

**WEMINUICHE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**May 5, 2025**

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors @ 4:07 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - In person: Herb Grover, Keith Bruno, Diane Cirksena, Bob Endres, Jean Zirnhelt, Lisa Tedder. Via Zoom: Anne Stevens, Becky Herman. Guest: Aaron Williams
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The April 7, 2025 meeting minutes were accepted.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Anne Stevens reviewed the April 2025 Treasurer's Report. Income \$45.00 (membership dues). Expenses \$624.48 (GGP Film festival, weather Day, Plants for NPG). Total Balances \$61,381.99 (savings, CDs, checking petty cash membership supplies). Anne asked for advice about the CD that matures May 16, 2025. Board decided to reinvest into a 12-month CD.
- V. **New Business** -
  - A. **Aaron Williams** - Keith met Aaron Williams who has recently moved to Pagosa and is looking for ways to help non-profits. Keith spoke to him about how to reach younger audiences. Aaron gave Keith ideas on how to use social media to gain an audience (explained how the algorithms work.) Aaron suggested there could be a negative stigma of the current older demographic of the club that might keep younger people from showing up in person. Social media might make them more comfortable with WAS in advance when they see the various activities of the chapter. Aaron also suggested that since young people are aware of environmental issues, our media should relate bird conservation to environmental issues. Herb suggested having a contest with rewards to have students create social media content. Herb mentioned the need to manage the media site, so we would need someone who is familiar with it. Diane proposed having Aaron create a sample Instagram account starting with information on the Dipper Project.
  - B. **June Board Elections** - Lisa agreed to be Secretary again. Anne wants to step down from Treasurer. Jean will mention the position availability in the newsletter.
  - C. **Hog Island Training for Keith** - There will be a bird education training in August in Maine at Hog Island. Diane moved that WAS make a \$900 donation to Audubon Rockies, earmarked for Keith's registration fee to attend the training. The motion passed unanimously.
  - D. **Senior Activities** - Becky is going to email Keith some ideas she has for a senior activity through the Senior Center.

- E. Global Big Day/Migratory Bird Day** - The date for this event is May 10, 2025. Jean wrote an article for the Pagosa Sun about it, but WAS does not have an event planned.

**VI. Old Business**

**A. Project Updates**

1. **Dipper Monitoring** - Volunteers have located several nests with eggs and will continue to monitor the nests..
2. **Bird Monitoring Program** - A good number of people have volunteered to be involved. Keith mentioned he will organize two bird walks: One with the Headwaters group on June 20 and one with the 2/3/2 group on May 22.
3. **Pagosa Wetland Partners** - Linda Moser and Louise will do the naturalist training. Linda will set up training for the new guides.
4. **Shorebird Survey** - The survey was completed and data submitted.
5. **Native Plant Garden** - Volunteers performed some spring clean-up. Anne will set up a watering schedule.

**B. PARC meetings** - Bob sent the Board a summary of recent meetings.

**C. Chapter Meeting Programs**

1. **May** - Keith will do a "Birding by Ear" talk. Linda is bringing some Riverwalk Naturalist volunteers to the meeting so he will try to focus on the birds they will hear on their walks as well as in the forests during the monitoring sessions.
2. **June** - Annual Meeting will be held at the church.

**D. Goals review** -

1. **Outings** - Shorebird survey outing.
2. **Community Scientist promotion** - Started talks with Aaron to promote WAS through social media.
3. **Diverse groups** - Becky working on activities for that demographic.

**VII. Adjournment** - The next WAS Board meeting will be on June 2, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church and via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder