

WEMINUCHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
July 1, 2024

- I. **Call to Order** - Board President Jean Zirnhelt called to order the regular meeting of the Weminuche Audubon Society (WAS) Board of Directors at 4:05 p.m.
- II. **In Attendance** - Jean Zirnhelt, Herb Grover, Diane Cirksena, Bob Endres, Lisa Tedder, and Keith Bruno. Via Zoom: Becky Herman and Anne Stevens.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** - The minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting were approved.
- IV. **Treasurer's Report** - Treasurer Anne Stevens reviewed the June 2024 Treasurer's Report. Income \$545.00 (membership dues, donations). Expenses \$2017.00 (bird camp, CUMC foodbank, liability insurance). Balances \$61,484.84 (savings, checking, CDs, petty cash and membership supplies).
- V. **New Business** -
 - A. **Welcome Bob Endres, new Board Member** - Jean welcomed Bob to the Board.
 - B. **Chapter Social Event** - The board discussed the possibility of hosting a member overnight trip. Proposed destination is Banded Peaks (Chromo, NM) for a bird survey. Herb agreed to email Tim Harmon (manager of the ranch) to discuss the possibility, maybe a late Spring overnight trip or a day trip.
 - C. **Request for a private guided bird walk.** Jean received an email request from someone planning to visit Pagosa July 14-16, asking if the club could offer a guided bird walk. The board recommended that Jean mention the PWP Riverwalk on July 16 or the Chimney Rock Mystery Tour as options.
 - D. **Shore Bird Survey** - Keith mentioned that he will begin organizing the next Shore Bird Survey.
- VI. **Old Business** -
 - A. **Audubon Rockies Chapter Newsletter** - Diane offered to submit an article to the new chapter newsletter. Suggested topics for future articles were the Dipper Monitoring Project and the Pagosa Wetland Partners Riverwalk program. It was mentioned that WAS should find out who the intended audience for these newsletters is and possibly supply an email list to them of people interested in receiving the newsletters.
 - B. **San Juan Headwaters Tour Review** - Several board members attend the San Juan Headwaters bird monitoring tour that Herb helped organize on June 28. Herb said he has received very positive feedback and appreciation for getting various outdoor organizations together to learn about the bird monitoring project he has been leading. He felt the event was a great networking opportunity.

between the various groups who attended. Herb also mentioned that he will be organizing a picnic for the bird monitoring volunteers before Labor Day.

C. Recognition for Josh and Jeanette Pike - Jeanette and Josh Pike have been leading the PWP Riverwalk tours. Josh will be leaving Pagosa to attend graduate school in Montana and Jeanette will retire her role in the group. The Board decided that they would recognize their work and give our appreciation at the July 17 chapter meeting.

D. Project Updates -

1. **Mexican Spotted Owl/Pinyon Jay monitoring** - Keith offered to do a training on how to use the Survey 123 App, which has been used to do various citizen science bird monitoring projects. Keith is still waiting to get the hard drive with monitoring data on it from a USFS employee who is supposed to be analyzing the data. He hopes to send the data to a Cornell person soon.
2. **PWP** - The guides have been giving the walking tours Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings.
3. **Bird Monitoring** - Herb reported they have one more visit and then will be done for the season. Herb mentioned that he would like to seek grant money (with help from Jenny Marsh) to help publish a book or website with the Bird Monitoring data/findings to both publicize their work and to encourage others to do similar citizen science. Keith suggested it might be nice to include a section that lists the "birds in our area."
4. **Native Plant Garden** - The plants are growing well. Volunteers are lined up for weekly watering.
5. **Dipper project** - Monitoring is ongoing. A second brood may have been spotted at West Fork. Bob asked where the data goes. Jean said the data is sent to Nest Watch. Bob said he would talk to Steve Monroe in Durango to discuss the possibility of publishing their findings.
6. **Chapter Meeting Programs -**
 - a) July - Payton Jackson will speak about his Hogg Island bird camp experience and Lillian Graham will speak about her Camp Colorado experience.
 - b) August - Anthony Garcia and Kelsey Harkness (USFS wildlife biologists will speak

VII. Adjournment - The next Board meeting will be held August 5, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m. at the Methodist Church and via Zoom. The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Lisa Tedder