

MINUTES

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: Jan 29, 2019; 7:00p.m.

Location: Carmichael Library

5605 Marconi Ave., Carmichael, CA

Date Approved: Feb 26, 2019

I. Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

A. Roll Call:

1. Board Members Present: Grant Boice, Jane Van Kessel, Diana Hickson, Elliott Chasin, Bill Bianco, Harriett Saecck, Daphne Reimer, Rosalind Becker
2. Board Members Absent: None
3. Board Members Teleconferencing: Sally Walters

B. Approval of Minutes (November 2018): November Draft Board Minutes approved by consensus.

II. Guests / Public Comment:

A. Lori Litman from Sac350.org is on the phone:

Sac350 is named after the national 350 group, but is local. Their goal is an equitable transition to a carbon free future. Want SAS to get involved with climate change issues, considering the danger climate change poses for birds. All of the climate change predictions that were expected to begin at the end of this century are actually happening now. Sac350 works locally and does a little statewide legislative work since this is the capitol. "Local" means Sac Region, SACOG/SMUD areas, Davis, Yolo County.

Sac 350 gets involved with Climate Action Plans. The City of Sacramento is committed to being carbon zero by 2045. Mayor stated that carbon zero is an audacious goal but imperative. There's a climate commission created by the mayors of Sac and West Sac: Sac 350 is the only environmental group on the commission.

To stay under 1.5 degrees of warming, we need to reduce emissions by 50% in 12 years. They have statewide teams working on transportation, green economy. SAS can talk about habitat; other folks are talking about the built environment and green spaces but not habitat. They're all volunteers and at capacity for what they're doing currently.

What about alternative energy sources and bird mortality: Wind turbines, solar arrays, etc.? People are looking for alternatives to the current types. Sac 350 once had a speaker from Audubon discussing this; perhaps this person could come speak again.

How would Sac350 like SAS to help? Looking for gaps; would like to bring in the wildlife focus from SAS. Sac350 does once a month chorus, movie, snacks & coffee, etc. Could do a film that's related to Audubon. Sac350 is starting a "lifestyle" team: what you can do in your regular life, and a "youth group" team. Maybe SAS could help with those.

Board feels that perhaps we should reach out to Audubon at national and state level to see what they're saying about climate. Want to make sure we're aligned with that. Lori would like us to talk amongst ourselves, pick our passion, and figure out how to use it to get to Carbon Zero as fast as possible.

III. Presentations: None

IV. Officer Reports

A. President (Bill):

1. Meeting location: Lori's building is the breezeway building downtown and she'll see if we can meet there. 909 12th St. CA Audubon is there, ECOS is there, etc. Backup location: 25th & Capitol, Bill's old employer; they have a meeting room we can use.
2. Nissenan Park in Folsom: City Council Mtg last Tuesday. Bill sent letter and went to meeting. Lots of residents are against disc golf course. Council would have to change the General Plan to make it a golf course. City Council made a motion and approved not to change the GP, so the land will remain a park/open space. They may end up putting the disc golf course south of 50, with all the new development there.
3. Coordinated w/ Anthony Asay about November meeting. Will be 3rd Thursday like all the others. Anthony checked with the speaker for November and they're okay with that.
4. Audubon award: Bill got a deal from the printer; we got it for \$5. Daphne will get a frame for it. Will be presented in the Feb meeting, on the 21st. Sally will write something up.
5. Michelle Stevens: Bushy Lake Restoration: they're doing work at the site in Feb. Area just south of the lake where lake was filling in. We gave some money a while ago.
6. Ariana Rickard: We approved climate change / birds brochure. Will go to printer Feb 1. Cost \$1.50 per book, includes shipping. We'll probably charge a nominal fee for the brochure, unless it's for a teacher or similar.
7. Bill submitted chapter annual report. Once submitted, national will process the baseline funding for us (direct deposit: Harriett will let us know when it shows up). He also submitted the chapter plan and will email them both to the group.
8. Sac Zoo Earth Day: We donated last year. Will put this on next month's new business *to be discussed next month*.

B. Treasurer (Harriet): 2 months worth of reporting

1. Dues: around \$1,000 each month. Gen Fund donation: We got more than we expected over the year. Some large donations from Big Day of Giving. Revenue is right about where it should be for now. Dues are almost just covering the cost of the newsletter.
2. She paid ECOS (Environmental Council of Sac) dues: got the request from Larry directly. Wants approval from the board. Elliott has a question about the tiered dues structure: we're paying more than what the scale indicates we should. Diana: ECOS was established in part to be SAS's conservation committee and this is why we pay more than our minimum. Sally says it was

established just for SAS. Motion (Sally/Diana) to support them with \$500.
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Income statement question: Conservation and Education Donations are much lower this year than what we had planned for. We're at \$800 now but thought we'd be at \$4000. What's going on? Answer: if you look at all donations together, we're about where we want to be so it's fine.
4. Regular budgeting (every 2 yrs or so) should be put on the policy and procedure document that Harriett is working on.
5. 62 people have said they'll take the Newsletter as a PDF. We have 569 members.

C. Corresponding Secretary (Diana): None

D. Other Officers (if anything to report): None

V. Committee Chair and Board Member Reports.

A. Board Member and Chair Transitions (Sally): None

B. Programs (Anthony Asay): None

C. Outreach (Bill):

1. List of events up through May. Has a request from a school to do a table at a science event.

D. Education (Gesna):

1. Handout: breakouts for education committee. Outreach, beginning birding, presentations, family nature walks, etc. Includes Environmental Education Calendar.
2. Nature Bowl at Camp Pollock is cancelled for 2019. Motion (Diana/Jane) to carry over the \$2,000 set aside for Nature Bowl 2019 to 2020. *Motion passed unanimously.*

E. Membership (Jane):

1. January: 2665 national members in our chapter area, 107 new national members, 569 current SAS members, 62 have requested email, 2 made inactive, 12 new members in SAS this month (included in the 569).
2. There are sometimes unexpected out of state donations with no context. Jane sends them the Observer and makes them members; should she continue doing that? Board agrees that it's fine.
3. Constant Contact: We have an account now and they're sending notifications to Jane to sign up ahead of time and prepay. We can get 20% off if we choose the 6 mos (\$96) plan; 30% off if we choose the 12 mos (\$168) plan. 75% of people are opening the email they get from Constant Contact. Daphne will have a sign-up at the snack table at the next member meeting.
4. www.bigdayofgiving.org. We should look at this and let Jane know if there are any edits for our SAS portion.
5. PayPal: Member suggested we need a check box for saying they want the PDF newsletter if they pay by PayPal. Would require website redesign. The issue of website redesign is a bigger issue and we should have a *separate special meeting for website redesign*. (Our Communications Committee: Clifford Hawley, Dan Brown, Anne Burris, Wendy Money).

F. Communications (Wendy): None

G. Resale Merchandise (Becky Norris) (Bill): None

H. Conservation (Larry, Elliot):

1. Committee met in Dec. Jeff Shelton, Elliott, Larry. Plan to meet regularly (every other month or so). Need to find space for the committee that's not occupied by ECOS or Habitat 2020, so duties aren't overlapping. Elliott would like to brainstorm ideas for what those things should be.
2. Purple martin: Dan A. and Dan K. released a new purple martin paper, in Central Valley Bird Club newsletter. Elliott will send it out to the group. Dan A. is retired now and has more time to commit. Elliott has more time also. Recent article in Sac Bee: reporter was at city council meeting and they were talking about the bridge. Jesse G., city planner, mentioned the purple martin issue to the reporter and suggested she speak with Dan A. She contacted Dan A. and he and Bill took her to the site to discuss the issue. She wrote up the article in the Bee.
3. Cats: Del Paso Park area in Sacramento is set aside as a natural area. Someone is feeding feral cats in there. A local birder has been reporting this to the police and would like support from us for some sort of action. Elliott let Tim Vendinski know that we're supportive of sending a letter about not feeding cats in a natural area. (Daphne mentioned an article in the Atlantic about a collar that helps the cat issue: birds see the colors and it helps. Someone did a scientific study and it really seems to help. Daphne is interested in sharing this article at the monthly meeting.) Some agree that it's a good idea, but others feel it's such a contentious issue, it's probably better for the board of SAS not to touch it.
- I. Bobelaine Committee (Larry, Bill, John):
 1. Bill was there last Friday: Trails are covered with about 1-2 in of grass. Ken mowed yesterday, all of the trails except the south-40. Did some heavy mowing on north fire break. In near future, will need to get service done on tractor and mule: will get cost estimate from dealer.
- J. Other Committee Reports (if any): None
- K. Board Member Reports (if any): None

VI. Old Business

- A. Purple martin decline:
 1. Jesse w/ planning department wrote Dan A.: They're investigating Dan's concerns and examining other options. Will meet with Dan by mid-march, before environmental approvals are complete and Bill will go too. Bill heard nothing from his letter to mayor and council on meeting with them about this issue.
 2. Dan and Maya Khosla: Sally emailed them and they'll make a video on the martins. She'll be asking us for editing money at some point. Bill mentioned to Dan A. that he should do some field trips out there.
- B. Policies and Procedures Document
 1. Harriett has started it. Diana and Harriett are discussing it, looking at samples, etc. They'll talk later and bring us more info.

VII. New Business

- A. Grant request: Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust (They're part of TNC)
 1. Tyler Island easement: just west of Staten Island. The group is asking for \$2000 for greater and lesser sandhill crane habitat: perpetual conservation

- easement, 275 acres, long term management plan, crane-friendly farming practices. Deadline: they need answer from us by...not listed. Elliott wants to read it before he votes on it. Grant says it's well-written. Bill will get more info from the requestor. *Will be put on next month's agenda.*
2. We should decide on a process for accepting grant proposals, budget, and deadlines / guidelines for grant criteria. Check what the website says. *Put on next month's agenda.*
- B. Grant request: Wildlife Heritage Foundation
1. From Veronica Griffiths, nonprofit that enhances wildlife habitat. Based in Lincoln. Preserving 100,000 acs of open space. Free environmental education for Placer county. Hold conservation easement on the McBean park preserve in Lincoln, including riparian habitat on Auburn Ravine Creek. Want to put up bluebird boxes, boxes for swallows, will install along Ferari Ranch Rd. Partnering with Sierra Foothills Audubon, Friends of Auburn Ravine. Sent a budget breakdown. Total project budget is \$1228. Motion (Elliott/Grant) to donate \$350. *Motion approved unanimously.*
- C. Pelagic trips
1. Bill sent email from Linda. Would like to change how spots are reserved on trips. We have to charter the boats to ensure that there are spots available for members. However, only half the people on the boat were members. Could also contact Alvero Jamarillo, reserve 10 spots, and he can fill the rest of the boat. Harriett will do both trips for this year and see how it goes. She'll contact Linda and discuss it all with her. She'll report back to the board at the next meeting.
- D. Sac350.org
1. Sally's email from Jan 11th. \$300 sounds good to Bill. \$25/month donation is Sally's proposal. Harriett says we'll only do 1 donation per year. Sally motions to donate \$300 per year to Sac 350. The board wants more info. on Sac350 first. Sally will find out more from Lori about what the group stands for: what are they pushing for to achieve the zero emissions. Motion to hold the original motion (Sally/Diana). *Motion passed unanimously.* Will be further discussed next month.
- E. Sacramento Environmental Commission awards
2. Bill passed around the paperwork. Application due by next month. Diana will work with Bill to fill it out.

VIII. Adjournment: 9:31 pm.