

Audubon Colorado Council Minutes
October 6, 2018
Audubon Center at Chatfield, Denver

Welcome and Introductions

Becky Herman, President of ACC, welcomed the group.

Chapter Roll Call – Linda Hodges

Chapters Present: Aiken (Linda Hodges), Arkansas Valley (Peg Rooney), Audubon Society of Greater Denver (Polly Reetz), Black Canyon (Bruce Ackerman), Boulder County (Ray Bridge), Evergreen (JoAnn Hackos), Fort Collins (Bill Miller, Ron Harden), Weminuche (Becky Herman, John Porco), At-large (Nancy Stocker)

Chapters Absent: Grand Valley, Roaring Fork

Also in attendance: Karl Brummert, Kate Hogan, Gene Reetz, Bob Stocker (Greater Denver), Abby Burk, Evan Borrientos (Audubon Rockies), Jen Boulton (lobbyist)

Chapter Reports

Reports should be emailed by each chapter either before or shortly after each meeting.

Water Issues – Abby Burk

Amendment 74: would require compensation to property owners (companies, basically) for any reduction in value as a result of a government regulation. This is a product of the Farm Bureau and the oil and gas industry. Per Abby and Jen, this would be a rollback on environmental regulations, and would be terribly damaging. Jen gave us a handout.

*Jen will email ACC members a fact sheet on Amendment 74.

Lake Powell/Colorado River: drought contingency plans are being discussed as central AZ may get no water by Jan 2010. Usage must be reduced, especially in AZ and the lower basin. The upper basin states are seeking federal approval to “bank” water in Lake Powell in surplus years.

There are efforts to update the 2016 water leasing bill in order to provide more flexibility in water management. Currently, after 3 leases in 10 years, an entity cannot lease again. It will hopefully be amended to 5 leases in 10 years, which would be renewable.

Abby reminded us to raise water issues to the forefront.

*Abby hopes to have a conference call, or email, with the Water Task Force in the coming weeks.

*Webinar on October 9th on the drought contingency plan

Approval of Minutes from July Meeting

Minutes were accepted as amended.

Treasurer's Report – John Porco

Our current balance is \$1476.78.

General funds: \$726.78

Designated funds: \$750 (non-lead ammo fund).

The treasurer's report was accepted.

It was stated by Ron that we are, indeed, a 501(c)3.

Vice President's Report – Peg Rooney

Peg reminded us to 'like' the ACC facebook page – Audubon Colorado Council – and to visit the website at auduboncoloradocouncil.com.

Committee Reports

Chapter Relations – Bill Miller

Bill had nothing to share.

Conservation – Peg Rooney

In the past few months, ACC has signed on to 3 letters that called for protected the Endangered Species Act. Peg notified members of CPW's plans to increase the number of mountain lion hunting licenses as a way of making money. She also continued to monitor State Land Board activities, and kept members apprised of threats to birds, other wildlife, and their habitats.

Nancy suggested we find a way to be more involved with SLB actions, possibly attending meetings.

Regarding our potential interest in a plastic bag ban, Jen alerted us that there is a bias against a ban in the legislature, but a fee might pass. Jen isn't willing to lead the charge on this, but suggested we sign on to a bill if one arises.

Public Policy – Ron Harden

Ron explained that the Colorado Audubon Council, original precursor of ACC, started the Legislative Lobby. The then regional office of the National Audubon Society enabled the lobby by starting a contract lobby of the National Audubon Society. CAC established a committee to monitor the Legislature's activities and advise the NAS lobbyist of CAC's position on the issues. Chapters provide donations to Audubon Rockies for its conservation programs, which include the legislative lobby. The suggested amount of chapters' donations is determined by the ACC chapter delegates. Total amount of those donations, plus an additional amount from

AR's total budget, assure the lobby for each year.

It is important that chapter delegates advise their chapter's officers and board of directors of this, especially any time there are new officers or board of directors members. Important too is that there will soon be a letter, coming from Audubon Rockies to each chapter, asking for a donation for its conservation programs based on the NAS membership of the chapter for the previous year.

Lobbying Updates – Jen Boulton

In addition to giving us a handout, Jen explained the do's and don'ts of lobbying. In a nutshell, 501(c)3 organizations may **not lobby** for or against candidates, but **may lobby** on issues.

Whatever each chapter gives toward Audubon Rockies' conservation fund does not count toward lobbying. Jen is paid by National Audubon (contracted by Audubon Rockies), so the lobbying effort is by National.

Possible bills for 2019:

Leasing water: as Abby spoke of

Mining: self-bonding not okay, perpetual treatment of water not okay, time limit on permits

Recycling: "no Styrofoam" bill (e.g. restaurant containers)

Plastic bag fee/tax

Oil and gas: removing the word "foster" from the mission of the COGCC (Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission)

Water Task Force – Gene Reetz

The Water Task Force submitted language on the NISP to Fort Collins Audubon for inclusion in their comments, as agreed at the last ACC meeting, and they are now considering their next undertaking. (The Fort Collins chapter had commented on an earlier EIS for the NISP so could continue to comment; ACC didn't.)

Ron was asked to furnish all a copy of the comment letter FCAS sent regarding the Final EIS on the NISP water storage project proposal

If anyone would like to listen in on the conference calls, please let Gene know.

Old Business

Non-lead ammunition grants: AVAS, Aiken, Greater Denver and Ft Collins applied for, and received, grants. A brochure is being developed. Send John a letter to receive payment of the grant.

CPW Fee: There will be an increase in hunting and fishing licenses, as well as state park fees.

Pawnee shooting: a disappointing meeting with the District Ranger was held on Sept 19th. The Forest Service said they needed "a huge wave of public support," including support from the Weld County Commissioners. They asked for data and education ideas. Denver Audubon, Boulder Audubon, Fort Collins Audubon and Evergreen Audubon will continue to work on this.

Levels of Audubon: this was tabled for the time being. Bill will report on it at a later date.

New Business

Evan Barrientos, Communications and Marketing Director for Audubon Rockies: Evan presented ideas for making Audubon Rockies a hub of information and opportunity via cross-promoting events on social media, using Instagram, and writing a blog.

Chapters were encouraged to send Evan articles, photos (birds, especially), and information on events. They also have a number of professional-level bird photos that we may use (the DAM) for educational, non-commercial use. To sign in for this, contact Evan at Ebarrientos@audubon.org. We may also use Evan as a proof-reader and feedback person for brochures, etc.

*Evan will get us a territory map of Colorado chapters, and also figure out how to get each chapter's newsletter to each other.

2019 Proposed Meeting Dates

Saturday Jan 12th – phone

Saturday Apr 13th – face-to-face

Saturday July 20th – phone

Saturday Oct 5th – face-to-face

Linda will check with the Aiken board to see if they'd be willing to host one of the meetings. It was suggested that Grand Valley host one, as well.

Adjourned at 3 pm.