denny will contact Nancy Gresham and Karen Nichols, and Pam will contact Susie Waldron.

**OSNA:** Gael reported that we have started work on the Management Plan and will be working on it for the next several months. Cory mentioned that Gael also created in initial list of publicity/promotion activities. Gael said that some will be conducted by FAS, while others will be in conjunction with other organizations (FLT, Montana Audubon, Flathead Lakers, etc.). Some of it will be modeled after activities FLT did for their Bad Rock project. Most specialty events will be held between March and May of 2023, and some money was allocated in the budget. The goal is still to produce \$100,000 through these fundraising efforts.

Denny mentioned that he had a great field trip at OSNA yesterday. Gael mentioned that Kathy Ross said 2 adult Osprey have died already this spring because of orange baling twine – they are drawn to the color of the twine and bring it to their nests where it can be deadly to the adults or the young. This was identified as a publicity/awareness campaign we could take on to try to help reduce the mortality. During the discussion, it was mentioned that we could find Doug McCarter's osprey brochure, which contains information about the twine, and print some copies for our meetings/events, and include it on our website. Several people said they will look through their files and try to find a copy and Gael will contact Doug.

**Field Trips:** The list of trips is in the newsletter. Margaret mentioned the Bad Rock field trip for our BOD, and Darcy said it is scheduled for May 24 at 5:30, and to plan for 2-3 hours (note: bring bear spray). If you can't make it, an alternate option is the evening field trip on May 18 by the West Valley Naturalists (check their website).

**BOP Festival:** Denny will poll people on the committee and schedule a date for a meeting, and that everything which was scheduled in the planning last year is still on the agenda for this year so things should fall into place fairly easily. It's scheduled for September 17, and Denny has already contacted the main presenter (Kate Davis), face painter, etc. It was noted that we

budgeted \$2500 for all expenses and Denny feels we can fit within that amount. Pam inquired about the fee for Kate Davis, and Denny thought it was about \$150, but will check for sure.

**May general meeting:** BOD should arrive at 4:30 to decide on the locations within the room (food, auction, presentation, etc.), and set up tables and chairs. Doors open at 5:00 for public to enter, and buffet dinner starts at 5:45 - 6:00. The auction will be conducted before and during dinner, and before the program, and last call before the start of the program – this will discourage people from roaming during the presentation, and help expedite payment and pickup right after the program is over. We will hold the presentation by Asher (science fair winner) at 6:30. (Darcy would like to ask him to do a BOM article next year). A short meeting and election of officers and directors (Bob Lee, with Cory as backup) will follow Ashers presentation, and plan for the program to begin at 7pm. There won't be a zoom version of the meeting.

**Road Scholar Program:** We are conducting 5 trips this summer in Glacier NP. Denny needs 4 volunteers per day to handle about 10 people each and go through the Johns Lake loop doing naturalist interpretations and completing some fun activities with the intergenerational participants. Denny noted that all 5 classes are full. Volunteers will have park passes provided for entry into the park. Denny will also do a training session (walk through) for volunteers, which are every Friday for 5 weeks, beginning on July 8.

**Education report:** Denny reported our education resources will be included on the STEAM alliance website.

Dave made a motion to adjourn; Margaret seconded; no discussion; unanimous approval. Meeting adjourned at 7:47 pm.