

Flathead Audubon Society, Board Meeting, 12/5/22, Virtual
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

Directors participating: Cory Davis, Linda Du Lac, Pam Willison, Gael Bissell, Will Beyer, Bob Lee, Dan Casey, Cindy Roberts, Bridger Donaldson, Shannon Donaldson, Kay Mitchell, Darcy Thomas, Margaret Parodi, Rod Walette, Jake Bramante, Carole Jorgensen, Jason Garver

Others participating: Denny Olson, Geri Meireis, Jan Metzmaker,

The meeting was called to order by President Cory Davis at 5:35 pm. Flathead Valley Raptor Surveys (Dan) and CE/EOY Fundraising (Gael and Jan) were added to the agenda.

Cory reported that Derrick Rathe has resigned from the BOD because of lack of time to participate. He would like to continue to partner with us for field trips or events. Also, Dave Manuwal is hosting a Bigfork post-CBC chili dinner for completing the results, and people who are interested should contact Dave. His personal email is: manuwal2@centurylink.net

Minutes: A few corrections were made to spelling/wording). Kay made a motion to approve, Darcy seconded. Unanimous approval.

Financials: Rod reviewed the financial report showing Banking, Revenue/Expenses, and Investments. Rod noted our investments have made an upswing and did show a gain this past month. Gael made a motion to file the financial report, Bob seconded, unanimous approval.

FAS Board Calendars and Files: Jake demonstrated how to access, share and edit documents, and access and make entries on calendars. Documents can be added by dragging and dropping them. Using these resources avoids the issue of people not receiving copies of documents via email, because documents can be accessed by all (Jake sets up who is authorized) through the Google file. The calendars are created by Jake. Cory will start using this for BOD meeting information, and we will all work toward switching over to using it.

Waterfowl Management Collaboration Survey: Cory received a request for FAS to complete a survey. Dan volunteered to complete it.

Raptor Counts Routes: Dan reported that earlier this year there was a request by Beth Mendelsohn (Owl Research Institute) to help with their raptor counts in the Mission Valley and some people have volunteered. Since then, Dan has received information from Jeff Fleischer, Project Developer/Coordinator for the Winter Raptor Survey Project sponsored by the East Cascades Audubon Society chapter based in Bend, OR. Jeff has created some new routes in the Flathead Valley (plus Arlee), and asked Dan to help arrange volunteers to sign up for the routes. Dan will distribute the information/maps to those who want it.

Merchandise: Cory and Jake are working with Jason to narrow down some options, and we will look at them during a future meeting.

Owen Sowerwine: Gael reviewed a tentative fundraising plan, and would like input about what we should get started on to work toward our fundraising goal of \$100,000. Jan Metzmaker had suggested an End of the Year appeal with a mailing (some hard copy and some electronic). The funds would become starter funds for a matching challenge to be held in the spring. Jake questioned whether this adheres to our statements during Great Fish saying that Great Fish is our only main fundraising event. Jan Metzmaker feels it isn't a conflict, and commented that the wording is critical to indicate that this is a special opportunity to help with a one-time only Conservation Easement. Kay suggested that there needs to be a catchy name for this fundraising campaign – she suggested SOS for Save Owen Sowerwine. Cory questioned the need for hard copy letters, and Jan feels hard copies still appeal to the older generation, and duplicating with an electronic message doesn't create any issues. Gael will work on a letter and run it by FLT and Flathead Lakers. She would also have Anne Moran (DNRC) review it for acceptable wording. Pam suggested the catchy name be Secure Owen Sowerwine because that's a term DNRC tends to use. There was discussion about having the printers do the complete job. It was decided that we would do the folding and stuffing ourselves, and Darcy offered to hold the assembly party at her house. Gael will finish her draft and route it to a few people and get edits tomorrow. Our goal is to have it out by December 15. As we talked, Jake adeptly created a donation option for SOS on our website. Cory suggested that we complete this fundraising task, then look at the rest of the list at our next meeting. There was discussion about the River in Art fundraiser which is closing soon. Gael will get Jake some info and he will do a fly-by.

Gael also reported that the surveyors have been working in the Owen Sowerwine area, and will finish it in the spring.

The MOU has been written and edited and Gael will send the final version to the BOD. The MOU with Montana Audubon has also been revised and will be on the agenda for the next Montana Audubon Board meeting.

Wiley Slough Treatment Plant: There was notice in the paper about the County planning to construct a septic treatment facility across the street from the Wiley Slough. It appears that the county has approved the purchase of the land (purchase not completed yet), and the project is open to public comment. Discussion about whether it was something we should object to was inconclusive and it was felt that because those facilities are heavily regulated, that it probably will be a safe, and flooding issues will be addressed by the county. At this point, it was felt that FAS doesn't have a need to object, but just to express concern for ensuring adequate safety for flooding and water quality issues. Cory will respond to the couple people who have contacted FAS seeking our involvement.

CAR Awards: Darcy reviewed the candidates for the Lifetime or Personal Achievement, and Business/Innovation. There were no other suggestions for these categories. Discussion and information-sharing was held about various candidates. Cory created a ranked order poll for people to use to vote. The results were tallied and Darcy will prepare the awards for the

February and March meetings. Nominations can still be made for Volunteer of the Year and that award will be discussed and voted on in February, and the award given in April.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Linda expressed appreciation for Michelle Tohtz and her role doing input of membership information, and for Jake for his support and training for Linda's new position as Chairperson. Linda reported that she pulled a list of lapsed memberships (84), and contacted each and has had many good responses. Linda plans to check each month for lapsed memberships and send reminders.

Education: Denny had distributed a written summary and assessment of upcoming issues/concerns, and a meeting of the Education Committee will be held to go through the report and come up with some recommendations for the Board.

Field Trips: Margaret reported that: Darcy plans to do monthly beginning birder walks beginning on January 7, Denny will be doing a January 8 trip in OSNA in honor of National Trails Day, and Margaret and Darcy are working on a raptor trip to the Mission Valley. There was discussion to clarify the need for tribal recreation permits.

Strategic Planning: Cory will distribute some information to support discussion in January.

General Meeting: Cory should mention: Rosy Finch survey (if information is received from Montana Audubon); a thank-you for renewing memberships; contact information for CBC's; Field Trips: Bridger/Shannon field trip on North Shore WPA's, Denny in Owen Sowerwine (National trails day), Darcy's walk for beginners; year-end fundraiser for CE (have letters available); contact information for raptor surveys in Mission Valley (unless they don't need more volunteers); and the need for a Conservation Chairperson.

Pileated Post: Geri will send the final list to the authors with instructions of where to send their articles. Also, using (newsletter@flatheadaudubon.org) will get a message to them.

*There was discussion about using an edited version of the long story about Owen Sowerwine written by Lynda Saul. Darcy said the full article should be posted to the website, but a story of about 700 words would go into the PP. Geri will take a look at it with that in mind.

*Add: Darcy – article about Climate Watch Survey

*Add: possibly info about Rosy Finch survey – Cory is trying to get info from MT Audubon

Jake receives many emails about various things. Many are about window strikes, and would like someone to help respond to those. Dan suggested a template letter about Wild Wings being the place for bird rescues. We could also offer suggestion for prevention techniques.

If the end-of-year letters are ready by next Monday – we will complete the stuffing before the regular meeting and use that room.

Darcy motion, Carole seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.