

Minutes
Audubon Colorado Council
Conference Call Meeting
Saturday, Jan 6, 2018, 9:00 am
Conference Call number (641)715-0677;
Access code: 163806#

- I. **Welcome from the ACC President:** Becky included recognition of new representative Bruce Ackerman, President of the Black Canyon Audubon Chapter. She expressed the hope that 2018's national politics would be more environmentally friendly than in 2017.
- II. **Additions/Changes to the agenda:** None.
- III. **Chapter Roll Call and Chapter Reports:** Aiken: absent. Arkansas Valley: present (Peg Rooney). Black Canyon: present (Bruce Ackerman). Boulder: present (Ray Bridge). Denver: present (Polly Reetz). Evergreen: present (JoAnn Hackos); Ft. Collins: present (Bill Miller); Weminuche: present (Becky Herman, alternate). Officers present: President (Becky Herman). Vice President (Peg Rooney). Secretary (Nancy Stocker). Absent: Treasurer: John Porco (Each chapter is responsible for distributing it's written chapter report using audubon-colorado@googlegroups.com)
- IV. **Secretary's Report**

The Minutes of our October 21, 2017 meeting in Evergreen were accepted as amended to meet our bank's requirement for transition to new treasurer, John Porco.

Nancy announced she was not planning to run for secretary again in 2018.
- V. **Treasurer's Report**

Was not submitted both because John was ill and because ACC and the bank have not completed the transfer to his being Treasurer.
- VI. **Vice President's Report**
 - a. The ACC website has been updated on a regular basis.
 - b. The ACC Facebook page has also been kept up to date. It has 30 followers.
- VII. **Committee Reports**
 - a. Chapter Relations Committee Report – Bill Miller: No report at this time.
 - b. Conservation Committee Report – Peg Rooney:
 - i. Submitted comments to State Land Board on destruction of piñon-juniper woodlands and placer gold mine lease on mule deer critical winter range near Leadville.
 - ii. Submitted comments to Sen. Gardner on drilling in ANWR. (He voted to allow the drilling.)
 - iii. Kept ACC members informed about attacks and threats, both statewide and nationally.
 - iv. Polly reported the next meeting of the CPW Wildlife Nongame and Habitat Roundtable will be January 16 from 2-4 pm at 6060 Broadway.
 1. People can call in to this meeting (we hope; sometimes it works, other times it doesn't). If you'd like to attend by phone, the number is: (712) 451-0740; Access Code 786311
 2. Issues to be discussed include
 - a. Introduction of ruffed grouse, a non-native species, into Garfield Creek State Wildlife Area to avoid environmental assessment required on US Forest Service Land; and
 - b. Legislation expected requesting increased charges for hunting licenses and state park entrance.
 - c. Public Policy Committee (PPC) Report – Ron Harden
 - i. Because it is an election year, there will be a lot of posturing and a number of extreme bills introduced in Colorado's General Assembly (legislature). We must ensure none of them pass.
 - ii. Colorado Parks and Wildlife will again submit a bill to increase fees for hunting and fishing licenses and entering state parks. The expectation is this will be a more moderate bill than 2017's in order to garner wider support. We expect to support the bill while providing input about the continuing need for CPW support of nongame species. They also will be submitting a bill to raise the fee on boats to raise money for monitoring for aquatic nuisance species.

There is a great need for an action-ready Action Alert Network in each ACC Chapter. These networks are rarely utilized, but critical when there is a bill in the state that needs one or two more legislator votes to accomplish our goals. Suppose, for example, there is a bill we support that the Senator from one chapter's area is on the fence about. Since there is a near-even split in the State Senate, a number of phone calls from Audubon members who are his or her constituents, all expressing the same view about the bill, could well determine the legislator's vote. Having people from each chapter ready ahead of time and willing to make calls to their legislators when needed can have a major impact on passing or blocking laws that would help or hurt birds. PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHAPTER'S ACTION ALERT SYSTEM IS READY.

- d. Water Task Force Report – Ken Neubecker: Absent, no report. Ken has shared that he feels over-committed at this time, and would like to step down from a leadership role in this committee. Someone raised the question of whether the committee was still needed. There was discussion of the importance of this committee as implementation of the Colorado Water Plan proceeds and water districts concern themselves with massive increases in water demand as Colorado population increases and periods of drought become more common. Polly said Gene Reetz would be willing to assume temporary leadership of the committee if the chapters agreed the Task Force is still important.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Proposed ACC Non-lead Ammunition Project: After some discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed: ACC will develop methods to educate our members and support willing hunting organizations in educating hunters about the negative effects of lead bullets and lead shot on wildlife and humans. We will do this by providing educational materials and free (or possibly low-cost) non-lead shot. A member of ACC volunteered to donate \$1000 for this purpose, in hopes of attracting matching funds from various organizations and/or possibly health-related government departments. The Conservation Committee will work out details and materials for the project, with the hope that each chapter will become involved in their area.
- b. Details of the April face-to-face meeting: The April 21st meeting will have an optional bird walk along the Arkansas River starting at 8:00 am. There will be an 8:30 am breakfast and social time, followed by the business meeting. The group voted to have a taco lunch rather than a pasta lunch. The afternoon will include exploration of the nature center that is a partnership including the Arkansas Valley Audubon and finishing our business meeting. Peg will offer information about motels near the meeting, but she suggested some may want to stay at the Horseshoe Lodge, about 30 minutes away. There are acorn woodpeckers there as well as bird feeders that attract other species.
- c. Daly Edmonds was not available to give an update on the ANWR and sage grouse situation.
- d. Bill Miller reported he had not yet composed his description of the various levels of Audubon in the USA. He has since completed a draft and sent it to the ACC Google Group for review.

IX. New Business

- a. Election of Officers at April Meeting/Recruiting new Council members: After some discussion, Ron pointed out that the process for electing new officers was that the president appoints a nominating committee. He suggested that this committee's membership should not include current officers. Becky said she would make the committee appointments by email. She also expressed concern that we need to recruit new members to ACC, either by encouraging them to run for an ACC office or to apply for positions as At-large Representatives.
- b. Becky reminded chapter Reps to identify Representatives and Alternates to the Council as these positions change for their chapter. Some chapters have the same Reps and Alternates for many years, while others change annually.

- X. **Adjourn:** A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn.