

Flathead Audubon Society BOD meeting, 11/7/22, Virtual  
Prepared by: Darcy Thomas, Vice-President (acting Secretary)

Directors in Attendance: Cory Davis, Rod Walette, Darcy Thomas, Gael Bissell, Shannon Donaldson, Bridger Donaldson, Margaret Parodi, Kay Mitchell, Jason Garver, Tom Roberts, Cindy Roberts, Jake Bramante, Dan Casey, Carole Jorgensen, Linda Du Lac

Others in Attendance: Denny Olson

The meeting was called to order by President Cory Davis at 5:38. No changes were made to the agenda.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October BOD meeting were reviewed. Under Membership the minutes were amended to state that Linda Du Lac expressed interest in becoming the Membership Chairperson. Jake made a motion to approve; Bridger seconded; unanimous vote to approve.

**Finances:** Rod reviewed the Great Fish donations which were larger than last year. He then reviewed the finances. Shannon made a motion to accept and file the financial statement; Margaret seconded; unanimous vote to approve.

**Owen Sowerwine Conservation Easement:** Gael related the DNRC scoping comment results which were highly in support of the conservation easement. Fundraising is underway with the River in Paint Event at the Montana Modern Fine Art Gallery on Main Street, on Wednesday Nov 9. Bidding for the paintings will be online to raise money for the easement. Gael had a meeting with the Greenridge landowners who were excited about the easement. Other fundraising events and grants to raise money to purchase the easement will be announced in the future. Gael modified the MOU and sent it to Cory who will distribute it to the BOD for review. It will be signed in December. The need to host other events in Owen Sowerwine for educating and enlisting support of potential donors was discussed.

BODs will bring ideas for field trips and other events for potential donors to discuss at the December board meeting. Three to four events are needed. They will attempt to get permission from landowners for alternative access sites for Owen Sowerwine for these trips since Treasure Lane has limited parking. Jake will make a sharable on-line calendar for Owen Sowerwine events.

**Monthly Presentations:** Darcy related that Sneed Collard III asked if he could do his presentation in September leaving the May speaker spot unfilled. Gael mentioned the possibility of having Geri Meireis and her husband, who is a photographer, do a presentation on their recent wildlife photography trip to Africa. She will ask them if they commit to doing the presentation in May.

**Volunteer Hours:** Cory asked the Board members submit their volunteer hours for the 2021-2022 year for the Montana Audubon annual report.

**FAS Merchandise:** Jason requested suggestions for vendors who may be able to supply FAS merchandise. Jake said he will call him.

**Conservation Achievement Recognitions:** Darcy reviewed the current CAR list. The list was updated. There are no nominees for Volunteer of the Year currently. In December we will vote on Lifetime Achievement and Business candidates. We will choose a Volunteer of the Year by March.

**Christmas Bird Counts:** Darcy said she has been in contact with most of the previous CBC leaders and has dates and updated contact information. Ellen Sullivan and Lewis Young will let us know the date for the CBC in Eureka. Cory said Rob Rich is probably not coordinating the CBC for Upper Swan this year and he will contact Swan Valley Connections to see who is and will forward to Darcy what he finds out. Craig Hohenberger submitted his article for the *Pileated Post* as the board was discussing this and Darcy will contact Pete Fisher to ask for his article about the Kalispell CBC.

**General Meeting Agenda:** Cory asked for a list of things he should announce at the general meeting. It was decided he should announce the Christmas Bird Count dates for which Jake will make a slide after Darcy sends him the information. He will also give an Owen Sowerwine fundraising update and tell members, how they can make donations, announce the River in Paint on-line auction, announce the appointment of Linda Du Lac as the Membership Chairperson and to the Board of Directors, make a plea for new field trip leaders and do Turkey ID.

### **Committee Updates**

- A. **Education:** Denny talked about his meeting with Chau Young about SD5. She does transitional learning and is planning to increase field trips for kids. They may ask Flathead Audubon to lead more trips and we need to develop a plan to meet their needs and not overwhelm us. Cory mentioned that this can be part of the strategic plan we are about to work on. Denny is writing suggestions for improving how the learning kits are checked out and returned.
- B. **Field Trips:** Margaret announced there will be no field trips in December other than the CBCs, but Shannon and Bridger said they would like to do one. Margaret is writing a call for new field trip leaders for the PP. Denny suggested she contact Dee Baginski and Jim Rogers.
- C. **Membership/Newsletter:** Jake reviewed membership numbers which are at 264 now (down by 29 members from last month). Jake announced that Linda Du Lac is volunteering to be the Membership Chair which is also a Board of Director's position. Linda summarized her experience of working for the USFS for 35 years in several positions. She joined FAS last year and has always been an avid nature and bird lover. She wants to be the greeter at meetings, update nametags and make them at meetings.

She would like to send notes welcoming new and renewing members. Jake nominated Linda for the Membership Chairperson; Carole seconded; Linda was unanimously elected to the Chair position by the Board. Jake nominated Linda for a BOD position; Kay seconded; Linda unanimously elected to the Board.

- D. Others:** Cory said the Conservation Committee is still in need of a conservation chairperson. It was mentioned that Connie Cohen will ask people to bring treats to the general meeting.

**December Pileated Post Contents:** The contents list for December was reviewed. Darcy requested an email address for the Program speaker Erik Greene. Bridger volunteered to write an article on bird strikes for the Conservation Corner. Cory said we need to add Linda to the Directory on-line and for the newsletter (Jake will do it for the website and Darcy will do it for the newsletter). Cory said he will write something for the Montana Audubon Strategic Plan Survey. Carole asked that an article about cleaning bird feeders be put on the January contents list.

**Strategic Planning:** Cory summarized what he thinks we need to do for a strategic plan and suggested we use the end of each board meeting to develop it. Dan suggested we wait until summer or later this winter and do it in one day at a retreat. Denny suggested each committee do some preliminary work, especially the education committee. Linda suggested we survey members. It was decided to discuss the process at the next board meeting and determine a meeting date to write the strategic plan.

Gael made a motion to adjourn; Jake seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.