

MINUTES

Sacramento Audubon Society

Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: Apr 30, 2019; 6:30 p.m.

Location: Truly and Associates

2431 Capitol Ave., Sacramento, CA

Approved Date: May 28, 2019

I. Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm.

A. Roll Call:

1. Board Members Present: Jane Van Kessel, Diana Hickson, Elliott Chasin, Bill Bianco, Harriett Saeck, Daphne Reimer, Grant Boice, Rosalind Becker (This is Rosalind's last meeting).
2. Board Members attending remotely by phone: Sally Walters
3. Board Members Absent: None

B. Approval of Minutes (March 2019): Draft sent out; edits needed. Approval will be conducted over email once edits are completed.

II. Guests / Public Comment

- A. Mary Forrestal is in attendance: Director nominee for 2019-2020 term.
- B. Gesna Clarke is in attendance: Education Committee Chair and Director nominee for 2019-2020 term.

III. Presentations:

A. Sean Wirth is here, representing Habitat 2020, to present a review of local conservation actions/issues.

1. Elk Grove Swainson's hawk mitigation lawsuit appeal. Recap of issue: Elk Grove plans to develop in the SE planning area and has chosen a specific site to the east to use as mitigation for the development's impacts to Swainson's hawks (SWHA). The land to be developed contains many pairs of SWHA. The mitigation property only contains one. Also, the mitigation property is 18 miles away from the planned development. CDFW has a rule that SWHA mitigation has to be no more than 10 miles away from impacts.
 - a. SAS provided financial assistance to a lawsuit to attempt to force Elk Grove to do an EIR. The group lost the lawsuit, but will appeal.
 - b. Will SAS contribute \$1,000 to the legal fees of the appeal? Motherlode Chapter of Sierra Chapter is contributing \$3,000. Sac-Sierra chapter of Sierra Club giving \$750. We don't need to decide now; the timeline is probably 6mos to a year before they will need an answer from us. *TBD*.
2. Other lawsuit: Against EG and LAFCO about Sphere of Influence. Had some sort of timing issue with CEQA, but the case is still pending.
3. The Boot, North Sac area: Large area for SWHA set aside as part of Natomas Basin HCP. It was supposed to stay as agriculture in perpetuity. Now developers want to develop the site. Habitat 2020 is keeping a close eye on what's happening and will update us as needed.
4. WaterFix: Single Tunnel idea seems to have confounded DWR. There's a stall in the process now. Habitat 2020 wants them to re-analyze; not sure if they will. Shasta Dam and Sites Reservoir are auxilliary projects that would likely happen if the tunnels go through. Good reasons to oppose the tunnels.

5. Mather Field: Elliott is involved with Public Access Group and has been talking to Eva at Splash. Federal gov't. handed over land to Sac County. USFWS said you can develop and the existing vernal pools can be mitigation if you preserve it. Weeds are a big issue out there. Economic Development Department of the County is responsible for the land.
6. Elliott commented on the Mitigated Negative Declaration for a bridge project for Friends of SWHA. It really should have been a full EIR analysis, but they did an MND. Seeing this a lot in the local area recently.

IV. Officer Reports

A. President (Bill):

1. Bill passed around the award SAS received from the Sac Environmental Commission. He and Gesna attended the event and received it in person.
2. Dan Airola: Working with Sac Tree Association on Re-oak Sacramento: plant oaks and care for existing oaks. Project at Reichmuth Park to control English ivy that's taking over in the park, hurting the oaks. Would we consider giving a donation? He's also looking for volunteers. He'll have more info in June. Sally suggests connecting him with Michelle Stevens at Sac State who's working on Bushy Lake.

B. Treasurer (Harriet):

1. General Fund donations are up but Education donations are down. Bobelaine donations are on target. Farallon trip: 12 people have signed up to go, of probably a max of 20-25. Spent more on Conservation than we'd expected. Aside from that, we're pretty much on budget with our expenses. Net income of \$5,276. We have \$47,000 in the bank now.

C. Corresponding Secretary (Diana):

1. Standard requests for donation from Effie Yeaw and from The Nature Conservancy. Other chapters' newsletters to hand around.

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): None

D. Education (Gesna):

1. Goals for 2019: asked for comments from board at last meeting.
2. She sent a revision this morning to the group, based on edits/comments from the board. Revisions include purple martin efforts, along with advertising field trips to other organizations (like CNPS), and expanding the number of schools that participate in Nature Bowl (talking to CREEC).

E. Membership (Jane):

1. April numbers: 600 active SAS members. 10 new SAS members. 4 people made inactive. 112 members received The Observer by email. The National Audubon web portal has no information this month as to the number of NAS members who live in our chapter area or if there were new NAS members this month who live in our chapter area.
2. Jane and Harriett updated the Quickbooks invoice. Diana wrote a letter to the member who suggested the update. Jane sends packets to each new

- National member who doesn't sign up for SAS and for whom we don't have an email address. She sends Observer, envelope, etc. (costs 70 cents to send each packet plus the cost of printing the copies of the Observer). Do we want to continue sending these packets out?
3. She's tracking whether people join SAS after receiving the packet. We'll wait to decide until she has more information. *Put this on the agenda in 3 months.*
- F. Communications (Wendy): None
- G. Resale Merchandise (Becky Norris) (Bill): None
- H. Conservation (Larry, Elliot):
1. Elliott won't be at Habitat 2020 meeting Tuesday the 7th at 7pm.
 2. Someone else can go instead. Bill and Jeff will be at Advocacy Day during the day but Bill may attend in the evening.
- I. Bobelaine Committee (Larry, Bill, John):
1. North trails are open. South trails still have some water.
 2. Sunday: planted some wild rose and coyote bush at parking area.
- J. Other Committee Reports (if any): None
- K. Board Member Reports (if any): None

VI. Old Business

- A. Purple martin decline:
1. Bill and Dan Airola met with the city (architect, environmental planner, engineer, etc.) about some approaches to the martin issue before the I Street bridge public workshop in April. Sacramento City put up 2 of Dan's nest boxes for purple martins. Two bat boxes were also put up on 2 columns.
 2. End of May: updated EIR will come out. It will be 2-3 years before the current columns will come down so we have some time to test out nest boxes.
Remove this issue from Old Business.
- B. Grant application process: *On hold until we finalize the budget.*
- C. Policies and Procedures Document:
1. Bill gave corrections to Diana and she edited the document. Added endowment contact info for National Audubon Society.
 2. Once budget timeline is added to the document, Bill will ask Diana to send out the new version to the board.
- D. SAS Website Committee:
1. Gesna sent out notes on the activities of the Committee prior to this meeting. Committee has spoken with 2 companies: Network Solutions and Outback Solutions. Would take a month to a month and a half for a new website.
 2. We wouldn't need a webmaster anymore if we purchased ongoing maintenance from one of the companies. We would just need someone (volunteer) to contact the company when we have updates.
 3. The process: Website Committee has sent out a survey to the membership and it's live online until May 31. Next Website Committee meeting is June 10th. Committee will review survey responses and discuss how to incorporate. Committee members will each also come to the meeting with their wire diagrams for discussion. Outback wants to see the wire diagram before they'll give a more specific cost estimate.
 4. 14 people have taken the survey online. Jane will send out an email on Constant Contact to remind people to take the survey.

E. Budget

1. Based on the current estimated numbers, we're \$15,779 in the red. The two wildcards are: \$10,000 expenditure for the website and \$5,000 for grants. All other expenses are pretty fixed. Reduce the ceiling of grants maybe?
2. Even without the website and grants, we're still \$779 in the hole. What do we do about this? Need to increase income. We should consider increasing our dues. No one remembers a time that our membership due cost was raised, so it's been a very very long time. It used to be that the Observer cost half of the amount we brought in from dues. Now it breaks even. Raising dues would also help defray the costs of website update.
3. Perhaps we could include the option for varying levels of membership, as some of the other clubs do (examples passed around). Gesna will look into her history information to find out how long the dues have been \$25.
4. We can wait until the September meeting to deal with the budget ultimately. Also, the Web Committee will know more about the website costs by September. *Put this on the agenda for the August meeting.* For now, we'll just follow the budget we're on currently.

VII. New Business

A. Feral Cats

1. Membership got a letter from a member of the public about feral cats, suggesting SAS discuss it with the Sac City Council. Some attended American Bird Conservancy Zoom talk today in preparation for this topic. Bill will write a response to the member of the public, saying we're looking into it and we're discussing it at the Board level.
2. It's a very contentious issue in the public sphere. National Audubon Society doesn't have an official policy (presumably too contentious). Perhaps we could develop a policy that doesn't pull us into the larger debate, for example a policy that states we don't support feeding feral cats in natural areas.
3. We should work on a policy as an organization. Elliott will take this on as a member of the Conservation Committee. Daphne will look up other chapters' policies. *Remove from agenda for now. Elliott will update the board later.*

B. Steelhead Creek Grant Proposal

1. They're applying for a grant from CA Department of Water Resources and are hoping we will write them a letter of support. Motion (Harriett/Elliott) to write a support letter. *Motion passed unanimously.*

C. Reimbursement for member attending National Audubon Convention

1. Convention is in July in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Gesna will be attending. She's requesting registration reimbursement only; she will cover travel expenses herself.
2. She plans to attend talks on engaging youth, fundamentals of climate change, qualities of a mission-driven board, and diversity on boards, as well as a regional flyway meeting. Early bird registration is \$425. Motion (Jane/Grant) for SAS to pay the full registration fee for Gesna's attendance at conference. *Motion passed unanimously.*

VIII. Adjournment: 9:05pm.