

WEMINUICHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
September 4, 2023

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors at 4:08 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In person: Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Diane Cirksena, Loyette Stewart, Anne Stevens, Keith Bruno, Lisa Tedder. Via Zoom: Becky Herman. Absent Brenda Breeding.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the August 7, 2023 minutes were accepted and approved after a spelling error was corrected.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Anne reviewed the August 2023 Treasurer's report. Income \$798.69 (t-shirt sales, membership dues, donations, City Market Rewards). Expenses \$601.21 (Beverly Compton, Owl project, Airport Self Storage rent). Total Balances \$59,652.73 (savings, checking, Ed Jones CDs, Petty Cash, Membership Supplies). We currently have \$863.98 remaining in the owl monitoring project fund. WAS will begin paying Matt Young (student at Fort Lewis College) to analyze the sound data from the monitoring devices. The Board members reviewed the draft budget Anne had prepared. Anne will finalize a budget based on the input.
- V. **New Business** -
 - A. **Sponsorship of the Public Lands Presentation.** - Walt Dabney, a friend of Herb's friend Ed Chester, is coming to Pagosa Springs and would like to give a talk on the History of Public Lands. Dabney had a long career in both the National Park Service and Texas Parks and Wildlife. WAS will host the talk at the PLPOA Clubhouse on October 4 at 6:30. Herb will advertise the event with an article in the Pagosa Sun. Board members will arrive at 6:00 p.m. to help set-up. Lisa will confirm the room rental at PLPOA.
 - B. **Riverwalk Wetland Concerns** - The water level is still low at the wetland ponds and there is still no flow of hot spring water at the middle water monitoring station. Pagosa Wetland Partners members are concerned that the hot water supply was disrupted by construction digging at the Springs Resort. Barry Knot, Joan Rohwer and others have been trying to talk to David Dronet, the Springs Resort Developer, about the situation. The river water flow is below 60 cfs, so river water is unable to enter the river gate to feed the wetland and there has been minimal rain this summer, which accounts for the low water levels. PWP is concerned that if the middle station hot springs water is cut-off then the temperature in the lower ponds would decrease, which could affect the ecosystem. Diane will talk to Josh Pike to organize a meeting of the PWP

members and water monitors to discuss the issue and to then hopefully meet with Dronet and Pagosa Springs town officials to find a solution.

VI. Old Business -

A. National Audubon Leadership Conference - Keith will investigate the agenda of the meeting to determine whether he will attend. Herb is also considering attending depending on the agenda and his availability.

B. Project Updates -

1. **Native Plant Garden** - The garden is reaching the end of the growing season. Volunteers will continue the bi-weekly watering for another month.
2. **Bird Monitoring Project** - Herb hosted a very successful picnic at his home for the monitoring volunteers. He has done and will do more video interviews of some of the volunteers to be used in next year's bird monitoring videos.
3. **Dipper Project** - Pat Bremer and Jean are preparing the data to send to Steve Monroe, coordinator of the Durango Dipper Project.
4. **Mexican Spotted Owl/Pinyon Jay Monitoring** - the monitoring units will be operating 24 hours a day until the end of October, listening for pinyon jays and perhaps owls. The units will be relocated to other areas for the winter to listen to other birds.

C. Chapter Meeting Programs -

1. **September** - Beverly Compton and other members of the Mexican Owl Project team will speak about the project and about Acoustic Monitoring. Peyton Jackson will be invited to talk about his experience at Camp Colorado. Joan Ward, who donated the funds for the scholarship, will also be invited to attend.
2. **October** - October 18 chapter meeting - Member photos. October 4 special Meeting - Walt Dabney
3. **November/December** - Winter Birds Class

VII. Adjournment - The next Board meeting will be held on Monday October 2 @ 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church and via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder