

**WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**August 7, 2023**

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors at 4:02 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In Person: Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Anne Stevens, Brenda Breeding, Diane Cirksena and Lisa Tedder. Via Zoom: Loyette Stewart and Becky Herman. Absent: Keith Bruno.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the July 3, 2023 meeting were accepted and approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Anne will present the July Treasurer's Report at a later date. She reported the cost to rent the storage unit is increasing \$6.00 per month. Anne will work on the budget for next year. Jean reported there are 41 dues paying members, lower than usual perhaps because there was a low attendance at the annual meeting. Jean will remind people via email to renew their memberships.
- V. **New Business** -
  - A. **The Big Year Movie Showing Copyright Issues** - Due to federal copyright laws, the club will not be able to show the movie at the August meeting. Lisa suggested and volunteered to ask Josh Kurz to speak about the "Where Does Our Water Come From" project he has worked on with the San Juan Water Conservancy District.
  - B. **National Audubon Leadership Conference** - The conference will be held November 2 - 5 in Rocky Mountain National Park. The board discussed that perhaps Keith might want to attend. The cost is \$400. Herb mentioned he will be at the same location for a different Board meeting around that time so he will see whether he can attend part of this conference also.
  - C. **Member Survey Questions** - Jean, Diane and Lisa will work together to create a Survey Monkey membership questionnaire.
  - D. **Bird Monitoring Picnic** - Herb would like to host an "end of the bird monitoring season" picnic at his home for all the volunteers. He will gauge the interest in an August 26 picnic. He will prepare ingredients for people to make Hobo pockets to grill. Volunteers will bring sides, salads and desserts. Herb would like to record video of various volunteers talking about their birding experiences and their feelings about the threatened bird populations. These videos will be incorporated into the next bird monitoring video Herb creates.
- VI. **Old Business-**

**A. Project Updates -**

1. **Native Plant Garden** - Anne reported that Brenda has been doing a lot of weeding in the garden and a team of volunteers are doing weekly watering.
2. **Pagosa Wetland Partners** - Jean reported that some of the water monitoring volunteers (Jean and Keith) noticed a lack of water at the middle monitoring station and at the pond near the community center. Jean and Keith alerted James Dickoff and Barry Knot spoke to Mr. Dronet (The Springs developer) to try to figure out what was causing the lack of water flow. It was discovered that sediment was blocking the river water gate that feeds the wetlands. The blockage was cleared and now the pond is refilling. However, there is still no hot spring water flowing to the middle station so that is still being investigated. Perhaps the construction digging has disrupted the flow of hot spring water. They are investigating the issue.
3. **Dipper Project** - Jean reported they had several volunteers on this project this year, with Pat Bremer being the organizer. They sighted dippers and nests on the Piedra River near Williams Reservoir, and on the West and East Fork rivers. All the nest sites had babies.
4. **Mexican Spotted Owl Monitoring** - The monitoring team delivered a mid-season report to the Denver Audubon, who awarded the grant money for the project. No owls have been detected in the area. The monitoring devices have been moved to different locations now and will be used to monitor pinon jays, another threatened species. The group would like to present their methods and findings at the September chapter meeting. Kurt Huffman on helped evaluate the collected data. Barry Knot and Lori Crusier were very involved with the monitoring.

**B. Chapter Meeting Programs -**

1. **August** - Josh Kurz?
2. **September** - Mexican Owl Monitoring Project and the Use of Acoustic Monitoring. It was suggested that we also ask Peyton Jackson to also speak at the September meeting about his experience at Camp Colorado. WAS awarded him a scholarship to attend.

**VII. Adjournment** - The next Board meeting will be held on Monday September 4 @ 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church and via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder