

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: August 26, 2014
Approved Date: September 30, 2014
SMUD Meeting Rooms

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:09 p.m.

Role Call: Board Members Present: Linda Pittman, Subhash Chand, Marcia Ferkovich, Keith Wagner, Diana Hickson, Darrel Mohr, Jonilynn Okano, Bill Bianco, Larry Hickey. **Board Members Absent:** Gary Fregien.

Approval of Minutes: Draft May 2014 Board Meeting Minutes approved by consensus as circulated with the inclusion of changes made by Linda clarifying the purpose of the \$1,700 grant to Dave Wyatt for continued ringtail research.

President's Report (Linda):

- Linda circulated 2014-2015 Board roster listing asking all board members to review/update their current contact information. Linda will circulate a revised list after the meeting, once she includes all current info.
- Linda circulated 2014-2015 SAS Committee Chair and Appointee roster asking for board members review, and also for any questions regarding appointments. Linda will circulate a revised list after the meeting, once she includes all current info.
- 2014 Annual Report to National Audubon. Linda reported that Cathie LaZier has completed the 2013-2014 financial report for inclusion with the 2014 Annual Report to National Audubon Society. Linda is presently commencing work on the annual report. Upon SAS' submittal of its annual report to National Audubon and National checking the completeness of the requested information, National is expected to make its annual baseline funding contribution to SAS, which has historically been approximately \$8,500 per year.

Treasurer's report (Marcia):

- Signatories for SAS Bank Accounts: Marcia reported that a corporate resolution and set of authorizing Board meeting minutes is required to change the names of persons authorized to sign checks for SAS. **MOTION (Wagner/Ferkovich): to designate Linda Pittman and Marcia Ferkovich as the persons with authorization to manage SAS bank accounts and sign checks on behalf of SAS.** Approved unanimously. Marcia requested that after the meeting Keith and Linda assist her with completing a "fill-in-the-blank" corporate resolution provided by the Bank to effect the change in signatories.

- **Amazon.Smile Sign Up:** Amazon.Smile allows persons purchasing items through Amazon.com to designate a portion of their purchase price toward a charity of their choosing. Linda agreed to contact Marcia tomorrow morning so Marcia can set up SAS as a charity with Amazon Smile.

Membership (Keith for Lea):

- Prior to the meeting Keith forwarded a report from Lea stating SAS current membership statistics.
 - The Chapter currently has 3,023 members assigned by National.
 - The Chapter currently has 545 dues paying Chapter members, 194 of which are also members with National.

Programs Report (Linda):

- Linda has arranged the following presentations for the first half of the 2014-2015 SAS member meetings, and is working on confirming presenters for the remainder of the season:
 - September 18, 2014: Rudy Darling, Birds and Culture of Oaxaca, Mexico
 - October 16, 2014: Mike Cardwell, Rattlesnakes
 - November 13, 2014: Dawn Garcia, Northern Saw-Whet Owls
 - January 15, 2015: TBA
 - February 19, 2015: Jeff Stoddard, YBWA

Outreach and Education:

- Cathie was not present, and no specific report on outreach or education was given.
- Jonilynn stated that Cathie has placed an announcement in the Observer for upcoming outreach events in need of volunteers.

Communications (Subhash):

- Subhash had no specific updates on communications.
- Subhash and Marcia will continue to work together regarding setting the SAS website up to accept PayPal payments.

Resale Merchandise (Linda):

- Becky Norris, the new volunteer Resale Merchandise chair intends to contact and check in the various stores in the Sacramento region that sell SAS books and checklists.
- Existing stock of the SAS Birding in the Sacramento Region book continues to dwindle. The Board generally agreed that a reprint should be run, but not sure whether to wait for an update first. Linda will be checking in with Chris on whether the book can/should be updated before reprinting, and also whether to put the book's content on web.

Conservation (Keith):

- Keith reports that he continues to seek a replacement who can be more active in participating in Habitat 2020 and ECOS meetings, and perhaps be SAS' Conservation Chair. Larry expressed an interest in potentially attending Habitat 2020 meetings to learn more. Keith will contact Larry after the Board meeting to pass on information about Habitat 2020 and ECOS meetings.

Corresponding Secretary (Diana):

- Diana asks if the second key for the SAS P.O. Box has been located. It has not. Diana will request another key from USPS.
- Diana has been scanning mail periodically and sending to Board members via e-mail, and asks if that is working for the Board. The Board responded affirmatively, as mail was previously only circulated at the Board meetings.

OTHER REPORTS

- Subhash Chand: SAS Speakers' Bureau presentations are scheduled for the Renaissance Society in September, and for local garden clubs in the Sacramento area in January and March.
- Subhash Chand: Subhash did not have an opportunity to finalize and circulate the Challenge Grant notice and application announcement approved at the Board's May 2014 meeting. Subhash intends to finalize the announcement and circulate it to target groups before the next Board meeting.
- Linda Pittman: Linda reported that in August, she was approached by Elise Tulloss, a researcher with UC Davis, who is interested in studying how vacant lots in Sacramento can provide ecosystem services (including, but not limited to bird habitat) and wondering if SAS would partner with her project in seeking a Toyota Green grant. Since that time the Toyota Green grant application cycle has closed. Linda reported that she has informed Ms. Tulloss of SAS' smaller, challenge grant program as a potential alternative.
- Linda Pittman: SAS will not be sponsoring a pelagic birding trip this year, due to substantial increased costs. Linda will send around an inquiry to the organizers of the trip to determine whether SAS might do this trip in the future, and if so, what the economic terms would be in light of the substantially increased cost.
- Diana Hickson: The current SMUD reservation only lasts through November. Diana is not sure if SAS has secured reservations with SMUD for 2015. Jonilynn reports that SMUDs renewal notice usually comes out around October for the following year, she has not seen such a notice yet. Keith and Diana will do some reconnaissance to investigate the status of SAS' reservations for the 2015 Board meetings.

- Linda Pittman: Linda reports that she has received a request for SAS to refer a biologist to assist residents of McKinley Park area with reviewing impacts of a proposed project. SAS has not provided such referrals in the past. Linda suggested that she will pass the request on to Sally Walters, who may be qualified, if interested.
- Linda Pittman: Linda reports that she has received an e-mail offering the chapter a Vortex spotting scope if somebody will pick it up. Subash agreed to follow up on picking the scope up. Keith suggested that perhaps the chapter could hold a raffle with the scope as the prize.
- Linda Pittman: Linda reports that SAS member Dan Airola has asked whether SAS might support tricolored blackbird conservation efforts being headed up by Audubon California and Lowell Young (Yosemite Audubon). After some discussion, the Board asked Linda to ask Dan to be SAS' liaison to the effort and report back with whatever particular support requests Lowell and Audubon CA might have in mind.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Bobelaine Exploratory Committee:** Keith reports that last year's (2013-2014) Bobelaine expenses have dropped dramatically, since SAS paid off the tractor financing. At this time, money received annually from National is about \$2,500/year, with last year's expenses only exceeding that amount by approximately an additional \$1,000. In years past, when tractor payments were being made, expenses ran as high as approximately \$11,000/year.

NEW BUSINESS

- **SAS Participation in 2014 NatureFest at Effie Yeaw Nature Center: MOTION (Wagner/Chand) to approve \$500 to participate as a sponsor of the event.** Approved unanimously.
- **Galt Winter Bird Festival (February 7, 2015): MOTION (Mohr/Okano) to approve \$500 for SAS to participate as a gold sponsor.** Approved unanimously.
- **Request from Wendy Money for Donation to Support Inner City School Children Trip to Effie Yeaw: MOTION (Mohr/Bianco) to donate \$380 to cover travel costs for the trip.** Approved unanimously.
- **\$1000 To Effie Yeaw Nature Center In Recognition of Cathie LaZier and Tim Fitzer's Contributions To SAS. Motion (Okano/Wagner) to approve a \$1,000 contribution to Effie Yeaw Nature Center in recognition and honor of Cathie LaZier and Tim Fitzer's contributions to SAS.** Approved unanimously.
- **Duck Stamp Key Ring Holders (Linda):** Linda brought a sample duck stamp key ring holder that some birders put on their scopes to show support for the

duck stamp program. Linda suggested that SAS might purchase some to make them available to SAS members. Keith suggested that perhaps an insert with the SAS Logo and website could be included to promote SAS, and agreed to work on designing and printing such an insert if the Board approves purchasing the key ring holders. **MOTION (Wagner/Bianco) to allocate \$45 for the chapter to purchase 100 duck stamp key ring holders.** Approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.