

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: September 24, 2013
Approved Date: October 29, 2013
SMUD Meeting Rooms

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:10 p.m.

Role Call: Board Members Present: Linda Pittman, Subhash Chand, Don Schmoltdt, Cathie LaZier, Tim Fitzer, Keith Wagner, Margaret Martin, Karen Zumwalt, Darrel Mohr. Board Members Absent: Gary Fregien, Jonilynn Okano.

Approval of Minutes: Revised Draft August 2013 Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus as circulated.

President Report (Linda):

- Linda provided her personal e-mail address to Subhash so that he can link/forward e-mails sent to “president@sacramentoaudubon.org” to her.
- Linda reports that she and Keith have worked with members of Save Our Sandhill Cranes to draft a proposed Op Ed for the Sacramento Bee in response to DWR’s recent proposal to route the proposed peripheral canal tunnels through Staten Island. The Bee has not published. SAS and SOS Cranes are discussing what to do next with the draft article.

Treasurer’s report (Cathie):

- Cathie circulated monthly report prior to meeting. Nothing out of ordinary to report.
- Cathie notes that we are expecting 2013 Baseline funding deposit from National Audubon Society any time now. Don confirms that he has submitted SAS’ annual report FY 2012-2013, which is the condition that NAS requires be fulfilled to transfer Baseline funding.
- **MOTION** (LaZier/Mohr): \$250 for SAS to sponsor Galt Winter Bird Festival. Ayes 9, Noes 0, Abstain 0. Motion passes.

Subhash, in reviewing Treasurer’s report, has impression that SAS spent about \$14,000 more last year than budgeted, wonders how that was funded? Cathie confirms all budgets balance, and that SAS did not have to dip into CDs. Cathie wonders if Subhash may be looking at dated reports that don’t have complete information for entire FY 2012-2013. Cathie and Subhash agree to discuss/resolve Subhash’s questions off line.

Subhash asks why SAS funds are invested in CDs rather than other investment vehicles that might provide greater returns? Cathie states she does not feel qualified to make decisions to place SAS funds in more adventurous investment vehicles (and notes disaster that would have occurred in 2008 had we been), but that she is willing to take input. No decisions made on any different investment strategies.

Membership (Cathie for Lea):

- On September 23, 2013, Cathie forwarded to Board membership report and list of non-renewing members from Lea Landry, Membership Chair, for review.
- Chapter currently has 2,850 members assigned by National.
- Chapter currently has 540 dues paying chapter members, 194 are cross over with National.
- Keith asks Board members to review list of non-renewing members, and to contact any individuals they may know to encourage them to renew.

Corresponding Secretary (Karen):

- Plumas Audubon has sent a thank you letter to SAS for its \$300 funding/donation for flammulated owl geolocator.
- P.O. Box needs to be renewed, USPS requires note from Tim (as person who set up box originally) to Karen, so that she can renew the P.O. Box.
- Per Board request at August Board meeting, Karen did sent letter to Peter Watkins re reorganization of SAS resale merchandise and activities. Darrell confirms he has picked up remaining merchandise that Peter had.
- Cathie reports that letter received from Butte/Yuba/Sutter Water Coalition; dues for Bobelaine have been paid.

Outreach (Cathie):

- Upcoming events covered, but may need more help with Swan Festival:
 - Effie Yeaw Nature Fest, October, 6, 2013.
 - Lodi Crane Festival, November 2-3, 2013.
 - Marysville Swan Festival, November 9-10, 2013.
 - CVBC Symposium, November 23-24. 2013.

Education (Karen and Cathie):

- Cathie reports that joint EYNS/SAS Family Birding field trip has been held and was a great success. A report has been written up for the Observer. Cathie notes that volunteer leaders are needed for this program.
- Karen notes that e-mail for CVBC are coming to her, perhaps because the education@sacramentoaudubon.org e-mail address has been generically subscribed. Subhash recommends that if Karen wishes not to receive such e-mails, that she look for an “unsubscribe” link at the bottom of the CVBC e-mails which should allow her to remove the education e-mail address from their mailing list.

Resale Merchandise (Cathie):

- Cathie reports that calendars are not moving as quickly as hoped.
- For general sales inquiries by stores and other vendors, Subhash indicates that he can set up a generic e-mail for “sales@sacramentoaudubon.org,” but that somebody would need to volunteer to monitor that address and respond. Linda agrees to be point of contact as e-mails may come in and to forward them to relevant SAS Board members who are acting as liaisons to stores in the area.

- Cathie reports that Maureen Geiger has agreed to be sales liaison for Avid Reader.

Conservation (Keith):

- AB 711 (statewide ban on use of lead ammunition for hunting): Keith reports on SAS letters sent to Ken Cooley at end of legislative session requesting support for AB 711; and letter sent, at Audubon CA's request, to Governor Brown after bill passed Legislature, asking Governor to sign the bill into law.
- Keith provides general report on how decisions are made regarding advocacy and positions taken by SAS. As with other SAS Chairs, Conservation Chair is entrusted to evaluate particular matters being advocated and make discretionary decisions as to what level of Board or chapter member involvement may be required. For AB 711, bill not particularly controversial in terms of Audubon support, and so Keith sent letters subject to report out to board. Other matters that are more controversial (e.g., feral cat trapping/control) would be brought to Board to decide whether and what positions to take before any formal letters or positions taken.

Bobelaine (Linda and Keith):

- Linda reports that Bobelaine Exploratory Committee met earlier in the day on September 24, 2013, with Dan Taylor and Brigid McCormack, with Audubon CA to discuss Bobelaine's present management and expenses, and potential options for Bobelaine's future.
 - Dan noted Bobelaine is recognized as being in one of top three riparian areas in the State (Kern and Cosumnes are other two).
 - Dan informed Committee that Audubon CA's payment in full of SAS 2011-2012 expenses for Bobelaine exceeded available funds from Crandall estate, but was made as a showing of good faith and recognition for SAS' work in maintaining the property.
 - Dan reports Crandall Estate Endowment is at approximately \$155,000. maximum that can be paid out of that fund is 4.5% of the balance, but on a rolling average. On this point, Audubon CA will have no more than approximately \$2,500 available FY 2013.
 - Audubon CA is reviewing all properties they hold in the State against Audubon CA's new strategic plan for consistency with plan. Audubon CA is presently in a mode of transferring away more properties than they are acquiring. Bobelaine's future as a property held in fee title by Audubon CA is unclear at this time.
 - For example, one property Audubon CA owned in Lake County has been transferred to a recreation consortium. Similarly, the Mayacamas property has now been transferred to Audubon Canyon Ranch (a separate organization/corporation that is independent of National/Audubon CA) along with Mayacamas' endowment.
 - Audubon CA is willing to work with SAS, in terms of what SAS vision may be for Bobelaine.
 - The Committee discussed with Audubon CA the probability that our local chapter insurance policies and National's policies for Bobelaine may be

- redundant. Audubon CA is willing to help with reviewing/comparing NAS and SAS insurance policies to reduce redundancies.
- There is a need to get a better understanding what is happening with the property in terms of the management and what opportunities may be present. The Committee and Audubon CA discussed Bobelaine in context of potentially establishing larger wildlife management area (Oso-Plumas?) that encompasses surrounding lands now owned/managed by state.
 - The Committee and Audubon CA reviewed and discussed the key documents creating Bobelaine and the endowment (the NAS title transfer, the NAS/SAS management agreement, and Bob Crandall's bequest). Nothing in the title transfer to National requires the property to be conserved for wildlife. The Crandall estate funds, technically, are donated to National without any specific reservation for Bobelaine. The only document that creates/requires management of the property as a wildlife sanctuary is the NAS/SAS management agreement.
- Keith presented a proposed draft agreement with Robert Thomas that would formally document SAS' ownership of the new tractor at Bobelaine, and Robert's volunteer status as manager of the Sanctuary.
 - Keith explained the history/genesis of current arrangements regarding the tractor which have been verbal or only informally documented through e-mails with Robert.
 - Margaret inquired regarding written agreement, and whether it should be amended to reflect that Robert and SAS have an agreement that SAS' payments are a purchase agreement with Robert. Keith explains that he believes that to be effectively what he, Robert and the SAS Boards that have been advised on these matters since the Tractor's purchase in 2010, all understood. But, the fact remains that the way it has always been actually described is that Robert is purchasing the tractor, SAS is paying an amount equivalent to each installment as a rental, and, that upon SAS covering all payments for the tractor, Robert will donate the tractor to SAS. Keith believes the agreement, as written, best documents SAS' ownership, upon SAS providing Robert with a check that covers all amounts he has paid to retire the financing on the tractor.
 - **MOTION** (Wagner/LaZier): to approve the agreement as written and present it to Robert, with the understanding that if Robert signs, then Keith shall present Robert with a check (to be cut by Cathie) that reimburses Robert for his full payoff of the tractor. Ayes 8, Noes 1 (Martin), Abstain 0. Motion passes.

New Business:

- Paton's Bird Sanctuary. Linda requests that SAS utilize its public outreach resources to help with Tucson Audubon's fundraising efforts to acquire this property in Arizona. Linda notes that many traveling members of SAS have visited or would like to visit. Linda not requesting direct SAS financial contribution toward purchase. Board agrees to use SAS outreach resources to

encourage members to consider supporting Tucson Audubon's efforts. Linda to write up and provide to Sharon for Observer and to Subhash for potential electronic communication outreach.

- Cathie and Darrell report that a new table-top display is needed, as the current display, while very good, is too cumbersome for table top use. Board agrees that Cathie should price out options and report back to Board on options and costs. Linda notes it would be nice if display is designed so that photos can potentially be interchanged for relevant seasons, habitats, etc.
- Linda and Margaret report that Margaret has tendered her resignation from Board effective October 8, 2013. Linda will be considering replacement candidates for appointment.
- On related note, Subhash asks if there is any source of information for a 501(c)(3) director's responsibilities/liabilities. Margaret notes there is a document on line from a SF firm that she has found that is helpful and that she will forward the link to the full Board for review/consideration.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.