

WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2023

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnheld, called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors at 4:05 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In person: Jean Zirnheld, Anne Stevens, Lisa Tedder. Via Zoom: Herb Grover, Loyette Stewart, Brenda Breeding and Keith Bruno. Absent: Diane Cirksena and Becky Herman.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the May 1, 2023 meeting were accepted and approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Anne Stevens reviewed the May 2023 Treasurer's Report. Income \$321.74 (Amazon donations, Maggie Su donation, membership dues). Expenses \$129.60 (Kurt Huffman owl project). Total Balances \$59,882.10 (checking, savings, CDs, petty cash, membership supplies). Anne mentioned that we have a new State Farm agent for the business insurance. Jean reported giving six t-shirts to the Riverwalk Naturalist tour guides.
- V. **New Business** -
 - A. **County Fair Participation** - The Board decided not to participate at the County Fair this year.
 - B. **Public Lands Rule Letter** - Audubon Rockies asked that WAS sign-on to a letter to the BLM regarding proposed public lands rule changes. The Board agreed to sign-on to the letter.
 - C. **Lead Free Initiative** - Jean attended an ACC presentation given by SportingLeadFree.org. She was impressed by the amount of lead used in fishing tackle as well as hunting ammunition, which is dangerous to water fowl. Jean wondered how WAS could best promote lead-free sporting and mentioned that Carl Young seemed very interested in the issue. Perhaps he would be interested in spearheading action? Keith mentioned that he would talk to Don Volger (ex-Pagosa mayor who leads hunter safety courses) about the issue and he would also write an article for the newspaper and possibly the annual hunting guide. Herb suggested talking to Chris Parish with the Peregrine Fund who has written articles on this topic from a hunter's perspective. Need to find-out the submission deadline for the local hunting guide.
- VI. **Old Business** -
 - A. **Riverwalk Sign Installations** - Keith reported he and friends have installed 4 of 6 Audubon informational signs along the riverwalk. He thanked Brenda for her work on the initial organizing, requesting submissions from members, and then,

with Herb and Darryl Saffer, determining best photos to be displayed. Darryl, Herb, Charles Martinez and approximately five other members contributed photos. Ben Bailey contributed one of his drawings as well.

B. Project Updates -

1. **Native Plant Garden** - plants are growing well, being watered regularly by a team of volunteers. Brenda took some pictures of the garden that should appear in the Sun. Anne will prune the hawthorne in the center bed.
2. **Pagosa Wetland Partners (PWP)** - The naturalist tours started the previous week and have had attendees. Joan Roher has been reimbursed for purchasing new water monitoring test supplies.
3. **Bird Monitoring Project** - Herb reported that teams have been organized and they have started monitoring birds. Keith mentioned that he and Bob Endres observed a Great Horned Owl while monitoring. Herb mentioned spending an hour at his favorite monitoring location and how rejuvenating it was being out in nature. He would like to focus on the mental health benefits of being out in nature in his next bird monitoring video. Keith mentioned that Ashley Meadows from Rocky Audubon was coming to Pagosa and would participate in bird monitoring. She will interview some of the volunteers and possibly attend the June Chapter meeting.
4. **Dipper Project** - Jean and Pat have been monitoring the West Fork area and located two nests. No sightings in the Piedra River west location due to high water.
5. **Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring** - Keith reported there have been no detections yet. They are still analyzing data collected from the monitors' SD cards. He mentioned there was an article in the Fort Lewis Newsletter about the project and about Bev Compton and San Juan Citizens' Alliance. He has been working with students from the Fort Lewis Ecology Club on the project.
6. **Monte Vista Refuge** - Jean sent an email to Doug Oeun of the San Luis Friends offering to help with any efforts to protect the Refuge, but has had no response. Herb will reach out to him again.
7. **Pagosa Area Trails meeting** - Brenda attended but did not feel there was much to report about.

C. Chapter Meeting Programs -

1. June 21 - Annual Potluck at the church
2. July - TBD various speakers proposed (Doug Oeun on the Lynx introduction, or a speaker from Mountain Studies Institute - Melissa May?, Herb's photos from rookery trip, Doug Purcell, Pete Peterson)
3. August - The Big Year movie showing - Herb has the DVD player and Anne has the DVD of the movie. As an aside, Herb mentioned being nominated to sit on the Board of the Biophilia Foundation.

VII. Adjournment - The next Board meeting will be held on Monday July 3 @ 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church and vis Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder