**Loess Hills Audubon Society**

**Board Agenda**

**Special Meeting: March 23, 2023; 5:00 PM**

**3131 Norman Drive**

**Present:** Rex R., Jerry V., Sharon P., Marla K., Randy W., Bill H., Jody M.

**Absent:** Jerry P., Dawn S.

**Honored Guests:** Maria R.

1. Call to order@ 5:17 PM
2. Review of Minutes/Report (Randy W.) (Jerry P., excused)
   1. Will table all 3 sets of minutes to the regular April meeting
   2. Randy will send copies of all 3 prior to the April meeting
3. Accomplishments
   1. Randy contacted by website regarding how to start birding.
      1. Reply copied to Jerry V. with info regarding Saturday’s outing
      2. Reply copied to Marla for membership information for the individual
   2. Phone call with Randy from Hart Orchard regarding their mini-grant
      1. Pleasant follow-up wishing to know why their application was not recommended and how to improve
      2. Stated some board members were uncomfortable with the grant going to a for-profit organization
      3. Also stated some members would have been more comfortable if the grant was to be used to restore the adjacent grassland to native prairie.
   3. Bill H. - Marsh Madness 38 people on waterfowl tours with one more weekend to go at Ponca State Park
4. President’s Report - Rex R.
   1. NAS votes to maintain organizational name of “Audubon”, (3 board members resign)
   2. Iowa Audubon approves $1000 grant for Siouxland Bird Guide update
5. Vice President’s report - Bill H.
   1. Jerry V. will be outing leader on Saturday
   2. Will have walkie-talkies for April outing.
      1. About $30.00 each
      2. Some members may want to purchase their own if they are regular outing participants
      3. This will allow some for chapter use for new attendees
   3. Birdathon letter for sponsorship/donation submitted for Bill’s review.
   4. May 13 Birdathon – Migratory Bird Day
6. Treasurer - Sharon P.
   1. Current balance: $8864.94 – will have a more complete report at the April meeting.
   2. IRS annual report for tax-exempt status was submitted electronically and accepted. This must be done to maintain our exempt status.
7. Nominating Committee report (Maria R., Jody M., Randy W.)
   1. Secretary – Jerry P. will continue another term
   2. Treasurer – Sharon P. will continue another term
   3. Director 1 – Kari Sandage
   4. Director 3 – Pam Miller-Smith
   5. Director 5 – Jeri Watkins
   6. Announcement of the slate at the April meeting along with request for committee members
   7. General membership vote in May and will have nominations from the floor
   8. Randy will invite the slate of officers to the April and May meetings.
   9. June is planning retreat when former and current officers exchange duties, tips, and tricks.
8. Membership Committee report - Marla K.
   1. Outreach events
      1. Loess Hills Prairie Seminar (June 2-4, 2023)
         1. LHAS will share table with Sierra Club
         2. Loess Hills Prairie Seminar will have silent auction
            1. This is how the seminar is supported
            2. Wish to contribute a package of items related to LHAS and birding activities
      2. RAGBRAI July 2023 – Randy W.
         1. Will probably not work
         2. Booths are expensive
         3. With so many from out-of-town this may not be the best venue for recruiting new members
         4. RAGBRAI showrunners are promoting food/beverage stops in host towns, or an organization becomes an official RAGBRAI vendor to host along the route – also expensive.
      3. Siouxland Health Fair (October 2023)
         1. No date has been determined.
         2. It will be a Thursday from 10:30 AM to 2:00 PM
      4. NW Iowa Sierra Group Chili Social 2024
         1. Do we wish to participate again?
         2. Sierra Club has invited us to again participate.
   2. Sources of revenue for chapter
      1. Birdathon 2023 – see above for letter
         1. Some things can be arranged online
         2. In person still works and may be a good follow up.
      2. Signature Item sale idea (Marla K./Jody M.)
         1. Bird Friendly light bulbs
         2. Bird-window-strike preventative
            1. Kari and Marla discussed partnership with DPNC
            2. Public program to create Paracord window treatments
            3. Help to minimize bird strikes.
         3. Work with local coffee roaster
            1. See if a bird-friendly, fair-trade coffee is available
            2. Jody will contact Stone Bru
            3. Two other roasters are available
9. Chapter Activities Committee report
   1. Outings report (Bill H.)
      1. April – Prairie Chickens?
      2. May Birdathon (Little Sioux Scout Camp survey?) (Bill H.)
         1. No contact with Bill H. for permission for a LSSC survey
         2. LSSC open house on Th (5/11)
         3. Then back on Saturday (5/13) for the survey?
      3. May go to Prairie Park for Bird Friendly Sioux City designation
         1. Randy and Marla volunteered to work with the city for this activity
         2. Use 5/13 – International Migratory Bird Day – from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM at SC Prairie Park
         3. Kari Sandage will contact city officials
         4. Have placed a request with the city to have a port-a-potty available for this joint activity.
         5. Show the city we’re willing to work with them
         6. Possible membership recruitment.
   2. Oak Grove outing idea (Sharon P.) possibly for a winter outing?
10. Programs report - Bill H., Jody M., Randy W.
    1. April 13, 2023: Anna Buckardt Thomas, “Tracking Bird Migration”
    2. May - Mark Haindfield
    3. Possible speakers for 2023-2024
       1. Travis Scott, O’Brien Cons.
       2. Dave Swanson – Randy will contact
       3. Tyler Flammang (yes! Winter 2024)
       4. Don Poggensee (yes,Sept 7th)
    4. Seven more to go!
       1. Beekeeping? – Phil Breed – Jody M. will contact
       2. Woodbury County Conservation Chair?
       3. Lights Out/Dark Skies program – Randy will investigate this
          1. Dave Hoferer presented such a program to Sierra Club
          2. Will ask Dave Swanson if anyone at USD is looking into this
11. Projects Committee report (Randy W.)
    1. Motus proposal by Dave Swanson – no update currently
    2. Mini-Grants report
       1. See above for Hart Orchard contact
       2. Randy will contact awardees to attend the April meeting
       3. Golden Hills representatives have been contacted twice regarding a short presentation at the April meeting. No response as of this meeting.
    3. “A Warbler’s Journey”
       1. Books are here
       2. Randy will see about producing a book plate
       3. He will bring the case to the April meeting
    4. Safe(ty) Deposit Box (Randy W., Sharon P.)
       1. Deferred to retreat and include in our next budget.
       2. Randy and others will develop a list of items for inclusion
    5. Record files of Director & Committee Reports in Google: Marla K. & Randy W. will continue work on this
12. Fundraising “working group” (Finance subcommittee) – see various sections above
13. Conservation Committee report (Bill Z. & Marla K.)
    1. Bird Friendly Iowa Update (Marla K.)
       1. Cats indoors brochures distributed
       2. Randy, Marla, Kari set up web page which is now active
    2. World Migratory Bird Day event? (13May2023) – see above, Chapter Activities report
14. Communications Committee report (Randy, Dawn, Jody)
    1. Facebook Page (Jody M.)
       1. Will add events
       2. Photos always need to have an “OK” from the photographer!
    2. Mail Chimp (Marla K.)
       1. Has decreased the limit to the monthly number of campaigns sent (by recipients) for Free Accounts
       2. Will send a reminder regarding the date change for the April meeting from first Thursday to second Thursday (4/13).
    3. New environmental director for SC – Arah Montagne
       1. Need to arrange meeting regarding Bird Friendly Iowa project
       2. Perhaps this new director could be a program for our 2023 – 2024 season?
    4. Randy will need to check with Dawn about sending notices to traditional media outlets.
15. Old Business:
    1. LHAS Archives and Display Case: permanent location?
       1. Need a new home for the displays
       2. Do we need to move on from these displays?
          1. Auction the displays for the wood?
          2. Perhaps the displays should be sold as part of their present storage location?
    2. Boxes of memorabilia – probably need a better storage solution as well.
16. Adjourn at 7:13 PM

President: Rex Rundquist Secretary: Jerry Probst

Vice-President: Bill Huser Treasurer: Sharon Polifka

Director 1: Jerry VonEhwegen Director 4: Jody Moats

Director 2: Marla Kerr Director 5: Dawn Snyder

Director 3: Randy Williams