

WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 3, 2023

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors at 4:04 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In Person: Jean Zirnhelt, Loyette Stewart, Diane Cirksena, Keith Bruno, Lisa Tedder. Via Zoom: Brenda Breeding. Absent: Herb Grover, Becky Herman and Anne Stevens.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the June 5, 2023 meeting were accepted and approved after some corrections were made.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Jean reviewed the June 2023 Treasurer's Report. Income \$397 (t-shirt sales and membership dues). Expenses \$418.96 (water monitoring chemicals and 4-mile Ranch binoculars). Total Balances \$59,850.28 (savings, checking, Ed Jones CDs, petty cash and membership supplies).
- V. **New Business** -
 - A. **Pollinator Status** - Diane expressed her concern about not observing many pollinators this year. She suggested that at a chapter meeting we build solitary bee homes. Keith suggested asking Jen Doane, Ruby Sisson Children's Librarian who is very knowledgeable about bees to give a talk and demonstrate how to build the homes at our July meeting. Brenda suggested that WAS make an effort to spread the word about pollinator gardens and Keith mentioned the Audubon Habitat Hero Program, perhaps getting a speaker from Audubon Rockies (Jamie Weiss). WAS has a Native Plant Garden on the Riverwalk.
 - B. **Fall Shorebird Survey** - National Audubon and Point Blue is organizing a fall shorebird survey August 9 - 22, 2023. Keith suggested organizing another WAS trip to survey at the Alamosa and Monte Vista Refuges and Blanca Wetlands. Jean will contact Scott Miller, Alamosa Refuge manager, to discuss getting access to those areas as WAS did earlier this year.
 - C. **Increasing Member Participation** - As part of the ongoing discussion about how to get more attendance at WAS events or increase interest in bird watching, Lisa suggested organizing a hike with the San Juan Outdoor Club with a bird watching focus. Members of WAS could help the hikers ID birds with the help of the Merlin Bird ID app. Keith mentioned that this might be good to do in the Spring when birds are more vocal. Lisa also volunteered to help Jean prepare a Survey Monkey survey to find out what members might be interested in doing at meetings and events.

VI. Old Business -

A. Project Updates -

1. **Native Plant Garden** - Keith reported that Maggie Su is still working on the Native Plant Brochure.
2. **Pagosa Wetland Partners** - Diane reported that tours are ongoing and have had more participants than last year.
3. **Bird Monitoring Project** - Keith reported that the monitoring groups have completed 10 counts per site ahead of schedule. They had a good number of volunteers to help with the counts.
4. **Dipper Project** - Jean reported that three nests had fledged, and while another had chicks, they did not observe them leave.
5. **Mexican Owl Monitoring** - the volunteers are finished monitoring for the season, with no owls being detected so far (data is still being analyzed). Bary Knott and Lori Cruiser will take the monitors down and reconfigure them to monitor pinon jays, which are in steep decline. Three of the four units were purchased by WAS. Keith will notify Bev Compton that they can continue to use them to monitor the pinon jays and that the units should be housed in Keith's office when they are not in use. Jean mentioned that the group needs to report the results of the monitoring to the Denver Audubon as part of the grant agreement.

B. Chapter Meeting Programs

1. **July** - Jen Doane - Bees and solitary bee home construction
2. **August** - Showing of The Big Year movie at PLPOA clubhouse. Lisa will contact PLPOA to reserve the space.

VII. Adjournment - The Next Board meeting will be held on Monday August 7 @ 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church and via Zoom. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder