

Sacramento Audubon Society
Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Meeting Date: November 25, 2014
Approved Date: January 27, 2015
SMUD Meeting Rooms

Call to Order: Meeting called to order: 7:27 p.m.

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

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

President's Report (Subhash for Linda):

- Vice President Subhash Chand chaired the meeting in Linda's absence.
- Subhash introduced SAS member Jenner Junghans as volunteering to take on the post of SAS Education Chair. Jenner then introduced herself to the Board. Jenner has been interested in nature and wildlife since she was a child. She has a degree in wildlife conservation/biology. Jenner is a professional writer and freelances as an environmental journalist. She particularly likes to write for children, including published articles in Highlights for Children. Jenner has written a published a series of children's journals for military kids recognized for excellence by the Obama administration and governor's office during the Schwarzenegger administration. Jenner has a daughter (soon to be 15) and is interested in bringing her skills and expertise to SAS and teaching children about birds and birding. Jenner looks forward to reaching out to local schools as part of her efforts.
- Linda reported to Subhash before the meeting that the plans to arrange for gravel to be delivered and spread in the Bobelaine parking lot have been delayed, because Robert has been ill the past couple for weeks. Linda wants to wait to arrange for the gravel delivery until Robert feels better and can coordinate the delivery and spreading.

Treasurer's report (Marcia):

- SAS' bank statements have been reconciled through October 2014. Marcia passed around SAS' balance sheet and income statement. Marcia reports that SAS currently has a loss for the 2014-2015 year, likely due to recent grants approved by the Board.
- Marcia reported that recently an envelope with \$980 in checks from members for dues and other donations to SAS was lost in the mail from Lea (who receives membership renewals) to Marcia for deposit. Lea provided a spreadsheet to Marcia and Diana detailing which members' checks had been lost, and in what amounts. Diana has drafted and sent apology letters out to each of the members whose dues/donation checks were lost, with a notice that they should cancel the

lost check, and requesting that replacement checks be sent. The Board agreed that Marcia, Keith and Lea should review the protocol for handling checks as Lea receives them, to determine whether other procedures might be developed to reduce the chance of lost checks in the future.

Corresponding Secretary report (Diana):

- Diana used the last of the preprinted SAS envelopes to send out the notice/apology letters regarding the member checks lost in the mail, as reported in the Treasurer's report above. Diana will be getting more envelopes printed at Carmichael Printers for future use.

Membership (Keith for Lea):

- Prior to the meeting Keith forwarded to the Board an e-mail from Membership Chair Lea Landry with SAS most recent membership stats: NAS members in SAS catchment area: 2864; paid SAS members: 554; members of both SAS & NAS: 197.

Programs (Subhash for Linda):

- January: Flammulated owls
- February: pending

Outreach (Darrell):

- SAS Participation at the Sandhill Crane Festival was successful. SAS sold over \$100 worth of the Birding In the Sacramento Region books.
- SAS also participated in the Central Valley Birding Symposium. We did not sell as many books at the Symposium, but that was probably because most attendees who would want a copy already have it.
- The Galt Winter Bird Festival will be on February 7, 2015, SAS is planning on participating.

Education (Subhash):

- SAS has a new volunteer for Education Chair, Jenner Junghans (see President's report above for more detail).
- Subhash went to a presentation by Sandra Beasler who used the SAS' 20 common birds presentation that Subhash developed. Jenner will pick up on that.

Communications (Subhash):

- Subhash has now included a page to sell Birding In the Sacramento Region at the SAS website.
- Gary mentioned that the bird lists on the SAS website appear dated, and need to be reviewed and updated. Subhash requested that Gary get in touch with Dan Tankersly and Chris Conard to discuss the content on the SAS website and propose updates to the current lists.

- The SAS committee working on proposed updates/revisions to the Birding In the Sacramento Region book has recommended that the update be printed in color when it is ready.

Conservation (Larry)

- Habitat 2020/ECOS – is working with the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) on a project to create a multilayered GIS database of information for natural resources in the Sacramento area to assist local governments to avoid sensitive resources when planning future projects. The funds supporting the project are settlement funds gained by ECOS for that purpose when settling a prior lawsuit against CalTrans. SACOG is not moving as quickly as it could/should on the project, but there is some forward momentum.
- Subhash notes that Audubon CA has an Arc GIS database available. And they offer free software training. He suggested that Larry might forward that info to Habitat 2020/ECOS fore this project, and that they should contact Garry George with Audubon CA if interested.
- The City of Sacramento has proposed a reduction in park acreage service levels, presently 5 acres/1,000 residents in its General Plan, down to only 1.5 acres/1,000 residents for the central city and 3 acres/1,000 residents for the rest of City. Members of ECOS and H2020 have objected. Larry intends to weigh in with SAS' agreement with ECOS/H2020's concerns.

Audubon CA Chapter Building Seminar (Subhash & Jonilynn):

- Subhash sent an e-mail with a survey to the Board following Audubon CA Chapter Building Seminar that he and Jonilynn attended. Subhash thanked the SAS Board members for all responding to the survey before the Board meeting. Various topics in the survey were generally discussed by the Board as follows. The Board agreed that no immediate decisions need to be made on any particular item, but that proposals regarding one or more of the following items may be brought back at future Board meetings to be addressed:
 - **Conflict of Interest Policy.** SAS has no written or formal policy at present. Conflicts have been dealt with on an ad hoc basis as they arise. Subhash & Jonilynn will ask Audubon CA for example policies for the Board to review and consider for potential adoption by SAS.
 - **Directors & Officers Insurance.** Some Board members were not clear on whether SAS has such insurance. It does.
 - **Setting Policy.** The survey inquired whether the Boards roll as setting policy, versus implementing policy which is left to staff, is clearly defined. Keith explained that for SAS, such divisions are not particularly helpful, because such divisions are primarily intended for an organization with paid staff who is directed to implement board adopted policy. In SAS case, we have no staff, and many Board members are the individuals who implement the policies through their work in education, outreach and conservation.
 - **Fundraising.** Most Board members felt SAS could do more in this area. Although it was also recognized that pressing members constantly to give

repeatedly may have the opposite effect, and, thus, the question of whether and how to seek more contributions should be approached thoughtfully.

- **Board Building.** There was general agreement that the SAS Board should always be on the lookout for ways to cultivate new donors and board members, but it was also recognized that selecting nominees for the Board requires careful vetting to ensure the Board remains constructive, cohesive and positive, as SAS has had negative experience in the past with an interpersonally dysfunctional Board of Directors.
- **Bylaws Revision.** Some areas of the SAS bylaws may bear examination for revision or updating, including, but not limited to the historical committee (the history of the Chapter/Board is being posted by Subhash at the website, vis-à-vis posting copies of the Board's minutes and the Observer there). Provisions regarding endowments and the mission statement in the bylaws may also be items to revisit at future Board meetings.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.