

WEMINUICHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 2, 2023

I. Call to Order

Board President, Jean Zirnhelt, called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors @ 4:10 PM.

II. In Attendance

In person: Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Anne Stevens, Becky Herman, Diane Cirksena. Via Zoom: Keith Bruno. Absent: Brenda Breeding, Loyette Stewart, Lisa Tedder.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 4, 2023 meeting were accepted.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Anne Stevens, reviewed the September 2023 Treasurer's Report:

- Income: Membership dues (\$55.00)
- Expense: MSO Project for data analysis (\$100.00), Supplies for Bird Monitoring volunteer appreciation picnic (\$150.00)

6 month CD at Edward Jones matures in November. It is currently receiving a good rate.

A copy of the proposed 2023/2024 budget was distributed prior to the meeting by email. Herb Grover motioned to approve the budget and Diane Cirksena seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

V. New Business

Future ARU Use- Jean relayed that Beverly Compton has proposed continuing to use these in the future in the Bull Creek area for detection of birds identified as species of concern. Herb suggested that other species, like the flammulated owl, be added to the list of species being listened for. One was found at the nearby

Chimney Rock National Monument this summer. It is listed as a species of concern. Anne asked if they would be useful in our BMP on Jackson Mtn, as suggested by Kurt Huffman. Herb suggested that the potential impact of their use is more critical in the HD mountains. The challenges to continued use include data analysis and having enough volunteers to retrieve and change SD cards. Could continued help be solicited from FLC students? Herb suggested that the board should work more directly with Beverly to ensure that she has a workable plan and enough volunteer help to implement it. Jean relayed that a final MSO Project grant report is due to Denver Audubon by the end of October. She will work on edits for the draft provided by Beverly.

On another note, Becky Herman has been working on a bird species list for Tracks Across Borders. She was contacted by a woman from the Southern Ute Cultural Center in Ignacio for deterrents to nesting barn swallows who nest high up over the entrance door and make a mess. Keith suggested that there are artificial decoy nest structures that may help. Some success has been noted with painting the ceiling sky blue.

October 4 Meeting Setup- Herb will visit Jen Lister at the PLPOA office on Tuesday for instructions on using their meeting space. Available board help should meet at 6 PM to help with setup.

October Big Day (10/14)- This is also the day of a solar eclipse which will be visible between 9:30 and 11:00 AM (approximately). Chimney Rock will be having a viewing event. Jean wondered if we should have a birdwalk. Keith suggested contacting Peyton Jackson who is excited about the event to see if he would like to lead one.

VI. Old Business

National Audubon Leadership Conference-Daly with Audubon Rockies sent us an email encouraging someone from our chapter to apply for the 35 year old and younger scholarship. Keith responded to her email. Herb will be in the same location for a biophilia conference but there will not be an opportunity to attend both. After discussion regarding who might represent our chapter, Diane suggested that we move on since we have talked about this before and no-one except Herb has expressed interest.

Project updates - 1. Garden -Anne suggested that the garden is getting ready for winter with minimal watering for another week or so.

2.PWP-Diane and Anne presented a written report on the 9/15 PWP meeting via email prior to our meeting. Most of the meeting was a report on monitoring

data by Joan Rohwer. This data has been shared with James Dickhoff and Darren Lewis, town staff. David Dronet, Springs Resort Partner, has requested that we share data with him. Concerns exist over the continued lack of geothermal water flow at the second monitoring point which was originally noted at the time when the construction crew was digging sewer lines in this area which will serve the new resort additions. Diane has shared this concern with Terry Root, recognized climate scientist and former NAS board member, who toured the wetlands with Diane. Terry suggested that this disruption is something that NAS could be interested in checking on. Anne noted that Josh Pike, who has taken on the leadership role of PWP, seemed to be frustrated with the WAS Board. Anne made the reminder to him that PWP is formally a committee of WAS. Keith reminded us that Josh took this on after other leadership, including Randy and Bob, left. The Board needs to show Josh that we are appreciative of his work. Diane will ask Barry Knott to schedule a meeting with Dronet to share our concerns. Herb made the suggestion that we will need to know what we are asking for, a pipeline, something else?

On another note, Diane spoke with Dr. Root, who now lives in Santa Fe about speaking at our October meeting on climate change issues. The consensus was that this date might be too soon to publicize the talk so Diane will speak with her about a November 15 date. Herb will check on availability to the PLPOA space and the possibility of making this a fundraiser so the public can be invited.

3. Bird Monitoring Project. Herb reported that all data from the BMP Project has been entered and he shared some generated tables for board comment. He did not receive the types of comments that he was hoping to film for this year's video.

4. Dipper Project-Jean reported that data has been entered and sent to Steve Monroe.

Chapter Meeting Programs- October will center on sharing of member photos. Tentative date for special meeting with Dr. Terry Root set for November 15. Tentative dates for Winter Birds Classes in preparation for the CBC set on 11/29, 12/6, and 12/13 with the CBC to be conducted on 12/16.

VII. Adjournment

Next board meeting – November 6, 2023 @ 4:00pm at the Methodist Church and via Zoom

Jean Zirnhelt adjourned the meeting @ 6:00 PM

Minutes submitted by Jean Zirnhelt