

## **Sacramento Audubon Society Board Meeting Minutes, February 26, 2013**

Meeting was called to order at 7:07pm.

Present: Don Schmoltdt, Sally Walters, Keith Wagner, Cathie LaZier, Karen Zumwalt, Tim Fitzer, Darrell Mohr, Linda Pittman, Gary Fregien and Subash Chand. Absent: Jonilynn Okano. Guests: Sean Wirth, Rob Burness and Peter Watkins.

The minutes of 1/29/13 were approved.

Guests Sean Wirth and Rob Burness, co-chairs of Habitat 2020, and also on the ECOS and SOSC boards, gave the following report.

Habitat 2020, with Sacramento Audubon Society as a founding member, was established in 1997, to coordinate habitat protection activities among the various local environmental groups, because ECOS, the Sacramento area umbrella organization for environmental groups, focuses more broadly on urban land use matters that go beyond habitat enhancement and protection. ECOS, which is a 501(c)(3) organization, serves as the fiscal agent for Habitat 2020, which does not have its own 501(c)3 status.

Recent activities of Habitat 2020 include the California Heartland Project which focuses on creating a unified vision for conserving and promoting interconnections of the Sacramento regions diverse working rural landscapes and habitat types including some that have previously been overlooked, such as grassland prairie habitats. Habitat 2020 has also been working with the mayor's Green Initiative and working with local governments to encourage good conservation planning. They hope to obtain good resource data from upcoming annual flyovers of the state by DWR. They are active in opposing bad projects such as the Cordova Hills Project, the Elk Grove expansion (which would have a huge negative impact on Stone Lakes and the Cosumnes River Preserve and would be particularly detrimental to Sandhill Cranes and Swainson's Hawks), and the Southeast Connector road from Elk Grove to Folsom. Habitat 2020 is also involving itself in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, which, while conserving some aquatic resources, is a problem because of the proposal to build a peripheral canal. Habitat 2020, in settling a lawsuit over the Southeast Connector, has secured funds dedicated toward developing a "greenprint" as part of the SACOG blueprint process, which will significantly help to address planning deficiencies regarding protection and interconnectivity of bird and plant habitats across 5 county SACOG area (example: only nesting birds are typically covered in most local planning documents; no wintering habitat is mentioned or considered).

Keith commented that Sacramento Audubon as a founding member of Habitat 2020 relies on Habitat 2020 as its conservation committee, and offered SAS resources, such as grant funding, and publicizing H2020 activities or issues that require citizen action and response through SAS' newsletter and website, and through its action alert e-mail list and its indirect involvement in the Sacramento Birds list. He suggested keeping the lines of communication open, and encouraged Habitat 2020 board members to attend SAS meetings and to come to SAS as needed for any particular project or activity to further SAS and H2020's shared environmental goals.

Sean, speaking as a Sierra Club representative, spoke of the Wild America program which makes information about endangered areas a component of Sierra Club outings, to inform and educate participants. He suggested that SAS, with our many field trips, could do the same by emphasizing special Heartland areas as part of both the field trip write-ups and conversations during the field trips. Cathie and Tim will take this idea to Field Activities for development.

### Old Business:

The Committee Function Statements will be stored online, with the bylaws, which Keith will send to Subash.

Unpaid advertising for birding related activities of interest to our members will be accepted if the class or activity is conducted by a Sacramento Audubon member who is a regular volunteer and active in SAS activities. This criteria was previously established for publication in the Observer newsletter, and will also apply to the website.

The board ratified an online vote to donate \$1800 to Dave Wyatt to fund his studies of denning Ringtails. Due to the urgent need of funds prior to the start of denning season, the motion was handled by email.

#### New Business:

Keith moved, and Linda seconded, a motion to donate \$1000 towards initial funding for the ECOS/Sierra Club Cordova Hills lawsuit. The motion passed unanimously

Cathie moved and Darrell seconded a motion to donate \$200 to Friends of the Swainson's Hawk to help with their expenses for the "Welcoming Back the Swainson's Hawks" event at Sutter's Landing. The motion passed unanimously.

Sally moved and Gary seconded a motion to honor Bill Dillinger for his lifetime contributions to SAS, with a \$1000 donation in his name to ARNHA. Cathie and Sally will work up a presentation, probably with Pete Hayes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### Reports:

Nominations: the committee, Tim Fitzer, Cathie LaZier, Keith Wagner and Darrell Mohr, reported on their efforts to date in putting together a slate of officers for the 2013/14 fiscal year to recommend to the general membership. Several board members have agreed to stay on the board, and Margaret Martin has agreed to join the board. There are still positions to fill, and the committee will continue its efforts.

Treasurer: Cathie LaZier reported that the ECOS annual dues were \$200, and that amount was paid, rather than the \$500 discussed at the last meeting. The monthly report was emailed to all board members.

Outreach: Cathie LaZier reported that we now participate in about a dozen events per year. We have six events scheduled during the next 3 months, and almost enough volunteers. We had to decline 2 other invitations due to scheduling conflicts.

Speakers' Bureau: Subash Chand reported that the new Speakers' Bureau has received another request for a presentation to a Senior group. He will attempt to find a volunteer for this request.

Gary Fregien reported that the SAS donation of \$500 to the Feather River Land Trust was doubled due to matching funds.

Linda Pittman reported that the Farallons Pelagic trip is tentatively scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Karen Zumwalt reported that not much mail is received through the post office box. She paid the annual box fee and Cathie will reimburse her.

#### Discussions:

Lea Landry receives many phone calls not related to membership questions, due to her name and phone number being listed first on the back page of the Observer. Cathie will talk to Sharon about redesigning the box and removing most of the phone numbers.

Audubon California, which normally holds 3 meetings a year, has not announced any upcoming meetings. The last meeting was in October of 2012. Keith will check with them.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Cathie LaZier