

**Sacramento Audubon Society**  
Board of Directors  
Meeting Minutes  
Meeting Date: January 27, 2015  
Approved Date: February 24, 2015  
Lemon Grass Cafe Meeting Room  
601 Munroe St., Sacramento CA 95825

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order: 7:06 p.m.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Draft November 2014 Board Minutes approved by consensus.

**President's Report (Linda):**

- Linda appointed SAS Board Member and ECOS/Habitat 2020 representative Larry Hickey as SAS' Conservation Chair.
- Butte/Sutter Water Quality Coalition: SAS membership fees for Bobelaine have been paid. New requirements put into place by the state have led the Coalition to seek a report for 15 acres of irrigated land at Bobelaine. Although there were past (now abandoned) restoration projects at Bobelaine that may have at one time used "irrigation," SAS is not aware of any active/ongoing irrigation activities within the sanctuary. Linda will check in with the Coalition and report back to the Board if any reporting or other documentation is needed in light of current circumstances.
- Linda reports that after discussing the matter with Robert, they have decided that the parking lot does not require delivery/spreading of gravel at this time.

**Treasurer's report (Marcia):**

- Marcia circulated a general ledger and accounting info for Board review before the Board meeting. Subhash reviewed and made some suggested changes regarding format and classifications within the reports. Marcia circulated an updated format for the board's review. The new format as developed by Marcia with Subhash's changes was approved by consensus.
- The Board discussed, and requested Marcia add line items for anticipated Bobelaine revenues (annual installment of Crandall Estate funds from NAS) and maintenance/upkeep expenses. The Board agreed that \$5000 should be the amount for anticipated average annual expenses, and \$2,500 income as the anticipated, average annual income from the Crandall estate.

**Corresponding Secretary report (Diana):**

- SAS has received a funding request from the Feather River Land Trust. Gary has typically been the liaison for such requests. The Board agreed to defer the request to a future board meeting when Gary can address the request and make a motion for a recommended donation this year.
- SAS has received notice from the executors of the Greenaway Estate that SAS will be the beneficiary of a \$5,000 bequest from SAS former Conservation Chair Roy Greenaway and his wife Carol.

**Membership (Keith for Lea):**

- Membership Chair Lea Landry has sent SAS' most recent membership stats: NAS members in SAS catchment area: 2888; paid SAS members: 567; members of both SAS & NAS: 197.

**Programs (Linda):**

- Feb – Tim Manolis – California Jumping Spiders
- March – Bob Meese – tri-colored blackbirds
- April – TBA
- May (tentative) – Phil Garone – Fall & Rise of CV Wetlands
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**Outreach (Darrell):**

- Galt Winter Bird Festival will be February 7, 2015. SAS appears to have enough volunteers to cover that event.
- Bird & Breakfast @ Effie Yeaw will be March 21-22, 2015. Cathie may still need more volunteers to cover that event.
- May 2015 – Walk on the Wild Side.
- Linda reported that two outside orgs have requested sponsorships for their upcoming events: Sac State Earth Day April 2014 and ECOS also has an Earth Day event coming up. In response there was some Board discussion regarding how SAS should prioritize which groups/events it will sponsor. Keith reminded the Board a priority list was discussed by the Board last year. Keith to find those past e-mails and recirculate for Board review/consideration.

**Education (Jenner):**

- Jenner circulated a calendar of SAS education events she is working on for 2015. Jenner is generally seeking to create opportunities for kids to learn about wildlife in collaboration with other organizations. Events being planned included a potential raptor center visit and Mather Lake cleanup. Jerry Langham is going to lead two kids' events for kids to observe active nests. Richard Barbieri and Jenner are working on developing a nest box program as a science experiment for kids. Andy Engelis is going to lead two groups at UC Davis for teenagers. Jenner will be working with Wendy Money & Sandra Beesler on two family oriented trips.
- Jenner is working with Subhash on updating education pages on the SAS website with new content.

- Jenner is imminently expecting an article to come out in the Sacramento Bee on Birding in Sacramento.
- Jenner is talking with other orgs to develop partnering opportunities for SAS education programs such as the Effie Yeaw citizen science projects and their California naturalist program. Effie Yeaw is interested in SAS providing some capstone projects that would advance our goals or those of National Audubon. The Board recommended that Jenner also consult other local enviro orgs/land trusts/facilities for any projects they may need completed that might serve as qualifying and capstone citizen science projects for Effie Yeaw's program. (e.g., CRP, CNPS, Soil Borne Farms, Sacramento Valley Conservancy).
- Jenner has been in contact with Splash! to get SAS involved in projects there.

### **Communications (Subhash):**

- Speakers Bureau – Subhash presented to Sierra Oaks Garden Club which paid Subhash a \$250 honorarium. Subhash tendered the funds to SAS to go toward Effie Yeaw's childrens' outreach programs.

### **Conservation (Larry)**

- The environmental community may have convinced the City of Sacramento to not reduce its general plan's per-capita park service level. In support of H2020 and its member groups, Larry sent in a letter objecting to the proposed service level reduction for SAS. At the present, the City's planning staff have proposed to restore the new General Plan to the pre-existing standards. However, even with this success at the staff level, there is concern in the environmental community that the Supervisors may override staff's recommendations and reinstate the reduced-level standard previously proposed. Larry will continue to work with H2020's member orgs to monitor the situation as the City's general plan update process unfolds.
- H2020's members are concerned about the City of Folsom's proposals to develop south of Highway 50, where it claims to available water appear uncertain.
- H2020 continues to monitor the City of Elk Grove's efforts to inappropriately expand it's sphere of influence in ways that threaten wetlands and habitat in the south county.
- H2020 continues to pursue efforts toward developing a GIS database map of regional wildlife/habitat being in conjunction with UC Davis.
- Greater Sandhill Crane project. A coalition of groups is seeking to hold a workshop and make a map to protect Greater Sandhill Crane foraging range. Sean Wirth has requested that SAS consider supporting the project as follows: \$500 for a workshop, and \$2,000 to support the Technical Advisory Committee.
- **Motion (Wagner/Hickey) to fund \$500 for the Sandhill Crane workshop**, but to request more info on the larger mapping project and what other orgs are contributing before a decision is made on that funding request. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Tri-Colored Blackbird Conservation Grant**

At the last Board meeting SAS authorized a potential SAS conservation grant for tri-colored blackbird conservation work, pending more info on whether Audubon CA was getting involved. SAS Board members are concerned about conservation of tri-colored blackbirds, but also recognize the effort as a broad based regional one that SAS should not financially shoulder without broader support from interested regional stakeholder organizations and groups.

### **Sponsorship of Birding Breakfast at Effie Yeaw**

Motion (Wagner/Mohr): \$100 SAS Sponsorship of Effie Yeaw Birding Breakfast. Motion Passed Unanimously.

### **Chapter Building (Subhash):**

- **Board Member Handbook:** Subhash intends to assemble a handbook of SAS' articles of incorporation, bylaws and other important documents for present and future Board member orientation. By consensus the Board approved covering any actual expenses incurred by Subhash in assembling the handbooks.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy:** The Board put over consideration of a conflict of interest policy, so that drafts can be recirculated for Board member consideration.
- **Board Members on Committees:** The Board put over consideration of whether SAS should have a policy of requiring Board members to serve on SAS' committees to its next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.