

WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2023

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors at 4:06 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In person: Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Anne Stevens, Keith Bruno, Brenda Breeding. Via Zoom - Diane Cirksena. Absent - Loyette Stewart, Becky Herman and Lisa Tedder. Guests - Josh Pike and Maggie Su.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting were accepted and approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Anne Stevens reviewed the February 2023 Treasurer's Report. Income \$1257.07(City Market rewards, Donation for Bull Creek, San Juan Citizens Alliance, Amazon Smiles and Zoom refund, taxes). Expenses \$2245.91 (Colorado Periodic Report, Loaves and Fishes, Zoom Account, USPS PO box, Beverly Compton, Monte Vista booth rental). Total Balances \$57,142.75 (checking, savings, Edward Jones CDs and cash, petty cash and membership supplies). Jean mentioned that WAS received the \$3000 grant from the Denver Audubon Lois Webster Fund for the Mexican Spotted Owl project.
- V. **New Business** -
 - A. **Native Plant Brochure** - Maggie Su (Pagosa Springs high school student) received a \$500 grant to be used for an individual at home learning project). She is interested in bird conservation so discussed project ideas with Keith. She is going to help create a native plant brochure, with links to an online database (on the WAS website), that focuses on native plants and their relationship to birds and other pollinators in our area, including the plants in the Native Plant Garden (NPG). The money will be used to print the brochures, which could be distributed at the Native Plant Garden and at the Pagosa Tourism Office. Herb offered access to his photos of native plants. Medicinal uses of the plants might also be included (Lake McCullough might be a good source of information). Keith suggested talking to the San Juan Mountain School students who helped install the NPG to see if they were interested in helping with the brochure somehow.
 - B. **Pagosa Wetland Partners (PWP) Update** - Josh Pike gave an update on the PWP naturalist program. They will start having organizational and informational meetings to seek and train new and past guides. Their first meeting will be on March 31. Joan Rohwer and Lisa will provide an update on the wetland water monitoring at that meeting. They will also plan for a booth at Earth Day to advertise the naturalist tours. Josh plans to write articles for the Sun to raise awareness of the program and wetland environments. They will provide two tours

per week June-September. Josh will talk about PWP at the April Audubon meeting, hoping to attract new volunteers.

- C. **Shore Bird Survey** - Max Malmquist, Audubon Saline Lakes Engagement Manager, spoke with Keith about WAS recruiting volunteers to help with the April 24-30 shorebird survey. WAS will distribute information on the survey at the Monte Vista Crane Festival booth and the Friends of San Luis Valley.

VI. **Old Business -**

- A. **Monte Vista Crane Festival** - WAS will have a booth at the festival to provide information on the chapter, the shorebird survey, Habitat Hero, Lead Free Ammo, Sagebrush Adventure and Migration Adventure cartoon books. Brenda and Bill, Herb, Keith, Jean and Chuck and Anne will attend and work at the booth.
- B. **Mexican Spotted Owl Project** - Keith, Kurt Huffman and students from Fort Lewis installed the four acoustic monitors in Bull Creek. The monitors will “listen” for three hours before sunrise and three hours after sundown and will be checked every two weeks (which requires a 10 mile round trip hike, less distance after the Forest Service gate opens). The monitors could be used in the future for other bird monitoring.
- C. **Camp Colorado Scholarship** - Two students, Peyton Jackson and Lydia Mundt, have applied for the scholarship to attend the summer camp. The board discussed both very qualified students and then decided that the scholarship would be offered to Peyton, with Lydia being an alternate and encouraged to apply next year. All attendees need to be fully vaccinated for COVID, so Jean will speak to both students and their parents to verify that they will be vaccinated in time. Jean will also check with the camp to see if there might be space for two participants from here this year.
- D. **Archuleta Bird Checklist** - Jean found that 200 copies of the checklist could be printed at Just Click for \$37.
- E. **Jackson Mountain Landscape Project Comments** - Herb posted the WAS comments on the public forum
- F. **Chapter Meeting Programs -**
 - 1. March - Sage will talk about her trip to Costa Rica and Herb will present the bird monitoring video he has produced.
 - 2. April - WAS volunteer opportunities presentation - PWP Naturalists, Native Plant Garden, bird monitoring, Environmental Education (Fourmile Ranch)
 - 3. May -
 - 4. June - Dolly Edmunds, Denver Field Ornithologists?

- VII. **Adjournment** - The next Board meeting will be held on Monday April 3 @ 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church. Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder