

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
of
Friends of Cibola NWR
An Arizona Non-profit Corporation

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Friends of Cibola NWR was held on the 4th day of April 2026 at 10:02 a.m., held at Teams Meeting online. John Rosenfeld, Rebecca Notarangelo, Brian Donahue, and Andy Anderson, were present and participated in the meeting, being all the Directors and officers, except Dave Kaihara who was absent.

Carissa Rosenfeld, Secretary of the Corporation, and treasurer acted as the secretary for the meeting and the Chairman.

The Chairman announced that a quorum of the Directors was present, and that the meeting, having been duly convened, was ready to proceed with its business.

1) Reading of the previous minutes

- a. The previous minutes were read. Rebecca Notarangelo made a motion to accept the minutes as read and Andy Anderson seconded the motion; the motion was carried.

2) Treasurer's Report

- a. Membership: 125
b. Educational Outreach: \$1,289.88
c. Financial Report:

1.

04/04/2026	Current Bank balance	\$14,312.99
	Available Bank balance	\$13,023.11
January		
	Jackery	\$1,171.52
February		
	ACC filing fee	\$10
	ACC payment processing fee	\$2
March		
	Domain name renewal	\$23.19

*For further detailed information regarding expenses, please contact Friends of Cibola NWR

- d. Youth Waterfowl Savings: \$4,724.64
e. Secretary Budget: \$94.62
a. Ink- still needs to be purchased
f. Volunteer Hours: 821
- 3) U.S Fish & Wildlife Service-present
a. Updates regarding burning Unit 2 and re-piling of brush
1) We received a text message on Tuesday, March 3rd at 11:01am from Chris Lohrengel stating, "Hi Carissa, I wanted to provide an update on the planned prescribed fire and the work on Unit 2, for the Friends website and newsletter. The burns will not be happening this year due to the weather. Temperatures are too high and the wind has been up and unpredictable. For re-piling the brush on south Unit 2, we are working on coordinating getting a piece of equipment down

to make the job a little easier. But since we can't burn it is not a priority for the spring any longer."

- 1) Chris Lohrengel, who attended the meeting, explained that he was to meet with the heavy equipment operator out of Imperial to determine if an excavator or the loader with the grapple from Havasu would be better for the re-piling of the brush. He continued to explain that they are still working on trying to get it done by spring to early summer. Once the brush has been re-piled, they might be able to get it burned in October if they can get it done.
- 2) Once the area has been burned, Corbett is waiting to farm the area with Bermuda grass, as the area is too salty to put in alfalfa.
- 3) Regarding burns in the area that were prescribed to have happened, as Chris Lohrengel continues to explain, that the fire crew approached him, and explained about how none of the burns happened in the Cibola area. Some of these burns included the East Meander on the Island Unit, and the North side of Hart Mine Marsh. The fire crew was going to burn Kingfisher, but the refuge ended up mowing it and is currently flooding it right now.

b. Did the volunteers finish the last deer crossing?

- 1) Tim, a long time Fish and Wildlife Service heavy equipment operator just recently retired in January. With already being short staffed, his recent retirement has made things even more chaotic. Chris Lohrengel will be up later in the week to check and see the status of whether the deer crossing has been installed.

c. Current hiring conditions within the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service.

- 1) The Fish and Wildlife Service is still undergoing a hiring freeze. A third delay or deferred resignation program announcement was sent out, however they made all field positions ineligible to take part in that, meaning they are looking at those individuals at the regional level and up to take part in it. Meaning they are not going to remove anyone from the field. Chris Lohrengel continues to explain that the Fish and Wildlife Service is going through exercises on what realignment may look like. According to the news, the forest service has gone through a huge exercise, and still going through it where they are relocating their national headquarters and looking at changing their regional operations to maybe a state based organizational type model kind of like how BLM is based out of the states. Currently, it is unknown if the Fish and Wildlife service will be restructured in a similar manner.

d. Does the Fish and Wildlife Service have a budget yet?

- 1) A budget was passed but it has been allocated to the regions. As of right now money can be spent on normal overhead and labor costs, but we are not allowed to do any contracts or anything like that. We're using money from last year that the region pooled to get some of the projects done, like the front gate

at Cibola, the main gate, get that fixed. At Imperial, get a shade structure fixed that's at the shop, things like that, but we cannot initiate. Once that money's gone, we can't initiate contracts with this year's money. They're trying to make sure every station has enough funding to pay their overhead and cover maintenance costs and labor costs before they're allowing us to do any contracts. So, we're kind of hands tied on anything.

- e. With regards to the Unit 1 south brush clearing for the last phase of the tree planting, do you know when they might start the fields for the conditioning of the soil for the trees?
 - 1) Some of the work is currently happening now. There is a meeting with Bureau of Reclamation on Thursday to look at something at Hart Mine Marsh and will also be talking about the Unit 1 south area. Some of the fields have been done and were flooded last winter. It is currently unknown as to how much will have come up as the birds might have picked the seed clean. A second canal was going to be installed that would run east-west off of the north-south, but that has been put on hold till 2028. With them holding off on putting that second canal in, the ground that would be relying on that canal's water, will remain bare and open, which will be a lot of open ground as a result of that, which will be the very southern part of that area. The part closest to the levee and the first bit off that first East West canal will be growing in triticale. Triticale is a three seed mixture, barley, winter wheat, and rye.

4) Old Unfinished Business

- a. Jr. Ranger program-tabled
- b. Youth Waterfowl Camp-listed again for December
 - i. Water levels are predicted to be about the same, possibly less than the prior year. It all depends on the rain, as it is thought that with the late rains in November, this could have been a contributing factor as to why the Farmers did not order more water. It is possible that if we don't get those late rains, that we may have a better chance of having more water called on which would have helped in getting the ponds filled. With water being easier to access earlier, it will be looked into as to whether the youth waterfowl camp could be bumped up to allow for a better chance of keeping water in the ponds.
- f. Website-still under construction
- g. Coffee pot still needs to be purchased
- h. Butterfly kit-the two vouchers for the 10 caterpillars were redeemed and are currently in transit.
- i. ACC filing-completed
- j. Domain name renewal-done
- k. New directors
- l. Updating the ACC- the director's area of the information on file with the ACC will need to be updated by adding Brian Donahue as the new director, and removing Howard Jenson as his term has ended. In doing research, the change is to be made once the director has accepted their position, which will happen upon the conclusion of the meeting.

5) New Business

- a. Completed event results for the Youth Waterfowl camp-with utilizing the online registration for the event, part of the requirement is to submit the event results, which was completed.
- b. May 16th Youth Fishing Clinic- will be held from 8am-10am. Further discussion will be held prior to the event as to what will be done regarding the items we provide to the youth for the event.
 - a. Farmers & Merchant donation-pending
 - b. Do we offer hand tied jigs? -to be discussed later
 - c. Need volunteers. Except from the usage of holding tanks, Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club is unable to offer additional help as in years past.
 - i. U.S Fish and Wildlife Service will try to provide some volunteers for the event.
 - d. Policy changes for leftover fish from the event.
 - i. With the snail that was discovered in the Colorado river waters, it has been discovered that the snail can survive through the digestive system. In prior years, the leftover stocked catfish would have been taken from the event and final stocking in Yuma, AZ. Because of this new discovery, to eliminate any possible transfer of snails, the number of stocked catfish order will be reduced, and all fish for the event will be dispatched to be handed to those attending the event.
 - e. Need to create online registration page once date is confirmed through meeting- a registration page will be created for the event once the details have been confirmed.
- c. Did not renew Blythe Chamber of Commerce membership
 - i. It was agreed that we would no longer be renewing our membership with the Blythe Chamber of Commerce as it did not provide the expected benefits as previously thought it would provide.
- d. Changes in Visitor Center Nature Rewards sign to include various payment methods
 - i. In working with Chris Lohrengel, we were able to provide a more updated version of the Nature Rewards sign in the Visitor Center by making the sign easier to read, updating the payment methods that we offer, and adding new items to the page that we had previously not had in years past. This has resulted in an increase in various donations being made.

6) Next Meeting- 5/30/26 at 10am

7) Call to public-

a) None at this time

Next meeting is to be 05/30/2026. There being no further business to be transacted upon motion duly made by John Rosenfeld to adjourn the meeting, Brian Donahue seconded and carried the motion, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56am.

SECRETARY/Carissa Rosenfeld

I, the undersigned Director of Friends of Cibola NWR hereby approve the contents of the foregoing minutes from the meeting held on the 4th day of April 2026.

DIRECTOR