

MINUTES

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: Sep 25; 7:00p.m.

Location: Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room

601 Monroe St., Sacramento Ca. 95825

Approved Date: October 30, 2018

- I. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm
 - A. Roll Call:
 1. Board Members Present: Bill Bianco, Jane Van Kessel, Elliot Chasin, Harriet Saeck, Diana Hickson, Daphne Reimer, John Hulls, Grant Boice, Heather White.
 2. Board Members Absent: Sally Walters and Rosalind Becker, both of whom informed board in advance.
 - B. Approval of Minutes (August): August 2018 Draft Board Meeting minutes approved by consensus.

- II. Guests / Public Comment: None

- III. Presentations: None

- IV. Officer Reports
 - A. President (Bill):
 1. Bill will send letter for wildlife conservation board regarding Desert Springs properties tomorrow. This is in connection with Crest Ridge Audubon Chapter.
 2. A week ago, Bill spoke with someone at the Sierra Club. She stated that she will send a letter to us confirming that the money went to litigation and not to their general fund.
 3. We sent a letter to San Joaquin Audubon in support of their WaterFix comment letter.
 4. Bill will attend the Audubon Assembly on Nov 4th. Motion (Dianne/John) to reimburse Bill his travel costs if he wants it. Motion passed unanimously.
 5. The Board has received an invitation to a Save the American River Association event on October 6 at William Pond.

 - B. Treasurer (Harriet):
 1. Dues are slowing down, but the webpage is back up and people can pay membership online again.
 2. The process has been completed for securing our website for online payments.
 3. Some money came in from events such as the trip to the Farallons. We received a \$500 refund from Dan Airola for a portion of the tricolored blackbird study because the plane service was not possible.
 4. Our cash is down from 45,000 to 32,000. The CD money from Cathy should be coming in next month.

 - C. Corresponding Secretary (Diana): None

D. Other Officers (if anything to report):

1. Grant would like to discuss the purple martin issue; it will be discussed during "Old Business."

V. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports

- A. Board Member and Chair Transitions (Sally): Daphne is taking over Hospitality Chair from Bill.
- B. Programs (Anthony Asay): October's program will be on coyotes.
- C. Outreach (Bill): All volunteer help is scheduled for upcoming fall events.
- D. Education (Gesna): Committee will be meeting Oct 1st. She has received the dates for NatureBowl 2019.
- E. Membership (Jane): 552 Sac Audubon dues paying members. 9 new Sac Audubon members. 49 new national members in our area; of those, 48 provided address for observer. On 09/12 one past member was marked inactive because their membership was past due for 5 mos.
- F. Communications (Wendy): None
- G. Resale Merchandise (Becky Norris) (Bill): None
- H. Conservation (Larry, Elliot):
 1. Habitat 2020—Elk Grove is doing a General Plan update and Elliott will be helping Sean Wirth with comments.
 2. Sean Wirth will also be coming to talk to us about WaterFix soon. Elliott will get a more firm date from Sean.
- I. Bobelaine Committee (Larry, Bill, John):
 1. A member of the public has offered to volunteer out at Bobelaine. She walks the trail regularly and would like to help. Larry and Ken have some ideas how she could help and will follow up with her.
- J. Other Committee Reports (if any): none
- K. Board Member Reports (if any): none

VI. Old Business

- A. Purple martins: SAS's response to the purple martin decline and Dan Airola's presentation from last week. Grant would like to suggest that Dan Kopp represent us at city council meetings to gather information to bring to us. Maybe there's something we can do to the railroad bridge site to get it ready for the birds, such as making martin houses out of gourds. It is unknown if the birds would nest in houses on the west coast; gourds were successful in Oregon, so it's possible. We should find out more information from Dan A. and Dan K; Grant will contact Dan Kopp and get some ideas about what we can do. In addition to habitat enhancement, we should advocate for the birds as well. We need more information about the I Street roadway and bridge project. There should be a purple martin protection and management plan, discussing the issues with the birds that we could hand out to decision-makers. Habitat 2020 is interested and would be willing to put their name on something. They'd be willing to help but SAS needs to be the lead on the project. SAS has the weight of 3K members to put behind this issue. We should have handouts for purple martin at outreach events. In 2019, Dan A and Elliott have more time to work on a protection and management plan for the species. Would like to get this done before spring so

it's ready by the time birds come back. Will keep this on the agenda for the next meeting to continue this discussion.

B. Newsletter. Discuss option for members to receive electronic version of newsletter only, to reduce printing costs. A recent new member said she'd prefer not to receive a paper copy of the newsletter, so it seems like a preferable option for some. Many others are set in their ways and it will be good to still give them the choice. We could ask them which they'd prefer with their next membership renewal. We discussed the potential of lowering the dues for e-newsletter members, but it was decided that that might get complicated. Instead, we will tell the membership about all the programs that can be funded with the money savings. Jane can receive the emails about who wants electronic copy and paper copy. Logistics: Constant Contact would be \$20 per month to get it going all the time; Jane will confirm this amount and get back to the Board. Another possibility is that maybe we could just email a link to the newsletter online. Diane will write something in the observer about the issue. Bill will discuss this idea at the next member meeting.

C. Action Alerts email list. Need someone to maintain this list. Bill is still maintaining the list and has 2 people on the list. He has alerts from other chapters and can send these out to the list. Then the people on the list can send letters to congress people, etc. We don't currently generate content ourselves. Currently, Clifford Hawley maintains the FB page for us, Wendy is Electronic Communications Committee Chair, and there is no one filling the position of Publicity Committee Chair. Perhaps we could put out a call for someone who knows publicity to help us by maintaining our alerts list, write the alerts, etc. Will keep this on the agenda for the next meeting to continue this discussion.

D. El Dorado Wildlife Area issue: American River Conservancy asking for a donation to buy land. They're trying to raise 4 billion dollars. Discussion of whether SAS should donate. This organization is known for buying land in one place and then moving on to another place to buy more land. They will likely continue asking us for money if we donate now. We would need to know more about what happens with the land after purchase before donating. No motions; issue is dismissed.

VII. New Business

A. Sponsorship for Sandhill Crane Festival (2017 was \$500). Motion (Diane/John) to donate \$500 to 2018 Sandhill Crane Festival. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Sponsorship for Galt Winter Bird Festival (last year was \$500). Motion (John/Jane) to donate \$500 again this year. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Policies and Procedures Document: Need to write something up regarding a number of policies and procedures. Harriett and Diane will work on writing up the two we're discussing today. Others will need to be completed later.

1. Policy for not accepting endowments. We need this because we don't have the staff to manage an endowment, keep up with rules, etc.

2. Policy for raising membership dues. We'll need a statement about what the board's criteria would be for raising dues. Meanwhile, we'll just have to tell any interested parties that this hasn't been decided yet.
3. Let Harriett know if there are any procedures we feel should be memorialized for future board members who hold our positions so it can be included in the Policies and Procedures document.
4. Will keep this on the agenda for the next meeting to continue this discussion.

VIII. Adjournment: 8:40 pm.