

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: February 25, 2014
Approved Date: April 29, 2014
SMUD Meeting Rooms

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:08 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: Draft January 2014 Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus as circulated.

Guest Presentation – Julie Serences, Retiring SAS Native Plant Coordinator:

- Julie Serences, former SAS Education Chair, and present SAS Native Plant Coordinator, is moving to San Diego. She thanked the Sacramento Audubon Board for 8 years of support and lending SAS' name recognition to her education efforts on behalf of SAS, California Native Plant Society and the Xerces Society. Her role as SAS Education Chair, when she held that position, served as the springboard for her efforts to promote backyard habitats. Julie emphasized her view that a key role that SAS does and should continue to serve is promoting and supporting education at the local level about the importance of native landscapes and habitats. She hopes the chapter will continue in this capacity. The Board thanked Julie for her many contributions to the chapter, its members, and native wildlife and habitats of the Sacramento region throughout her tenure.

President's Report (Linda):

- Linda attended a meeting with the managers of Yolo Basin. Yolo Audubon representatives, and other interested members of the public to discuss concerns about a perceived lack of adequate shore bird habitat in the Basin this year. Linda reports that the meeting revealed that shorebird habitat has been present, but largely in areas not accessible to public. This years drought has presented challenges in managing the Basin's available natural resources, as well as managing for differing interest groups such as birders and hunters. Yolo Basin's managers agreed that they can and will do a better job of outreach under the challenging conditions presented this year to let the interested public know about when there will be flooding. Linda anticipates sharing minutes from the meeting when they are made available, and that the meeting will probably be repeated in the future as an annual event.

Treasurer's report (Cathie):

- Cathie circulated monthly report prior to meeting.
- Cathie specifically reports that one the SAS CD's in the amount of \$7,461.50—and which once was voluntarily set aside by a prior SAS Board as dedicated to Bobelaine but that the SAS general membership subsequently voted to re-allocate to SAS' general fund—has been matured, and has been transferred to SAS general checking account.
- Subhash asked whether SAS should diversify its portfolio to seek greater returns than those offered by CDs. Cathie responded that would be fine, but she is not comfortable personally making decisions that could place such funds in less secure investments. Marcia reports that she will ask within the financial community that she works with about potential insights or options and report back at a future Board meeting.

Corresponding Secretary's report (Linda for Karen):

- Linda reported in Karen's absence that she had visited the post box and picked up the SAS mail.

Membership (Cathie for Lea):

- Chapter currently has 2,999 members assigned by National.
- Chapter currently has 539 dues paying chapter members, 191 are cross over with National.
- Cathie has forwarded e-mail from Lea with list of non-renewing chapter members to the Board, in case any Board members personally know the non-renewing members and might contact them to ask them to renew.

Programs Report (Linda and other Board members for Sally):

- Remainder of FY 2013-2014 Season:
 - March Program: Sierra Nevada Adaptive Management Program has been confirmed. Audubon CA will also appear for 15 minutes.
 - April Program: Susan Myers, Birds of Borneo has been confirmed. We have agreed to cover \$500 for travel. For April.
 - May Program: Tim has been having trouble reaching Andy Engilis to confirm his presentation in May. Linda said she will also try to reach Andy to confirm.
- Future Potential Presentations:
 - Paul Tebbel, Effie Yeaw manager and often (but not always) present at the meetings has offered his crane programs as a back up to cover if we have a speaker fall through.
 - October 2014: Paul Bannick, Nature & Bird Photographer and Author, may be doing a presentation for Effie Yeaw in October 2014. SAS may see if it can coordinate having him do the October program.
 - Other possibilities include Karen Velas with California Audubon's Working Lands Program, Susan Schneider (author), and rescheduling Dawn Garcia.

- Cathie suggests Guy Galante with Soil Born Farms who has a presentation on coyotes may be a good candidate for a future program.

Outreach and Education (Cathie):

- Outreach:
 - SAS has signed up to participate in 2014 Earth Day event.
- Education:
 - SAS is continuing its monthly joint SAS/EYNC Saturday walks, with very high numbers of participants. We are trying to provide 2 SAS leaders each time to meet the high demand but need more volunteers to support these events.
 - SAS has also been continuing its very successful adult Beginning Birder walks.

Resale Merchandise (Cathie):

- Becky Norris has volunteered to step in as SAS Resale Merchandise Chair in March.
- Subhash will coordinate setting up the sales@sacramentoaudubon.org email address to be forwarded to Becky.
- Darrell will check in with Wild Birds Unlimited at Loehmann's Plaza.
- Maureen Geiger would like to find a replacement to deliver books to Avid Reader. Cathie believes we do have some guidebooks and checklists for sale there.
- Subhash reports merchandise sales traffic volume through the SAS website is presently very low.
- Following Board discussion on which members have copies of the Birding in the Sacramento Region, it appears we are down to about 50-60 copies of an original run of 500 copies. Before reprinting, Linda will check with Chris Conard about a potential update to address new information since the last run.
- Following Board discussion, Board agrees that current SAS checklist is good enough and does not need to be prioritized for update at this time.
- Cathie inquires how invoicing is being handled by the various board liaisons to local stores. Invoicing is being done, but there is no one, consistent procedure that all contacts are using. Cathie reports she is willing to coordinate invoicing for now, so long as the liaisons report to her what they have delivered to the stores they are coordinating with. Board agrees that Becky should be asked if she is willing to handle invoicing, when she starts as Resale Merchandise Chair in March.

Conservation (Keith):

- Keith will be meeting with SAS member Jane Taylor as a potential candidate for the SAS Board, or H2020/ECOS Rep, or Conservation Chair, or some combination of those positions.

OTHER REPORTS

- Tim Fitzer: notes the excellent presentation that Dave Wyatt gave on ringtails, and also the excellent conservation studies he has done using the radio collars that SAS funded. Board agrees that Tim should approach Dave to ask if he has any other projects that he might submit to SAS for potential funding support.
- Darrell Mohr: reports that it turns out that SAS is a bit too late to donate its left over 2014 calendars to the veterans program he mentioned at the last Board meeting. Board agrees that calendars should be assigned to outreach for use/distribution at upcoming events.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Bobelaine Exploratory Committee:** due to a lack of available time since last meeting, Keith reports that there is no further developments or news on planning for Bobelaine's future.
- **Yolo Burrowing Owl Breeding Census:** Cathie and Linda report that that upon inquiry, (1) Chris Conard is supportive of the program, and (2) Yolo Audubon's lack of funding support has more to do with their limited budget than any concerns about the program or its organizers. **MOTION to donate \$250 to support survey (Mohr/Wagner).** Approved unanimously.
- **SAS Guidelines re Promotion of Fund Raising Events/Activities:** Keith presented a guidance document drafted in response to Subhash's request for same at the January 2014 Board meeting, which the Board then discussed. **MOTION to approve Guidelines re SAS Promotion of Fund Raising Events/Activities (Chand/Fitzer).** Approved unanimously. A copy of the guidance document, as approved by the Board, is attached to these minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

- **ECOS 2014 Dues:** **MOTION to pay \$200 dues to ECOS (Wagner/LaZier).** Approved unanimously.
- **Earth Day 2014 Sponsorship:** **MOTION to sponsor Earth Day 2014 at the \$250 level (Wagner/Fregien).** Approved unanimously.
- **Donation of \$1000 to ARNHA in Memory of Jack Hiele:** **MOTION (Fitzer/Mohr).** Approved unanimously.
- **Appointment of 2014 SAS Board Nomination Committee:** By assent, Board approves Tim Fitzer (chair) and Keith Wagner as the SAS 2014 Board Nominations Committee, to work in consultation with Linda Pittman to develop a proposed 2014-2015 slate of directors and officers to bring back to the Board at its March meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.