

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

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:20 p.m.

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

Approval of Minutes: Draft August 2014 Board Minutes approved by consensus.

CHANGE OF BOARD MEETING LOCATION COMMENCING JANUARY 2015: Recording Secretary Keith Wagner reported that due to SMUD's plans to remodel its meeting rooms commencing January 2015, he has reserved the meeting room at the **Arden-Dimmick Library at the corner of Watt Ave & Northrup Ave, 891 Watt Ave, Sacramento, for the SAS Board of Directors' January and February 2015 meetings.** SAS Board meetings will still be on the last Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the new meeting location.

President's Report (Linda):

- Linda reported that the Rally 2015 Host Committee (Land Conservation Groups) had written to ask whether SAS might host field trips for their upcoming meetings. After discussion, the Board decided to decline the request.

Treasurer's report (Marcia):

- Marcia reported that SAS current bank, Heritage, is going to charge SAS \$12/month in service charges. Marcia wishes to move the accounts to Wells Fargo to avoid such charges. Marcia proposes to move the operating account to Wells Fargo as soon as possible, and then coordinate moving SAS' CDs from Heritage to Wells Fargo as they mature and can be moved: **MOTION (Chand/Bianco) to authorize moving SAS' bank accounts to Wells Fargo. Passed unanimously.**

Corresponding Secretary's Report (Diana):

- Diana reported on status of SAS' Post Office Box. U.S.P.S. presently has Tim Fitzer listed as main contact for the P.O. Box. Diana obtained an extra key for P.O. Box, gave it to Linda, so Linda (as SAS President) has backup access to the P.O. Box.

Membership (Linda for Lea):

- Linda reported that, prior to the meeting, Keith forwarded a report from Lea stating SAS current membership statistics.

- The Chapter currently has 2,925 members assigned by National.
- The Chapter currently has 547 dues paying Chapter members, 195 of which are also members with National.

Programs Report (Linda):

- Linda reports the following presentations are being planned for the membership meetings:
 - January: David Arselo, Flammulated Owls.
 - February: Jeff Stoddard, Yolo Basin February.
 - March and April: still open.
 - May: Phil Garone, Rise & Fall of Central Valley
- The November membership meeting was previously moved to 2nd Thursday of the month (November 13, 2014) to avoid conflicts with the Central Valley Birding Symposium. However, Linda has since been informed by Effie Yeaw staff that the Room is not available on the 13th due to a double booking. Linda is continuing to work with Effie Yeaw and the speaker to come up with options.

Outreach and Education:

- Subhash expressed concern, shared generally by the Board, that SAS needs a point person for its education efforts. Linda, in response, mentions that Garry George with Audubon CA had contacted her about a chapter building seminar (membership, board building, filling vacancies) which might help address the situation, if any Board members can attend. The seminar is being planned for October 11, 2014, in Merced.
- Subhash circulated a proposed letter for Board consideration offering local schools an opportunity to have SAS come and give a presentation to school kids on birds and birding. Linda suggests running the draft it by SAS member Paul Cordero, as he is a principal of a local school, and some other teachers who are members of SAS or that Linda Knows, who may have thoughts or suggestions on how SAS might approach local schools.
- Subhash reports that through the SAS Speakers Bureau he made a presentation to the Renaissance Society with over 100 people present. The group passed the hat and collected \$100, which Subhash has given to the chapter. Subhash said the group may want a repeat presentation next spring.

Resale Merchandise (Linda):

- Becky Norris, Resale Merchandise Chair is contacting the birding stores that carry SAS materials this week. Becky had previously discussed using e-mail to send invoices to the stores with Cathie. Marcia agrees this should be fine.
- Birding Sacramento Area Books: a working group has been formed to update the book. Chris Conard does have about 50 copies of the book left on hand. Linda

suggests picking those up from Chris and into the stores while the update is in progress. Linda will be checking in with Chris on timing and whether the book can/should be updated before reprinting, and also whether to put the book's content on web.

Conservation (Keith & Larry):

- Larry and Keith met with co-chairs of H2020 and ECOS. Larry is now on the e-mail lists for both and intends to attend future H2020 meetings and potentially ECOS meetings, time permitting. SAS is one of seven or eight local conservation/habitat groups that form H2020. H2020 serves as SAS' and as ECOS' conservation committee. The primary resource that SAS brings to the table for H2020 is SAS' (comparatively speaking) large membership, action alert list and financial resources.
- Keith reports that as SAS Conservation Chair he signed SAS on to a letter from National Audubon urging greater protections for the Greater Sage Grouse.

OTHER REPORTS

- Darrel Mohr: Darrel picked up the Vortex scope and accessories recently donated to the chapter (includes carrying case, tripod w/ carrying case, window mount and camera mount). Darrel estimates the scope may have cost about \$800 new, and is presently worth, perhaps, \$400 or \$500 now. After some discussion, the Board reached consensus as follows:
 - the scope should be raffled off at a drawing at the March 2015 general membership meeting to benefit Bobelaine upkeep.
 - Tickets should be sold at membership meetings and other events, as appropriate, prior to the drawing for \$5/ticket or 5 tickets/\$20. Each ticket should have name and contact information recorded on it so that the winner does not have to be present at the March meeting to win.
- Subhash Chand: notes that new members received via National Audubon society receive a copy of the Observer, but the outside of the Observer, as it arrives only has "Seasonal Observations," visible, wonders if something can be added that would generate interest in Sacramento Audubon Society for a first time recipient, perhaps an invitation to our monthly meetings, or something other information of local interest. Linda notes that an additional "welcome" letter is sent to such new member prospects. After some Board discussion, the Board agrees that Subhash might initiate a conversation with Sharon & Lea about options for changing the newsletter format or welcome letter content to encourage greater membership.
- Linda Pittman: At the last SAS Board meeting, the Board members made personal contributions to purchase gift certificates for Cathie LaZier and Tim Fitzer in recognition of their long standing service and dedication to SAS.

Cathie's gift certificate was presented at the last meeting. Tim was not at that meeting, so his will be presented at the next meeting.

- Linda Pittman: River City Bank has parcels in City of Folsom that they would like to donate, has inquired whether SAS is interested. The parcels contain 3.5 acres of wetland mitigation lands and 1.2 acre parcel of wooded mitigation lands. The City of Folsom doesn't want them. After some discussion, the Board agreed that SAS does not have the personnel or fiscal resources to take on ownership or management.
- Linda Pittman: DFW Handout on Wildlife Viewing. Bruce Foreman from CDFW came to speak at the last membership meeting. DFW has a trifold brochure that is a guide to locations for wildlife viewing in the Sacramento area. Bruce has inquired whether SAS might help with funding the design of the brochure, which could then be used for outreach. Darrel reports he had never seen this brochure before. After some discussion, the Board suggested that Darrel and Cathie consult on whether Outreach views the brochure as something that SAS should provide funding to DFW to produce for potential use at SAS Outreach events.
- Linda Pittman: Galt Winter Bird Festival will be on February 7, 2015. They are asking for a presentation on Yellow-billed Magpies. Board members suggested that they be referred to Holly Ernst at UCD, who several years ago was involved with coordinating the Magpie Monitor project.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Bobelaine Exploratory Committee:** Linda has checked in with Robert regarding maintenance for the tractor and mule. Both were picked up and serviced. Robert also mentioned that the access road from the gate back needs gravel. The gravel can be moved around with SAS' tractor. Linda knows the type of gravel needed, and so will coordinate getting the gravel delivered and spread where needed with Robert.

NEW BUSINESS

- **SAS Challenge Grant. Motion (Fregien/Mohr) to approve \$1,700 to fund grant proposal for Black Backed Woodpecker movie.** Approved unanimously.
- **Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival. Motion (Wagner/Okano) for SAS to sponsor event at \$500 level.** Approved unanimously.
- **Central Valley Birding Symposium. Motion (Mohr/Bianco) for SAS to sponsor event at \$1,000 level.** Approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.