

WEMINUICHE AUDUBON SOCIETY
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2024

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, Loyette Stewart, Diane Cirksena, Keith Bruno. Via Zoom: Anne Stevens. Absent: Brenda Breeding, Becky Herman, Lisa Tedder.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 1, 2024 meeting were accepted.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Anne Stevens, reviewed the April 2024 Treasurer's Report:

- Income: Membership dues (\$60.00)
- Expense: Balance for Bird Camp (\$1340.00), Durango Nursery for Earth Day plants (\$230.62), split donation with Audubon Rockies (\$100.00)

Recent mature CD was renewed for one year at Edward Jones. CD maturing in May will be renewed for a year also.

Diane commented that we need to remind members to sign up in City Market Rewards program. It is an important source of funding. Jean said that we may be at the max that CM will pay and will investigate this. We owe Herb for fishing line receptacle repairs.

V. New Business

-Pagosa Area Recreation Council Keith wrote a great letter in support of this group's grant request for funding, a copy of which was sent to board members. No one knows how we become involved with this group but Keith feels that Bob

Milford will keep us informed of what is happening. Herb thinks that the goal of this group will be to promote trails and our role will be to ask why. When is enough enough? Herb is currently serving on the advisory board of the Headwaters group where no one is really in charge and there is no single point of contact for communication with MSI.

-June Elections Current officer positions up are president and vice-president, also director terms held by Becky, Loyette, Keith and Diane. Loyette feels the need to resign due to selling her condo here but we hope she will continue to attend our meetings virtually when she can. This will leave an open spot. Other current members expect to stay. There has never been a line of volunteers to join the board. Everyone agreed to enjoying time at board meetings. Suggestions of members to invite to join were Bob Endres and Pat Bremer. Herb suggested that it would be good if Loyette and Dottie could collaborate on writing a history of WAS.

-Global Big Day/Migratory Bird Day (5/11)- Jean placed an article in the paper about these events and scheduled a birdwalk at Lake Capote. Meet at the lake at 8 AM

-Charitable Donations. Jean asked if the board wanted to make a donation before the end of the fiscal year. City Market funds are not to be used for administrative expenses and should be used for community services. To date expenses that would qualify total around \$800 and the yearly average earned from City Market is \$1000. In the past we contributed to Loaves and Fishes which is no longer functioning. Suggestions included contributions to Church Food Bank, Pagosa Outreach and a new organization which will deal with emergency type needs. Keith requested more information on Pagosa Outreach and suggested that there will be money needed for Fourmile Ranch programs. Anne suggested that Fourmile should be a priority for donations and Keith will put together a needs list for our June meeting. Fourmile has recently acquired a defibrillator and Keith is investigating emergency contact technology like Garmin to use.

-Other New Business a). Herb and Keith are giving a webinar presentation to the Forest Stewards Guild on our Bird Monitoring Project. b) Headwaters group will tour our BMP sites on 6/21 with Herb, Keith and Jean expected to lead small groups. MSI is organizing this tour. This should bring more attention to our efforts. c) Forest service personnel (Adam and Josh) were at Turkey Springs and made commitments to protect more snags, a result of Herb's nagging on the subject. d) Herb has joined the WEP board which has recently separated from MSI as a non-profit. He let them know that his interest will be in habitat restoration.

VI. Old Business

Project updates -

MSO Keith reported a desire to complete this project by having a professional analysis of the recordings completed. The USFWS person that the recordings were sent to has not had time for it. Barry Knott has located a person through Cornell Lab who would do it for an unknown cost. There is ~ \$170 of this project's funds left. This expense would likely require grant funding. Jean suggested that it would not be worth spending several thousand to find out that no calls were detected. Herb suggested that there is certainly value in analyzing the recordings for other species also. Keith does not have much more time to donate to this project. Jean will research a USFS person who is working on Dark Sky designation for Chimney Rock and may help on this project.

PWP- Naturalist training is being conducted this month. Josh and Jeanette Pike have said that this will be their last season. Herb is aware of people who have been drawn to WAS from the work of PWP. Water monitoring continues.

Bird Monitoring Project. Herb said we are making plans to get into the field, potentially next Monday, to determine monitoring sites with the project starting shortly after. He is now not leaving until 5/26.

Garden Project- Jean reported that the outside at least needs watering but the well is not on. Keith will find out the status of the well pump. Keith said that we may use PAWS water. The town pays GGP for water use by the community garden. Anne will get a watering schedule out if we don't get moisture.

-Chapter Meeting Programs-

-May/Birding by Ear / Keith Bruno/Diane will bring doorprize (Alfie & Me)

-June/ annual meeting/ music by warbling cuckoos

Future suggestions Anthony Garcia from USFS, Jenny Marsh on birds from trip to France

VII. Adjournment Meeting Adjourned by Jean Zirnhelt at 5:30 PM

Next board meeting – June 3 @ 4:00pm at the Methodist Church and via Zoom
Minutes submitted by Jean Zirnhelt