

**WEMINUICHE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**August 11, 2025**

**I. Call to Order**

Board President, Jean Zirnhelt, called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society Board of Directors @ 4:08 PM.

**II. In Attendance** In person: Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Anne Stevens, Diane Cirksena,  
Wayne Sorensen Absent:Bob Endres, Keith Bruno, Becky Herman, Lisa Tedder.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 7, 2025 meeting were accepted.

**IV. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer, Anne Stevens, reviewed the July Treasurer's Report:

- Income: Membership dues (\$90.00); Cash donations received for food bank were deposited in checking account (\$110.00) and a check written to CUMC). Check for City Market Rewards has been received.
- Expense: Liability Insurance (\$377.00), Campground fee (\$157.66)

The endowment from Terry Hershey as the source of our reserve funds and City Market Rewards program were reviewed for Wayne.

**V. New Business**

**-Election for vacant Board Position.**

Herb Grover motioned that Wayne Sorensen be elected to fill a vacant board position. Diane Cirksena seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and Wayne was welcomed as an immediate member.

**-Proposed Budget**

Anne presented a proposed budget for the current fiscal year and the entries were discussed. Jean suggested raising the proposed amount collected for dues to \$1000 and offered to send email reminders to past members who have not yet paid. Wayne offered to

investigate a source/price for gravel in the NPG pathway. A final budget will be presented for approval at our next meeting.

#### **-Growing Spaces Fall Festival Invitation**

This event is scheduled on 9/13 from 10:00-2:30 at their location on Majestic Dr. Included are garden tips, dome questions and answers, food preparation, crafts etc. It was decided to defer the decision on participation until Sept board meeting. Herb **strongly** advocated for replacing plastic table coverings with cloth ones on our display tables. There was some dissent.

#### **-Workshop Success/Future Events.**

Good participation at the macroinvertebrate workshop in July suggests a desire for similar field trip events. Potential topics and presenters suggested included woody plant (tree) ID(Herb), geology(John Kappelman), animal tracks, healthy forest composition(Adam with USFS). Perhaps every other month. This aligns with our goals to organize outings that are open to diverse groups.

**-SCC Forest Species Monitoring Project.** WAS received a request from Makenna Reilly, working seasonally for the Southwest Conservation Corps, to publicize this citizen science project identifying specific sensitive species in the San Juan Forest. Diane suggested that we could invite her to give a short presentation on the project at our next meeting.

## **VI. Old Business**

### **- Project updates**

**Dipper** - observations of nests completed. Pat and Jean will compile data for submission to Nestwatch.

**Bird Monitoring Project.** Data has been collected.

**Garden Project-** Heat and drought have presented challenges. Well water not available so PAWS water is used sparingly. Seed starts that Anne is caring for need to be planted before the second week of September. Anne will call for volunteers to help with this. Holly Matthews wants to donate for a plant(s) in honor of her mother.

**Shorebird Survey-** One group is going to Monte Vista refuge on 8/15. A second group is going to Alamosa refuge on 8/22. Refuge staff provide access to areas not open to the public. These surveys are part of the 5 year Intermountain West Shorebird Survey organized by Point Blue Conservation and National Audubon.

### **-Collaborative Meetings**

-Loss of Federal funding is presenting problems for SJFHP which has been operating under MSI. Alex Handloff who has been the SJFHP coordinator is leaving. Current plan is for Watershed Enhancement Partnership (WEP) to become the parent organization for Headwaters group. There is an effort to establish a “Chamber of Commerce” type of organization to coordinate the efforts of environmental organizations. MSI director position is vacant.

-WEP Gateway Project for river restoration upstream of town is moving forward with monitoring contracted for. Al Pfister advocated for macroinvertebrate surveys to be included, possibly under the direction of Patti Spindler. Funding is through the state which seems to be secure.

### **-Chapter Meeting Programs-**

-August Campout/Picnic at Blanco River Campground

-September Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitat-topics to include are importance of water year round, insect habitat, nest boxes, native plants, elimination of chemicals etc.

-October (?) Using apps like ebird, iNaturalist

**Goals Review** August meeting aligns with goal of overnight outing. We plan to organize more field trip type of events to make activities open and of interest to diverse groups.

**VII. Adjournment** Meeting Adjourned by Jean Zirnhelt at 5:45 PM

Next board meeting – September 1 @ 4:00pm at the Methodist Church and via Zoom. Minutes submitted by Jean Zirnhelt