

Flathead Audubon Society Board of Directors, 5/5/25

Gateway Community Center Gathering Place

Prepared by Linda Du Lac

Directors in Attendance: Darcy Thomas, Rod Walette, Cindy Roberts, Margaret Parodi, Gael Bissell, Linda Du Lac, Carole Jorgensen, Ronda Howell, Jake Bramante, Shannon Donaldson, Pam Willison

Others in Attendance: Jess Garby

The Meeting was called to order by President, Darcy Thomas at 5:33 pm

Minutes: One correction. Jake made a motion to approve, Carole seconded. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Rod reviewed the financial report. Margaret Parodi's generous donation is reflected in the present financial statement. We won't have to take monies out of our investments to cover any shortfall on our operations budget.

Rod recommended we don't do a zero balance budget so we can see where actual monies lay.

A new line item is Program Grants.

Rod recommends we increase the potential Great Fish donation estimate that we hope to receive. We will be conservative on how much is coming in and liberal on how much we spend. A discussion pointed out that the economy may not give us the amount of what we hope to receive. People may not be wanting to give the amount they did last year.

If Forest Service grant does not come through we will have money for Hawk Watch.

Gael moved to approve, Margaret seconded. Approved unanimously.

Further discussion took place regarding the amount in our Budget and what we put on the G.F. application. \$40,000 will be used on the Great Fish application and \$47,000 in the budget.

Jake moved to approve the Budget of \$47,000 with the Great Fish increase. Gael seconded. Unanimously approved.

History money is already in the budget for \$15,000.

Great Fish Community Challenge event dates and rules: We have several events that we will need to attend. The calendar was shared. Darcy and Shannon will be sending out email reminders.

Shannon presented the Corporate Resolution by the Board of Directors that needs to be approved.

-Vote for FAS to participate in G.F. challenge. Shannon moved, Gael seconded. Unanimously approved.

-Vote to have our primary funds be for our Education Program and secondary funds the permanent endowment. Shannon moved, Cindy seconded. Unanimously approved.

-Vote to approve Financial Advisors Linda Du Lac and Jan Metzmaker. Shannon nominated and seconded by Jake. Unanimously approved.

It was agreed that our goal for G.F. this year is \$40,000.00.

Mandatory for FAS to be present is July 10th at the O'Shaughnessy kick off and August 12th at Range Rider Stadium.

Nat'l Audubon letter: National is encouraging all Chapters to sign onto their letter urging Congress to advance key conservation priorities. Darcy signed the letter for FAS.

Dark Skies: Nancy Gresham would like FAS to do something to promote dark skies. She wants to know if FAS would like to partner with the Astronomy club. Astronomy club wants to approach local businesses.

Darcy suggested that we ask Nancy to do more including more research, i.e. what the Astronomy club is planning, find a presenter, write an article for the Newsletter, encourage the Astronomy club to talk with the Daily Interlake to do feature.

Kalispell already has a dark sky initiative, they don't have an enforcer.

Silent Auction reminder: May 12th, Doors open at 5:00 to set up the room and silent auction. Jess will make the auction cards. Potluck starts at 6:00.

Wings across Montana is on May 30, 31, and June 1. Rooms at the Holiday Inn are being held until May 9th.

Next year's meetings will be new business. The Education Coordinator will not go into accomplishment details during our Board meeting. The accomplishment report will be sent directly to the Board Members.

Committees should present Action Items only rather than every little detail to streamline our meetings.

Committee reports can be sent out rather than discussed at the Board Meeting.

Education Coordinator update:

Topics covered: Field ecology at OS, Bird Beak Lab, Climate change & birds of OS. 243 students, 9 grade levels, 4 new schools.

Special events:

- Grand opening of Reed Slough,
- Earth Day Expo was highly successful
- Arbor Day all 3rd graders of Flathead Valley
- Brendan House presentation
- Community Grant Award Night-Whitefish Community Foundation

Meetings & More

- Elle Eberts-Robocker (future field trips on the property near Egan Slough)
- Glacier Art Museum (Homeschool Art Wednesday in October 2025)
- Bird of the Month with Molly Miller & Creston elementary student
- Programming with the Library- in the fall we will work with the kids Wednesday after school program. Darcy and Jess will meet with the Adult coordinator.
- Flathead Rivers Alliance (River Ambassadors)

Looking Ahead:

- Family Forestry Expo
- Migratory Bird Day with Swan Valley Connections
- Whitefish Middle School& High School- Viking Creek
- Glacier High School- OS
- Whitefish Lake Institute Viking Creek Days

The green brochure needs to be updated and reprinted. Darcy will coordinate.

Jess is going to the National Audubon Leadership Conference in Montreal. National gave her a Grant to attend and has asked her to be a speaker.

FAS Education Volunteers: Jess presented her draft document. There was discussion about how to recruit more volunteers.

Committee Reports:

History Committee: Nothing to report.

Conservation Committee: A letter was submitted with comments to the City of Kalispell Growth Policy.

Google Kalispell Growth Policy and give your comments.

Field Trips: All the field trips are in the Newsletter.

We are going to be involved in the Wings Across the Big Sky field trips in 2026. Help will be needed to plan the field trips. Committees will be organized to help in the planning.

The current Liability form needs to be used on all our Field Trips.

Membership: 27 lapsed membership reminders were sent out. New members as well as renewals are notified with a Thank You.

Newsletter: the Committee is having a gathering to discuss what worked and what didn't. The September 2025 and May 2026 issues of Bird of the Month will be written by elementary students.

OS: Thanks to Denny, Gael, Ronda, and Will for OS help. Glyphosate capsules were all used. Pam did two field trips in OS. Waiting to hear regarding Flathead Conservation Grant.

Programs: Mike Koopal with Whitefish Lake Institute is the Warbler Weekend speaker.

Ronda went over several possible programs starting in September

Outreach/Publicity: Our merchandise is a big success and has brought in over \$1000!
Flyby will be out on the Potluck and Migrating Bird Day. Possibly include Growth Policy link.

Nominating Committee: Pam did not agree to be Vice President.

Wild Montana is doing a trail work party during the bird breeding season at Jessup Mill Pond at the Creston Fish Hatchery. Darcy made calls to Wild Montana and suggested they wait until July.

Jake motioned to adjourn and Pam seconded. Adjourned at 7:35 pm