

GRAND VALLEY AUDUBON BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Monday FEBRUARY 20th, 2023
Presbyterian Church Community Room 3940 27 ½ Road
Facilitator: Pam Lauman

PRESENT: Cary, Chuck, Hunter, Larry, Logan, Nic, Pam, Tina, JAG
REGRETS: Meredith
GUESTS: Cara Kukuraitis (Cancelled 2/20/23)

Welcome and Appreciations

Pam

Big thank-you to Pam Tina for the amazing progress made with membership!!
Thank-you Nic for your presentation tonight on short notice.
Thank-you Hunter for all you have contributed to the GVAS while on the board.
Congratulations!

Guest Speaker: Cara Kukuraitis/NeonOne Platform (Cancelled 2/20/23)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NeonOne/Membership Growth/Publicity (Goal 2):

Our National Audubon membership is 344 members (Hunter/Audubon Works).
Pam advised we currently pay \$179 for NeonOne. Their prices are changing to two levels: \$109 and \$219. GVAS needs software for events, donations and membership. In order to have these 3 sections, we will need the level 2 software at \$219. In addition, Tina advised that the free version of Mail Chimp that we are using is being downgraded from 1500 to 500 listings so will no longer fit our needs. Tina is purging our listing to reduce the number of listings. If the level 2 version of NeonOne can meet our newsletter, mailing, reports, donor needs, then purchasing level 2 would be a good investment.

Cara Kukuraitis/NeonOneVote will be our guest speaker in March and after she answers board questions, **the BOARD will vote in March on whether or not to upgrade to level 2 of NeonOne.**

The board discussed what dollar amount and type of letter (personalized computer or hand written) letter that members should receive. General consensus was that more frequent and timely letters were advantageous rather than fewer letters arriving late. After Cara answers our questions on letters, **the BOARD will vote in March on the dollar level (\$250, \$500, ??) and whether personalized computerized vs hand written letters should go out.**

NeonOne/Fees for Events (Tumacnacbac):

Board agreed a fee should be charged for Tumacnacbac half day trips but agreed no fee should be charged for programs or bird walks. The amount of the Tumacnacbac fee was discussed and whether the fee structure should be different for members vs non members. Lower fee for members could be a membership perk.

Fee Options:

\$10,\$15/members \$15,\$20/nonmembers
\$15 for everyone regardless of membership
If non member, join at \$35 and get trip free

The donations go to the leaders or GVAS?

Will NeonOne allow people to pay when they register and how variable can the fee structure be for NeonOne to handle it?

After Cara answers our questions on fee structure capabilities, **the BOARD will vote in March on the Tumacnac fee structure for non/members and who receives the funds.**

Wetlands Restoration (Goal 1):

Site visit 2/7/23 11am Shannon Hatch/BLM

Cary

An informational session was held at the preserve on 2/7/23 at 11am with Shannon Hatch/BLM and Fish Wildlife Service. Monies from FWS are part of phase 2 and 3. Cary reviewed the colored map to show where we will bring water from canal via one pipe going to North pond and the other pipe go to Traylor Pond. The proposal calls for a 24 inch pipe which will be gravity fed from the canal. The FWS wants to move the cut from the Colorado River further west from its current location. Costs are staggering but federal funding is available. Phase 3 alone will cost \$750,000.

Considerations:

Could we include funding for trail reconstruction, cameras?

Pam gave **Logan information regarding Jake Rose** who would like to do a community science program with time lapse – could it be done here? The FWS only sets up cameras at gauging stations to monitor water levels.

Could we include funding for Russian thistle and other noxious weeds remediation?

Fund Raising (Goal 3):

Hot Tomato	Pam	Back Burner
Pablo’s Pizza	Logan	Back Burner
Ramblebine	Cary/Eli	Back Burner
Colorado Gives	JAG to research – no action	
Giving Tuesday	JAG to research – no action	
Big Year/Tiffany Kersten	Committee (Pam, Cary, Tina)	

After discussion, the Board decided to focus on GVAS’ major fund raiser involving Tiffany Kersten and the Big Year. Fund raising for Hot Tomatoe, Pablo’s Pizza, and Ramblebine will put put on the “back burner”. Applying for at least one of the two (Colorado Gives or Giving Tuesday) is also a major focus/**JAG**. Ask Cara if she has experience with Colorado Gives or Giving Tuesday.

Pam reported that Tiffany Kersten will provide a fund raiser for her Big Year on Wednesday, June 14, 2023:

Bird Walk	7:30-10:30 am	\$250	
Social	6:30pm	Cost of Food: \$15/pp	Church Venue: \$55(3 hrs)
Program	7:00-8:00	\$300	
Budget:	\$1000		

Angela Barnes is going to split expenses with us for Tiffany's presentation. \$300 will be paid by GVAS and \$300 paid by Angela. Tiffany will do a half-day Bird Walk for us for \$250. Angela will cover lodging and travel expenses/car rental. Tiffany will bring 10 She's Birdie Alarms to be given out as door prizes. Alarms are valued at \$40 but cannot sell them.

BOARD needs to determine:

Table Fee for Kersten presentation so members can bring friends.	8 x \$
Participant Level for Bird Walk:	25 x \$10
Participant Level for Program:	50 x \$25

Ask businesses for donations for food.

Advertising is key.

Pam will check with Kersten if she has her own mini clip.

Nic sent to Pam an ABA pod cast by Tiffany to **put the link on FB and website.**

Goal 2: Preserve Signage/Publicity

Chuck will put up the signs on Conservation Easement property.

QR Code needs to be put on **website/Tina** and on the preserve.

Logan will generate the QR Code to be put out at the preserve on the existing sign.

Logan will provide pricing to the board for the new large welcome signs. **Larry** will send out the design to the board.

Secretary:

Janet will send out letter to those members still receiving paper copies of the newsletter.

The board thanked Hunter Harmon for his participation as this is his last meeting.

Cary and Janet signed the updated Cooperative Use Agreement. It states that GVAS has 10 cfs of water from the canal.

After discussion the BOARD APPROVED Meredith's "Property Mgmt Plan" for Preserve (Goal #1). Larry questioned whether we should take out the statement that once the North Pond is developed we would allow FWS on the property. Board agreed to leave the statement as is.

Per Larry, Dale Reece has given us a check for the signs at the Property.

Granite Falls Subdivision open space habitat improvements for screech owls Nic
Nic has a meeting set up to meet with the developer.

Hawk Migration Association of NA/Tumacnacbac

Nic/Cary

The HMANA would like to have our Tumacnacbac data which is located on a hard drive that Cary has. **Board needs someone** to review the data and extract the dates and data. Harriet Stephens is not interested.

Orchard Mesa Cemetery/Fox Squirrels

Nic

Fox squirrel are a non native species and are decimating the bird population and taking over the screech owl boxes in OM cemetery. CPW wanted GVAS to be involved in trapping the squirrels. Could we get local reporting in **Sentinel and on webpage**. Possible volunteer group may be the CMU Wildlife Club. **Who? What? When?**

Social Media

Logan

January was a good month for postings especially the bird count data. Earth Day Work Day has been set for 4/29/23 from 8-noon. Logan is planning another Bioblitz Day for 9/23/23.

Chuck to make up and send out a list of the projects to the board:

Wrapping more wire higher up the tree.

Pull wire off from trees where wire has grown into trees.

Need to move 5 trees from pond area to west side of North Pond

Need new cover for the valve

Beaver paint

Fix gate

Preserve

Chuck has been monitoring the trees for watering.

Chuck made a motion and board approved for the code on the 3 sheds to be changed and reversed. Front gate will keep the same code and the Owl Box volunteers will be given the new code.

Cary reported that the Insectory has an project at our property for weed control. **Cary** will contact Sonja and report back to the board as to the effectiveness.

Cary spoke with Mike to determine what tasks he performed regularly at the Preserve. The **Board needs to decide** if this should remain a volunteer position or if we should hire someone. **Cary** will work with Chuck and Larry and set up a list of duties/job description so they can see what duties they can do. **Cary will contact Mike** to find out how many hours per week he worked.

Possible Volunteers:

Patrick Rhodes – **Pam will contact David Price**

Steve Williams – **Cary will contact Steve**

Nic wrote a letter in support of funding the Redlands Canal rehab as the canal is one of the best riparian areas in our area.

Programs:

Pam

We will not have monthly programs in the summer. Bird walks worked really well in summer.

Someone needs to research and write up a Guideline for Program presenters.

Owl Box Update:

Nic

20 Owl boxes have been built. Mark has come up with some ideas to prevent fox squirrels from getting into the boxes. Walter Walker owl box has an owl in it.

Next Meeting: 3rd Monday March 20th, 4:30-6:30 pm Presbyterian Church

Facilitator: OPEN

REPORTS

Finance REPORT:

Larry

We made a profit in January. In February we pay insurance so will be a loss.

Financial status: See Larry's January financial report email.

Connect Lakes Bench - The couple have decided it would be a better use of their time and money to help directly with Preserve projects. **Cary** is contacting them to determine where their interests lie.

Roadside erosion/Smith/Redlands Power: Larry talked to Redlands Power and they feel Mr. Smith's concerns are not of a critical nature. That slide/erosion has been going on for years. No further action to be taken.

Amazon Smiles Final reimbursement amount: \$ *To Be Determined*

Amazon Smiles 11/22/22: \$22.48 Larry vs \$218.92 Pam

Amazon Smile will discontinue in March.

Kroger account shows \$21.75 went to GVAS per Pam.

Taxpayer ID/EIN (for membership letters): **Tax ID #23-7205741**. Non-profit Corporation 501(c)(3)

GVAS Audubon Chapter No. (for ListServe): **D04 - Grand Valley Audubon Society**

Secretary REPORT:

JAG

Meredith Swett Walker was unanimously reinstated to the board via email vote.

Minutes January 2023 approved and posted on website.

David Price looking for Tumacnab Coordinator to replace him.

Daly Edmunds with Audubon Rockies is creating a listserv for Audubon Chapter Leaders in Colorado. Janet sent Daly these names who agreed to be part of the ListServ. Daly will contact them directly via email with instructions. Pam, Janet, Nic, Tina, Logan are signed up.

Janet to send out thank you's to memberships over \$250 for 2023 when she is notified.

Hunter revised goal #2 as follows or the Annual Report:

1: **Successfully complete phase 2 and 3 of our wetlands restoration project.** For more details about the project please visit question 50.

2: **Improve signage and publicity at the Grand Valley Audubon Nature**

Preserve. By Installing a new kiosk and QR Code at the Nature Preserve, the Grand Valley Audubon Society can increase local memberships, donations, and age diversity.

3: Continue to **seek funding for our ongoing wetlands** restoration project as well as general operating expenses of the chapter.

CO Gives and Giving Tuesday

JAG (no action yet taken)

Letter to those receiving hard copy of newsletter

JAG No action yet taken. Cara?

Fund Raising REPORT:

Pam

Continue to **seek funding for our ongoing wetlands** restoration project as well as general operating expenses of the chapter. (Goal #3)

Cary, Angela, and Pam met to plan the event with Tiffany Kirsten and are trying to set up a conference call for more details.

Webmaster/Marketing REPORT:

Tina (Pam)

Amazon Smiles Put an alert about this on website next to QR code suggesting people could donate that way

Pam, Cara and Tina met on 2/2/23 to discuss the following topics:

Cara Kukuraitis is now our NeonOne (membership database) expert: making sure that it functions the way we need it to. Pam has been working with Cara to tell her what we need, and she has been extremely helpful.

NeonOne CRM:

Tina

Current cost is \$170/month. The next level up is \$219/month. Pam sent out an email to see what the next level includes. Pam sent out Cara's proposal to work with us on Neon which was approved at the January 2023 board meeting.

Tumacnabac:

Tina

Cara set up Dave Price for access to the Tumacnabac registrations in NeonOne.

Discussed next year there should be a **fee** (instead of a \$5 donation) for

Tumacnabac field trips (\$5 member/\$10 non-member). This year's donations were very slim.

This could be added into the membership for joining GMNC - an option to add \$5 towards Tumacnabac field trips.

The donations could go to the leaders.

Website:

Tina

Some changes were suggested in the Menu items on GVAS.org website:

"About" - is currently "Get Involved" (Same content as the About page with the Mission)

The links under GET INVOLVED are currently:

"Membership" replaces "Join GVAS" - Donate - Planned Giving - GVAS Board - Volunteer

Added in the footer: Tax ID #23-7205741. Non-profit Corporation 501(c)(3).

NeonOne/Memberships:

Tina

Cara will contact Larry to show him the section in the form indicating "paid by check"

Cara created a report to correspond with the Postcard mailing (sent 12/15/22) - how many people and what amount was brought in by the postcards: *Pam has this info!*

The mailing was definitely worth the cost. (printed 395 postcards, the cost was \$254.73 + artwork by Logan)

Cara to clean-up the list of credit-card failures, after they succeed in going through And Pam will get an email for any failed memberships, so she can follow-up on these The appropriate letters are now going out to members whose membership is going to expire, for renewal, and a thankyou to those that renewed

Janet to send out thank you's to Memberships over \$250 for this year. Cara?

Pam will get an email for any failed memberships, so she can follow-up on these

Membership/Christmas Postcard Results: Pam

The Christmas 2022 Postcards were mailed to people who had been National Audubon members but not local. 14 memberships resulted in \$1425.

\$500-1

\$250-1

\$100-3

plus smaller memberships

Paypal Donations-\$520.65 from 10 people

84 people have joined or renewed since 11/15/22.

Revenue generated is \$6465.00-\$1425=\$5040

Total revenue from memberships and donations since 11/15/22 is \$6985.65.

Our local membership is now 169.

Programs REPORT: Pam

Cary, Angela, and Pam met to plan the event with Tiffany Kirsten and are trying to set up a conference call for more details.

02/20/2023	First Presbyterian	Nic Korte	Galapagos Islands
03/20/2023	First Presbyterian	Whit Blair	Gunnison Sage-grouse
04/17/2023	First Presbyterian	(Master Gardener)	(Native Plants Tentative)
05/15/2023	First Presbyterian	Abby Burke	Water issues
06/17/2023	Fundraising Program	Tiffany Kersten	Big Year

Options: Native plants/Debra Conklin contacted; white-tailed prairie dogs

02/20/2023	First Presbyterian	Renee Herring CANCELLED	Madagascar Animals
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February originally scheduled for Renee Herring on Madagascar. Renee had a family emergency and is unable to present at this time. Nic Korte graciously offered to present a

program on the Galapagos. This may inspire more of us to go on the November trip that Shannon is organizing.

Bird Walk REPORT:

Pam

Ongoing: solicitation for leaders. No walks to report.

Wetlands Restoration REPORT:

Cary

Cary attended a Zoom meeting in January 2023 with Meredith, USFWS and Bureau of Reclamation (BuRec) personnel. Shannon Hatch, who used to work in GJ with Rivers Edge West is now Natural Resource Specialist for BuRec in our region. She will assist Meredith in the needed documentation and will be on site on Tuesday 2/7/23 11am.

Conservation REPORT:

Nic

Tumacnac Statement re:“confrontations”

GVAS can use this statement regarding bird trips and homeowners per Pam Hawkins (970 244 1765) of Mesa County Road and Bridge:

All Mesa County section lines, that is, S Road, R Road, 6 Road etc., were proclaimed in 1890/1892 to have a 60 ft public right-of-way which is considered to be 30 ft on each side of the road center line.

It can be looked up in the County records—Book 27, page 114.

Thus, what we were doing and typically do when birding is 100% within our rights. She said we can quote the Book 27/page 114 to any one who accosts us. We can give her phone number to anyone who accosts us and they will be informed of the law.

Hawk Migration Association of North America

Nic

Nic Korte contacted the Hawk Migration Association of North America and described the Tumacnac data set and sent our Tumacnac data. They would like to use it/add it to their database.

Wilderness Workshop Efforts on Thompson Divide

Nic

Our local community is Unified for the Thompson Divide and there is strong support for the proposed Administrative Mineral Withdrawal. The Federal agencies involved (the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service) need to move quickly and make this a priority.

Owl Boxes

Nic

With help from Logan, Whit, Mark and Denise we will have fixed/cleaned/etc. ~40 WESO boxes as we prepare for next year’s CBC!

There was a great article in the Sentinel about the CBC/Owl count. Nic received a lot of nice feedback on it.

Nic sent out a couple of alerts in the past few weeks. With Congress changing over, there haven’t been a lot of bills that required addressing.

This week I wrote a letter on behalf of the Chapter at Abby Burk's request to support modernization of the Redlands power canal. Apparently, without funding, there is a chance that power plant could close and that water be directed elsewhere. Oddly enough, that canal has become one of the best riparian areas in the valley (Black Phoebe, Wood Ducks, Yellow-breasted Chats). Plus, we need access to that water for the preserve/this was the gist of the letter.

ACC Meeting

Nic

Pam and Nic attended (by Zoom) last week's ACC meeting (January 2023). Abby gave some updates on water issues that we'll be asked to participate in this year. She's very happy with the response Audubon has given to state water alerts—says it has been a big help.

Social Media: *No Report*

Logan

Beaver paint (Spring 2023)

Add another cage/trees before spring 2023

Improve signage and publicity at the Grand Valley Audubon Nature Preserve. By

Installing a new kiosk and QR Code at the Nature Preserve(goal #2)

Preserve Property: *No Report*

Chuck

Water trees/January 2023

List of preserve work/volunteers

ALL BOARD RECRUITMENT

ONGOING

ALL