

Flathead Audubon Society, Board Meeting, 2/6/23, FWP Conference Room
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

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

Others in attendance: Denny Olson, Geri Meireis

The meeting was called to order by President Cory Davis, at 5:30 pm. No agenda changes.

Minutes: No additions or corrections were made to the January minutes. Margaret made a motion to approve them; Cindy seconded; unanimous approval.

Financial: Rod presented the Revenue/Expense/Investment financial report and commented that our investments have come back up some. At the bottom of the report Rod itemized the CE funds that have been raised: FAS = \$12,851, and through FLT = \$23,447 for a total of \$36,298. Gael also noted that we contributed money up front to help with the initial appraisal and we can count that toward our total.

Regarding investments, Rod reported that the investment account with WFCF reported our earnings (just under \$400) for the past year, and the Finance Committee voted unanimously to not withdraw the earnings, but to roll the earnings into next year. In accordance with that committee recommendation, Rod made a motion that we not take our WFCF funds annual distribution for 2022; Gael seconded. Unanimous approval. Rod also reported that our taxes for 2022 are done. As the result of some computer issues Rod experienced, Rod clarified how he is now completing backup of the financial records. Cory offered that FAS could fund a new computer for Rod, if needed. Rod didn't feel that was needed at this point, and his backup system is adequate.

Great Fish: To participate in the 2023 Great Fish the BOD must approve our participation, designate the Primary Use, and nominate the Fund Advisers. Kay made the following 3 motions:

I move that Flathead Audubon apply for and, if accepted, participate in the 2023 Great Fish Community Challenge. Jake seconded. No discussion. Unanimous approval.

I move that the Board designate the Flathead Audubon Conservation Education Program as our Primary Use of Funds in the 2023 Great Fish Community Challenge. Cory asked why there is no designated secondary use of funds, and Kay clarified that a secondary use would need to be a capital project, and we don't have the need for that, so we will not be designating a secondary use. Tom seconded; no further discussion; unanimous approval.

I nominate Gail Cleveland and Jan Metzmaker as Fund Advisers for FAS in the 2023 Great Fish Community Challenge. Kay explained the Fund Adviser role for the benefit of the new Board members. Jake seconded; no additional discussion; unanimous approval.

Birds, Beer and Bingo: Darcy organized a social event for the Directors (and spouse/guest) during Bingo night at Bias Brewing for this coming Wednesday, February 8, from 6-8 pm. Food and beverage is available for purchase.

Newsletter: Geri reported that with support from Linda Winnie, she is working with Susie Waldron, who is doing the layout for the first time for the coming PP. Susie has also expressed an interest in continuing to help or do the layout. Geri and Linda have requested that the due date for articles be moved to the 16th, instead of the 18th, to allow more time to troubleshoot and finalize. Darcy noted that there may be some differences in the appearance because Susie is using different software.

Storage: Denny reported that United Way has identified an area we can use for storage for the Learning Kits, and other items. It would be further back in the closet area we currently use, would be secured, would require a monthly rental cost (yet to be finalized), and we could get multiple keys (including to outside door). When everything falls into place, Denny will organize a couple work parties so people can help move kits and shelving from Lone Pine, and setting up the new storage space.

Birdathon: Bridger and Shannon are working on organizing this, and Bridger asked for some input. They want to know what has been successful in the past, what people would like for a format, and how the funds would be requested (pledges, team entry fee, sponsorship, etc). Board discussion included feeling the social aspect of it was the best part regardless of the amount raised. It was felt that we didn't want to do pledges, but to opt for a team entry fee, and seek community involvement on our teams. There was discussion about what constitutes a team, and how many would be on a team. Suggestions included: a team should be one carload (no more than 4 people), limit the count to the Flathead Valley (no boundaries specified), give fun prizes for various categories (most species, most birds, most creative team name, etc.), have an unlimited number of teams, and charge an entry fee, such as \$75/team. Bridger and Shannon will continue with details and select an early summer date at the next meeting.

OS Fundraising: Gael explained the fundraising activities to be held in OS on various dates in May (field trips/tours on Wednesdays, Saturdays). She is looking for field trip leaders, so people can check the FAS calendar for the OS activities and dates and let Gael know if you are available. Pam asked whether these will be listed with our FAS field trips, and it was decided that the public ones would get mentioned in our newsletter, but not listed in our field trips.

OS Improvements: Pam is working with MCC to get a bid for improvements to the Greenridge entrance, and may seek some funding from Roundup for Safety from FEC. She will have an update next month.

Columbia Falls proposed development: Darcy had sent an email to the BOD about a high-density housing development near the Bad Rock WMA, and she's concerned about the impact. Darcy plans to attend the planning meeting on February 14. Gael was in agreement there would

be an impact on the WMA and will help Darcy compose a letter itemizing the reasons we are concerned. Then Darcy will read it at the planning meeting, as our representative. Denny will also help with the letter, and Bridger would also like to be kept informed about it.

General meeting agenda: In addition to the program, we will cover an update on OS fundraising, present a CAR (River Design Group), Jake will do a Quicky Tricky Bird ID, field trips will be mentioned, and Cory will ask about bird sightings.

Publicity: Jan Metzmaker will continue temporarily, and has been in contact with Nancy Gresham regarding her possible interest in taking over.

Strategic Planning: February 16, Thursday, 4-7, FWP Conference Room. Cory has prepared an agenda, and it was reviewed. Cory feels our purpose for this meeting is to address the issues we are having by discussing them and coming up with suggestions to formulate a plan for the next 2-3 years. We will complete an analysis of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Challenges (SWOC) and each committee should identify the most important activities and biggest challenges and the recommendations. He also wants us to identify how we measure our success. Dan suggested that we should include some discussion some “pie-in-the-sky” projects such as a piece of land and education center. Cory also wonders what the role is for the membership and how we will report back to them about the process. It was suggested that Cory could cover it in the PP as a column by the President. Cory will send the agenda and each committee should come with their SWOC analysis ready so we can get right to work and make good progress.

Membership: Linda reported that she’s still getting some renewals and is continuing to send reminders when memberships expire. She also mentioned that in our Google Drive under Membership, there are some documents and protocols that would be useful for everyone to read.

Education: Denny reported that he’s got lots of school activities and field trips scheduled and that the resource projects he has been working on over the years are winding down and the classroom activity is increasing. Cindy and Tom have resigned from the Chair positions of the Education Committee, but will remain involved on the committee. Denny reported that Dee Baginski is interested in being on the Committee, after attending the last meeting. Cindy reported that the Committee met last week and worked through the Strategic Plan and that the Education Committee job descriptions are posted on our Google Drive.

Field Trips: Margaret reported they will be in the newsletter. Darcy mentioned that our field trips will be published in the MNPS booklet. Pam inquired about a trip to Freezout Lake, and is on the website and will be in the coming PP.

PP for March: The PP list for March was reviewed and missing information provided to Geri.

Gael made a motion to adjourn; Linda seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.