*Thunder Bay Audubon Society thunderbayaudubonsociety.com*

*March 17, 2015*

The March 17th meeting was held at Jimmy Chen’s Hunan Restaurant in Alpena. President Linda Klemens called the meeting to order at 12:40 and introduced guest speakers, Grace Phillips and Rick Craner, from Thunder Bay Power (TBP). They gave an overview of the dams TBP maintains. Four, Seven & Nine Mile Dams are considered high hazard, which means if they should fail, there is risk of life and property damage. They hire Huron Pines to do a survey and monitor for invasive species and erosion on the main branch of Thunder Bay River from Hillman to Alpena. They also do water sampling on a regular basis and maintain a correct water level, especially during spring from melting ice, snow, and rain.

Correspondence included an acknowledgement from Whitefish Point Observatory and Tawas Birding Festival for our donations. There was also a notification from the IRS that TBAS is being audited for 2012. (More on this later in the meeting.)

Bird Sightings: Turkey Vultures, Robin, Canadian Geese. Birds are just starting their migrations.

Secretary Report: Karen Tetzlaff - The February 24th minutes were accepted as posted with no corrections.

Treasurer Report: Craig Klemens could not attend meeting so Linda gave the update. $121.19 in Memorial checking, $437.92 in general checking, $11,200 in long-term CD, $2467 in short-term CD. Craig wants to resign as treasurer. The 2012 audit has been very difficult. The IRS wants information in digital format, but TBAS has been keeping records in ledgers. Non-profit status requires less than $500,000 in assets. Because of the property we own, they think we go over that. The problem is that much of the land is non-buildable and therefore should not be worth as much as the IRS thinks. 3 years ago, Craig and Linda talked to realtors and they agreed but no one wanted to sign-off on it. Even so, they lowered the value 30%. They are looking for suggestions on how to handle the audit. Elizabeth Littler thought the property needed to be re-evaluated by an environmental firm. She will get the name of one to Linda. Julie Wozniak suggested she call the local Title Companies for referrals. Jennifer Cupples suggested a lawyer from downstate be contacted that may have experience with non-profits and their assets.

Sunrise Coast Birding Trail

* Linda asked Karen to create an invitation for the May 2 dedication.
* Bill Grigg had an official sign to share. They look good! He also found $.75 arrows to place on the signs where needed.
* Those working on signage need to get the number of posts needed to Linda by April 16.
* Maps are being mailed to Linda.
* Karen asked if we still wanted to borrow a tent from the DNR. Answer was yes. She will confirm.
* We will have bottled water available, but no food.
* No organized lunch after as some people are going either to the AVA or Straits Area dedication at 1:00.

50th Anniversary – Reminder: October 13, Besser Museum.

* Committee has met a couple of times.
* Lots of memorabilia and pictures have been sorted.
* Linda working on display board and selecting about 80 photos for Chris Wozniak to scan. Gerry Krans will develop PowerPoint presentation.
* Linda brought samples of shirts in several colors that the committee had selected. TBAS selected a blue t-shirt with Osprey on back and TBAS logo/50th anniversary on front from Family Enterprises. Order forms will be out later.

Miscellaneous

* Bill Grigg had a recommendation on a Nature Discovery group he saw and wondered if we wanted to pursue sponsoring a program in the schools next year. Consensus was yes – find out more information.
* April 17 – Dark Sky Program at 6:00, Besser Museum Planetarium followed by trip/viewing sky at Rockport Recreation Area at 8:30
* April 17, 11:00 – Karen will be doing a Backyard Birding presentation at the Alpena Senior Citizen Center
* May 14 - Pelagic boat/bird tour on *Lady Michigan* out of Alpena in conjunction with the Tawas Birding Festival. Seats are going fast.

Next Meeting:

April 14

Hawk Watch Day Trip to Mackinac City. Meet at Alpena Duck Park for carpool at 8:00. Call Lynn Field at 356-3745 for more information.

Meeting Adjourned!

Respectively Submitted,

Karen Tetzlaff, TBAS Secretary