

DRAFT- Flathead Audubon Society Board of Directors, 10/6/25, United Way Gathering Place

Prepared by: Michele Tohtz

Directors Present: Darcy Thomas, Linda Du Lac, Rod Walette, Margaret Parodi, Tom Roberts, Bob Lee, Shannon Donaldson, Ronda Howell

Others in Attendance: Jess Garby

The meeting was called to order by President Darcy Thomas at 5:36 PM

Minutes: No corrections or additions to the September minutes. Bob made a motion to approve; Margaret seconded. Approved unanimously.

Financial Report: Rod reviewed the financial report that was included in the Board Packet. Rod explained the endowment fund very thoroughly. Linda motioned to approve; Tom seconded. Approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wings 2026 planning

Darcy and Jess outlined the progress that is being made on the planning. Speakers have already been selected and Lana Batts is planning the raffle. The venue is still not settled. Jess and Tom are working on an art gallery.

Reed's Slough Bench

Rob Thomas very kindly donated a bench with a plaque.

FAS Future and Position Update

Rod noted we will not be looking to move the employee position into an Executive Director position as we are not at that level of need yet. Rather, we'll be working on identifying our future needs in that area and how best to address them before making any changes. Rod expressed his appreciation for everyone on the board! November 5th will be another planning session at Linda's home.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vice President

Linda Du Lac has graciously offered to be the next VP.

Bob moved that Linda be the interim Vice President until the official election of officers in May. Margaret seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

Education Coordinator Update:

Jess reached 204 students in three different schools and 100+ people during other public outreach.

She continues to partner with various community groups. There will be a field trip for board members at the Robocker property on October 20th at 8 AM.

Committee Reports

Great Fish: Shannon shared that she will submit the grant report this week. She'll meet with Rod and Jess about a few remaining questions. Linda reported the total amounts and number of donors. The response from far and wide was amazing. The awards ceremony is on October 21st. Darcy, Linda and Jess will attend.

History: The committee recently met and discussed the publication for the anniversary celebration. They are still lacking old photos. Linda will ask those who attend the general meeting if they have any photos. Linda Winnie created a spreadsheet with all past officers that is very valuable. Linda Du Lac would like someone to be responsible for updating the spreadsheet. She will ask Julie Oswald if she might do this. There will also be a short history presentation during the Wings festival.

Conservation: Gael was not present. Darcy shared her written report. Fortunately, the cell tower project near Lake of the Woods has been stopped.

The Army Corps of Engineers has permitted the private road across the inlet and wetlands at Skyles Lake. The landowner still needs approval by the Flathead Conservation District. The local HOA filed a complaint and there will be a hearing on October 14th at 1: 30 PM. It's possible that Gael will be able to attend this meeting via Zoom.

In response to Carole's thoughts about us being more involved at a national level, we all agreed that our efforts are best focused locally.

Field Trips: Margaret needs leaders for November field trips. Jess volunteered. Margaret got clarification about the two FAS spotting scopes and she mentioned that the Zeiss needs a new tripod. Margaret also mentioned that the field trips are being posted quite early on social media and this means that the slots might fill up early, keeping some members from participating. There was a lot of discussion about whether fieldtrips should be posted on social media before the PP goes out. It was agreed that including field trips in the Flyby would be a good idea. Bob discussed when the field trip to Freezeout Lake would be best. He filled us in on the problems with last years' timing. Bob will ask the members at the next meeting about which time would be best.

Membership: Linda reported that we continue to get a few new members each month. At the general meeting, she will explain the complimentary membership that is given with a \$25 donation or more.

Newsletter: We confirmed the contents for the November PP.

Owen Sowerwine: Pam sent her report. The work day was a success. Buckthorn treatment went well and contacts are being made about parking at an Owen Sowerwine entrance. The second weed spray treatment was completed.

Programs: Ronda informed us about the upcoming programs for the general meetings.

They will be: Josh in November, possibly Denny about CBC in December, Dan Casey in January and Dave Landstrom in February. Darcy will work on reserving the site at Tally Lake for Warbler Weekend.

Outreach and Publicity: Jake is in Italy! No report.

Merchandise: Tom will resupply the notecards. We all liked the idea of adding a tote bag.

Nominations: Bob reminded us to start talking to folks about joining the board.

CBC: Shannon will take care of the Kalispell count and she believes that Chris West will coordinate the Bigfork count.

Tom moved to adjourn, Rod seconded, and with unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.