

Grand Valley Audubon Board Meeting

November 11, 2021 ZOOM

PRESENT: Cary Atwood, Larry Collins, Meredith Walker, Pam Lauman, Logan Wagner, Mike Campbell, Hunter Harmon, Chuck Hunt, Janet A. Gallenstein (Minutes)

ABSENT: Nic Korte

WELCOME: Logan Wagner (Social Media), Janet A. Gallenstein (Interim Secretary)

Introductions were made between members.

FINANCIALS: (Larry)

Most of the loss in October was due to bird banding expenses such as Educators \$2000, Bird Conservancy \$3500, Transportation \$900.

YE state and federal taxes have been submitted. We are in good financial shape.

FALL BIRD BANDING: (Cary)

Had 2 new educators Mike Campbell and Nancy XX along with Pam Lauman. Nearly 600 children attended in spite of 2 days we had to cancel because of bad weather. Most schools were able to participate.

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING REPORT: (Chuck)

We had 12 to 14 enthusiastic people attend the event at Bookcliffs Horse Preserve. The group received a tour of the property along with a presentation about "Save the Mustangs".

Chuck would like to give a free membership of Audubon to the owners of Alamar Stables.

Chuck will speak to Larry to make that happen.

Nancy of Alamar Stables is a master gardener and may be a good speaker for an Audubon program regarding how to make our lawns bird and bee friendly. Meredith also knows a master gardener. Phone numbers will be given to Chuck and Pam as they would be the ones to contact prospective presenters.

National Audubon has put together a list of bird and bee friendly plants for different areas of the US; however, it is not specific enough for our valley. We have local nurseries such as Chelsea Nurseries and Dragron Fly Gardens which sell only native plants good for our area.

Meredith will contact some local nurseries and invite them to participate at one of our programs possibly in March 2022. **Cary** suggested we do a birds and brews program in the spring with Bramblevine Brewery.

NOVEMBER CHAPTER MEETING REPORT: (Pam, Hunter)

Pam discussed the November Program which will be "What's New in The World of Birding: Past and Present". It will include the History of the Christmas Bird Count as well as "What's New in the World of Birding".

Hunter has contacted Denicia Weeks (CMU biology professor) to speak at our January 2022 meeting. **Hunter** will give her the information that she needs in order to present, ask her to send a short summary of her presentation, and Hunter will send the summary to Logan and Tina so it can be advertised.

Hunter has contacted another CMU biology professor who is studying pikas for February's program but he hasn't heard back from her yet.

Meredith might have a speaker for a future meeting to speak about using Automated Recording Units to record bird sounds and AI software which enables you to easily analyze

recordings. It would be interesting to learn how these new tools are being used to help people detect birds, populations and quantities.

Meredith reported that last year we were approached by City Market/King Soopers which wanted to plant plants at our Audubon property as part of a riparian mitigation program for riparian habitat lost when the 24 Road City Market was being built. Unfortunately it will not happen because the Army Corp of Engineers do not want to do it on our site and want it to be done at the City Market location.

After a long COVID caused delay we have finally installed the signs funded by the Western Colorado Community Foundation Grant. We had missed the original deadline for the grant but they extended it. Meredith recently submitted the final grant report and it is wrapped up and finished.

Regarding the Water Supply Reserve Grant, **Meredith** will be submitting grant progress reports soon.

Meredith received a note that Colorado Field Ornithologists are looking for projects to fund and she sent information regarding what type of projects they will consider. **Meredith** will send a formal request to CFO. We could receive up to \$35,000. Meredith is going to apply for all funding she can for the Wetlands Improvement Project even if it appears to be somewhat more than we need because these projects always cost more than anticipated.

Meredith also received an email from National Audubon asking if we needed more money above the \$2500 they have already granted us. Meredith said yes and that we could use it for fill dirt, however, this would be needed sometime in 2022. **Meredith** has to complete this grant before the end of the year and asked National Audubon would extend the deadline of our grant beyond the end of the year since the fill dirt is not needed until 2022. *Note the deadline has been extended.*

Cary asked when the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant deadline is. It is in 2023. **Cary** will pull 3-5 people together to discuss this grant. **Larry** will get with Meredith to discuss this deadline.

Meredith noted that we can ask for an extension of the grant deadline. The state will allow us to extend the completion date. Mike said Matt advised that the dirt near the shed and ponds would be enough to fill in the pond (near the parking circle). Building the open ditch will cost about \$30,000. The vision is to put the ditch between the 2 ponds. The ditch should not go where people walk. It will take 750 linear feet of pipeline.

Mike advised we have an inlet but not an outlet at the pond. The plants we want need water to recede to a mud flat and then build back up again. However, without an outlet we don't have that happening right now. We could arrange the drainage outlet at the location where we had the blow out. We need to fluctuate the water otherwise it will turn into a cattail pond. We need the water to drop in summer so that cattails will not take hold. **Mike** will call a small meeting to further discuss the location of the outlet. **Mike** can make the outlet with a 12" culvert at a cost of about \$300 and can do it himself when water is low. Mike would like to do it this winter.

PRESERVE REPORT: (Larry)

Dan Ericson came out and opened up a wide trench for the water to go from the river to the Ela pond. Dan thought we needed a larger opening because a ditch may cave in. Took dirt level down 3' and 10' wide. Cleaned it up and removed brush piles. **Larry** needs to watch this spring for the high water level to be sure the river water comes in. **Larry, Mike, and Chuck** will look into pond liners and meet at the area to discuss. Canal liners may help during high run off periods because it is soft dirt with no vegetation.

Mike started trail maintenance pulling out a lot of edging. Isa (neighbor) asked about the deserted camper and Mike advised her it belongs to Dale who owns Crossroads Fitness.

Cary will get back to Dale who owns the land. **Mike** will call Ida and let her know.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH: (Logan)

Logan started working on social media in June and has added us to Instagram. It has already raised about 100 people to our previous 600 count for an approximate total of 700.

With all of the events (bird walks) there has been an increase in engagement at our social site. Logan asked the Board for more postings such as bird articles and especially any information pertinent to the Grand Valley.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: (Pam, Larry)

Pam reported we have 145 current local members on Neon. **Pam** will send out letters to the members whose membership will be expiring by the end of the year. It is easier if members would set up their accounts to automatically renew every year. **Pam** will get the word out to members to auto renew or renew in general.

Pam advised we need to find **someone** who would find out about CO Gives day so that we are prepared to participate in 2022. Karen Manuel looked into it and it turned out it involved too much technology than she could do. The deadline to get our name to Colorado Gives is August 2022.

Someone needs to put more information on the website so that Audubon members can participate in earning money for Audubon when they make purchases using City 's Rewards program or Amazon's Smile Rewards program. The Amazon Smiles link is on the website.

CBC COUNT/WESO: (Janet, Nic/absent)

Janet reported she is still looking for a couple of leaders and some additional birders to support them. She has several leads so far and expects to be able to fulfill the leader roster.

COVID: We will be emphasizing caution based on the individuals involved and their own personal situations. Leaders will set their own parameters for those on their teams and their own comfort level.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Central High School biology teacher asked if someone would do a birding field trip with his class. Nic, Dave, and Mike will participate on 12/8 /21 at Pear Park with approximately 14 HS kids.

The Newsletter due date 11/20/21 and Cary asked if **board members** could submit some articles. Cary may write an article and Meredith will write something if CFO information comes in. Information on the January program could be included.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.