

**Audubon Colorado State Board Meeting**  
**Sunflower Bank**  
**831 Royal Gorge Boulevard**  
**Canon City, Colorado**  
**October 2, 2010**

*Audubon Colorado exists to inspire and work with people to conserve, restore, and enjoy natural habitats in our state.  
We focus on birds and other wildlife through education, research, careful use of our resources,  
and by serving as a strong voice for the natural world.*

Attendees: Gary Conover, Martha Grewal, Baine Kerr, Karen Levad, Petrea Mah, Bill Miller, SeEtta Moss, Tom Parchman, Gregg Sutherland, Jean Sutherland, Bob Turner, Linda Vidal, David Wald

Staff: Stephanie DeMatee, Tricia Hamilton, Ken Strom

Guests: Marilyn McBirney - AVAS President, Sue Miller, Peg Rooney – AVAS Secretary

**MEETING SUMMARY:**

Commitments:

- Board Members to review and submit comments on the draft Strategic Plan

Actions:

- ✓ Eric Perryman approved unanimously as new Board Member at Large
- ✓ Approved By-laws changes regarding state office address and President-Elect
- ✓ Jean Sutherland elected First Vice-President

**AGENDA**

10:30

WELCOME COFFEE

11:10

Call to Order—Bob Turner, President

- Welcome and introductions of Board Members and guests.
- Welcome new Board nominee Eric Perryman of Denver.
- Tom Parchman moved to approve the minutes from June meeting, Bill Miller seconded. Unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- Gary Conover moved to approve the February 2010 and October 2010 minutes, Bill Miller seconded. Unanimous vote to approve the minutes.
- Bob Turner announced an opportunity to attend the Sonoran Audubon Society's *Audubon Chapters' Learning Conference* in Arizona, November 11-14, 2010.

11:30

Organizational Capacity—Bob Turner, President and Ken Strom, Director

- Bob Turner called for a vote by acclamation to approve Eric Perryman as a Board Member. The vote was unanimous to approve.
- Organization By-Laws – Proposal for revisions:
  - State Office Address changed.
  - Change from Vice-President and President-Elect to First Vice-President and Second Vice-President
  - Unanimous vote to approve revisions

12:00

Executive Director's Report—Ken Strom, Director

- Ken reviewed the Financial Report: FY10 wrap-up & approved FY11 budget.
  - FY 10 surplus of \$10,252
  - Cargill check for \$200,000 was awarded Audubon Colorado as a settlement with the EPA and Federal Attorney's office as penalty for a pollution violation in Brush, Colorado. Mitigation is to be completed over two years: \$100,000 in 2011 and \$100,000 in 2012. Two sites for habitat restoration have been identified on the South

Platte River: Denver's South Platte River Corridor & the Brush area. The project goal will be to reduce pesticide runoff, remove non-native vegetation and to plant native species. Stephanie DeMattee will direct this project working with The Greenway Foundation at the Denver site to partner with schools, Audubon chapters, volunteers and interns.

- Ken reported that the economic recession has reduced individuals' contributions.

12:45

### LUNCH

- Marilyn McBirney, President of the Arkansas Valley Audubon Society gave a chapter report.
- SeEtta Moss gave a presentation on Chimney Swifts and nesting boxes.

1:15

### Audubon Office Relocation

- Tricia Hamilton, Office Manager & Communications Coordinator, reported on the two new sites for the state office.
  - New locations will be effective January 1, 2011
  - Audubon Rocky Mountain Regional Office, 105 West Mountain Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80524 Phone: 970-416-6931 Fax: 970-416-5944
  - Alliance Center, 1536 Wynkoop Street, Suite 302, Denver, CO 80202 Phone: 303-415-0130 Fax: 303-415-0125
- Tricia announced that Audubon Colorado will be involved with the Young Environmental Symposium to be held at the Colorado School of Mines in March 2011. Herbert Young, a 1939 Colorado School of Mines graduate with an Engineer of Mines degree and his wife Doris established the Young Environmental Symposium. Audubon Colorado received a donation from the Youngs to work in collaboration with Colorado School of Mines to present environmental issues to the students, faculty and community. The symposium topic has not been determined.
- Bob Turner moved to elect Jean Sutherland as First Vice-President. Vote was unanimous to confirm.

2:00

### Science & Conservation—SeEtta Moss, Science & Conservation Committee Chair

- SeEtta reported on the Over the River project. Over The River is a temporary work of art by the artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude. Christo plans to suspend 5.9 miles of silvery, luminous fabric panels high above the Arkansas River along a 42-mile stretch of the river between Salida and Cañon City in south-central Colorado. Christo is currently working to obtain the necessary permits so that his team can begin the installation process. He is hoping to exhibit Over the River for two consecutive weeks in August, 2014.
  - Construction is slated to take two years, display for two weeks and 16 months to take down.
  - SeEtta discussed the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Environmental Impact Statement. There is concern for impacts on birds and other wildlife.
  - BLM is in favor of approving this project as it could be an economic boon to local towns, with an estimated 200,000 people coming to view the project.
  - SeEtta proposed it would be best to present our assessment of the facts of the EIP to BLM without recommendations for or against the project. The Board had a lively discussion about the relative merits of actively opposing the project or simply expressing our concerns and the science behind them.
  - Tom Parchman moved to have Audubon Colorado sign on to the comments made by SeEtta regarding presenting EIP facts without recommendations. Gary Conover 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The vote was, 8 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstained.
  - Ken explained that local chapters commonly take the lead on local issues. The state office generally gets involved when an issue affects Colorado wildlife statewide or when requested by a chapter.
- SeEtta reported on the proposed changes at the Xcel Energy Valmont Power Station in Boulder. The cooling reservoir is an IBA and by ending coal use the water may freeze up in winter, eliminating the open water habitat for resident and migrating birds.

- SeEtta reported on a new industrial solar proposal in Colorado. The solar power company SolarReserve hopes to build a 100-megawatt solar plant in the southeastern corner of Saguache County. The company proposed to build the plant on 1,700 acres roughly six miles northeast of Center near the intersection of county roads G and 53. There are seven Important Bird Areas in this area and SeEtta is concerned for the threats posed to cranes and other birds by the 456' tower and heat generation.
- Ken stated that Audubon endorses renewable energy if done properly with consideration for impacts on wildlife habitat. The fact is that industrial-scale wind and solar developments can have significant impacts on habitat.
- Ken reported that Gunnison Sage-Grouse, a candidate species for endangered status, is the number one bird species focus for Audubon Colorado.

2:00 Chapters and Membership: Power to the People—Bill Miller, Chapter and Membership Committee Chair

- Bill led discussion on effective ways to increase chapter communication. Audubon Colorado and some chapters have Facebook accounts and several chapters post their newsletters on line.

2:30 Public Policy & Advocacy: Colorado's Voice for Conservation—Ken Strom, Director

- Ken announced that Audubon Colorado will host a reception for donors and other friends of Audubon in early November. The event will honor Jen Boulton, Jo Evans and Ruth Wright for their work in defending GOCO against threats of diverting funds away from conservation.
- Ken reported on a Wildlife Conservation Fund grant to do a messaging campaign on the economic value of wildlife and bird watching. Wildlife viewing is bigger than the ski industry in dollar amount, jobs created and number of people. This would be a tool for influencing legislators on conservation issues.

2:45 Education & Centers: Creating a Culture of Conservation

Stephanie DeMattee, IBA and Conservation Programs Coordinator

- Stephanie reported on the TogetherGreen energy conservation curriculum she provides to Denver public schools. She displayed the tool kits that are distributed to teachers and gave program CD's to the Board. The TogetherGreen Schools program is in its third year. We have been working in Denver for the past two years and are expanding to rural communities this year.

3:00 Strategic Plan—Bob Turner, President/ Ken Strom, Director

- Report on draft revisions from the Strategic Planning Committee

3:45 Other Business & Upcoming Events—Bob Turner, President

- Upcoming Board meeting dates: Feb. 5, 2011 – Alliance Center in Denver – AS Gr. Denver  
June 11, 2011 – Carbondale/Aspen - Roaring Fork AS  
Oct. 8, 2011 – Ft. Collins – Fort Collins AS

Note: The dates of the upcoming Board meetings in June & October are not the usual 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month. These changes were agreed upon to accommodate schedules.

- Ken Strom announced that Bob Turner received a lifetime achievement award for 15 years of service on the Governing Board of The InterMountain West Joint Venture, a task force of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Over \$200 million was raised during this period for wetland habitat acquisition and restoration in the Western U.S. including close to \$20 million in Colorado alone.
- Karen Levad, President of Grand Valley Audubon, announced that The Coolest Bird: A Natural History of the Black Swift and Those Who Pursue It by Rich Levad, a noted expert on black swifts, is now available on the American Birding Association's website:  
<http://www.aba.org/thecoolestbird.pdf>

4:00 Meeting Adjourned ~ Minutes submitted by: Tricia Hamilton