

Flathead Audubon Society, Board Meeting, 3/6/23, FWP Conference Room
Prepared by: Pam Willison, Secretary

Directors attending: Rod Walette, Cory Davis, Pam Willison, Linda Du Lac, Cindy Roberts, Tom Roberts, Kay Mitchell, Darcy Thomas, Margaret Parodi, Bridger Donaldson, Shannon Donaldson, Carole Jorgensen, Jason Garver

Others in attendance: Geri Meireis

The meeting was called to order by President Cory Davis, at 5:35 pm. There were no additions to the agenda.

Minutes: No changes or corrections. Margaret made a motion to approve; Kay seconded; no discussion; unanimous vote.

Financials: Rod presented the Financial Report, and noted the investments continue to go up and down with the market. He also noted that we received a couple large donations to the Owen Sowerwine CE fund, bringing the current total to nearly \$45,000. Rod noted that the check register contained a check for our annual \$1000 donation to Montana Audubon. Kay explained that we have an opportunity to apply for a Community Grant from WFCF, with a maximum of \$10,000. Kay made a motion to apply for the WFCF Community Grant for \$10,000 to be used for the Conservation Easement; Carole seconded; no questions or discussion; unanimous approval. Kay made a motion to file the monthly financial report; Tom seconded; no discussion; unanimous approval. The finance committee meeting was set for April 11 from 3-6pm at Darcy's house.

CAR Volunteer of the Year: The nominees were reviewed and additional information was provided about some of the candidates. There were no additional nominees. Darcy provided materials for voting, collected the votes, and tallied them. The winner was announced, and Darcy will prepare the award and article. The award will be given at the May meeting.

Storage: Cory reported Denny's update. We are moving the learning kits to the Gateway Center after the lock is in place and they have prepared the area for us. Tentatively, the moving date will be Saturday, March 18. The rental charge will be \$25/month.

Birdathon: Bridger and Shannon suggest scheduling it for Saturday June 17, which is the weekend after the State Bird Festival. The final tally would be done with a group Barbeque/Potluck about 6:30 or 7:00pm. Shannon/Bridger will check availability and cost at Creston Hatchery, Lone Pine State Park, Lions Park, and Lawrence Park. Darcy volunteered Rob to be the grill master. The Birdathon entry fee will be \$20 per person (2-4 people per team) and each person would get a raffle ticket. The category winners would receive a prize and the remaining donated prizes would be distributed using the raffle ticket each participant received. Donated gift cards/certificates were recommended so team members can share them. The contest boundaries will be the "Flathead Valley", but contestants have to be back by the start

of the tally/potluck. Several winner categories were suggested. More details will be settled at the April BOD meeting. Since it's a fundraiser for the proposed Conservation Easement, additional donations will be accepted.

Bad Rock Bird List: Darcy and Bridger were working to compile a bird list for the Bad Rock area. However, since the Flathead Land Trust is keeping a list, we will stop work on a list.

Owen Sowerwine: Buckthorn work days are coming up and Pam sent out an email seeking volunteers, and especially saw operators. Pam is going to apply for an FCD grant, which is due the end of April and will be used for weed spraying, and fencing for protecting small cottonwoods in the areas where buckthorn has been cut. Pam also reported on the status of maintenance on the Greenridge Entrance. In order to not be considered an improvement by DNRC, it will be a simpler plan with just water bars to replace those originally installed in 2005 when the entrance trail was made. She is working with MCC and trying to get a second bid so we could apply for Roundup for Safety money. Shannon asked about whether the conservation easement has an effect on our ability to make improvement. Pam explained that the DNRC process would still be in place, but there would be an additional layer of approval needed to be sure anything we do complies with the Conservation Easement.

General meeting: Cory will make announcements for: the OS fundraiser, help with buckthorn work, CAR award (Darcy), field trips, need for volunteers (Darcy suggested that our requests be more specific), how to give feedback to the state legislature about some bills (Montana Audubon Legislative Alerts). Jake needs to train someone as his backup at the next meeting because he will be gone in April. There were no volunteers.

Strategic Planning: Cory reviewed the needs that were identified during the last Strategic Planning session. Another session will be held to finish reviewing the needs of the other committees. Darcy suggested adding a column for tracking progress, which Cory created. Cory will send a survey about the next planning session during the week of March 20-24.

Membership: Linda reported that the memberships from Montessori and Ravenwood have been received. Pam explained that was an arrangement reached with Anne (DNRC), Gael, and Montessori and Ravenwood so that their current year of programs could be under the umbrella of our Special Recreation Use License. Otherwise, each participant would need to purchase State Recreation Permits. Linda also mentioned that she and Jake discussed having membership cards again and would appreciate input about how they could be implemented. The card can be used to receive a discount on sunflower seeds at Murdoch's.

Education: Pam mentioned that Denny could use some people to help with spotting scopes for the morning waterfowl field trips with middle school students on March 15, 16, 21, 23, and 24.

Field Trips: *Margaret reported that Kathy Ross offered for Wild Wings to do a training session for Hawk Watch volunteers. There would be a \$150 fee. It would be held somewhere the end of August. It was decided that Dan should decide whether this would be a useful training related

to Hawk Watch. If not, then it could be offered as a public field trip since Birds of Prey Festival is not held this year.

*Walkie -Talkies – FAS owns some but their location is uncertain. Darcy will research a set of modern rechargeable ones with a good reception distance, for use when multiple cars are used on field trips.

*Darcy reported that a woman who was on the Mission Valley field trip has offered to lead field trips for FAS. (Michell)

PP list: was reviewed and missing information was provided for Darcy and Geri. Send articles to Darcy this month.

Nominations: Nominations are needed immediately so they can be included in the April PP so the vote can be held in May. A critical need is a candidate for vice-president. Kay mentioned that Gael will need to be elected to the BOD after her term ends as Past-President. If anyone has ideas for Board members or Vice-President, they should let Cory or Bob Lee know.

Margaret made a motion to adjourn; Carole second; meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.